

1. INTRODUCTION:

This study is going to be looking at the Doctrine of the Bible, itself.

- The doctrine of what the Bible says about itself.

- What the Bible is FROM GOD'S DIVINE VIEWPOINT.

- The INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

- When you are dealing with the Bible, you are dealing with God, Himself!

Heb. 4:12 = the description of the Bible.

- Note that the Word of God is entirely different from the word of man.

- (Note the ATTRIBUTES of the Word of God are also said about God, Himself!)

- We will also note the COMPLETION of the Word of God (all 66 books)! (No "lost books" - and no "Apocryphia" [14 additional books written during the 400 years of silence])!

Gen. 3:1 - The first recorded words of Satan!

2. GOD WRITES BOOKS, AND KNOWS HOW TO WRITE BOOKS.

Rev.20:11-15 - God knows what He is doing when it come to writing books!

- The Bible is NOT the only book God has written, or is in the process of writing!

- And, in all the books that God has written or is currently writing, THERE IS CERTAINTY in these books. - There is NO QUESTION of their accuracy, their preservation, or their certainty!

- In this passage, at least 3 different books are mentioned - NONE of which are the BIBLE!!!

- These books are going to be PRESERVED (they are going to be there when the final judgment takes place, intact, accurate, and preserved)!

PRINCIPLE:

GOD WRITES BOOKS, THE BIBLE BEING ONE OF THEM, AND THE DESIGN AND PURPOSE HE HAS FOR THE BOOKS HE WRITES (INCLUDING THE BIBLE) END UP FULFILLING THEIR PURPOSE, AND THEY LAST UNTIL THAT PURPOSE IS FULFILLED.

Rev.20:13-15 - THE BOOK OF LIFE.

STUDY ISSUE: The preservation of the books God has written in order to accomplish the goal God had determined for them to accomplish - the protection of the books from any chance of corruption - and the authority of the book when you are dealing with God as the author.

- In that Rev.2:15 passage, the issue is NOT what the Judge (God) is saying - (for nothing is coming out of His mouth) - the issue is the One sitting on the throne APPEALING TO THE BOOK - because He wrote the Book!!!

- Mal. 3:16-18 - THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (The names of the Remnant)
- This passage deals with the deliverance of the members of the remnant of Israel & their protection during the Day Of The Lord.
- This book was written at least 435 Yrs. prior to its need!!

- Dan. 12:1 - Another BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE.
- A book that comes into play during the Day Of The Lord!

- Psa. 139:14-16 (:16) - "THY BOOK" - THE BOOK OF MEMBERS
- All information of the DNA code!
- Used, possibly, for the resurrection, i.e., in order that your resurrection body will have the appearance you now have.

- Num. 21:14 - THE BOOK OF THE WARS OF THE LORD
- Contains the information on the battles of the Day of The Lord.

- Rev. 5:1-7 - A book containing THE RIGHT OF TITLE TO THE EARTH.
- This one has been written and is SEALED for its protection - and in connection with the format of the information it contains.

- Isa. 4:1-4 (:3) - THE BOOK OF THE LIVING
- This book has the names of the ones who are among the living in Jerusalem.
- It is a NATIONAL REGISTER of those living in Jerusalem when the Kingdom gets established.

*** ALL THE BOOKS GOD WRITES ACCOMPLISH THEIR PURPOSE!!! ***

- CONCEPT: - All of the books that God writes must go through history and ENDURE for a future IMPACT - that is, THEY LAST!!

- PRINCIPLE: - ANY ATTEMPT TO CORRUPT OR DAMAGE ANY BOOK GOD HAS WRITTEN IS NEVER ALLOWED TO SUCCEED!

- (1) - AUTHORITY APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (2) - PRESERVATION APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (3) - PROTECTION APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (4) - CERTAINTY/ASSURANCE OF ACCOMPLISHING THEIR GOAL APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
AND THE SAME NEEDS TO BE RECOGNIZED IN CONNECTION WITH THE BIBLE - GOD'S WORD!

3. THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.

DEFINITION: The divine inspiration of the Bible (or Holy Scripture) refers to the process whereby God so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that, without waiving their human intelligence, their individuality, their literary style, their personal feelings, or any other human factor, His own complete and coherent message to man was recorded in perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture, the very words being the authority of divine authorship.

II Tim. 3:14-17 - "All scripture" (Sing. paj + grafh) = in its primary sense, a writing, anything written; but as this context demands, and by way of distinction, it means the books of the Old and New Testament: The Bible.

- We contextually know that it is the Bible in view here from what is said by Paul back in vs.15:

"holy scriptures" (iēroj + Pl. of gramma)
- [hieros] = mighty, authoritative, sacred.
hence, giving the Pl. of [gramma] (writings or scriptures), the quality of being set apart as sacred with might and authority!

- It is clear in this passage that the apostle Paul is talking about the Word of God, the holy scriptures - THE BIBLE.

- Not only is Paul talking about the Hebrew scriptures that Timothy has been familiar with as a child (:15) - but Paul is also talking about his own writings (this being the last of his letters - 4:6-7).

- Note that is was given to the Apostle Paul to complete or "fulfil" the Word of God (Col.1:25) - hence, when the apostle Paul goes off the scene and dies, at that time the Scriptures are COMPLETE!

- Therefore, when Paul is talking here in IITim. about the "holy scriptures" he's talking about the COMPLETE BIBLE - THE BIBLE AS WE KNOW IT TODAY!

- The point is, that as the Apostle Paul draws to the end of his life, the Bible as we know it is THERE!

- Now, Paul not only exhorts Timothy to keep on continuing in the holy scriptures (i.e., to stick with them, to benefit from them, to learn and be assured from them in the design that God intended for him to be educated in them, etc.) -- but Paul says some things about the scriptures themselves that are designed to make it so that we look at them, and approach them for what they really are - and have in our understanding the Divine Viewpoint of what the scriptures really are.

1) vs.15 Adjective "holy" [hieros] (noted above).
- The issue of the scriptures as being "holy" has some far-reaching effects into the doctrine of the Preservation of the scripture describing their character as God's!

2) vs.16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" - "inspiration" (Nom. Fem. Sing. of *qeopneusto*j [theopneustos] = from [theos], "God" + [pnew] = to breath, hence, GOD-BREATHED.

- [theopneustos] means that God was ACTIVELY involved in getting the words He wanted down on the page - so much so that it takes a highly technical expression like this to communicate to us that the words on the page are literally to be taken and viewed as being OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD!

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

WHEN YOU ARE READING THE WORDS ON THE PAGE OF THE BIBLE YOU ARE READING GOD'S WORDS!

Psa. 33:6-9 - The point is that when you are dealing with the words on the page of the Bible, you are dealing with words breathed by God into the writers of the books of the Bible, and hence, those words are the very words of God, Himself!

II Peter 1:20-21 - The Mechanical Means of communication of the holy scriptures from God to the written page of the Bible.

(:20) - "private interpretation" = the issue of it being a private idea of the human writers, themselves as if they set forth their own ideas, opinions, or thinking on some particular matter. It did not originate with themselves!

(:21) - Note that the member of the Godhead who is particularly in charge of inspiration is God the Holy Ghost. He is the mechanical means of taking the words out of the mouth of God, getting them into the minds and mouths of the writer, and seeing to it that those words get on the page of the Bible.

- "moved" (Pres. Pass. Ptc. *ferw* = a nautical term which has the idea of a ship being borne along by the wind with a definite charted course allowing it to go where it is intended and being carried along that way; it is a directive term indicating course, and precise reckoning and direction, and getting to a specific goal - and here it the goal is to get God's words on the page - and to authoritatively and confidently understand that when you deal with the words on the page of the Bible, the words you are dealing with are the words of God - and the doctrine of inspiration are designed to teach us that)

CONCEPT: The "holy men of God" consist of all of the writers of the Bible, who understood that what they were writing was, indeed, Scripture, and that the issues, ideas, the very words being utilized to convey the things that God wanted conveyed, ARE NOT the product of their own imagination, their own creativity, or their own way in which they think that things ought to be said, but the words that they were writing were GOD'S (God-breathed) WORDS.

CONCEPT: The Bible (or Scripture) is not "of any private interpretation" [IIPet.2:20] - meaning, that the origin of the whole thing is not something that is applied to the individual man who is utilized by God when it came to getting the message recorded on the page.

- Hence, what you have is A PERFECT TRANSFER of information from God's thinking and God's "mouth" transferred into the minds of the individual man of God, and then to the written page. AND THE MECHANICAL MEANS BY WHICH THIS FLAWLESS TRANSFER OF INFORMATION IS ACCOMPLISHED IS THE HOLY GHOST.

- Therefore, the PROCESS is God driven, through and through - that is, it is a process of absolute Divine Production from beginning to end, from the mind of God, Himself, all the way to the pen on the page - God oversees and produces the entire publication process!
(From AUTHORSHIP to PENMANSHIP)!!!

PRINCIPLE:

DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE, YOU CAN HAVE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE THAT WHAT YOU READ IS GOD'S WORD!

- A. DOCUMENTATION THAT VERBAL, SPOKEN, TEACHINGS OF THE WRITERS OF SCRIPTURE ARE ALSO INCLUDED AS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, HIMSELF:
ICor.2:13; ITh.2:13; Gal.4:4; Jer.1:9; 30:1-2; Isa.55:11; Psal.138:1-4.

PRINCIPLE:

IN VIEW OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES, YOU ARE NOT IN ANY SENSE "SHORT CHANGED" OR IN A POORER POSITION OF BOTH THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION AND THE LEARNING OF BIBLICAL INFORMATION THAN THOSE BELIEVERS THAT WERE THE LIVING AUDIENCE OF MOSES, DAVID, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, MATTHEW, PAUL, JAMES, PETER, JOHN, ETC.

- B. IN II TIMOTHY 2:14-17, TIMOTHY DID NOT POSSESS "AUTOGRAPHS" OR "ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS" OF ANY PORTIONS OF "HOLY SCRIPTURE" (except those letters to him from the Apostle Paul) - TIMOTHY POSSESSED GOD-BREATHED COPIES!! (ITim.2:15; 4:13; Titus 1:1-2; Dan.10:20-21; Jn.17:17-20; Psal.19:7-8)

- This issue is one that runs CONTRARY to the prevailing viewpoint that has been developed in view of the Modern Phase of the Science of Textual Criticism - and the MPSTC has come along with the primary teaching (and the vast majority of current writers, teachers, and preachers of today's fundamental Christianity have accepted the view of the MPSTC) where the inspiration, inerrancy, and implicit trustworthiness of scripture are applied only to the "Original Manuscripts" or Autographs.

- BUT THAT DOES NOT MATCH UP WITH WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF!!

PRINCIPLE:

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE APPLIES TO MORE THAN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS/AUTOGRAPH, "INSPIRATION" ALSO APPLIES TO THE COPIES OF SCRIPTURE.

PRINCIPLE:

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF TRUTH - IT IS TELLING US WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON.

- Note that the Bible (while being the word of Truth), contains truthful records concerning some lies that have been said (like Isa.14 {Lucififer} or Gen.3), but the Bible truthfully records those lies and gives the reality of what was said.

Titus 1:1-2 - Notice in vs.2, "God, that cannot lie" -and that is an aspect of God's "God-ness"; God is perfectly Righteous, perfectly Just and Holy, and God is TRUTH!

- Therefore, in association to the fact that the Bible is said to be the "word of truth", every word that comes out of God's mouth IS THE TRUTH - even if the words that come out of His mouth are the repeating of some false words or lies that come out of someone else's mouth, they are the true record of those false statements and lies.

PRINCIPLE:

THE ATTRIBUTE OF ABSOLUTE TRUTH OF GOD, HIMSELF, IS A SHARED ATTRIBUTE OF THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE, AND SHOULD ELICIT THE SAME MENTAL ATTITUDE OF SACRED RESPECT WHEN APPROACHED BY THE BELIEVER AS APPROACHING GOD, HIMSELF.

Dan.10:20-21 - Gabriel is giving information to Daniel that will prepare him for the upcoming events of ch.11 & 12 - information concerning the final installment of the 5th CoP of Israel.

(:21) - "the scripture of truth" (THESE ARE COPIES OF THE LAW AND PROPHETS - COPIES!)

- Hence, Gabriel calls COPIES of the Bible, "scripture of truth" - and Daniel is to understand them that very way!

- And note that NO SCHOLAR OF THE MPSTC COULD EVER MAKE THIS STATEMENT - for they believe that only the AUTOGRAPH is the "scripture of truth" - but that is in DIRECT CONTRADICTION to the statement of the Bible, itself!

John 17:17-20 - (:17) - Notice the Lord declares where that "truth" is to be found - (The Father's Word)

- It should also be noted that earlier on in the Lord's ministry, He makes it very plain that the words He speaks were given to Him from His Father - and the words of His Father are the words that you find written down from Genesis-Malachi - and He says all that is "truth" - and the mechanical means by which the apostles are going to be set apart unto God (sanctified) and stick with the truth & be able to withstand the PoE against them, all takes place through the Father's words (written by men [prophets] on a page in a Book).

- No less authority than the Lord Jesus Christ declares that the words being spoken and written down as scripture are the "truth" - i.e., no lie in it, no error in it, no deception in it, no inaccuracies, etc., etc.

(:20) - takes in the issue of the coming Believers in Israel's program - hence, these words must be PRESERVED!! (They have CERTANITY IN ACHIEVEING THEIR GOAL!!)

PRINCIPLE:

THE WORDS THAT COME OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LORD GETS WRITTEN DOWN BY JOHN (OR ANY OTHER WRITER OF SCRIPTURE) AS THE GOD-BREATHED INSPIRED TRUTH, AND WHAT IS ON THE PAGE IS THE FINAL CRITERIA FOR JUDGMENT, THE FINAL AUTHORITY, AND THE FINAL COURT OF APPEAL BECAUSE IT IS THE SUPREME WORD OF GOD - THE WORD OF TRUTH!

- In John 5:39 the Lord tells these false teachers of corrupted doctrine to "Search the scriptures";

*** THE FINAL AUTHORITY THAT JESUS CHRIST APPEALED TO FOR THE TRUE IDENTITY OF HIS PERSON, AND THE REALITY OF WHO HE WAS, IS THE BOOK - THE COPY OF THE BOOK, NOT THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH! ***

Psa.19:7-8 - The very "law" of the LORD that David is dealing with here is a COPY!

- This COPY is "perfect" "sure" "right" "pure" - and able to produce wisdom and enlightenment!!

C. The passages covered above in Point B (viz., II Tim. 2:15; Dan. 10:21; and John 17:17) are designed to effectually work within you to realize that there is a 4-FOLD TESTIMONY THAT PROVIDES 4 WITNESSES TO THE FACT THAT THE GOD-BREATHED, INSPIRED, WORD OF TRUTH EXISTS IN COPIES, AS WELL AS THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS:

- 1) The BIBLE, itself - II Tim. 2:15
- 2) A man (Paul) - II Tim. 2:15
- 3) An Angel (Gabriel) - Dan. 10:21
- 4) The Lord Jesus Christ - John 17:17

REVIEW:

1. INTRODUCTION

2. GOD WRITES BOOKS, AND KNOWS HOW TO WRITE BOOKS.

- (1) AUTHORITY APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (2) PRESERVATION APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (3) PROTECTION APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS;
- (4) CERTAINTY/ASSURANCE OF ACCOMPLISHING THEIR GOAL APPLIES TO THOSE BOOKS; AND THE SAME NEEDS TO BE RECOGNIZED IN CONNECTION WITH THE BIBLE - GOD'S WORD!

3. THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.

A. DOCUMENTATION THAT THE VERBAL, SPOKEN TEACHINGS OF THE WRITERS OF SCRIPTURE ARE ALSO INCLUDED AS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, HIMSELF --- RESULTING IN THE FACT THAT YOU ARE NOT IN ANY SENSE "SHORT CHANGED" OR IN A POORER POSITION OF LEARNING BIBLICAL INFORMATION THAN THOSE BELIEVERS THAT WERE THE LIVING AUDIENCE OF THE BIBLE TEACHERS/WRITERS.

B. "AUTOGRAPHS" & "ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS"

- DIVINE INSPIRATION APPLIES TO NOT ONLY THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS, BUT APPLIES TO THE COPIES OF SCRIPTURE ("GOD-BREATHED" COPIES).
- THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF TRUTH, (HAVING THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, HIMSELF), AND IS THE REPOSITORY OF TRUTH.

C. 4-FOLD WITNESS THAT THE GOD-BREATHED, INSPIRED WORD OF TRUTH EXISTS IN COPIES AS WELL AS IN IN THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS.

D. THE DIVINELY DESIGNED, TANGIBLE "POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN GOD AND MAN IS THE BIBLE.

- 1) To be so, the Bible must have Divine Attributes - and it does.
(Heb.4:12; IPet.1:22-25; Gen.1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26;
Psa.33:6-9; Rom.8:26-27; Gal.3:8; Rom.9:17; Jn.1:1-5,14;
Rev.19:11-13; Jn.10:30-39 {34})

Heb.4:12 - The Divine Attributes of the Bible.

"For the word of God" (o logoj tou qeou)

- The Gen. describes what kind of "word" it is; it is a word that BELONGS to and COMES FROM GOD!
- Therefore, the word of God is part of God's "God-ness" or attributes. ANYTHING THAT COMES OUT FROM GOD, OR TAKES PLACE WITH THE PERSON OF GOD IS PART OF HIS VERY BEING OR GOD-NESS (ATTRIBUTES).

- And this is the fundamental core issue in the EFFECTUAL working of God's word - it works within the soul & spirit in an effectual manner that nothing else can, because of the divine attributable nature of it being "God's word."

- "Effectually" = not only is successful in accomplishing a designated purpose, but it is also FINAL, CONCLUSIVE, IT CANNOT BE IMPROVED UPON, AND IT IS NOT TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR!!!

- 3 PARTICULAR ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORD OF GOD:

- 1) "is quick" - (Pres. Act. Ptc. ZAW = {Linear Aktionsart}, it "keeps on being" alive - to live and breath, to be among the living)

- Note that the issue in being alive is being in a state where the "organs" are performing their functions and the bodily fluids are moving - being in a state of ACTION - hence, the idea is that the various parts of God's word are designed to have active function; whole processes and systems are in operation; exchanges are taking place, etc.

- Also, note the excellency of the choice of using the word "QUICK" to translate ZAW: QUICK not only has the idea of being "alive", but it also carries a shade of meaning that communicates many things that "alive" or "living" doesn't - for example, when applied to persons, their mental operations, their acts, and their WORDS, "quick" means having or manifesting the ability to respond WITHOUT DELAY or HESITATION.

- "Quick" stresses instancy of response to such an extent that it usually connotes inherent rather than acquired power.

- Something that is "quick" has not merely life, but movement to it - it has direction and is to reach its objective without delay; it has animated action of rousing into fullness of activity.

- (See I Peter 1:22 [Peter quoting Isaiah 40])

PRINCIPLE: NOTHING WOULD HAVE EXISTENCE, INCLUDING LIFE, ITSELF, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- 1) God's word carries with it an extension of God's person;
- 2) God's word is "quick" and alive just as He is alive, and it accomplishes the things of His life within His creation;
- 3) God's word in the form of the gospel (whether in Israel's program as the gospel of the kingdom, or in this program for the Church, the Body of Christ as the gospel of God's grace) is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom.1:16) - and that word is able to do some things within the soul/spirit composition of the human being which regenerates or makes alive that composition, all because it is the word of God which is ALIVE;
- 4) Therefore, God's word is THE POINT OF CONTACT WITH GOD, HIMSELF.

- 2) "and powerful" (*energhj* = active, energetic, efficient, effectual)
 - God's word has energy to it, by nature, i.e. it can carry the omnipotence of God with it!

- See Gen.1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26

- All of these "And God said" passages indicate the omnipotent, powerful, creative acts of God being put into effect BY HIS WORD - His word carries forth His creative power!

- Psalm 33:6-9 (we've looked at this before)
 - He spoke actual words - words that get written down on the page of His Book, the Bible.
 - This expresses the issue of God's words having power to accomplish something.
 - It's His WORD that did it!

- 3) "and sharper than any twoedged sword"
(This gets right down to the issue of its capacity to operate within your "inner man" - and it can do something within your "inner man" that only God can do) - note the other instances of this phrase: {y149:6; Pro.5:4; Rev.1:16 - romfaia}

- "sharper" (Comparative Adj. *tomoj* = to cut, incise, pierce, wound; = "and more cutting")
- "than" (Preposition *uper* of Comparison = "than")
- "any" (Acc. Sing. *paj* = "any")
- "twoedged" (*distomoj* = double cutting or two edged)
- "sword" (*macaira* = One of the most famous Roman military inventions of the ancient world)

- SPQR invented this weapon for their combat infantry.
- It was very short - only about 18" long.
- It had one very sharp point, two razor sharp edges, and a one-hand handle.
- Hence, it produced a totally effectual power stroke, whether from right or left; up or down, like a piston in a cylinder of a steam engine which delivers power both at entry and exit: A SINGLE EDGED SWORD IS EFFECTIVE ONLY HALF OF THE TIME!

HOW WE GOT OUR ENGLISH BIBLE - (The Doctrine of the Preserved Word of God)

- The *machaira* in the hands of a well-trained, disciplined Roman soldier was the most effective weapon of its day - IT WAS THE SWORD THAT CONQUERED THE WORLD!

- NOTE: The Bible does not use the words for other swords of the ancient world in describing itself:

- *Dolon* - a sword in a cane, it only has a sharp point, and it is hidden - BIBLE DOCTRINE IS NEVER TO BE HIDDEN, so the Holy Ghost did not permit this word to be used.

- *Romphaia* - (used in Lk.2:35 + many passages in the Rev.) the great broad sword used by the Gaul's and Barbarians - used originally by the Thracians, it was approx. 6-foot long. This sword had only 1 effective edge at a time, BUT THE BIBLE DOES NOT HAVE ONE EFFECTIVE EDGE AT A TIME, ALL OF IT IS IMPORTANT ALL OF THE TIME!!

- *Akinakes* (*sp?*) - introduced by the high ranking generals of the Persian army. It was very ornate and demonstrated something of your rank. It was bedecked with jewels, made of ivory, gold, silver, etc. Used strictly for show (lots of fluff) - BUT THE BIBLE IS NOT SOME FLOWERY, STUFFY, HIGH-CLASS SHOW WHICH NO ONE UNDERSTANDS (i.e., good for looks, but useless in battle)!

- *Ziphos* (*sp?*) - a sword with only a thrusting point. The person who used it had to lunge to thrust it, and was always off balance at the end of his thrust. - BUT THE BIBLE DOES NOT HAVE JUST A POINT HERE AND A POINT THERE, BUT IS TO BE EQUALLY IMPORTANT FROM COVER TO COVER, AND TO BE UNDERSTOOD WITH SENSE AND SEQUENCE!

PRINCIPLE:

THE HOLY GHOST HAS CAREFULLY SELECTED THE SPECIFIC AND EXACTLY PROPER WORD (*machaira*) TO MAKE IT FLAWLESSLY CLEAR THAT EVERY PART OF GOD'S WORD IS IMPORTANT, EFFECTUAL, AND TO BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND EASILY USED!

- Note that the word of God has a "sharpness" or cutting capacity to it, that it can divide asunder "soul and spirit" - i.e., it can deal effectually with the IMMATERIAL part of your being, which is a function & attribute that only God can do.

- "*piercing*" (Pres. Mid. Part. *diikneomai* [*diikneomai*] = to reach and to come to - to attain, hence, to go, come or pass through, penetrating, breaking through, not being hindered by bone)

- This means that neither bone, nor muscle, nor any kind of flesh will prevent one from being pierced or penetrated.

- "*soul and spirit*" (*yuch* [*psuch8*] and *pneuma* [*pneuma*])

- "*joints and marrow*" (*armo*j [*harmos*] and *muelo*j [*muelos*] = marrow is the soft interior substance of the bone - the highly vascular, soft tissue which fills the cavities of most bones).

- Hence, the Bible not only splits hairs, but invisibly fine hairs!

- Reason: Because all discernment must come from distinguishing one principle of Bible Doctrine from another.

- Every distinction the Bible emphasizes must be brought to the attention of the believer; and when the Bible makes distinctions (no matter how small or great), they are all extremely important to each one of us.

- God has designed the soul/spirit component to be super-sensitive to the most minute spiritual detections that will lead to the greatest pleasure and happiness in the "inner man".

- "and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"
 - "discerner" (Nom. Sing. κριτικός [kritikos] = to judge, to make objective evaluation, to be a critic)
 - Note that a "discerner" is someone who is able to look at things and make a critical, discerning, evaluation of those things as to whether they are good or bad.
 - Note that within the attribute of the word of God being "sharper than any twoedged sword" is that it is "a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" - this, too, is an aspect of God's attributes - i.e., God (God's word) can READ YOUR HEART (or intellect - Gk., καρδία [kardia]).

PRINCIPLE:

THE FUNCTION OF GOD'S WORD AS THE TWOEDGED SWORD IS THE FUNCTION OF GOD, HIMSELF.

- - Rom.8:26-27 - note especially that among the tranquilizing ministry of God the Holy Spirit is the issue of Him (God the Father) that "searcheth the hearts" - again, this is an aspect of His "God-ness" or attributes.
- - A "discerner" is one that is able to look at things and make a critical evaluation of those things and distinguish the proper categories of those things - a critical and discerning judgment about something.
- - And God's word has the capacity to render a critical distinction and discerning judgment of your "thoughts and intents" of your heart - as to whether they are good, based upon adjustment the norms & standards of righteousness, or bad, based upon maladjustment to the norms & standards of +R.

PRINCIPLE:

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD, BEING WHAT IT IS (the very word of God), AND CARRYING WITH IT THE ISSUE OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD WITH RESPECT TO HOLINESS (+R/+J); GOD'S WORD READS YOU AS YOU READ IT!

- Now, Hebrews 4:12, when taken with vs.13 and the things said about the "eyes" of God, you have all three "Omni" aspects of God's attributes spoken about:
 - (1) - Omnipotent: The word of God is "powerful" (vs.12)
 - (2) - Omniscient: "sharper..... heart" (vs.12)
 - (3) - Omnipresent: (vs.13)
- Galatians 3:6-9 (:8) - Note vs.8 "And the scripture foreseeing ..."
 - Note that the subject (noun) to which the verb applies is "THE SCRIPTURE"!
 - When you go back and read Genesis chapter 12 where that statement is made, THE BOOK OF GENESIS IN WHICH THAT STATEMENT IS RECORDED WAS NOT YET WRITTEN!!!
 - What you have here is the documentation that the scripture was in operation BEFORE IT WAS WRITTEN!
- Romans 9:17 - Note that it does not say that "The scripture recorded what God said unto Pharaoh" [which it did do], but that's not what this says - Paul says, "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh", i.e., when you are back in Exodus 9:16 reading on the pages of God's word what He said, those words He said were spoken BEFORE it got written down on that page!
 - Paul views the scripture as in existence BEFORE it was written in the book!
- Note the interchangeable terms of "God" and "scripture" - that is, Paul understands that WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH GOD'S WORD, YOU ARE DEALING WITH GOD, HIMSELF!

- John 1:1-5,14
- Rev. 19:11-13
- John 10:30-39 (:34)
 - NOTE: ("I said") - The Lord is claiming that what has already been written on the page in the book of Psalms is something HE SAID!
 - NOTE: The words He is pointing to in their law, back in the Psalms IS NOT AN AUTOGRAPH, BUT A COPY!

- What is going on here is that our Lord is saying something in respect to the word of God coming down to a specific class of people in Israel (not just to anyone) - and He speaks of a TITLE that God gave those people that was designed to make an impact on the rest of the people of Israel as they dealt with these people.

- Psalm 82: 1-8 (:1) & (:6) - There is a class of people in Israel that God has designated, "gods" - WHY??

- First, note that God, Himself, tells us in this Psalm who these people are: (:2) "How long will ye JUDGE unjustly, ..."

- These "gods" are judges who are judging unjustly, and accepting the persons of the wicked - i.e., they were respectors of persons - and not only that, but they were also FAILING to defend the poor and fatherless, as well as failing to properly deliver the poor and needy - i.e., instead of protecting these people from being victimized by the wicked, these "gods" were actually cooperating with the PoE and were victimizing these people, themselves!

- Therefore, the class of people in Israel that God designated as "gods" were the ones who were governmentally in charge - the ones who were in charge of *judging* and dealing with the poor, fatherless, and needy.

- Now, back to John 10 and see WHY they were called "gods" --- (:35)

- They were called "gods" because they were the ones "unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken" - they were the ones, specifically who were entrusted with the word of God! And with the speaking of it, and the teaching of it to Israel! And they were entrusted with the scripture (the writing of it, and the copying of it)! They were the CUSTODIANS of scripture. (Including the Scribe, the Pharisees, the Chief Priests, etc., etc.)

- Therefore, when an Israelite wanted the word of God, and to know what God said, they understood that they were to go to that class of people, and realize that that class of people were designated BY GOD with the WORD OF GOD as ACTUALLY STANDING IN HIS (GOD'S) STEAD!

- See John 10:34-35 and note that vs.36 finishes off the argument:
 - Notice that by virtue of possessing the word of God in written form, and by virtue of the fact that they were the custodian/messengers of God & God's word (i.e., God's representatives), vs.35 tells them that they possessed the very point of contact with God that God had ordained.
 - Now, in vs.36 the argument is capped off by the declaration by the Lord that He is the "Son of God" i.e., He is the very Word of God, Himself!

- In other words, if they can be called "gods" by virtue of being God's custodian/messengers/representatives of His word, then how is it blasphemy for Christ to say that He is the Son of God - something far more than merely one who stands in God's stead where the word is concerned, He IS that WORD incarnate!!!

E. THE ISSUE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENT FACTOR OF THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.
(Isaiah 55:10-13)

- Under the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the scriptures, it is CRITICAL to underscore the fact that God's word has far reaching factors of accomplishing the divinely designed task set out for it - accomplishment on both the human/angelic (or creation) side, as well as the divine side.

- (:10) - "thither" - note that in most other (but not all) translations they change the term to something like, "and do not return there" or "and do not return to it" - the idea being that "thither" is just another archaic term that really means, "there."
However, while there is not much difference, there is a shade of meaning that "thither" has, and a use in older English that made it so you had accuracy and precision of meaning that is not carried by the use of the word "there."

- During the time of the KJ Translators, "there" and "thither" did not mean the same thing.

- The Hebrew word for the phrase "returneth not thither" is שׁוּב [shub] + Neg. Particle לֹא [lo] = which simply means not to return or go back (Qal Imperf.).

- However, the CONTEXT indicates that there is a particular FUNCTION or PROCESS being set forth concerning what the word of God ACCOMPLISHES that warrants the use of a term that will identify that accomplishing concept.

- In older English "there" was used to simply indicate a point or place away from where the speaker or writer is. "Thither" was used in connection with verbs of MOTION, and "There" was used in connection with verbs of REST.

- Now, in the CONTEXT of this passage it is to be understood by the use of "thither" that God's word is not a one-sided operation that goes out from Him and comes to rest on earth, or on man - but it has a CYCLICAL function that accomplishes a task in man, and a function that accomplishes a task in God.

- Put simply, the written word of God operates on both the divine side as well as the human side of things.

HOW WE GOT OUR ENGLISH BIBLE - (The Doctrine of the Preserved Word of God)

- Hence, the words that God sends from his local presence in the 3rd Heaven, are sent down to the earth with power and capacity to accomplish something here, as well as returning to bring the accomplishment of His "pleasure." (Hydro-Cycle)

- Notice that the aspects of the divinely designed power and capacity that God built into water is likened to His word - it has the power and capacity to be sent away from Him, to the earth, to function with power and capacity, and then to come back to Him: Note (:11) "it shall not return unto me", that is, His word is a part of Him that is sent to do a job, and then to return to Him.

- Note that it will return, BUT it will not return "Void" = קִיָּם (REYQAM) = in an empty condition.

- Note "SHALL prosper in the thing whereto I SENT it" - "shall" (future); "sent" (past) - God's word has a FUTURE ACCOMPLISHMENT FACTOR!

PRINCIPLE:

JUST AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN AND YOU IS THE RAIN & SNOW, SO TOO IS GOD'S WORD THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN YOU AND HIM.

REVIEW:

1. INTRODUCTION

2. GOD WRITES BOOKS, AND KNOWS HOW TO WRITE BOOKS.

3. THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.

A. DOCUMENTATION THAT THE VERBAL, SPOKEN TEACHINGS OF THE WRITERS OF SCRIPTURE ARE ALSO INCLUDED AS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, HIMSELF.

B. "AUTOGRAPHS" & "ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS" - DIVINE INSPIRATION APPLIES TO NOT ONLY THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS, BUT APPLIES TO THE COPIES OF SCRIPTURE ("GOD-BREATHED" COPIES).

C. 4-FOLD WITNESS THAT THE GOD-BREATHED, INSPIRED WORD OF TRUTH EXISTS IN COPIES AS WELL AS IN THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS.

D. THE DIVINELY DESIGNED, TANGIBLE "POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN GOD AND MAN IS THE BIBLE.

E. THE ISSUE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENT FACTOR OF THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

4. CANONICITY - THE BIBLE IS COMPLETE, NOTHING MISSING!

A. DEFINITION:

- The word "CANON" or "CANONICITY" comes from the Greek word κανών [kanon], meaning, a reed, rod, or ruler; a cane; anything straight used in examining other things, as a needle of a balance, a plumb line in building, etc., hence, a measuring stick or norm and standard. The term is found in five NT passages, all in Paul's writings: IICor. 10:13,15,16; Gal.6:16; Phil.3:16.

The word is given as a technical term to indicate the accepted books of the Bible considered as inspired. Hence, the term "Canon" describes the divine and absolute norm and standard of the collection of the many divinely inspired books into one Book, the Bible, with nothing lost, nothing missing. The Canon of Scripture consists of 66 divinely inspired books, Genesis - The Revelation.

B. Challenges to the Biblical Canon:

1) Written Challenges (or revelations):

(examples) - Pseudepigrapha - OT Apocrypha - NT Apocrypha - Book of Mormon
- Qur'an (Koran) - Vedas - Ex cathedra [with authority] Papal Bulls

2) Verbal Challenges (or revelations):

- The use of SPIRITUAL GIFTS
- Tongues (& Interpretation of)
- Word of Knowledge
- Prophecy

C. THREE MAJOR ISSUES THAT TESTIFY TO THE BIBLE'S COMPLETENESS:

1) God designed the Bible in eternity past.

(The Bible has a Pre-Planned Design - Psalm 119:89)

- Psa.119 is broken up into 22 8-vs. sections.
- Psa.119 deals with the word of God and its use by the Remnant of Israel - in fact, the word of God, and the use of it by that remnant is the subject matter of the entire psalm. (see vs.105,140,159-160,161-168)

- God's word will be able to effectually work within that member of the remnant of Israel, and it will be all the things to him and for him that is specified in this chapter, all because there is something particular about God's word that is brought out in that 89th verse!

Psalm 119:89

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

- This puts a PERSPECTIVE on the word of God!
- i.e., It has a HEAVENLY COMPONENT - because that is where it came from!
- It just didn't come along in time without any real thought or planning put into it.
- It was pre-planned and pre-designed!

- "settled" (Niphal Part. Masc. Sing. Absolute נָצַב [natsab] = to stand straight and firm, to stand whole and sound, it is a t.t. that indicates something that stands in authority and with perfect strength and soundness)
 - Niphal Stem = the passive of the Qal, i.e., it received a settling.
 - Participle = represents an action or condition in its unbroken continuity.

- English, "settle":

The term "settle" in the English carries a very important shade of meaning. It comes from a family or grouping of words that all have similar meaning; viz., "fix, settle, establish, determine, compose.

"Fix" signifies simply to make to keep its place, and is the general and indefinite term. "Settle" and "establish" are to "fix" strongly. Something may be "fixed" quickly, but something is "settled" over a period of time. "Settle" carries the shade of meaning that it not only is in place, but that it is in place PERMANENTLY and DELIBERATELY.

"Settle" also carries the idea of more than one being involved in the settling - i.e., to "fix" is properly the act of one, to "settle" may be the joint act of many.

Hence, it would seem from this that the entire Godhead were involved with the "settling" issues of the word of God.

"Settle" also carries the idea of something internal working - i.e., the settling of the mind - which would also be understood within the framework of working with words.

The term "settle" is also different from the term "determined" - for "determine" is to "settle" as a means to an end. Hence, we "determine" all subordinate matters, in order to "settle" a matter FINALLY! ("Settle" carries the shade of meaning of absolute and total finality concerning a particular matter).

- Note that in this middle section of the Psalm, the issue of paralleling the settlement of His word to the ordinances that exist within the creation-revelation is set forth:

- (:90-91) 1) Notice that the issue that is immediately confronted in vs.90 is God's "faithfulness" and "faithfulness" is an issue of being faithful to do something that you SAID!
- 2) And in view of the fact of appreciating that God's word is for ever settled in heaven, the psalmist recognizes that God's word (or what He said) would be faithful unto all generations!
- 3) This views certain things said by God, even before the creation of the earth (the 1st thing created), that are resident in that Law - and the writer views all these as things that were forever settled in time past even before day 1 of the creation week! And all these things that pertain to Israel in God's word, the Law, have a certain future fulfillment that is just as sure and certain as He has performed for that nation in her past history!!
- 4) Therefore, in viewing the Bible from God's perspective (Divine Viewpoint), it did not just come along as something that God HAD TO BRING IN, IN VIEW OF HOW BAD THINGS WERE GOING! But it is something that has already been "settled" in heaven, and has come along in time, indicating that God knows exactly what is going on in and with His creation: hence, it never gets "out of hand" - it (the Bible) never need adjusting or amending.

(:90) - "thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."
- The psalmist adds that there is something else that God brought into existence and settled the matter (i.e., established by means of His word)!

(:92) - Again, the faithful performance of all that God created will continue to their fulfillment, all because it has been established in His word!

- FASCINATING CONCEPT:

While the writer of this psalm never saw any aspect of this present dispensation of Grace, and while no mention is ever made of a change in God's program with Israel from Genesis through Acts 8, at the same time, even our epistles of the Mystery (Romans - Philemon) were "settled" in God's mind, in eternity past, but not given and revealed until the raising up of the apostle Paul! (Rom.16:25; IITim.1:9-11; Titus 1:2)

PRINCIPLE:

GOD'S WORD WAS NOT COMPOSED "ON THE FLY", BUT WAS "SETTLED" COMPLETELY AND IN COMPLETED FORM BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN, AND WORKED OUT IN TIME.

PRINCIPLE:

GOD'S WORD (THE BIBLE) PREDATES CREATION, ITSELF.

- This issue is a CRITICALLY IMPORTANT one - due to the fact that the Bible (God's word) existed in a completed and settled form before the world began - and was given and revealed over a period of time as human history unfolded in time - therefore, what seems to have been composed and compiled by men in time is really the reception of (over a period of time) what was composed, completed, and settled back in eternity past. This means that it has, therefore, a correlation to God's plan and program(s), as well as to the nature of the Bible being one continual message from Gen. through Rev.! It has a pre-planned DESIGN that conforms to the outworking of God's plan and purpose.

Review:

4. CANONICITY - The Bible is COMPLETE, nothing lost, nothing missing!!

A. DEFINITION:

B. CHALLENGES TO THE BIBLICAL CANON:

- 1) Written Challenges
- 2) Verbal Challenges

C. 3 MAJOR ISSUES THAT TESTIFY TO THE BIBLE'S COMPLETENESS:

- 1) God designed the Bible in eternity past, and it has a pre-planned design. (Psalm 119:89)
-

2) The Sense & Sequence of the Content of the Bible.
(GENESIS compared with THE REVELATION)

- In especially these last two issues, we will see from the internal evidence of the Bible, itself (i.e., from no extrabiblical revelations) things that are self-testifying as to the completeness of the Bible.

- One of those things is the issue of SENSE AND SEQUENCE (S/S); for S/S is not just a theory - it really is there, and it is a feature of something that has got DESIGN to it - again:

*** Pre-planned Design = Sense & Sequence
*** No Design = Randomness & haphazardness

a. DEFINITION:

SENSE AND SEQUENCE is a phrase expressing the idea that, due to the Bible being "*For ever ... settled in heaven*", therefore possessing divine design or being pre-designed by God, it then follows that the Bible also has a designed and continuous reason or rational meaning which follows a logical and meaningful succession; the words, verses, chapters, and books being placed in the canon of scripture by God (the divine Author) in the proper sequential order to give the reader the flawless sense and meaning of the divine viewpoint of all things.

b. Note that the Bible does not open up with Romans-Philemon, because that would NOT MAKE SENSE!

c. The Bible is written in a sequence that corresponds with the outworking of God's plan and purpose.

GENESIS 1-3 cp. REVELATION 20-22

- Gen.1:1 "In the beginning" starts you off on the right foot - in sense and sequence!

- Genesis records a 5 major "beginnings" that are an absolute must in order to get started off in your godly edification right:

- 1) Gen.1:1-25 - the beginning of the world.
- 2) Gen.1:26-2:25 - the beginning of man.
- 3) Gen.3:1-24 - the beginning of man's sinfulness, Satan's rulership of the world, and God's plan of redemption.
- 4) Gen.4:1-11:32 - the beginning of man's devolution. (Babylon)
- 5) Gen.12:1-50:26 - the beginning of Israel.

Genesis 1-3

(Beginning Issues)

1:1-25 - God's residency.

1:26-28 - Man, the intellectual creature God created for His purpose.
(God created a special creature, an *intellectual creature*)

2:8-9, 15-17 - information in connection with man's existence.

3:1ff - Entrance of sin (sin begins) - God's plan for the earth gets put on hold.

3:6-8 - Corruption begins.

3:15 - the beginning of redemption and God's plan for re-possessing the heaven
and earth.

3:16 - Sorrow begins

3:17-18 - The Curse begins - (Thorns & Thistles)

3:19 - Death begins.

3:22-24 - Man loses dominion and monarchy of the earth
- the tree of Life forfeited.

PRINCIPLE:

The Bible begins at a logical beginning and ends to logically conclude
all those things dealt with in that beginning.
(Everything else follows in sense & sequence to get you there).

Revelation 20-22

(Ending Issues)

(The restoration of all that has been forfeited and lost, "in the beginning.")
- Revelation 20 context: The Day Of The Lord

20:1-4 - Goes right back to Gen.3!

(:4) - Man now reigns with God as it was supposed to be back in Genesis 1.
- Victory over the "Serpent".
- Note, "Live" and "Reign" - this is a righteous reign - i.e.,
righteousness reigns instead of sin.

20:11-15 - Death goes through a progressive destruction
until it is totally destroyed.
(Destroyed by resurrection!)

21:1-4 - God's residency and dwelling restored, plus no
more being alienated (no more enmity) between
God and man.

21:4 - No more sorrow - the "former things" (of Gen. 3)
are passed away.

22:1-3 - No more Curse! (See the last word in the OT: Malachi 4:6)

(:2) - Tree of life accessible.

(:3) - The Curse is reversed.

(Bonus: - Babylon is dealt with and destroyed, Rev.18:21)

- d. THE ISSUE OF SENSE & SEQUENCE WITHIN PORTIONS OF GOD'S WORD:
(Gen.15:13-16; Lev.26:14ff; Dan.12:4 Rom.1:11; 16:25-27;
Eph.4:11-16; Col.1:24-27)

REVIEW:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. GOD WRITES BOOKS (AND KNOWS HOW TO WRITE THEM)
3. DOCTRINE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION (essential issues)
4. CANONICITY (The Bible is COMPLETE, nothing lost, nothing missing!)
 - A. DEFINITION
 - B. CHALLENGES TO THE BIBLICAL CANON:
 - 1) Written Challenges
 - 2) Verbal Challenges
 - C. 3 MAJOR ISSUES THAT TESTIFY TO THE BIBLE'S COMPLETENESS:
 - 1) God designed the Bible in eternity past, and it has a pre-planned design. (Psalm 119:89)
 - 2) The Sense & Sequence of the Content of the Bible.
(Gen. cp., Rev.)

- 3) Internal Safeguards or Security Features of the Bible.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

- The element of internal security features or safeguards within the Bible is the issue of God providing measures within the Bible, itself, whereby any attempts to insert words, verses, chapters, or books (false writings, or even inspired writings) into the 66 book canon may be defeated based upon the internal evidence of scripture.

- a. Safeguards against the Apocrypha.
(Amos 8:11-12)

- THE APOCRYPHA = the concealed writings.

- Note (:11) "in the land" - this is all going to be taking place in the land; therefore this HAS to be the 3rd Installment, because during the 1st Installment they are going to be OUT OF THE LAND, and during the 2nd Installment, even though they are allowed back into the land, they are to be receiving prophecy by means of several prophets who are to be functioning at that time, for instance Ezra & Nehemiah testify that there are to be prophets functioning in the land at that time, prophets like Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. And it can't take place in the 4th Installment, because John the Baptist functions as a prophet, and the Messiah is there, and they were hearing the words of the Lord - and it can't be happening out in the 5th Installment, because that same thing will be going on.

- THE ONLY TIME THE FAMINE OF HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD COULD TAKE PLACE IS DURING THE 3RD INSTALLMENT OF THE 5TH COURSE OF PUNISHMENT!

- THEREFORE IN LIGHT OF ALL THIS, YOU CAN TAKE UP THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF OT APOCRYPHAL BOOKS AND THROW THEM ALL IN THE TRASH!!!

- b. Safeguards concerning the four Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

(Zech. 3:8; 6:12; 9:9; 13:7)

- c. Safeguards concerning the epistles of the apostle Paul.
(Col.1:25; Eph.1:8-9; IIThess.2:1-2; Gal.2:6-9)

Col.1:23-27 (:25) - Paul makes it clear that through his ministry, the word of God gets COMPLETED!

- All other writings that follow the writings of the apostle Paul are NOT to be considered the word of God!

- In fact, Paul tells the Colossians in 2:2-4 what they are to beware of, (i.e., "enticing words") and he further tells them in 2:18-19 that they are to beware of EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATIONS!
PAUL KNEW THAT WHEN HE FINISHED WRITING HIS EPISTLES THAT THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE WAS CLOSED!!!!!!

Eph.1:7-10 - Note that through the revelation of the mystery of his will, THERE IS NOTHING THAT GOD IS HOLDING BACK - THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT IS KEPT SECRET ABOUT GOD'S WILL!

- And in connection with that, you have ALL of the "wisdom and prudence" God wants you to have - you have all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that God wants you to have!

- You don't have to wait for someone to come along and uncover some lost information or lost books that you are suppose to have, but somehow it got lost or misplaced - you've got it all in you Bible!

- AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE SOME PROPHET TELL YOU ANYTHING - NO SELF-PROCLAIMED PROPHET COULD EVER ADD ONE SINGLE LETTER OF ONE SINGLE WORD TO BENEFIT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ANY PART OF GOD'S WORD - THESE GUYS AND GIRLS ARE FALSE PROPHETS AND PHONIES AND BEST, AND INSANE AT WORST!

- On the basis of this, there is not a single writing of any of the "Church Fathers" that is to be considered the word of God.

- On the basis of this the book of Mormon, along with all their other books are thrown out!

- Edicts and Bulls of the Pope: Thrown out!

- You can throw out the Koran, too!!

II Thess. 2:1-2 - Here at the very beginning of the dispensation of Grace, while Paul was still alive, ministering, and writing, the PoE was heavily engaged in producing some counterfeit scriptures as part of his attacks upon the believers.

- Note that there is a safety/protection measure sitting in vs.2 that is commonly overlooked:

(2) *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, ..."*

"not soon shaken in mind"

- "by spirit" = by some spiritual gift, or by some angel that proclaims God's word.

- "by word" = the teaching/prophesy coming out of someone's mouth.

- "by letter as from us" = written communication, even if it says it comes from us!

- NOTE WHAT THE GOAL OF THE ADVERSARY IN DOING ALL OF THIS IS:
'THAT YE BE SHAKEN IN MIND AND TROUBLED'! (And that takes place
by teaching false doctrine "as that the day of Christ is at hand."

- Here, Paul is describing the event of the Jerusalem conference when he went there to brief/teach the circumcision apostles on the mystery (the dispensational change) and updated them on the reality of it, and settled their understanding of the suspension of Israel's program, and the bringing in of this new *unprophesied* dispensation of Grace.

- Note the "Safeguard Issue" that would prevent the teachings of the 12 apostles (or any other Epistle or Letter that would claim to be part of our edification today as if God is speaking to us today) to be utilized by us today in the dispensation of Grace: (Verse 9)

PRINCIPLE:

THERE ARE NO BOOKS WRITTEN BY CIRCUMCISION APOSTLES THAT WE SHOULD BE STUDYING TODAY FOR OUR PRIMARY INSTRUCTION AS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST.

(:9) - Clearly tells you that, due to the change of programs, the apostles of the circumcision KEPT THEMSELVES AND THEIR MINISTRIES (INCLUDING THEIR WRITTEN MINISTRIES) TO THE CIRCUMCISION ONLY, I.E., TO ISRAEL ONLY!

d. General Internal Safeguard Issues:

(John 14:26; 16:13; 17:17; IITim.3:14-16; Psalms)

(16:13) - Here the Lord give them a SAFEGUARD concerning the fulfillment of the program with Israel - He says some things to them in order to let them know that everything they needed to get the words of truth concerning that time WOULD COME ONLY THROUGH THEIR APOSTLES!

- THEREFORE, WITHIN THE LIFETIME OF THESE APOSTLES, EVERY PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL NEEDED WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMFORTER, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Jn.14:26 - Note: "*he shall teach you ALL things*" - the teaching that the Lord is talking about here are the things the He hasn't spoken about yet! Namely, those things pertaining to the extension of Mercy/Forbearance, and the doctrinal information that they will need to have to operate out in the Day of the Lord.

- Notice, they will:

- 1) Be taught "all things" and be "reminded" of "all things" (14:26);
- 2) Be guided into "all truth" (16:13);
- 3) Be made aware that the "truth" in which they will be guided is the word of God, the holy scriptures (17:17).

- In other words, the circumcision apostles (Peter, James, John, Jude, etc.) were going to be utilized to fill up and complete the "truth" (the repository of truth, the holy scriptures) for God's program with Israel. And in their lifetime, the Holy Spirit would "guide" them into "all truth".

PRINCIPLE:

"ALL TRUTH" FOR GOD'S PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE LIFETIME OF THEIR APOSTLES, JUST AS OUR APOSTLE, PAUL, WOULD COMPLETE OR "FULFILL" GOD'S WORD FOR OUR PROGRAM IN THIS DISPENSATION OF GRACE.

- You take the issue of the OT canon being settled when Malachi finishes writing; you take the issue of there being only 4 gospel accounts; you take the issue of the circumcision apostles completing the "truth" of the written word of God for the program with Israel (Heb.-Rev.); and you take the 13 letters of the apostle Paul being written to "fulfill" God's written word; AND YOU HAVE THE ENTIRE CANON OF HOLY SCRIPTURE ACCOUNTED FOR, FOR BOTH PROGRAMS! --- AND THAT SEALS THE MATTER! ---

IITim.3:13-16 (:14) = Paul's epistles.
(:15) = Israel's scriptures.
(:16) = Israel's, Paul's and the Circ. epistles = "ALL SCRIPTURE"

The Book of Psalms: Extolls the virtues of the MANDATES OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT.

- Ψ 1-41 - Book I (41 Psalms)
 - They need Him to be a Redeemer to give them redemption.
- Ψ 42-72 - Book II (31 Psalms)
 - They need Him to be a Deliverer and to give them Deliverance from their enemies.
- Ψ 73-89 - Book III (17 Psalms)
 - They need Him to come and Avenge His cause with them, and deal with the Adversary.
- Ψ 90-106 - Book IV (17 Psalms)
 - They need Him to be their King and to give them the Kingdom.
- Ψ 107-150 - Book V (44 Psalms)
 - They need Him to be their Blessor who blesses them on the basis of His own integrity, and not on the basis of their works - because all they could ever merit on the basis of their own works was the curses of the Law contract.
- This points up the fact that there is a DOCTRINAL STRUCTURE that exists within Psalms, and that, in turn, is a self-testifying feature as to its COMPLETENESS!

e. Problem Passages in connection with Internal Safeguards of the Bible. (IICor.10:9-11; ICor.5:9,11 cp., John 20:30-31; 21:24-25; Rev.10:1-4; Col.4:16)

IICor.10:9-11 & ICor.5:9,11 - Note: "wrote" (Past Tense) - this is indisputable evidence of the existence of a previous letter!

- Q: Does this mean that we do not have all the Bible?

John 20:30 - SOMETHING CAN BE INSPIRED, AND YET GOD DOES NOT WANT THAT TO BE
John 21:24-25 INCLUDED IN THE CANON OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES!

- A: The answer as to how to handle the passage in I&IICor. is NOT to say that those writings were not inspired, but just as with John's writings, the answer is that GOD DID NOT WANT THAT INSPIRED EPISTLE TO BE A PART OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE!

Rev.10:1-4 - An example of God speaking "inspired" God-breathed words and expressly stating that they are not to be written down!

PRINCIPLE:

NOT EVERYTHING GOD SPEAKS OR SAYS THAT IS OBVIOUSLY DIVINELY INSPIRED GETS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK, BUT EVERYTHING GOD WANTS TO BE WRITTEN DOWN GETS INTO THE BOOK!

Col.4:16 - THERE IS NOTHING MISSING OR LOST IN YOUR BIBLE!!!!

INTRODUCTION TO THE RULES OF THE MASORETES:

1. Taking from the information in the book of Ezra, that 'ready scribe', as well as from Jeremiah and Baruch (Jer.36), there developed from the scribes of Levi a TRADITION of copying the text of the holy scriptures.
 - A. From this "tradition" (Heb., "masorah" - from "masah", meaning "handed down") developed the scribal scholars of Israel, known as the "Masorettes" who, by their work guarded the established OT text by preserving it in copies.
2. The Masorettes developed strict guidelines or rules for the transmission of the text through the copies.
 - A. They operated from about 500AD to about 1000AD.
 - B. The accurate copies of the OT Hebrew text that they worked on picked up their name in association with their accurate and flawless work: it is called today, the "Masoretic Text."
3. The rules and guidelines that they used in the copying of the scriptures did not originate with them - it was "handed down" through the line of the Levite scribes.

A SAMPLE OF THE RULES OF THE MASORETES:

1. The parchment or skins that the copy is to be made on must be made from the skin of CLEAN animals; must be prepared by a Jew only, and the skins must be fastened together by strings taken from CLEAN animals.
2. All the sheets of parchment, in advance of copying, must be lined before any text is written upon it. Each column must have no less than 48 lines, and no more than 60 lines; no letter of any word could touch, so between every letter, the space of a hair or thread must intervene, and between the ending of one book and the beginning of another must be 3 blank lines.
3. The ink must be none other than black, and made according to a prescribed recipe used only for the writing of scripture.
4. No word, nor letter of a word, could be written from memory. The scribe must have an authentic or master copy before him, and he must read aloud each word before writing it. In this way, along with the other check & balance procedures, the scribes were not allowed to copy sentence for sentence or even word for word - they had to copy letter for letter.
5. The scribe must reverently wipe his pen each time before writing the word for God in any form (Elohiym, or Jehovah, for example), and he must wash his whole body before writing the name יהוה ("Jehovah", the sacred Tetragrammaton), lest that holy name be contaminated or tainted even in writing.
6. The shape of the letters must be of the "block" style in which the distinction of the letters would be the most obvious.
7. A revision of the roll (a completed copy) must be made within 30 days or it would be rejected and destroyed.
 - After a page was copied, the number of letters on that page was counted and compared with the master copy they were working from. Then each letter was counted and compared to the master copy, and then someone would check to see what the middle letter was on the new copy and check it with the master copy.
 - The copyist would make a record of the word count and even the letter count on the page, itself (usually at the bottom of the page).
 - After a page was copied and checked by another, still a third person would check to see what the middle word was on the page. Then, when the whole book was finished, another would count the phrases. This process was so accurate that they could pinpoint the exact middle of a book simply by letter count, and would check the verse at that point as one of the methods of confirming the accuracy of the copy.
8. If one mistake was found on a sheet the entire sheet was condemned and destroyed, and another copy was produced. If three mistakes were found on a sheet, the whole copy was condemned and destroyed. No scribe was allowed to check his own work or to simply correct the mistake - either the sheet was destroyed and another whole sheet produced, or the entire copy was destroyed and another entire copy produced.

EXAMPLES OF THE REALITY THAT THERE REALLY ARE TWO DIFFERENT, RIVAL, AND COMPETING BIBLES IN EXISTANCE TODAY:

All citations in this column are from the KJV.

Genesis 4:8

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Psalms 45:6

Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre.

CP. Hebrews 1:8

But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Hosea 13:9

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me *is* thine help.

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

Matthew 1:25

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

John 7:53 - 8:11

Mark 16:9-20

I John 5:6-8 (:7-8)

6 This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

I Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Citations from various modern English translations.

NIV - Genesis 4:8

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

RSV - Psalm 45:6

Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

CP. Hebrews 1:8

But of the Son he says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom.

RSV - Hosea 13:9

I will destroy you, O Israel; who can help you?

NIV - Job 19:25-27

25 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

27 I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

NIV - Matthew 1:25

But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

NIV/NASV - John 7:53 - 8:11

NIV/NASV/RSV et. al - Mark 16:9-20

NASV - I John 5:6-8

6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.

7 And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.

8 For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

NASV - I Peter 2:2

like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

THREE MAJOR TELLTALE EXAMPLES THAT CONDEMNS ALL OTHER ENGLISH VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE:

All citations in this column are from the KJV.

(I)

Mark 1:1-3

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

(II)

Matthew 5:22 cp. Mark 3:5

Matthew 5:22

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

cp.

Mark 3:5

And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

(III)

Hebrews 3:16

For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

Citations from various modern English translations.

NIV - Mark 1:1-3

1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" -

3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

NIV/NASV/RSV et al. - Matthew 5:22 cp. Mark 3:5

Matthew 5:22

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

cp.

Mark 3:5

He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

NIV, et al. - Hebrews 3:16

Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?