

## Lesson 2: The Origin and Nature of the Bible

### KEY ASPECTS:

- Our understanding of the origin and nature of scripture determines the way we read and treat it.
- The Holy Spirit empowered the writers to reliably share God's revelation, unveiling of Himself.
  - "our interpretation of Scripture needs to take seriously the divine-human dimension of God's Word." (*Sabbath School Quarterly*, 18).

### Sunday

Peter did not make up a myth (2 Peter 1:16). He was an eyewitness. Peter witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus and God speaking (v17-18). Prophecy is an even more certain basis for the Second Coming than Peter's eyewitness testimony (v19). God's prophetic word shines as a light in the darkness of our hearts, and gives us the power to transform lives. It does not have a private interpretation (v20). We must look to the Holy Spirit, what is revealed in the Bible (v21). Thus, scripture interprets scripture.

- The Bible is the result work and power of the Holy Spirit
- The Bible is the will of God, not man
- Men were inspired by the Holy Spirit

### Monday

Process of Inspiration

- Witness unity throughout scripture (compare Genesis 3:14-15; Revelation 12:17)
- Prophecy is the will of God, not men. (2 Peter 1:21)
- All scripture is inspired and given for practical application. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- God chooses who He inspires to speak for Him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)
  - "The truths revealed are all 'given by inspiration of God' (2 Tim. 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men." (*The Great Controversy*, 7)

### Tuesday

Written Word helpful for:

- For remembrance (Exodus 17:14)
- To confirm spoken word (Exodus 24:4-8) → Israel affirming adherence to the covenant
- For remembrance and affirmation (Joshua 24:26) → Covenant at Shechem
- To share with others (Revelation 1:11) → John is told to write what he sees and send it to the seven churches in Asia minor.
- Because the words are "faithful and true" (Revelation 21:5).
  - We are given a dire warning not to misrepresent scripture: either adding to or taking away from (Revelation 22:18-19).

### Wednesday

Parallel between Christ and Scripture

- Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14)
- When the words Jesus said came true, and the disciples believed in Jesus' words and in scripture (John 2:22)
- Abiding in Jesus' words of truth will set you free (John 8:31-32)
- The word of God is truth (John 17:17)
  - "Just as Jesus was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, yet born into this world by a woman, so the Bible has the Holy Spirit as its ultimate author, yet was written by human writers." (*Sabbath School Quarterly*, 28)

## Thursday

### Understanding the Bible and Faith

- Faith connected to Creation; the world made by the Word of God (Hebrews 11:3). By faith the Abel and Enoch acted (v4-5). Faith enables us to believe in God and His words (v6).
- The Word of God guides us in our daily lives. (Psalms 119:105)
- The Word of God is a shield for those who trust Him. (Proverbs 30:5)
- God is the source of what is written in the Bible. (1 Thess. 2:13)
- The Word of God empowers the hearer and reveals the deepest parts of ourselves. (Hebrews 4:12)
  - It “is indispensable to approach the Bible in faith, acknowledging its supernatural origin, rather than seeing the Bible just as a human book.” (*Sabbath School Quarterly*, 23)

*Question:* Why is faith so essential in understanding God and His Word?

## Friday

Adventists affirm that the Bible is the Word of God. It has divine authority in our lives. It is both historically reliable and truthful unveiling of God. Through the Holy Spirit guidance, we gain a better understanding of God and His character as we study scripture. We value the importance of study scripture in light of scripture: allowing the biblical text to enlighten us. And is fundamental truths transcend time and culture. They have meaning and power for us today.

“As essential as the Bible is to our faith, it alone would be of no real spiritual value to us were it not for the influence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds as we read and study it.” (*Sabbath School Quarterly*, 24)

### Group Discussion Questions:

- What would happen if we came to distrust the divine origin of scripture? (2 Peter 1:16-21)
- Why must Scripture be foundational to our faith? (Hebrews 11:1-6)
  - Without it, where would we be?
- Why is faith essential in understanding God and His Word?
- God uses different means to reveal something about Himself. He does so in a more general way through nature—but more specifically through dreams (Dan. 7:1); visions (Gen. 15:1); signs (1 Kings 18:24, 38); and through His Son, Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1, 2).
  - How has God revealed Himself to you personally?
- God has revealed His will in a powerful way in the Bible. Yet, God desires your help in spreading His will and the good news of His salvation in Jesus Christ alone.
  - When people observe you, what kind of God do they see in you and through your behavior?