

**Word of God (Chapter 2)****Week 1****Introduction**

When I say "Word of God", what comes to mind?

- What exactly does it refer to?

**1. Word of God refers to a person**

**Rev. 19:13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

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

**1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

**Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**2. Word of God as Speech by God Himself**

In what ways does God speak as the word of God in the Bible?

**a. God's Decrees**

- These are words of God that cause things to happen.
- Genesis 1:3, 24; Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 1:3
- He is not talking to anyone but rather making things by speaking.
- What language did God speak in Genesis 1?

**b. God's words of personal address**

- Here God communicates with people personally and directly.
- Can you name instances where this happened?
- Genesis 2:16-17; Exodus 20:1-3; Matthew 3:17
- God here was using actual words, and his actual voice.
- These words as the others, carry with them authority and are entirely God's word. To disbelieve or disobey them is to disbelieve and disobey God.

**Word of God (Chapter 2)****Week 2****Review**

What does the "Word of God" Refer to?

- Jesus, God's decrees, God's personal address, prophecy, and written form
- Last time someone mentioned angels as a form of God's word. The theology books don't include this as one of God's methods, why? How do we find out? The Bible tells us what is what.
  - First, the Bible doesn't refer to it as a different form
  - Secondly, if not then it must be included in another form. Which? God's personal address?
  - The angel of the Lord many times refers to God himself. Sometimes, an angel of the Lord speaks for God. Scripture unclear at this point, and we can go no further and we can not make a decision here.

The first is that the Word of God refers to Jesus. How is it Jesus?

- Bible calls him the "Word of God"
- Jesus refers to himself as the embodiment of the Word
- Jesus Himself speaks the Word of God.
- Read Luke 24:27, what does this refer to? Just prophecy (Isaiah 53)?  
What about Deut 15:7-8? What about the story of Joseph, Noah, Jonah, David, Moses?

Second way is that is Speech from God the Father who is spirit and not the incarnation.

Which ways did we talk about last time? Decrees and God speaking in personal address.

**2. Word of God as Speech by God Himself (continued)****c. God's words as speech through human lips**

- God raised up prophets through whom he speaks. Although they are ordinary men, and God's word is coming through ordinary language the authority and truthfulness is in no way diminished.
- Deuteronomy 18:18-22; Jeremiah 1:7-9; Ezekiel 13:1-7
- These words as the others, carry with them authority and are entirely God's word. To disbelieve or disobey them is to disbelieve and disobey God.

**d. God's words in written form (The Bible)**

- When is the first example of the God's words being written? (Exodus 31:18)
- When is the second? (Deut 31:9-13)
- 1 Corinthians 14:37, 2 Peter 3:2
- What are the benefits of the written word?  
(Accurate preservation, opportunity for repeated inspection, accessible to many people.)

**Conclusion**

How is the word authoritatively given to us (two ways)? The bible

We receive it by preaching, teaching, personal study and through the Spirit in our hearts.

- *1 Thes. 5:19-21 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.*

**Introduction to the Canon**

As Christians we are to pay careful attention to the written Word of God.

- *Deut. 32:47 For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."*

Question then is what belongs to the written Word of God and what does not?

- Caution:
  - *Deut. 4:2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.*
  - *Rev. 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*
- To add or subtract would take away from our fully obeying God.

The term used to describe the collection of book that are called the HOLY BIBLE is the "Canon".

- What does the word canon mean? "a sanctioned or accepted group or body of related works or writing."

**Old Testament Canon**

How do we know that God's writing have a special significance in our lives? Deut. 10:5

- The significance of the writing is shown to us by it being placed inside the Ark of the Covenant.
- Later Israel is held accountable to those words of God, law, statutes, and commandments.
- Finally, Israel is conquered because of its breaking of the words of God
- Jesus' use of the Old Testament and no dispute with it.
- Jesus, the disciples, and the Jewish leaders all agreed with the complete Old Testament

Joshua's add to the book of the Law despite Moses' warning. Joshua 24:26, Deut. 4:2

Other writings added to the Word of God:

1 Sam. 10:25, 1 Chron. 29:29, 2 Chron. 20:34, 2 Chron. 26:22, 2 Chron. 32:32, Jer. 30:2

The Old Testament writing grew until it was completed in 435 B.C. Malachi and Nehemiah.

**The Apocrypha**

Books of the church but not books of the canon

The Catholic Church holds the Apocrypha as Scripture but the Bible, nor the ancient Jews, Jesus, the Apostles or the early church fathers held them as authoritative words from God.

- Jesus and the New Testament authors reference and quote the OT 295 but never once the Apocrypha.
- The Apocrypha never claims to be authoritative words of God
- Consist of inconsistent teachings to Scripture

**New Testament Canon**

- New Testament begins with the writing of the apostles.
- The New Testament records the next stage of redemptive history
- Primarily the Apostles we given the ability by the Holy Spirit to recall accurately the words and deeds of Jesus and to interpret them rightly for future generations
  - John 14:26 and John 16:13-14
- 5 books were not written by the Apostles (Mark, Luke, acts, Hebrews, and Jude)
  - But they were closely associated with the Apostles and authorized by them

New Testament claims authority

Authority of Apostles words 2 Peter 3:2

Lying to the Apostles is same as lying to the Holy Spirit & God (Acts 5:2-4)

Claim that the Holy Spirit revealed the Word to them (1 Cor. 2:9 and 1 Cor. 2:13)

Awareness of the Apostles to the authority of their writing (2 Peter 3:15-16)

The books of the New Testament are self-attesting – they bear witness that they are written by God and that Christians should read them.

The Bible as we have it has been together and used by the early church hundreds of years before any group of men "canonized" them.