



The Book of Hebrews 1:1-2a_God Hath Spoken!

November 5, 2023

Holy Text: Hebrews 1:1-2a

Got hath spoken! Do you believe that? Do you believe that the Bible you hold in your hands, which contains the Words of God through the Prophets, through the Son, and through the Apostles, is the literal, God-breathed, Word of God?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

I'm still amazed by this. The Bible is the Word of God! Do you have the right view?

1. **Wrong view:** that Scripture is Neither Authoritative NOR Binding. In this view, Scripture is seen more like a *conversation* and God more like a *motivational speaker*. This person selects the verses that makes them feel good and rejects laws, precepts and most forms of accountability.
2. **Wrong view:** that Scripture is Authoritative, but NOT Binding. This view says Scripture is God's Word, but is subject to culture, circumstances, and personal vision. Here, Scripture is read more like *medication* and God seen as a *doctor*. One with this view struggles with (if not outright rejects) the Word if it is seen to "limit" them and what they want to accomplish in life.
3. **Right view:** that Scripture is Authoritative AND Binding. The one who holds this view sees Scripture not just as medication but as **regulation**; in this worldview, God is more than a motivator or doctor. He is **King and Judge!** Man does not have the authority to disobey God; all of Scripture is inspired by God!

The authoritative phrase, "Thus saith the LORD," is rendered 415 times in the KJV. Think about this for a moment. Yahweh Elohim spoke to men! What does this truth do to you? Are you filled with awe? Holy fear? Humility before God? Praise?

Often, in many ways ("sundry times, and in divers manners"), He spoke through prophets:

- To and through Adam and Eve (Gen 2:15-17, 3:9-19)
- To and through Abram (Gen 12:1-3)
- To and through Moses (3:1-5)
- To and through Joshua (Josh 1:1-9)
- To and Through Samuel (1 Sam 3:1-10)

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (KJV) *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; 3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; 4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. 5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. 6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose*

and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. **9** Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. **10** And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

- And so many more examples...like David, Isaiah, and Jeremiah:

1 Samuel 23:9-12 (KJV) And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod. **10** Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. **11** Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. **12** Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.

Isaiah 6:8-12 (KJV) Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. **9** And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. **10** Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. **11** Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, **12** And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Jeremiah 1:4-12 (KJV) Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. **6** Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. **7** But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. **8** Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. **9** Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. **10** See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. **11** Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. **12** Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

- In the Old Testament, to prophets, His people, those He chose to use, God spoke audibly, through dreams, through a burning bush, through angels, out of clouds and pillars of fire, handwriting on a wall, through Theophanies/Christophanies, and even through animals!
- Jesus said of the prophets:

Luke 18:31 (KJV) Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, *Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.*

Luke 24:25-27 (KJV) Then he said unto them, *O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

- God says of His Own Word through the Prophets:

Deuteronomy 8:3 (KJV) *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV) *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Ezekiel 12:25 (KJV) *For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.*

Zechariah 1:6 (KJV) *But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.*

What is the Spoken Word of God?

Church and Family Life Declaration:

We affirm that our all-wise God has revealed Himself and His will in a completed revelation—the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments—which is fully adequate in both content and clarity for everything pertaining to life (salvation) and godliness (sanctification), including the ordering of the church and the family (Deut. 30:11-14; 1 Cor. 11:1-12; 14:34; Gal. 1:8-9; Eph. 5:22-6:4; 1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

We deny/reject that God's Word is inadequate for church and family life and that we need to adopt the traditions of men from philosophy, psychology, pragmatism, entertainment, corporate business models, or modern marketing techniques.

Basic proofs of the Spoken Word of God

Manuscript evidence - Even though we don't have the original manuscripts, there are so many copies available (far more copies than any other ancient work), by comparing them we can be sure that the texts have remained pure, 99.5 percent pure for the New Testament (the .5% was spelling errors)! For example, there are 24,000 partial and complete copies of the NT in existence today. They are from different time periods, copied by different people, yet they all maintain their purity. That is the Holy Spirit at work! The Dead Sea Scrolls (discovered in 1947) also served to prove the accuracy of the biblical record.

Archeological evidence - Many scientists have set out to disprove the Bible through archeology. All have failed, and many after seeing the evidence, have become Christians! Every

archeological discovery related to the Bible has served to prove, not disprove its claims. The Mormon bible for example has no archeological proof whatsoever. The following examples (there are hundreds more) were counted as false or mythical until proved through archeology:

1. The city of Jericho
2. The book of Daniel (no prior record of King Belshazzar)
3. Historical accuracy of the book of Luke
4. The method of crucifixion
5. A single world language (prior to the tower of Babel)
6. Sodom and Gomorrah, and their destruction

Prophecy – this is probably the strongest evidence for divine authorship. The Bible is the only document in existence that provides over 2,000 fulfilled prophecies to validate its claims. All others have been proven to be false, whereas the Bible has been 100% accurate. There are some 500 prophecies yet to come to pass, and we await them as we await the return of our Lord!

Statistical Probability - Could all the Bible's prophecies have been fulfilled by chance, good guessing, or deceit? Scientists have calculated that the odds of Jesus' fulfillment of just 48 of the 61 known prophecies about Him in this way are 1 in 10^{157} ! By comparison, the number of electrons in the known universe is about 10^{79} ! In other words, it would be impossible. There is only one explanation: the Bible is the Word of the Living God!

How should we view the Spoken Word of God? Let us be reminded again that the Word of God is:

Inspired

- Literally “God-breathed.” The word in Greek in 2 Tim 3:16 is *theopneustos*. God breathed out, by His Spirit who superintended the Bible authors, each and every Word of the Scriptures. These Words reflect His heart in all matters.
- **2 Peter 1:20-21 (KJV)** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- As one website wrote, “This view of the Scriptures is often referred to as “[verbal plenary inspiration](#).” That means the inspiration extends to the very words themselves (verbal)—not just concepts or ideas—and that the inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary). Some people believe only parts of the Bible are inspired or only the thoughts or concepts that deal with religion are inspired, but these views of inspiration fall short of the Bible’s claims about itself. Full verbal plenary inspiration is an essential characteristic of the Word of God.” - GotQuestions.org

Inerrant

- The work inerrant means “without error” and speaks to the purity and truthfulness of Scripture.
- **Psalms 119:160 (KJV)** *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*
- **Psalms 119:151 (KJV)** *Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*
- **John 17:17 (KJV)** *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Infallible

- The word infallible means “incapable of error” and speaks to the trustworthiness of Scripture and the God who inspired it!
- **Psalms 19:7-11 (KJV)** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*
- Therefore biblical infallibility can be defined as “the belief that what the Bible says regarding matters of **faith and Christian practice** is wholly useful and true. It is the “belief that the Bible is completely trustworthy as a guide to salvation and the life of faith and will not fail to accomplish its purpose.” -Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms

Sufficient!

- Despite the acknowledgment of many that Scripture is inspired, inerrant and infallible, often the tendency is to either look outside the Bible for answers or judge the Bible through the lens of our experiences or desires, thus denying Sufficiency.
- The 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith says, “*The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.*”

How should we interpret the spoken Word of God?

Here is a review of some basic “rules of interpretation:”

- 1. Rule 1: A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or his or her readers.**
 - This rule anchors us into the author’s and hearer’s context, and gives us a “foundation” from which to interpret and apply the passage we are reading.
- 2. Rule 2: Whenever we share the same context with the original hearers, God’s Word to us is the same as His Word to them.**
 - And even “out of context,” God’s word is always relevant. You may not be a King like David, or a member of the actual tribe of Judah, but general precepts, principles, and patterns to those should be joyfully obeyed!
- 3. Rule 3: The clear must interpret the unclear.**
 - Keeping all the rules in mind, we start with the most clear: biblical precepts (commands). Then we move to principles and then to patterns. Why this order?
 - Because *Narrative is not necessarily Normative*. When we read of Bible characters doing certain things, God’s statutes must help us decide the appropriateness of those actions. When we read of someone like David worshipping God or facing down a giant, we can and should say “Amen!” When we read of the same person killing Uriah and taking his wife for himself, we should rightly see those things as sin. Abraham was accounted as righteous because of his faith; that doesn’t mean we should lie or take a concubine as he did!
 - Precepts inform principles and patterns. The patterns themselves must be considered in light of both precepts and principles. When we have a precept in context, we have God’s Word on an issue and other passages must be interpreted in light of what is clearly stated.

- In the absence of precepts we then look to principles and patterns, and we do so considering: God's power (His sovereignty), God's person (His character), and God's plan.
- We must also view Scripture through the lens of Christ...His Person, His Gospel, His Work, and His New Covenant. This is especially helpful in understanding Old Testament Laws.

CRC, if we really believe *God Hath Spoken*, through the Holy Spirit:

1. We will read and study the Bible!

- **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2. We will believe the Bible!

- **1 Thessalonians 2:12-13 (KJV)** *That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. 13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

3. We will love the Bible!

- **Psalms 119:127-128 (KJV)** *Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. 128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

4. We will obey the Bible!

- **James 1:22 (KJV)** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
- "There is NO HEALTH apart from HIS TRUTH! Imagine what could happen if we built our marriages, single lives, and friendships on the Word of Christ!"¹

5. We will proclaim the Bible!

- **2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV)** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

6. We will teach our children the Bible!

- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (KJV)** *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

7. We will use the Bible!

- **Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*
- CRC, don't be afraid to speak the *Rhema*, (the Greek for "Word" here) as you engage in spiritual warfare!

God...hath...spoken!

¹ <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2020/1/revived-relationships-pt-1-embracing-the-sufficiency-of-scripture-in-a-confused-age>