

THE WORD OF GOD

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Abstract: This article explores the theological theme of the “Word of God.” It provides an analysis of the New Testament scriptures, specifically the Gospel of John, chapter one (John 1:11–14). The study is based on an analysis of selected chapters from the Old and New Testaments of the New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible). The primary conclusion of the study is that the Word of God (the Bible) serves as the foundation of salvation and eternal life for believers. This research was conducted using the biblical method of “proof by the Scriptures.”

Keywords: Bible; faith; salvation; proof by the Scriptures.

UDC 226.5

Special Abbreviations

f., ff. – following verse, following verses.

Quotes

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible).

Introduction

The objective of this paper is to explore the theological theme of the “Word of God.” Furthermore, the article presents an analysis of the New Testament scriptures, specifically the Gospel of John, chapter one (John 1:11–14). The study is based on commentaries on selected chapters of the Old and New Testaments from the New King James Version (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible). The analysis concludes that *the Word of God (the Bible) serves as the foundation of salvation and eternal life for believers*. This research was conducted using the biblical method of “proof by the Scriptures” (i.e., “showing from the Scriptures”) and is built upon compelling argumentation derived from scriptural verses (Acts 18:28f.) [5].

The present work is thematically linked to previous studies conducted by the authors [1–3, 6–7]. This article and its bibliography are edited specifically for an English-speaking audience.

NKJV STUDY BIBLE

Exploring what the Bible says about the Word of God.

1 The Old Testament on the Word of God

First and foremost, we shall define the theological terms encountered in this study.

1.1 Definition of Theological Terms

Let us define the following terms: “Faith” and “Salvation.”

“Faith—(Gr. *pistis*, Lat. *fides*, ‘trust,’ ‘belief’) In Christianity, belief, trust, and obedience to God as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the means of salvation (Eph. 2:8) or eternal life (John 6:40). Faith affects all dimensions of one's existence: intellect, emotions, and will.” [4, 100].

“Salvation—(Lat. *salvatio*, from *salvare*, ‘to save’) God's activities in bringing humans into a right relationship with God and with one another through Jesus Christ. They are saved from the consequences of their sin and given eternal life. Biblical images for salvation vary widely.” [4, 247].

Summary. These terms—“Faith” and “Salvation”—form the foundation of the Christian doctrine regarding the redemption of humanity by God.

1.2 The Word of God and God's Foreknowledge

The Holy Scripture (the Bible) speaks of God's Creation: how the heavens and the earth, plants, animals, birds, seas, and stars were brought into being, followed by the creation of man as the crown of all creation (Gen. 1:1–31).

The psalmist David writes that all things were created by *the word of the Lord*.

“By *the word of the Lord* the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” (Ps. 33:6–9).

For the righteous life of man, God provided the Holy Scripture—the Bible (*the Word of God*): a body of laws, statutes, and ordinances, the fulfillment of which allowed man to live righteously through them.

“Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, ‘which, if a man does, he shall live by them.’ ... Yet the house of

Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; ..." (Ezek. 20:10–11, 13f.).

Man has perverted **the Word of God** through his lack of wisdom and unbelief.

"But the word of the Lord was to them, 'Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little,' That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught." (Is. 28:13).

The Lord foresaw this, and He is mighty to restore all things, for **the Word of God** is like a fire and like a hammer.

"'Is not My word like a fire?' says the Lord, 'And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?' " (Jer. 23:29).

The Word of God shall not return void; rather, it accomplishes the will of God as set forth in that very Word (the Bible).

"'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.' " (Is. 55:8–11).

Man cannot live without **the Word of God** and without divine guidance.

"'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord God, 'That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it.' " (Amos 8:11–12).

The Lord does all things to ensure that His word is fully performed.

"Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Jeremiah, what do you see?' And I said, 'I see a branch of an almond tree.' Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.' " (Jer. 1:11–12).

The prophet Jeremiah writes of our future, prepared by God Himself:

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jer. 29:11).

Summary. The Word of God, given by the Lord for the benefit of humanity, was fully fulfilled in their lives during Old Testament times.

2 The New Testament on the Word of God

Let us examine the apostles' testimonies regarding the Word of God.

2.1 Apostle Peter's Testimonies concerning the Word of God
The Apostle Peter writes that we have been **born again... through the word of God**:

"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God** which lives and abides forever," (1 Pet. 1:23).

When the Apostle Peter preached the Word of God in Jerusalem, about three thousand souls repented (Acts 2:37–42), and later, about five thousand more souls repented (Acts 4:4). As a result, all of Jerusalem was filled with the Word of God (the Gospel) (Acts 5:28).

The Apostle Peter exhorts us to love the Word of God:

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (1 Pet. 2:1-3).

Summary. We see that the Apostle Peter also confirms our conclusion that a person acquires salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, of whom the Word of God (the Bible) bears witness.

2.2 Apostle Paul's Testimonies concerning the Word of God

The Apostle Paul preached **the Word of God** (the Gospel) in Athens, after which he went to preach in Corinth, where Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed.

"Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.' And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them." (Acts 18:8–11).

As a result of these preachings of **the Word of God**, the Church of God was established in Corinth.

The **Word of God** pierces even to the soul and spirit of man.

"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. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Heb. 4:12-13).

The Apostle Paul's preachings were always in the power of the Holy Spirit; therefore, almost the whole city gathered to hear **the Word of God** (Acts 13:44).

Thus, **the Word of God** — the Apostles' teaching on salvation—spread throughout the entire region (Acts 13:49).

The Apostle Paul lived solely for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ..." (Phil. 1:21ff.).

Summary. *The Apostle Paul came to love the Word of God and lived by this Word in such a way that, for him, to live was Christ.*

2.3 Apostle John's Testimonies concerning the Word of God

The Apostle John writes with great love about Jesus Christ—the true Word of God.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-5, 14).

In the book of **Revelation**, the Apostle John reveals to us the truth about the Word of God.

"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God." (Rev. 19:13).

In heaven, there is the testimony of the Trinity concerning the truth.

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (1 John 5:7).

It follows from all of this that **Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Word of God the Father**.

Summary. Jesus Christ is the Life-giving Word of God the Father.

2.4 Commentary on the Gospel of John (John 1:11-14)

We shall provide a brief commentary on these verses (John 1:11-14).

"11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:11-14).

– Verse 11. *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him"*.

The Lord came to His own according to the flesh, that is, to the Jews; however, they did not receive Him as the Messiah, for they had their own preconceptions regarding the Redeemer.

– Verse 12. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*

To all people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, God grants a great mercy—the privilege of **being children of God**. The Lord "adopts" us by the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus Christ by faith:

"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).

– Verse 13. *"who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

Receiving Jesus Christ by faith is, according to the Holy Scripture, being "**born again**" (also referred to as conversion or salvation), of which the Lord spoke in His conversation with Nicodemus:

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:3).

Therefore, one cannot obtain this new birth, or become a Christian, merely from one's believing parents; it is not something passed down by inheritance. No matter how much a person strives, they cannot make someone else a Christian; they can only bear witness to Jesus Christ. **Only faith in Jesus Christ** serves as the condition for a person's salvation.

– v. 14. *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

The Lord Jesus Christ, while in the flesh, manifested His glory to the people of God—Israel—but unfortunately, not everyone beheld His glory. Those who received Jesus Christ by faith as their Lord saw in Him the glory of God.

Summary. *Thus, the analysis of John 1:11-14 demonstrates that the Word of God is not merely a message, but a Person—Jesus Christ—whose glory is revealed only through faith.*

Conclusion

In summarizing this study of the Old and New Testaments from the New King James Version (*Nelson's NKJV Study Bible*), the following key conclusions can be drawn:

1. The Word of God, given by the Lord for the benefit of humanity, was fully fulfilled in their lives during Old Testament times.

2. The Apostle Peter exhorted believers to love the Word of God—the **pure milk of the word**.

3. The Apostle Paul came to love the Word of God and lived by this Word in such a way that, for him, *to live was Christ*.

4. The Apostle John writes of Jesus Christ as the *Incarnate* and *Life-giving Word* of God the Father. Through the Holy Scriptures, the primary conclusion is proven:
The Word of God (the Bible) serves as the foundation of salvation and eternal life for believers.

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