

# **The Nature And Purpose Of The Holy Bible**

By Peter Macinta

Most of us have loving memories of our parents or those who took care of us. I don't know about you, but I can still hear my parents telling me to look both ways before crossing a street. I also remember being told how to safely light a candle. Sad to say, not all people have had such blessings. But, even so, one can find written instructions for many things. Most times if you buy a watch, or just about anything else, instructions come with it.

## **Loving Instructions Came With Us!**

Does it not make sense that God, Who created man {1}, would give him instructions on how to live? At the time of the creation of man those instructions were verbal and visual. Adam heard YHVH God. He saw Him and saw His wisdom and power in creation. But, later, Adam sinned and his error affected his descendants. God still spoke verbally and through nature, but oftentimes man chose to let his sinful condition direct his worship and service. Instead of worshiping God, many began to worship aspects of creation.

Some did listen and obey God, and God used them to proclaim His instructions to others. A few examples of people that God used are Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. But verbal instructions can be incorrectly transferred to others or become forgotten over the course of time. Man, whose spirit lasts for eternity, needed an unquestionable standard ordained by God. So, would it not make sense that His instructions to man would come in written form?

For our spirit, which is the most important part of our being, there are vocal and written instructions, viz., the Holy Spirit (John 10:27) and the Holy Bible (Psalm 119:33-40). Some might say our conscience is to be our guide, but we have to keep in mind that the Holy Bible tells us there can be problems with our conscience (1 Timothy 4:2), as well as our own spirit (heart, Jeremiah 17:9).

So it makes sense that God in His merciful wisdom would give us written instructions to follow and a sure marker (standard) for us to determine whether or not our conscience and spirit is in line with His will. That marker and those instructions are the Holy Bible, the written Word of God (Psalm 119:11, 105).

## **The Nature Of The Holy Bible**

The books of the Holy Bible were given by God by the Holy Spirit through people that He used. 2 Peter 1:21 states, "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." The Spirit of God moved upon someone and they wrote as directed by God or, in some cases, they dictated to someone what to write. Therefore, when they wrote it was without error and God's authority was inherent in the writing. The Holy Bible is not a work of man, but a

work of God through man.

So the Holy Scriptures are inspired by God, but they are not inspired in the same sense as one might be inspired to write a poem or novel. We know this because of what is presented in the ancient language (using Young's Literal Translation, YLT\*) of 2 Timothy 3:15-16 which states, "and because from a babe the Holy Writings you have known, which are able to make you wise — to salvation, through faith that is in Christ Jesus; 16 every Writing is God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that is in righteousness,..."

Did you see that it is "God breathed" indeed? God directed His servants, like Moses or Peter, to write, or in some cases (like Paul) dictate to another, exactly what He wanted us to know. God selected the words and grammar these men were to use. Since God did it, it was without error.

But let us take even a closer look at the original language for the word, "God-breathed." As you can see by the English presented by Young it is a compound word in the form of a verb, God and breathed. The second part of this word, "breathed," comes from the Greek word "pneuma." Depending upon its context, pneuma may be translated as breath, spirit, ghost, and wind. When you read "Holy Spirit" or "Holy Ghost" in the Word of God, "Spirit" or "Ghost" in that case is pneuma.

With that, consider that the Holy Bible describes our being as three in one (1 Thessalonians 5:23): "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." God is a Spirit (John 4:24), we are a spirit, and the Word of God is God-breathed and therefore extremely valuable for our spiritual wellbeing. Please look at the lead illustration that came with this article for a better understanding between the connection of the Holy Bible and us.

## **The Purpose Of The Holy Bible**

If we continue to read in 2 Timothy 3:16 (YLT), we see the Holy Bible is "... profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that is in righteousness." It is the one book that is the supreme rule for our faith and the Christian life, relevant to every facet of our lives.

The Holy Bible is God's revelation of Himself and of His will to man (John 5:39). To be concise, it could be said the Holy Bible reveals the person and nature of God (with an emphasis upon His holiness), the sinfulness of mankind, and God's remedy to reconcile man unto Himself.

With that, I would describe the Holy Bible as spiritually dynamic because its primary message to one that is unregenerated of their need of salvation and how to get it is very simple. However, way at the other end of the spectrum there are many deep truths in It. Perhaps, if God wills and I am wise enough to recognize an opportunity to do so, I will

write an article on this point. Suffice it to say for now, many a supposed contradiction is conceived in one's mind because they have never applied to their lives the simple truth that Christ came to rescue them from sin and self.

The Holy Bible is not a science or history textbook. However, whenever it touches upon these topics, you will find it without error (Psalm 119:160). God willing, in a future article we will take a look at some false accusations that people bring against the Holy Bible, such as claiming it teaches the world is flat or that it asserts the earth is 6,000 years old. Additionally, the Holy Bible is not an encyclopedia or anything else. Its purpose is what it is described in the previous paragraphs.

### **The Term, "Holy Bible"**

The word "bible" comes from the Greek word *biblia*, meaning "books" (scrolls){2}. In a way, "bible" could be used for any collection of books. By placing the term "Holy" with "Bible" we then, instead, focus upon those writings that were directly God-breathed to holy men of God. Also, in recent years in writing articles and lessons I felt the need to stop using the term "Bible" alone. For one thing, the term is used for works like "The Cook's Bible," "The Fisherman's Bible," and so on that are not the Word of God but are authoritative, or at least claim to be, in non-spiritual matters. In some peoples' mind it puts the Holy Bible on the same level as those books.

When I use the term "Holy Bible" I primarily mean that body of work wrought by God through godly men as in the ancient manuscripts that the true people of God in Christ recognize as God-breathed and, thus, the Word of God. Most times, if someone is going to allege a Biblical contradiction they use the King James Version (KJV) or some similar work. All are to be reminded that the KJV is a translation of the sacred ancient texts into English, and English that has aged (and, in our time, become degraded) over the centuries. And, I might add, while in my opinion the KJV is quite reliable, it does contain a few errors in translation-- but nothing that would undermine the Holy Bible's essential truth.

God willing there will be another upcoming article that will give you information on what Holy Bible translation to use. For now, if you can read English, I recommend The New King James Version.

#### **Notes :**

Find more apologetics information at <http://thesureword.sapphirestreams.com/> .

{1} Used in the proper traditional sensible sense, denoting all people, male and female. I could not care less about being politically correct.

{2} For proof of inspiration of the Holy Bible, and therefore proof that it is the Word of God, please see the article, You Can Know The Holy Bible Is The Word Of God.

{3} Unger, Merrill F.: Unger's Bible Handbook (Moody Press: Chicago, 1967) p1

Unless otherwise noted all Holy Scripture is from the 1769 Authorized Version with spelling of some words updated for our time in addition to changing LORD to YHVH as it rightly should be when the text so indicates. An \* next to the abbreviation for another translation or version indicates the same for the text presented.

Keywords:

Bible, inspiration, Holy Spirit, Word Of God, instructions, growth

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