



*The Inspiration and Authority of the Word of God and principles of Bible interpretation.*

Ps.119:89, Isaiah 40:8, Matth.24:35

*The purpose of these lessons is to show us that we have a solid and sure foundation for our faith. That we can fully trust in that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, written down without error as the Holy Spirit (superintended/watched over) the human writers.*

The Word BIBLE in the Greek language *BIBLIA* actually means "books" because it contains 66 different books and letters.

The *Old T 39 books* came in to existence during a long period of time span approximately, about 1100 years, from 1500 before Christ until 400 BC.

We usually divide the Old Testament in 3 divisions:

1. The Historical books: *From Genesis to Ester*
2. The Poetical books: *Job-Song of Solomon*
3. The Prophetical books: *Isaiah- Malachi*

We will found that we have many human writers with many different backgrounds: Moses: 40 years training and education in the wisdom of Egypt, 40 years of *reeducation* in the wilderness, 40 as Israel's mightiest leader.

Joshua was a warrior, Hosea was a farmer, Daniel became Prime Minister in Babylon, Amos was a simple shepherd...

*Somebody has said that: If God didn't inspire the bible, it is still such miracle that so many different writers with so various backgrounds, during such long time span could put something so perfect harmonized as our Bible.*

Other religions so called HOLY Books as the KORAN or the Mormons book always are written by one person during a very short time period..

**New Testament** 27 books/letters was written during a short time period: 45 after Christ to 90-100 AD..

First out came the letters of Paul, usually written to address problems and challenges in the new churches. Probably is 1Tess the oldest letter and last and youngest is the Gospel of John.

One common division is:

- Historical: Math-Acts
- Teaching: Romans-Jude
- Prophetic: Revelation

Human writers was Saul/Paul highly educated Pharisee, Luke the doctor, Matthew former tax collector, John Jewish rich man son.

The Bible also is written in different use of language forms:

We have life stories, poems, law text, history, proverbs, psalms, letter form and so on..

For example: **Song of Solomon 4:1-5**.....

This is why we cannot interpret the bible the same way in all the books: History = somebody's life experience = not necessary God's will. Letters = written with certain purpose address and situation.. Law text is usually interpreted literally..

**The Bible must be read and understood by its own purpose!**

**2 Tim 3:14-17**

The bible is not a handbook in science. It is not written to scientifically explain the creation of the world, but it contains enough information about the creation of man and Gods purpose with him..

*FIRE illustration:* when you draw closer to a burning fire you can think in at least two different ways:

1. With what kind of speed does the fire consume the wood? What will happen if the oxygen and wind is increasing? Hum..

Or 2: Who in the world has started the fire, Why have somebody started the fire, how long shall it burn???

Same fire but two totally different viewpoints!

Friends: *The Purpose of the bible is to revile the need of salvation, the way to salvation and to transform our life's to become men and woman of God, fully equipped to every good work.*

Without the Word of God we will never become what God intended for us to be, your spiritual growth is totally depending on your relationship to God's word.

The Good news is that the bible is the most widely spread, read and loved book in this world, but on the other hand It's the most hated, discussed and opposed book. Many have tried to eradicate/destroy this book but without success..

*You can try to kill truth but on the third day morning it will be resurrected..*

Way is the bible the most hated and opposed book??

The answer is simply: Because it contains the Gospel of Salvation, which is the power of God unto salvation for every man who believes.

**Rom 1:15-16, 1 Peter 1:23-25**

The Old devils intention from the very beginning has been!!

**1 Mos 3:1-5** Has God indeed said???? NO, Never!!

**Matth 3:16-17, Mark 4:14-15, 1 Tess 3:2,5-6, Upp 12:9-12**

The Devil have never changed, he is the same: yesterday, today but not forever!!

There is at least 3 authorities that try to have claims on your life:

- 1. Jesus Christ and the authority of the bible*
- 2. Man made traditions and experience.*
- 3. Rationalism and reason/common sence.*

2. Man made traditions and experience. This viewpoint represents in the bible by the Pharisees that opposed Jesus.

**Mark 7:6-13** The Pharisees had added a lot to the word of God, added and taken away as it suited them self's. Human traditions had been elevated higher than God's word. They said ok: God's word says, but it doesn't apply here..

This thinking oftentimes leads to an opinion of monopoly, only a few specially chosen can interpret and understand the bible.

Only the POPE and maybe a few highly Hebrew and Greek studied priest can understand and interpret the bible..

Common and favorite expressions sound like this: We have always done things this way, or, We have never done things this way..

*Tradition and experience have become law and "Holy Cows"..*

### **3. Rationalism OR reason/common sense.**

"Rationalism" comes from the Greek word RATIO, meaning REASON or COMMON SENSE..

This viewpoint could be represented by the Sadducees' in the time of Jesus. This group of religious teachers was that day's liberal theologians. They only believed a certain part of God's word, things that were realistic and what was reasonable to believe.

"Rationalism" has elevated itself above God and everything that is supernatural and miracles' must be denied.

How can you explain the Virgin birth of Jesus, the Resurrection from death, a.s.o.

Through all times of revival God's people have taken their stand for believing God's word, even if we don't understand everything that is supernatural about it..

Martin Luther the German reformer said: SOLA SCRIPTURA:

This means the Scripture alone!!!

God's word is true and will stand the test for eternity, the only objective truth in this ever-changing world..

**Ps 119:89, Matt 24:35**

*The bible is God's eternal counsel, which came from him into our existence and when time and world will all be passed away, His word will stand forever the same, unchangeable for ever settled in heaven..*

How we got our bible: **2 Tim 3:16**

The bible tells us about itself that Is given BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, ***THEO PNEVSTOS***, meaning: GODBREATHED, GODINSPIRED..

Let us now carefully look on how this happened according to what the bible itself describes...

**2 Peter 1:16-21** No prophesy, or Scripture came by the will of men, they were perfectly aware that the Holy Spirit of God moved them to write. They knew, that they knew, that they knew, when and what they should writ and not...

They knew when the Hot line from heaven was ringing and also when not.. WIERELESS COMINUICATION is older than we thought..

*The bible has a double authorship, wrightership..  
It has booth a human and divine side..*

Holy men of old could be likened to *human pencils* in the hand of Almighty God. You know that the pencil you are writing with is not the author to what you write. You are the author who decide what and when to write in your letters and books..

*God the Holy Spirit was the unseen power and inspiration that gave every word in the bible..*

**2 Sam 23:1-2, Jer 1:9-12, 30: 2. 36:1-4, Acts 28:25**

According to these scriptures' we clearly see that the human writers was totally aware when the Holy Spirit was upon them to write..

Today in our modern days we have GPS; satellite communication and the Internet!!

**CAN WE BELIVE: THAT ALMIGHTY GOD COULD SUPERINTENDENT THE HUMAN WRITHERS TO GIVE US HIS ETERNEL WORD EXACTLEY AS HE INTENDED IT TO BE??**

3 Different viewpoints of INSPIRATION!

1. The thought behind inspiration!

I.O.W. It's the thought behind that is inspired by God, nor every word plainly, but a hidden deeper thought that only specially chosen people

can understand and interpret.. **2 Cor.1:13**

You know that some will try to say that the bible tells us, BUT it doesn't mean what it says, there is another hidden, deeper meaning..

## 2. Neo orthodox viewpoint!

The bible is not Gods word, but Gods word Is in the bible.

I.O.W Somewhere, here and there is a divine inspiration, sometimes when its feels right...

I.O.W The bible contain errors and faults, but somewhere here and there we find Gods words, maybe..

**3. Verbal inspiration:** every word in the bible is written down with divine precision, God superintended and inspired the human writers so that they without error recorded his word to us..

*Biblical inspiration may be defined as God's superintending/watching over of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities (and even their writing styles), they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original language. Inspiration means that "the Holy Spirit of God superintended the human writers in the production of Scripture so that what they wrote was precisely what God wanted written."*

## Our attitude towards the Word of God

Every book and letter in the bible is written *to us* and *for us*, but not everything is talking about us and our situation and time span.

**Rom 15:4** Says that everything that is written is for our learning/teaching  
**2 Tim 3:16** All scripture at that time was the old testament and that leads us to understand that we need the OT as well as the NT. We need to have the whole bible not only the NT, the first Apostles and Christians had only the OT. OT was Jesus only bible.

So study the whole bible, learn the difference between OT and NT, study what has been fulfilled by the coming of Jesus and what is still laying ahead of us.. *Rightly dividing the word of truth..* **2Tim.15**

## Jesus attitude to the word of God

**Matt 19:3-5** Jesus *literally believed in Adam & Eve*

**Matt 23:35** From Abel to Zechariah, Zechariah in the Hebrew canon the last martyr, Abel the first martyr *I.A.O. I believe the whole OT.*

**Luk 17:26-27** Lot and Noah two physical and historical persons, they actually lived and one dramatic day everything about and around them changed..

*In the same way: the day will come when God once again will dramatically enter in the world arena, That day when Jesus returns as King of King and Lord of Glory..*

I hope that you can see and understand how vitally important it is to believe the OT both literally and historical..

**Acts 24:14** Paul says that he believe everything in the OT

**Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-45** The OT contains teaching about Jesus and his atonement, Martin Luther said that: Jesus is the Star and Center of God word. 56 times in the NT it plainly says that the OT is God's word, so have a whole bible, with one central message in beautiful harmony..

And If you do so, your heart will begin to burn for Jesus..

### *The New Testament authority*

I.O.W How can we be sure that we have the right text and books in NT?  
*Well for us believers we need no other assurance than knowing that God himself has been watching over his word trough the times..* **Rev.22:18-19**  
**Jer.1:12** Hasten means: stay awake, alert, watching over..

But also modern research gives us much information to underline the good foundation for Faith.

#### 1. The amount of NT documents!

We have today 85000 fragments of the original manuscripts'.  
We have 5000 hand written copies of the whole NT, 3000 hand written translations of NT to other languages..

1947 shepherds found the Dead sea scrolls with manuscripts of the OT, hidden I 1500 years.. Isaiah scroll totally complete dated year 110 before Christ, and it was exactly identical with the Isaiah copy you have in your bible..

Modern research tells us that there is not one other book who is so well

documented and complete as the NT of the bible.

You cannot come closer to the original manuscripts' than we have today.

2 NT documents closeness in time!

The 5000 hand written copies are all dated between 250-350 after Christ, some of the 85000 documents are dated from year 120 AD.

If we would compare this with other ancient scriptures for example: Julius Caesar: the Gallia War which only is 10 copies left of, all dated 850 AD.. Caesar himself died 44 BC???

*The Canon of the NT!*

How can we know that we have the right books and letters in the NT?

Why is certain letters inside and other excluded?

This question also came up in the early days of the church when letters began to circulate around the new churches?

After some time around year 300 they had a meeting with church leaders when they discussed the need of Canonize with letters that actually was helpful, godly and as they later understood was inspired from God..

CANON means a *measuring tool* or *guiding principle!*

This tool was used to include or exclude these letters, gospels that was from God.

The need for Canonize was great because some letters that was circulating was very confusing and full of spiritual deception..

Example of Canon already existed in the bible: **2Peter 3:14-16**

Peter acknowledges and recommended Paul's writings as the Scriptures.

**Gal.1:11-12**

They found out the following:

- A. Already recognized and common accepted by the churches =27
- B. Discussed and not widely accepted..
- C. False: ex. The Gospel of Thomas, which contradicted NT doctrine..

**The CANON was as following:**

**1. Should be written by one of the first Apostles or somebody who was close to an Apostle.. I.A.O. Apostolic earmark..**

**2. Recognized and common accepted by the churches =27**



### 3. Right and sound doctrine..

#### PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPETATION!

Why do we need to interpret the bible? Could we not just believe the scriptures plainly as it says?

Some Good reasons for good bible interpretation!

#### 1. To avoid extreme and unbalanced doctrines..

Jesus is the way and not the ditch to heaven..

2. To give good arguments for our faith, reaching others who do not believe the same way as us..

#### 3. Enable us to recognize error and deception..

#### 4. To become sound, balanced and mature..

**Ps.119:160** The heart of your law is truth..

New King James: Entirety = Sum of God's word, not one single and twisted, out of context taken scripture..

4. There is a historical, cultural and language gap between bible times and our living day. Ancient time, ancient people, thinking, Aramaic, Greek and Hebrew language..

I will give some of the most important rules of bible interpretation, but they are not necessary given after importance, they can all be used, sometime blended at the same time...

#### 1. Scriptures shall be interpret by other scriptures!

Meaning: scripture cannot be interpreted in contradiction to the wholeness, sum of the bible teaching. Ex. **1Cor.15:28-29**

"BAPTISM" for the Dead?? Error in the early church, living persons baptized as substitute for dead relative???

*Is this the Doctrine of NT baptism?*

You have to always study the context, verses before and after, other parallel scripture on the same subject.

*There is two kinds of truths in the bible:*

*Describing truths:* what happened to different persons, historical facts and life stories: What actually happened at a certain occasion, truthfully recorded by inspiration from God.. Ex.Job.1:20-21

And *TEACHING TRUTHS!*

*Teaching truths* is ruling principle for life, faith and conduct...

These truths shall explain the *describing truths*. .

*Teaching truths* is main truths and *describing truths* is details that must be explained and understood by *Teaching truths*..

In the OT and the Book of Moses there are scriptures about the Jewish civil law, health instructions, laws of war and so on..

We can learn about them but they are not for us and our time..

We must understand that the bible I a PROGRESSIVE revelation..

We see and understand more and more the further we read..

*For ex.* God as our Father, the full expression comes first in Jesus. Devil as he really is.. a.s.o.

*For ex:* [Mathew 6:12](#) We must forgive to be able to recessive forgiveness? = LAW and OT [Ef.4:32](#) We forgive because we are forgiven..

**2. Take a stand for literal interpretation as long as it is possible, if not the language style says something else..**

We have many different language styles ex. Life stories, poetry, apocalyptic, prophetic, and teaching style..

[John 12:19](#) The whole world is running after him?? Local expressions.

[Mathew 5:28-30](#) Powerlanguage to emphasize a serious truth..

[Mark 16:15-18](#) Combination of interpretation: Booth literal and scripture shall be interoperated by scripture..

Do you have your safety belt on???

[Rev.17:7-11, v.17](#) Do you understand??? God is in control even in the end times, the judgment on this present world is not by chance or accident.. Aloud, permitted by God..

When the bible says that Jesus walked on the water it is not a fairytale or symbolic..

3. Interpret every scripture in the light of its historical and cultural context.

Example **1Cor.7:25-29, Acts.2:44-45, 4:32**

This is all about Gods sovereign all-knowing, persecution, suffering for the early church..

Example **1Cor 11:3-16**

How shall we interpret this today in our modern days?

Small wars have over this passage in church history, women's covering and hair length..

A. Woman covering her hair is only a local Middle east custom/practice..

No application for our modern day church..

B. An absolute principle, women always needs a covering as a sign of her submission to her husband.

C. Partial as principle, Woman must be covered but the veil could be exchange by hats, cap or other trends..

D. The context teaches us about *both a spiritual principle and a local custom/practice..*

There is a teaching about submission within the marriage but the sign of the wife's submission can be changed or expressed in many different ways in different cultures. In bible days if a woman was found as prostitute they shaved of her hair to point her out: Shameful for a woman to be shaved..

Example **John 13:4-17** Foot washing, a local/cultural custom but the spiritual example, principle is forever settled by Jesus example, we are called to serve and lay down our life's for one another..

4 The historical/life stories shall be interpret by the teaching scriptures and not the opposite:

The Gospels reports but the Letters written to the Church explains..

The Gospels are eyewitness reports about the life and ministry of Jesus but the Letters teaching us about the result/fruit of the death of Jesus..

The teaching truths about the death and resurrection and the result of that is the interpret key we need to have before our eyes when we read

the OT-NT.

Example: the robber at the Cross, he was never baptized, that scripture should not be an excuse for not be baptized..

Or the Ethiopian eunuch who never seemingly joined a local church?

5. Acknowledge the difference between the spiritual meaning and the letter of the Law: legalism!

Gal. 4:15: Tear out your eyes? Powerlanguage, serious business..

Try to listen to Gods Fathers heart when reading.

3. Be careful with the Apocalyptic prophecies!

There has been many speculations and crazy interpretations when I comes to the teaching about the future and end times..

Some has preached that the EU, European Union is the new Babylon written about in the book of Revelation, other has predicted who the Antichrist is....

Remember that all prophecies do not have to have a literal fulfillment..

Example **Mal.4:5-6, Mathew 11:11-14**

Be critical to teachers/preachers that claim to have so called NEW REVELATION, they are the only persons who has receive this amazing revelation..

7. Interpret every promise in the light of their written address, context and terms/conditions.

**2Cor.1:19-20, Deut. 28:1-, James 4:10, Luke 6:38, 1John 5:14-15**

8. See where every scripture fits in Gods TIMEZON! PERIODS!

1. Age of innocence Genesis **1:28-3:34** *Before the fall of men to the great fall.*

2. The Age of conscience: **Genesis 3:34 to 8:15**

*From the fall to the flood, God lead humans through their conscience*

3. The human governing: **Genesis 8:15-11:29**

*Eye for eye..*

4. Age of PROMISE, Patriarchs Genesis **11:29-Exodus 18:27**

5. Age of the LAW: **Exodus 18:27- John 20:21**

6. Age of GRACE, CHURCH: **John 20:21-Rev.19:21**

7. The Millennium and Eternity Rev.20:21-----

9. All of our experiences shall be interpret in the light of the Word and not the opposite. 2Peter 1:16-19

10. Every scripture ad rule has only one interperetation but can be applied in varios ways! Mark. 11:23

11. Don't build any bible doctrine based on only one scripture or one parable.

If we shall teach any doctrine it must be founded on several scriptures, must be found booth in OT and the Gospels and the Letters written to the Churches..

Were the bible is obvious and clear we can be dogmatic but were the bible is unclear we cannot point with the whole hand and say: Does says the LORD..

*The Inspiration and Authority of the Word of God and principles of Bible interpretation.*

Test questions:

1. The Bible must be read and understood by its own purpose!

Yes or No

2. We cannot BELIVE: That Almighty God could superintendent the human writhers to give us his eternal word exactly as he intended it to be!

Yes or No

3. Verbal inspiration: every word in the bible is written down with divine precision, God superintended and inspired the human writers so that they without error recorded his word to us..

Yes or No

4. The new testament CANON was as following:

1. Should be written by one of the first Apostles or somebody who was close to an Apostle..have an Apostolic earmark..
2. Recognized and common accepted by the churches
3. Contain right and sound doctrine..

Yes or No

5. *There is two kinds of truths in the bible:*

Describing truths: what happened to different persons, historical facts and life stories: What actually happened at a certain occasion, truthfully recorded by inspiration from God..And TEACHING TRUTHS!

Yes or No

6. Take a stand for literal interpretation as long as it is possible, if not the language style says something else..

Yes or No

7. The historical/life stories is more important than the teaching scriptures?

Yes or No