

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

March 1, 2015 2 Peter 1:19-21 by Bob Branch  
Raising The Bar to Normal, Part 1

---

**MAIN IDEA:** The Bible is the roadmap for *all* Christian spirituality. It invites us into life as it could and should be. If we want to know God, his ways, his life, his resources and salvation, we must know His Word. That God's Word would be cherished and invested in... that it would get into our depths, our thinking and affections, into our identity and in turn into our actions, and then into the world.

<sup>19</sup> We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:19-21**

### 1. The message from **GOD HIMSELF**.

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe." **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

#### ***What is the Bible?***

**Biblica:** "The Bible is the *account* of God's action in the world, and his purpose with all creation. The writing of the Bible took place over 16 centuries and is the work of over 40 human authors. It is quite an amazing collection of 66 books with very different styles, all containing the message God desired us to have..."

#### ***What's up with all the Translations?***

**3 General Translation schools** (literal, dynamic equiv., free)

### 2. It is **COMPLETELY RELIABLE**, enduring and sure.

"We have the prophetic message as something completely reliable" **2 Peter 1:19**

**Foundation for all life.** (Ps. 119:86, 89, 138; 1 Pet. 1:24-25)

**The Preeminent Truth Source** (Psalm 119:160)

### 3. So, we **DEVOTE** ourselves to it, paying close attention to what it says in order to become firmly **ESTABLISHED** in our faith!

"So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have." **2 Peter 1:12**

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom" **Col. 3:16** ESV (Josh. 1:8)

**It is Food for the soul** (Deut. 8:3; Mt. 4:4)

**It brings Freedom**

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **Jn. 8:31-32**

### 4. Because it is a **LIGHT** in a dark place (until He comes!)

**It provides direction, clarity & a moral compass:**

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." **Ps. 119:105**

**It challenges our thinking with what is true and right.**

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12**

**Your Sword in battle** (Eph. 6:17; Mt. 4:1-11)

### 5. It was spoken **THROUGH PEOPLE** from God, carried along by His Holy Spirit!

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**It is the Invitation to know Jesus!** (Hebrews 1:1-3)