



Lesson 10: Evidence for the Inspiration of the Bible

The Testimony of Jesus Christ

JESUS AS A WITNESS

The strength of the testimony of any witness depends upon his reliability. To establish the worth of a witness's testimony we must ask the following questions:

- (1) Is the witness in a position to have first-hand knowledge of that to which he testifies?
- (2) Is the witness trustworthy? Can he be relied upon to tell the truth?

In later lessons we will present extensive evidence to prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. If that evidence is accepted as valid, then any statements Jesus made must be given the utmost credence. For the time being, let us simply state that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God sent from heaven (John 6:38; 9:35-37). He said that the words He spoke were the words of His heavenly Father (John 12:49-50; 14:10). Others declared that Jesus Himself is the very "Word" of God who communicates God to man (John 1:1, 18; Hebrews 1:1-2). If these claims are believed to be true, then Jesus would have to be accepted as the most reliable witness that could possibly be produced on the question of whether or not the Bible is the inspired word of God.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT SCRIPTURE

1. In Mark 7:6-7, Jesus quoted from the book of Isaiah and said that Isaiah "prophesied well." For Whom was Isaiah speaking when he wrote the words Jesus' quotes in Mark 7:6-7?
2. Jesus quotes Moses in Mark 7:10. But in Mark 7:13, He indicates that those who did not comply with the words of Moses were making Whose word "of no effect"?
3. In John 10:34-35, Jesus quoted from Psalm 82:6; what did He say could not be broken?
4. In Matthew 22:31-32, Jesus asked the Sadducees if they had not "read" that which had been "spoken to" them by Whom?
5. According to Matthew 19:4-5, Who was it that had "said" what the Pharisees should have "read"?
6. In Matthew 4:1-10, Jesus answered every temptation of the devil by quoting Scripture. What does this indicate about Jesus' regard for the power and source of the Scriptures?
7. Jesus encouraged people to keep the commandments contained in Scripture. Read the following passages and tell what Jesus commanded people to do and why.
 - Matthew 7:12

- Matthew 19:17-19
- Mark 12:28-32

HOW JESUS VIEWED THE RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus often referred to events recorded in the Old Testament in His teaching. He always treated the events as absolute fact, no matter how incredible they might seem to be from a human perspective. The testimony of Jesus is that these things really took place!

Look up the following passages and give the Old Testament event to which Jesus refers:

- Matthew 12:39-40

- Matthew 12:42

- Matthew 24:36-39

- Mark 2:25-26

- Luke 4:25-27

- Luke 17:28-29

- Luke 20:37

- John 3:14

- John 6:49

JESUS AND VERBAL INSPIRATION

Jesus not only trusted that the stories of the Old Testament were true, He also showed great respect for each and every word in the Scriptures, indicating His confidence in their verbal inspiration.

1. In Matthew 5:17-18, Jesus said, "till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." How does this show Jesus' high regard for every word found in Scripture?

2. Consider the following two passages in Mark 12 and then write a paragraph explaining what these passages teach us about how Jesus regarded every word of Scripture.
 - In Mark 12:26-27, Jesus made an argument on the tense of the verb. He showed that since God said to Moses at the burning bush, "I **am** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," it meant that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive after death.
 - In Mark 12:36-37, Jesus refers to what David said "by the Holy Spirit." He argues on the basis of David's inspired use of the word "Lord," that the Christ must be both Divine and human.