

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

The Word of God and It's Influence

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

I. Introductory Remarks.

Since the beginning of time God has sought to communicate with the people of His creation. God created man in His own image with the purpose of mankind having a relationship with their God. God has always been the initiator of this relationship and has used His Word as a means of communication. It is important to understand as well that when God speaks and communicates with man, He does it with purpose.

II. The Influence of the Word in the Old Testament.

1. God's Word to the Old Testament **Patriarchs.**

- **Adam and Eve:** It was God's custom to speak with them during the cool of the day - Genesis 3:8.
- **Noah:** God told Noah to build an ark - Genesis 6:13-14.
- **Abraham:** God told him to leave his home - Genesis 12:1
- **Isaac:** God told him to dwell in the land - Genesis 26:3-6
- **Jacob:** He was told that he would come back to the land - Genesis 28:1-5
- **Joseph:** God spoke to Joseph in dreams in preparation bring the 12 tribes of Israel to Egypt for 430 years.

God communicated with all of the patriarchs with His spoken voice, through dreams, visions, etc. His Word to all of these individuals served as a guiding influence in their lives to bring the nation of Israel into existence.

The Word of God spoken to the Patriarchs was something that was cherished and obeyed by, not only them, but to future generations as well. By the time of Israel's deliverance from Egypt by Moses, a whole community of people had been formed around the Word of God that had been spoken through the Patriarchs. At this time there was no Written Word – just that which had been passed from generation to generation.

2. God's Word To The Old Testament **Prophets.**

- **Moses:** God met with Moses face to face on the mountain - Exodus 20-40. Moses spent at the very least 80 days on the mountain with God alone. During this time Moses was given the 10 commandments plus much of the history of Israel and instructions concerning the building of the tabernacle and the laws and customs of

Israel. God gave Moses very explicit instructions as to how to build the church in the wilderness. It was with Moses that God's written word began to evolve and come into existence.

■ Other **Prophets** of the Old Testament

Through out the Old Testament God continued to speak to His people through His prophets.

Hebrews 1:1 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*

Much of God's Word came into existence through these prophets, who not only spoke God's Word, but also wrote it down. God's Word through the prophets was a constant guiding influence for the nation of Israel as they came into existence and their prominent role among the nations. God used over 40 people from every walk of life over a period of 1600 years to write His word. In all of this, He spoke with continuity from Genesis to Revelation. Amazing!

III. The **Influence** of the Word in the New Testament.

1. **Jesus** and The Word of God.

Hebrews 1:2 *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- Even though Jesus was the Word made flesh, He also used the Written Word to validate Who He was and His ministry.

Luke 4:18 *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

Jesus used the phrase ***"It is written"*** on several occasions to not only validate His ministry, but also to show the authority of the Written Word. Some of the examples are as follows: Matthew 4:4, 11:10, 21:13, 26:27,31, Mark 7:6, 9:13, Luke 24:46 and John 6:45.

2. The Word of God in the **Formation** of the Early Church.

- It was relied upon when choosing someone to take Judas' place.

Acts 1:20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'

- Peter used it when validating the move of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

This is an important point to remember for us as well. There are sometimes things that go in the life of the church that are called movements of the Spirit that cannot be validated by the God's word. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:14 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21 not to be swayed by every wind of doctrine, but to test and prove all things.

- **Paul** constantly referred to the Word in the Old Testament with the phrase **"It is written"** (See Romans 1:17,3:4, 9:33, 10:15, 11:26, 14:11, 1 Cor 1:19, 14:21, 15:45.
- **Peter** also referred to Paul's letters as Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:15-16 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, {16} as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

3. The **Role** of Scripture in the Church.

- Scripture is the ultimate authority.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

- The Church is the **pillar** and ground of all truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which **is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

4. Our **Responsibility** to Scripture.

- We are to read and meditate in it - Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-5.
- We are to study it - 2 Timothy 2:15
- We are to rightly divide it – 2 Timothy 2:15.
- We are to test all things – hold fast to that which is good – 1 Thessalonians 5:21

IV. Concluding Remarks.

When we are faithful to God's Word we will be extremely blessed in all that we do. We see this in Psalms 1 and Joshua 1.

Psalm 1:3 *...whatever he does shall prosper.*

Joshua 1:8 *...you will make your way prosperous, and they you will have good success.*