



# “Understanding the Bible”

## Section 4: Why Can We Trust the Bible?

### Unit 4.5: Seeing Scripture Through the Eyes of Our Savior



#### I) In the Beginning Was the Word

- The gospel of John starts off with a towering theological statement that even the most renowned scholars cannot fully exhaust. **John 1:1** states, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” Although this verse presents a reality deeper than the human mind can travel, a basic surface level understanding of the passage reveals to us that “the Word” represents the eternal *truth, logic, reasoning, and wisdom* of God. And, when God desired to reveal His Word to us, He did so by giving us the Word in a written form (the Scriptures), and the Word in the form of an incarnated human being (Jesus Christ). Therefore, as both the Bible and Christ reveal the same truth of God in different forms, it is an irrefutable fact that Christ affirms all the Bible teaches because it is the very truth He Himself is demonstrating to the world as God in human flesh.

#### II) Have You Not Read?

- Jesus demonstrated His total trust in the absolute authority of Holy Scripture throughout His three-year earthly ministry as recorded in the four gospels. First, Christ often referenced Scripture to rebuke hypocritical statements by taking critics back to the Old Testament to point out their inconsistencies with God’s truth. In **Matthew 12**, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their unbalanced view of the Sabbath by asking them twice, “*Have you not read,*” and then referencing how David ate the sacred bread of the Temple without penalty (v 3-4) as well as the priests who also worked in the temple during the Sabbath. In **Matthew 22:24-32**, Christ also offered clarity on the concepts of marriage in heaven and the resurrection of the dead by asking if His listeners had read the words in Scripture that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the “*God of the living.*” Another phrase that Jesus often used to appeal to the truth and authority of the Scriptures was, “*It is written.*” In **Luke 24:46-47** He said, “*Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* And finally, in **Matthew 4:3-4** when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness to break His fast and turn stones into bread to prove His power, Christ responded confidently, “*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*”

#### III) Confirming the Creation Account

- When Jesus affirmed specific written accounts of Scripture, He brought instant credibility and quieted disputes in several key areas that continue to be attacked today. In **Matthew 19:4-5** Jesus proclaimed, “*Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?* In this one passage of Scripture, Jesus validated the biblical account of **Genesis 2**, making a definitive statement about God’s intentional design for **creation, gender, and marriage.**

#### IV) A Factual Reference to the Flood

- Another disputed historical event is the worldwide flood recorded in **Genesis 6-8**. Once again, Jesus affirmed the factual account of the flood when He stated these words in **Matthew 24:36-40**: “<sup>36</sup> “*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,<sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*”

## V) Evidence of the Exodus

- Several supernatural accounts in Exodus are often questioned by naturalists who demand scientific evidence for their feasibility. One of those accounts in question is the heavenly bread God showered down to feed the nation of Israel called *Manna*. Although this daily provision of “bread from above” is challenged by skeptics, Jesus once again silenced all critics with one clear reference. In **John 6:31-32** Christ stated, <sup>31</sup>*Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’* <sup>32</sup>*Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.*

## VI) Justifying the Story of Jonah

- Perhaps there may be no biblical narrative more disputed by modern skeptics than the account of prophet Jonah. In this prophetic account, Jonah records being swallowed up and spit out by a big fish after surviving in its belly for three days and three nights. Despite defying all naturalistic explanation, Jesus presented the narrative as a historical fact that foreshadows His own death and resurrection. In **Matthew 12:39-41** Jesus revealed, *“...An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”*

## VII) Proof of End Times Prophecy

- In His affirmation of the authority of the biblical record, Jesus also helps us to look *forward* to His second coming by looking *backward* to what has already been predicted by the ancient prophets. In **Matthew 24:15-28**, Jesus endorsed the warning from the prophet Daniel about the *abomination of desolation* that will take place when He returns in glory to judge the earth. And after interpreting Daniel’s words and giving warning about false prophets who contradict Daniel, Jesus concluded in **verse 27**, *“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

## VIII) The Scripture Cannot Be Broken

- Finally, in **John 10:22-36** as Jesus was being questioned in the temple about being the Christ, His responses led many Jews to pick up stones and threaten His life. They informed Jesus that He was in danger of being stoned because He made Himself out to be God. Jesus responded with the following words in **verses 34-36** that directly referenced the written account of **Psalms 82:6**: *“...Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and **Scripture cannot be broken**— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”* In this bold statement, Christ not only affirms the written record of Scripture as authoritative, but also reiterates that each inspired word is eternal truth that can never be broken or changed.
- In light of the abundance of evidence revealed in the four gospels, the only logical conclusion is that Jesus Christ completely understood and unequivocally affirmed that the entire breadth of Holy Scripture as divinely inspired eternal truth of the living God. As author John Wenham effectively summarized in his book, *Christ and the Bible*, *“To Christ the Bible is true, authoritative, inspired. To him the God of the Bible is the living God, and the teaching of the Bible is the teaching of the living God. To him, what Scripture says, God says.”*