

## **News Release** **Holy Witnesses Endorse the Bible**

By

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The Apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy, said: “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; in order that the man of God may be perfect, and equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:14–17).

A close look at this Scripture brings out some inspired and great thoughts; thoughts that in their true revelation are enlightening in content. Timothy was exhorted to continue in the things he had learned, remembering from whom he learned them. He had known these Holy Scriptures from his childhood times, having been taught them by his grandmother and mother. Then he came under the influence of Paul, who taught him of Christ and of having faith in Him who was the Son of God. Let us take time to make a careful analysis of the points Paul reminds Timothy to remember.

1. The Scriptures are of Divine origin.
2. They are profitable for teaching.
3. They are profitable for rebuking.
4. They are profitable for correction.
5. They are profitable for instruction in righteousness.
6. By them the man of God is able to be made perfect.
7. By them the man of God is equipped to do all good works.
8. By them one is able to be made wise unto salvation.

What more could we possibly need?

Nothing that subtracts or contradicts these points should be believed.  
No theory of man’s in conversion or sanctification that eliminates or  
modifies in any way the Holy Scriptures can possibly be true.

The Holy Scriptures are Divine in their origin: “First of all you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture is made by the prophets own private interpretation, for prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21).

Peter is quick to point out that the prophets didn't speak and record things they made up in their minds for some purpose of their will, but that God, through the Holy Spirit, moved them to write that which He wanted recorded for man's understanding. We can believe them. They are from God. It is God making His will known to us.

Concerning the origin of the Gospel, the Apostle testifies: "And he who saw it has given witness, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe" (John 19:35). Again: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31–31). Get this: What is not written of the signs Jesus did, we can never know; But what is written, we can know and believe.

Peter testifies again that the Scriptures are the witness of salvation so that we may believe: "For you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your life. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have proclaimed the Gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

And Peter goes on to tell of the worth of the word of God: "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, with all your hearts. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For 'all men are like grass, and all their glory is like the wild flower, the grass withers, and the flower fails, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:22–25).

Our Great King, Jesus the Christ, laid down the rules as to the Scriptures and as to the indestructible aspect of the words he spoke: "Jesus answered them; Is it not written in your law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came, and the Scriptures"—what stands written—"cannot be broken, what about the ONE whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world?"—Jesus is talking of himself—"Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the evidences of the works I do, that you may learn and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father" (John 10:34–38).

If the Scriptures, to which Jesus testified, cannot be broken; If he could challenge the world as to the truthfulness of his words and righteousness of his works, we are forced to conclude that the Scriptures have much power in them—power to help and power to point out the way of salvation. Let's here Moses on this: "And now, Israel, listen to the statutes and judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I

command you.” Again: “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from them” (Deuteronomy 4:1–2 and 12:32).

Hear the Apostle Paul: “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all. It is evident that some people are causing you to be confused and are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim a gospel other than the one we proclaimed to you, let him be a curse to you” (Galatians 1:6–8).

Hear the Apostle John in his final warning to the church and to the world: “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this book” (Revelation 22:18–19).

The Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament are of God, and no man can change or destroy their testimony except to his own destruction. The Scriptures are all inspired by God. He moved chosen men to write down what he wanted kept, not what the writers wanted. God spoke to and through the prophets, but with Moses, he spoke as man to man, even letting Moses catch a glimpse of his back. Moses was so filled with the glory of God that when he came down from the mountain of Sinai the people were afraid to approach him.

“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.... When Moses finished speaking to them he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord’s presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out.... Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord” (Exodus 34:29–35).

Later on Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. They openly rejected his authority as the spokesman for God, claiming “has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has God not spoken through us as well?”, and God heard them! Imagine, they had the nerve to say that God spoke through them when they knew he hadn’t. Moses was a very humble man and didn’t rally back at them, so God called out to all three of them to meet at the meeting tent. They went and God said: “Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak to him in a dream. But not so with my servant Moses, he is faithful in all my household: with him I speak mouth to mouth, openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses?” (Numbers 12:6–8).

Miriam and Aaron were put down by God Himself! God didn’t let them get off with just this chewing out, but also caused Miriam to have leprosy. God could have let

her die of it, but Moses loved everyone and couldn't bear seeing her suffer. He had compassion and on Aaron's plea, cried out to God: "O' God, heal her, I pray you" God always hears the prayers of a righteous man, and Moses was faithful, so God let Miriam be punished for only seven days. (You can read of this in Numbers 12:1-16 in your Bible.)

God also spoke through David, his chosen King of Israel, and his description of this fits the works of all God's prophets: "The spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue" (2 Sam 23:2). In the Old Testament we have the writings of sixteen prophets, and of others who didn't leave written records, and some whose names are not even given.

In these last days, God spoke through His Son Jesus the Christ: "For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for not by measure does God give the spirit to Him" (John 3:34). God spoke through the Apostles: "For it is not you who are speaking, but the spirit of your Father who speaks through you" (Mt. 10:20). Again: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages as the spirit gave them to utter" (Acts 2:4).

If it is true (and I believe it is) that God spoke through Moses, through the prophets, through Jesus, and through the Apostles, then God is the true Author of the Scriptures and must therefore command our most profound respect; and we are forced to conclude—in fact, we must, for there is no escape from it—that through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit is still speaking today!

It is real amazing how consistent the Scriptures are: begin with Genesis and follow through with care to the end, and you will realize the unity of thought. The testimony, as to the authenticity and veracity, is cumulative; it piles up from the beginning, from generation to generation, from century to century, to John in recording the last words of revelation from Jesus, and all speak of the same thing—God, revealing Himself to mankind.

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