

II. Jesus Christ's Testimony Concerning the Word.

A. What Jesus said about Himself.

When we hear the testimony of a witness we need to know if he has a reliable character. Jesus is the most important Witness about the Bible. Let's talk about His character first.

He tells us that He is One with the Father. We all know how John's Gospel begins (John 1:1, 2) **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."** Jesus is God and speaks the truth.

Jesus tells us several times that He is One with the Father. He not only knows the Father; He is the same in substance with the Father. What He knows, Jesus also knows.

John 10:30 Jesus said, **"My Father and I are one."**

John 17:21 Jesus prayed, **"That they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us."**

John 14:7 **"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."** To know Jesus is to know the Father.

John 14:9 **"He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"** To see Jesus is to see the Father.

John 14:11 **"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."**

Jesus says to know Him is to know the Father also.

You know John 8:19 **"Then they said to Him, 'Where is Your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."**

Jesus declares that He is the light and the truth. So what He speaks is truth.

John 8:12 **"Then Jesus spoke to them again saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness. But have the light of life.'"**

John 14:6 **"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"** So all that Jesus said was the truth, and trustworthy.

Jesus also said that the Father bears witness to the truth of what He says.

John 5:32 **“Jesus said, ‘There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.’”**

John 8:16-18 **“And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.”**

If we believe these words of Jesus, we are sure that He is qualified and eager to give us His Word, and is able to speak about the whole Bible. If what He has said is not true and is not from God, then He is telling great lies. But now we want to study more carefully His claims that His words are true.

B. What Jesus said about His Words.

Jesus declared that he spoke only what He saw and heard.

John 3:11 **“Most assuredly, I say to you, we speak what we know and testify what we have seen, and you do not receive our witness.”**

John 5:19 **“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’”**

John 8:26 **“I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”**

Jesus declared that He spoke only what the Father told Him.

John 8:28, 29 **“Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’”**

John 8:31, 32 **“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”**

John 12:50 **“And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”**

If one person tells another something, and he tells another, and another, mistakes often enter in. Since the Word came to Jesus directly from the Father there is no mistake in hearing. He told exactly what the Father said to Him. His Word is completely reliable.

Jesus declared that He spoke only the Word of God.

John 3:34,35 “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.”

John 14:24 “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

John 17:8 (Jesus’ prayer) “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.”

Jesus declares that He speaks the Word of God. He even says it is not His word.

It is the Word of His Father who sent Him. If it is His Father’s Word it is surely true. There are no mistakes or false words in it.

C. What Jesus taught about the Old Testament and quoted.

1. Jesus said, the Scriptures testify of Me.

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” This is an amazing statement. The Bible of Jesus’ day was the Old Testament. It had been in the writing for fifteen hundred years. It was finished four hundred years before Christ was born. However, Jesus says it bears witness about Him. It must be a supernatural book. And because Jesus came as the Savior of the world, so it is good, wonderful news. It tells the world that the Savior is coming to this world.

Jesus said the word of Moses is authoritative even at the last Judgment.

John 5:45,46 “Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you---Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses; you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”

John 7:19 “Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law: Why do you seek to kill Me?” Moses’ law was authoritative. They should obey it. Moses lived about 1500 years before Jesus was born. But here Jesus says Moses had authority to write things which the people should obey. He was not a king. He was a prophet. A prophet speaks for God. Moses spoke the Word of God. If not, he had no authority.

John 7:22,23 “Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses

should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?” It was proper for them to circumcise a child. God commanded Abraham and Moses. God’s prophets should be obeyed. Jesus does not condemn them for doing it on the Sabbath. It should be done on the Sabbath, if that was the eighth day after its birth.

John 7:38 **“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”** In many places and ways Jesus recognized and insisted that the Old Testament scriptures had final authority and should be obeyed.

2. Jesus declared that the Scripture must be fulfilled.

John 10:35 **“If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)...”**

Mathew 5:18 **“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”**

Luke 21:33 **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”** Just as Jesus’ words would not pass away, the Old Testament would live forever.

Mathew 26:56 **“But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”**

Jesus always greatly respected the Scriptures. Not even one small part of the Bible would be abrogated. He recognized the authority of Moses and the prophets. Even Moses, on the judgment day, would accuse people of their evil deeds. Jesus would not have to accuse them. Moses’ word has authority as a standard of judgment on the Judgment Day. Moreover the words of **all** the prophets must be fulfilled.

The prophecies of today’s so-called prophets are nearly always very general. So whatever happens, they may say that their prophecies were fulfilled. And if they are very detailed prophecies, like some who prophecy that Jesus will return on a certain date, when that day came and Jesus didn’t come, it is certain that their prophecy was false.

There are many clear prophecies concerning Christ. For instance, He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14 He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2 He would be of descendant of David. Isaiah 11:1 He would enter triumphantly into Jerusalem. Zechariah 9:9 He would be betrayed. Psalm 41:9 He would be crucified. See Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, and many more prophecies which we will not study now. All of the prophecies about Christ were fulfilled in detail. Not one of them was mistaken or fail to come to

pass. The Jews studied these prophecies, and they expected the Messiah to come. They waited hundreds of years in hope that He would come in their day. Young women hoped that when they were married their first son might be the Messiah. God did not disappoint Israel. What He promised He brought to pass. Jesus, the Messiah was born of a virgin, in Bethlehem, etc. No mere man could prophecy that hundreds of years later a special child would be born, that the king would try to kill Him, that He escaped to Egypt, that He grew up in Nazareth, that He would heal many and give light to the world, that He would be crucified and then rise from the dead. No mere man could know these things. Only God knows the future. God gave His Word, and His Word is reliable. As the prophet Moses said, all of God's promises were fulfilled.

I Kings 8:56 “Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.”

D. What does the Bible say about itself?

The Psalms and other Old Testament passages are full of praise for the Word of God because it is true and reliable. .

Psalm 19:7-11

**“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold; Yea, than much fine gold,
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”**

Psalm 119:89, 90

**“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
You established the earth, and it abides.”**

Psalm 119:105 **“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

Psalm 119:142 **“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is truth.”**

The Bible itself many times calls itself the Word of God or of the Lord. Many times it says God spoke to His prophets and to His apostles. For instance, the following words are often written: **“The word of the Lord again came to me, saying...”** In Ezekiel more than forty-five times those or similar words are written. Other prophets especially Jeremiah often used such words as these.

Now if it is not true that God spoke, and if the words the prophets wrote are not the words of God, then the Bible is really full of many lies. But actually God did speak, and we have in the Bible the very words which God spoke. And we know God never deceives or says what is not true.

E. The Bible is a very powerful book.

Soon after God called Jeremiah to be His prophet He showed him the power of His Word. (Jeremiah 5:14) **“Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts:**

‘Because you speak this word, Behold I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.’” God tells the prophet that the word He gives him is like fire. A great fire is terrifically powerful. And again He says in Jeremiah 23:29, **“‘Is not My word like a fire?’ says the Lord, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?’”** Here the Word of God is powerful like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces.

In the New Testament in Romans 1:16 the Word is the powerful means of salvation. Paul said, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”** The gospel is able to powerfully change the hearts of the hardest sinners and break through the gates of rebels to build Christ’s kingdom.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us, **“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.”**

In Revelation 19 we are given a great picture of Jesus Christ making war against the evil armies of Satan. **“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that**

no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

The Word is strong and sharp like the sword (Word) proceeding out of the mouth of Christ.. Because the Bible is the Word of God, and is entirely true, it is powerful, and it endures forever. The Word is that sword with which Christ will bring salvation to His elect and will smite the rebels. He is already going forth, but greater things are coming. The Word of God is quick and powerful. It is the power of God for salvation and the sword which defeats the enemies of Christ.