

Basic Training Lesson 5.1

The Bible is God's Word Part 1

Jeremiah 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

- I. Review
1. Basic Training 1: The Importance of Truth
2. Basic Training 2: Love and Marriage were God's Ideas (2 lessons)
3. Basic Training 3: Prayer & Prayer Warfare (4 Lessons)
4. Basic Training 4: New Testament New Birth and the New Life (2 lessons)
5. Basic Training 5: The Bible is God's Word (3-4 lessons)
6. Basic Training 6: Who is God?
7. The New Life: We talked about what it means to be born again: Jesus regenerated

you so that old things are passed away and all things become new.

8. Jesus is the new authority in your life, not the devil, because when you received the Holy Ghost, that gave you power (1) to be child of God, and (2) to live for God being led by the Spirit.
9. We spoke about **[slide] the three basic nutrients needed for success in your new life: (1) daily prayer, (2) daily Bible reading, and (3) consistent church attendance.**
10. On that last one, we mentioned that the New Testament mentions 100 times the need to gather together so that we can comfort one another, edify one another, bear one another's burdens, pray for one another, have fellowship with one another, etc.
11. We also gave a warning about something that is true of the new life. As happy as God and His angels are, and as happy as the church and your pastor are that you have

found a new life, you need to understand there is a very active enemy of your soul who wants to defeat you in that journey.

12. So if you need help, because you were born again, you now have a new family of brothers and sisters who you can call on for help to succeed in this new life. Welcome to the family!

II. Introduction to The Bible is God's Word¹

1. When compared to all the religious literature produced in the world, The Holy Bible is uniquely God's Word to mankind.
2. And since the very beginning, the devil has tried cause people to question, distort, destroy, and deny it, but it is still God's Word.

Genesis 3:1-4

*1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea,***

¹ Adapted from David Bernard's book, God's Infallible Word

hath God said [did God really say that?], Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

*4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die:*

3. The pattern you will see is this: God said it is this way, the devil says it is not this way.
4. The devil has long sought to put a “not” in truth to change and reverse its meaning, yet even so, the Bible has survived thousands of years of attempts to destroy it.
5. You can be confident that the Word of God has been passed down to us in very much the same condition it was when the authors

of scripture wrote it down by God's inspiration.

6. The Bible is God's infallible Word.

III. The Bible's Own Testimony

1. How do we know that the Bible is authentically God's Word? From where do we get that idea? This morning we will look at several pieces of evidence that confirms that truth.

2. First let's look at evidence from the Bible itself, from the Apostles Peter and Paul, that identify it as the Word of God. Next, we will also read of the testimony of various people from history that believed this was God's word, like prophets, kings, and Jesus' apostles.

3. And lastly, we will see how Jesus Christ Himself believed this Book was authoritative as God's Word.

4. In the next lesson, we will study how the character of the Bible sets it apart from all

other religious literature, from its content, its moral superiority, its united message, its agreement with history and science, its thousands of fulfilled prophecies, and more.

- A. God breathed
 - 1. First, the Bible is God-breathed.
*2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture [every individual portion of scripture] is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
 - 2. *2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved [carried] by the Holy Ghost.*
 - 3. These verses tell us that scripture came to us in a **[slide] two-fold manner.**
 - a. First, God “inspired”: theo-neustos: “God-breathed” words to the writers;

- b. Second, God “moved”: “carried, or moved by bearing” the prophets to speak and write.
- 4. Literally, that means that God breathed words into men’s minds, and then the Spirit moved them to speak them and/or write them down.
- 5. That is how we got the Bible—from God’s mind to the pages in front of us today.
- 6. How do we know this is God’s Word? First, the Bible contains its own declaration of authenticity.
- B. Testimony of prophets, kings, and apostles
 - 1. There is testimony within scripture that identifies scripture as God’s Word.
 - 2. **414** times in the Bible, **prophets** boldly stated: “**Thus saith the Lord...**” or, “**And the Lord said...**” Like this one:
*Exodus 8:1 And **the LORD** spake unto **Moses**, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him,*

Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

3. Notice the words of Israel's greatest king, David, in his charge to the next king, his son, Solomon. He said this about the writings of Moses, which was his Bible of that time:

1 Kings 2:3 And keep the charge of the Lord thy God [do what God said], to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses , that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

4. Other great prophets and kings expressed the same opinion.
5. Then concerning the writings of the New Testament, we see that the apostles confidently declared that they spoke the mind of Christ:

1 Cor 2:16 For who hath known the mind of

*the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.***

6. God gave the apostles a special anointing to proclaim and record God's mind.

7. So after Paul wrote his letters to the churches (a major part of the New Testament), the church, including the apostle Peter, considered Paul's writings as scripture:

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [twist], as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

8. Peter regarded Paul's writings as God's word. An amazing admission!

IV. Integrity of Jesus Christ

A. Jesus certified the Old Testament

1. We have seen that God inspired and moved biblical writers to record His words, plus we have the confirming testimony of prophets, kings and the apostles.
2. But we also have the testimony of Jesus Christ Himself, first confirming that the Old Testament was holy scripture, or God's Word, and in a moment how Jesus commissioned the writing of the New Testament.

Luke 24:44-45

*44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were **written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.***

*45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand **the scriptures,***

3. In addition, Jesus calls the Old Testament the "commandment of God":

Mark 7:8-9

*8 For laying aside **the commandment of God**, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.*

*9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject **the commandment of God**, that ye may keep your own tradition.*

4. Jesus added this about the Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) would not pass away:

Matt 5:17-18

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

*18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one **tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

5. **[3 images: Hebrew alphabet, jot: yod; tittle: resh and daleth-tittle]** A “jot” or yod, is the name of the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. A tittle is a very slight pen

stroke that can change one letter into another.

6. Jesus said the Word is indestructible down to the smallest part. We will come back to that point in a moment.

B. Jesus commissioned the New Testament

1. We saw how Jesus considered the Old Testament the Word of God, but what did He say about the writings of New Testament?

2. The New Testament had not been written while Jesus was living, but He did commission its writing.

3. Jesus made a promise to some who would later become the writers of the New Testament:

John 16:12-13

*12 I have yet **many things to say unto you**, but ye cannot bear them now.*

*13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for***

he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

4. Jesus promised these soon-to-be authors that the Holy Ghost would guide them to “all truth”.
5. Jesus promised to aid their flawed, human memories, by the Holy Ghost who would bring all His words back to their remembrance later:

John 14:25-26

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

*26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and **bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***

6. In our next lesson, we will say more about the validity of the New Testament, but this morning, I want to deal Jesus’ opinion

about some Old Testament stories that some people have tried to cast doubt on.

- c. Jesus' word on "questionable" Old Testament teachings
 - 1. Jesus addressed some Old Testament passages that affirm their truth.
 - 2. **Question 1:** Did God create humans, or did they evolve from a lower life form?
Matthew 19:4-5
*4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that **he** which **made them at the beginning** made them male and female,*
5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?
 - 3. There are three important and controversial truths that Jesus addressed in that verse that are questioned by our modern culture: (1) God created humans; (2) God established gender identification based on

biology; and (3) God ordained marriage as between a male and a female.

4. Since Jesus is an authoritative voice for truth, we can regard His Word as the final word on those important matters.
5. **Question 2:** Is the story of Noah, the ark, the animals, and the flood a true and historical story or just a legend?
6. Jesus was as convinced it was true history. In fact, He tied the certainty of that story to the certainty of His second coming:

Matthew 24:38-39

*38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

7. **Question 3:** Is the story of Jonah being swallowed by a whale a true historical event or just a legend?

8. Jesus believed it was true, and He even used that historical story to illustrate how long He would remain in the grave:
Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
9. **Question 4:** Some people say that since Jesus taught love, forgiveness, and not to judge people (an incorrect assumption), that we should be tolerant or even happy with all different lifestyle choices.
10. It is important to remember that Jesus confirmed the Old Testament story where God judged the sin of homosexuality in Sodom and Gomorrha, and foretold an even worse future judgment of those who rejected Him and His miracle-working power:
Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and

Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

11. In that, Jesus confirmed the judgment of those cities, not just the past judgment of their fiery destruction, but also their coming day of judgment.
 12. Is Jesus loving and forgiving? Yes He is. But He also will be a Judge based on things He commanded in His Word.
 13. Jesus believed in creation, Noah and the ark, Jonah and the whale, and eternal judgment.
- D. The Word shall not pass away
1. Also, Jesus gave a promise that His words would never pass away.
Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
 2. The writer of Psalm 119, “The Word Psalm” said this:
Psalms 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

3. God's Word is indestructible because, God, its source, is indestructible.
4. So even if someone destroyed copies of the Word, God is not destroyed and He can simply speak it again.
5. That actually happened before and was recorded in scripture.
6. God gave the backslidden King Jehoiakim the opportunity to save the kingdom by repenting and turning back to God. God told the Prophet Jeremiah to write this on a scroll and give it to King Jehoiakim:

Jeremiah 36:1-4

1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah,

even unto this day.

3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

7. God told Jeremiah to write out His words, call the king and God's people to humble themselves and repent, which would allow the nation to escape judgment.
8. Jeremiah had his secretary write down what God said and have the scroll read to the king.
9. When it was read to him, the king didn't like that God called him a sinner, and he didn't like hearing that judgment was coming, so he cut it up and threw it into the fire:

Jeremiah 36:23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

10. Jehoiakim's destruction of God's word with a knife and fire did not end God's Word, for God simply gave the same words to Jeremiah again.
 11. God's word is indestructible because God is indestructible!
 12. Anyone who accepts the integrity of Jesus Christ, must also accept the fact that Jesus endorsed the scriptures as being the Word of God.
- v. Conclusion
1. We know that within the pages of the Bible, are words that confirm it is truly God's Word.

2. God inspired or breathed it and moved the writers to record it.
3. Prophets, kings, and apostles stand for the validity of the Word of God.
4. Jesus Christ Himself, the only perfect Man, affirmed that this is God's Word.
5. So what does God's Word say to us this morning?

6. Consider what God told King Zedekiah during a very troubling time.

Jer 38:20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. [The Jews won't turn you in]

Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

7. Not believing truth does not make the truth something other than truth. And, believing a lie does not make that lie truth.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

8. *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*