

Study One

The Scriptures—Can The Bible be Trusted?



Read the following Bible story:
Acts 17:10-12 (Paul’s teachings to the Bereans)

The story’s lesson for us today:
Before accepting Paul’s teachings, the Bereans made a careful study of the Scriptures for themselves. This

same lesson should be faithfully applied whenever we search or study the Bible, thus asking ourselves, “For what saith the scripture?” Romans 4:3

What Jesus said: “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39

Study Note: Read each question, and then look up the corresponding text(s) for the Bible’s answer.

1) What is scripture? (Daniel 10:21; John 17:17)

2) What is the purpose of scripture? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

3) How did the holy men of God come to compose the scriptures? (2 Peter 1:20-21)

4) How are we to study and understand the scriptures? (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:15)

5) What is the main premise or foundational principle when studying the scriptures? (Isaiah 28:9-10)

6) To whom do the scriptures bear witness? (Luke 4:16-21; 24:44-45; John 5:39)

7) How can we be a *living* witness of the scriptures? (Acts 18:24-25; James 1:21-25)

8) Can we trust the holy scriptures?

When the Old and New Testaments of the Bible were translated from their original languages of Hebrew and Greek to the time-honored King James Version, there were undoubtedly some minor errors that occurred. Yet God's translated Word has always been free from the devil's falsehoods that

would contradict God himself or lead any true searcher of his Word down the path of darkness.

Yes, the holy scriptures can be trusted, and for every believer of the scriptures, “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17), which is the power of God unto the salvation of men!

Study Commentary:

The Holy Bible, which contains 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament), was written by over 40 individuals from various walks of life, and dates from about 1500 BC to AD 100. Written in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—the Old and New Testaments of the Bible were first translated into English by John Wycliffe in AD 1382. Of all the books ever written, the Bible is the most translated and most read book.

For further thought:

“Why should not this book [the Holy Bible]—this precious treasure—be exalted and esteemed as a valued friend? ...The Bible is the sword of the Spirit, which will never fail to vanquish the adversary. It is the only true guide in all matters of faith and practice. The reason why Satan has so great control over the minds and hearts of men, is that they have not made the word of God the man of their counsel, and all their ways have not been tried by the true test. The Bible will show us what course we must pursue to become heirs of glory. Says the psalmist, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” But this is not the case

when it is left unopened and unread.” Ellen White, Review and Herald, January 4, 1881

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