

LESSON 10

THE HOLY BIBLE

Reference : Psalms. 119: 1-24

Memory verse : Heb. 4 : 12-13

Objective: That we may understand that the Bible is the inspired word of God and God's precious gift to mankind. Also get to know how the Bible has come into our hands in the present form and have love and respect for the Word of God.

Introduction: Books play an important role in the civilization of the world. Vedas, epics, sciences, histories, poetries etc. are notable in this respect. But the Holy Bible is the only book inspired by God. Although it was written by different authors many of whom unknown to each other, living in different times and circumstances, yet its subject-wise oneness throughout is amazing.

ITS AUTHORSHIP:

Bible consists of 66 books written by about forty different men over the period of 1600 years (B. C. 1500 to A. D. 100). Moses was its first writer and John the apostle the last. The writers belonged to different circumstances and positions such as shepherds, rulers, prophets, warriors, priests, scholars, the learned statesmen, ordinary and ignorant men etc... Is it not wonderful that the 66 books, written by such persons over the span of 1600 years, have a unity in thought and message?

The reason is that the **Holy Spirit is the author** of the Bible, though different men were instrumental in recording them: "No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the Prophecy never came by the will of men; but holy man of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"(2 Pet. 1 : 20, 21).

A PROPHETIC BOOK:

Its prophecies can be divided into five:

1. Regarding **the Universe**
2. Regarding **the Nations**
3. Regarding **the Church**
4. Regarding **Christ**
5. Regarding **Israel.**

The Bible contains a vast variety of subject such as God's dealings towards man, the redemptive work of God for man and the earth, the rise and fall of nations, the rise, growth restoration and future of Israel, the birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection and the second coming of Christ, the formation and the rapture of the Church etc.

A BOOK REVEALING GOD'S VICTORY:

Though the Bible starts with the account of creation, it eventually states about the pathetic story of human fall. By sin, man and the earth have deviated from God's plan. The Bible describes about the depravity of sin and the need of deliverance from it. To be more precise, the central theme of the Bible is "**Redemption through Jesus Christ, the Incarnate son of God**". The Bible proclaims the victory of God's plan.

A BOOK EXERCISING INFLUENCE OF HUMAN LIFE:

Since the Word of God is as powerful as God the influence of the Bible is unique. How remarkable is its transforming power that brings changes into the human hearts, It transforms the savage into a lover of man, a sinner into saint, peaceless man into a peaceful person, the unhappy into a happy person and the greedy into a most generous person. It is sharper than the sharpest sword and more powerful than the hammer that breaks the rock. It is sweeter than the honey and more nutritious than milk to the hungry soul. The Word of God is the mirror that reflects our image. It is the traveller's guide and the pathfinder's light. There is no other book in the world that has influenced the world history and the individuals as certainly as the Bible.

A HOLY BOOK:

There is no other book in the world like the Bible that reveals sin in its sordid and serious manner. The Word of God reveals how the Holy God looks at sin. The Bible teaches us about the horrible consequence of sin. It also tells us about the atonement for sin the Jesus Christ performed and that we can obtain **justification** and **sanctification** by faith and trust on Him.

A BOOK INSPIRED BY GOD;

All scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim. 3: 16- 17) What does it mean by inspiration? The Words or thoughts in the Bible were not by the will of man, but were spoken and written as men of God were guided by the Holy Spirit (2 pet. 1:20,21) Bible contains not only Gods direct words but it contains the words of angels, men and even of demons. Eventhen, they ware included in the scriptures by the inspiration of Gods spirit for a divine purpose. There are even such books in the Bible that have no mention of God (Esther, Song of Sololmon). Nevertheless, we can find in them also God's love concern miracles and the excellence of His Bible writers in a special way so that they could record the divine revelations.

By inspiration, we do not man that God suppressed the writers personality traits and skills but they were made use of. Thus the scriptures are the inspired word of God. The inspiration includes even the words used by the writers. Though the choice of words rested with the writers, they were inspired so that they carried deep spiritual truths. Therefore, we must understand that the Bible, the Word of God is errorless and infallible.

A SOVEREIGN BOOK

The sovereignty of the Bible goes beyond our reason and all restrictions of denominations (Ecclesiastical Powers). We are not bound to believe or observe what the Bible does not teach or recommend. If the traditions are at variance with the Word of God. We must renounce them no matter how orthodox they are. At the same time, we must follow the precepts of the Bible exclusively. Because the Bible is the only mandate for our faith and practice. Especially in the New Testament, we have the fullest revelation through His Son (Heb, 1: 1-2) If we add or delete any of them, we can not escape God's Punishments (Rev 22: 18-19).

DIFFERENT NAMES OF THE BIBLE:

1. **Bible:** The word "Bible" has derived from the Latin word Biblia which means "books". The first Latin Translation of the old Testament from Septuagint was called Bible. By 5th century A. D. the Greek church Fathers began to use the word Biblia for this. Bible is the English transliteration of it.
2. **The Word of God:** As the contents of the Bible are words that proceeded out of God's mouth, it is called **the word of God** (Deut. 8: 2-3, Acts 6:2, 11:1, 12:24)
3. **Scriptures;** Since God is the author of the Bible, it is named scriptures in plural or Scripture in singular. (Mtt. 22: 29, Lk 24: 32, Act. 8:32, Gala. 3:22) As they are the records of the Holy Spirit, they are known by the name of Holy writings (Rom 1:2, 2 Tim. 3:15)
4. **Oracles (Spoken Words)** Since they are what God has spoken, Bible is known as oracles (Heb. 5: 12)
5. **The Book of The Lord:** Since, its author and owner is the Lord Himself, it is named as "the Book of the Lord" (Isa. 34:6). Let's be thankful to God for this great book Bible which is in our hands in the present form. We must love and respect the Word of God. We must read, believe and meditate it daily for our blessings.

EXERCISE -10

Answer the following questions

1. How many books are there in the Bible?
2. How many authors wrote the Bible?
3. How many years did it take to complete the Bible?
4. Which are the five types of prophecies in the Bible?
5. What are the contents of the Bible?
6. Who inspired the authors while writing the Bible?
7. Which are the different names of the Bible?

