

How to Interpret Scripture

Lesson - 5 — By Scripture Alone— Sola Scriptura

Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The Library of Congress

According to Guinness World Records, U.S. Library of Congress is the largest library in the world and contains more than 151.8 million items. The library is housed in three separate buildings in Washington D.C. and contains 838 miles of bookshelves that currently hold over 34 million books. In addition to books this mega library houses 3.3 million recordings, 13.4 million photographs, 5.4 million maps, 6.5 million pieces of sheet music and 66.6 million manuscripts. To top things off the inventory grows by approximately 10,000 new items each working day. In spite of the massive variety, only one book has always stayed on the top of best seller's list. You guessed it, the Bible.

Scripture as the Ruling Norm

Genesis 1:3 *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

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

All Life From Sound

In the program "The Elegant Universe," NOVA reports that the newest research indicates that all life in the universe came from sound.

"According to string theory, absolutely everything in the universe—all of the particles that make up matter and forces—is comprised of tiny vibrating fundamental strings."

1 John 1:1 (NKJV) *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—*

Acts 17:10–11 (NKJV) *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

1 Corinthians 4:1–6 (NKJV) *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in*

stewards that one be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. ⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV) *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

The Unity of Scripture

Over one third of the New Testament is made up of quotes from the Old Testament. In truth, many Old Testament passages simply could not be understood without the New Testament. Consider the numerous prophecies referring to Jesus Christ, such as those in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Without the writings of the New Testament, we would never realize that such texts were Messianic in nature.

Similarly, dozens of Old and New Testament prophecies regarding the end time could not be understood without the book of Revelation.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- The whole Bible is the story of one problem — sin — with one solution, Jesus Christ.
 - The first 3 chapters explain man lost the garden because of the serpent. The last 3 chapters, the serpent is destroyed in the garden restored.
 - Genesis, the heavens and the earth, Revelation new heavens and earth.
- Titus 1:9** (NKJV) *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*
- 2 Timothy 1:13** (NKJV) *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*
- It is as though the Bible were a magnificent symphony that clearly was orchestrated by a single Master Conductor.

The Clarity of Scripture

The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks through his telescope, he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks at his telescope, he sees only that. The Bible is a to be looked through to see that which is beyond;

Matthew 13:16–23 (NKJV) *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. ¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Matthew 21:42 (NKJV) *Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV) *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 19:4–6 (NKJV) *And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

Mark 13:14 (NKJV) *“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

Scripture Interprets Scripture

Luke 24:27 (NKJV) *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

John 1:45 (NKJV) *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

Romans 3:10–19 (NKJV) *As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; ¹⁴ “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

Sola Scriptura and Ellen G. White

5. I believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, and that it constitutes the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian.

2Peter 1:20,21: 2Timothy 3:16,17: Psalms 119:105: Proverbs 30:5,6: Isaiah 8:20: John 17:17: 1Thessalonians 2:13: Hebrews 4:12

Then Mrs. White turned to the pulpit and took from it the Bible that was lying there. She opened it and held it out before her. “Brethren and sisters,” she said in a clear, strong voice that could be heard all over that great congregation, “Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this Book.” She gently closed the Bible and laid it back on the pulpit. Slowly she walked from the platform—she had spoken her last words before this great assembly of Seventh-day Adventists.

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority--not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support. GC pg. 595

The first voice that man heard was the voice of God – Imprinting/Bonding

Deuteronomy 4:2 (NKJV) You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:6 (NKJV) Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (NKJV) “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

John 17:8 (NKJV) *For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.*

Galatians 1:11–12 (NKJV) But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV) For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.