

"IT IS WRITTEN..."

TEXTS: *Matthew 4:4* **But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Proverbs 30:5 **Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.**



THESIS: To show Jesus' statement, to counter the Satanic assault, reveals His trust in Scripture.

INTRO.: A. Satan waged a frontal attack against the Living Word of God –Jesus Christ – on the Mt. of Temptation. The Living Word responded with the written Word. The Lord answered Satan's assault 3 times w/the words **"IT IS WRITTEN"** – from *Deut.8:3; 6:16; & 6:13*. His first response, in our text, clarifies the Savior's position on the Scriptures (or His Bibliology – the doctrine of the Scriptures).

B. In His defense, Jesus takes the offense by affirming His belief in the **inspiration** and **source** of Scripture, the **authority** of written Scripture, the **availability** of Scripture and the **preservation** of Scripture. My prayer for this message is that we will all come away from here with a greater appreciation of these same values concerning God's Word and words.

I.REVELATION & INSPIRATION: **"...proceedeth out of the mouth of God"**

A. The Word Gave Mankind Words:

1. He is the Source of language. **"And God SAID, 'Let there be light...'"**

ILLUS.: Once upon a time there was no time. there was no creation. There was no space or universe. There was only God, alone in that perfect Holy Family union of Father, Son & Holy Ghost. There He counseled with Himself to create all we know and have yet to discover of this universe.

Beginning with nothing, He spoke and created everything. Out of nowhere He spoke & it became somewhere. Standing on nothing He manufactured everything (matter). With His Words alone, w/out any energy being expended He created the time-space-matter continuum.

2. He is the source of all human language.

Genesis 2:23 **And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**

- a. Unlike those who followed him, Adam instinctively knew language.
- b. He didn't have to go to school or study to learn to speak or think in words.

Genesis 11:7 **Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.**

- c. God was the source of a pure, universal language & also the source of the multiplicity of languages which prevail on earth today.

B. The Word Gave Mankind the Word:

1. He has revealed Himself thru the medium of oral & written language.
2. He decided to not only reveal Himself to man, but to communicate with man in the form of words.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

ILLUS.: Revelation & inspiration are the first two processes whereby God communicates in written form to mankind. First, he reveals the words to man (from the mind of God to the mind of man). Then he chooses the exact words of that man's vocabulary by which He wishes to express His thoughts to others. If revelation is God's word *from* God *to* man, then inspiration is God's words given *from* man *to* man. Both are God's words which **"...proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** God is the Source & Originator of His words.

II. AUTHORITY: **"...man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word..."**

A. The Source of Manna Was the Source of God's Words:

1. The Lord used His supernatural supply for man's physical hunger as an illus. of His supernatural supply for man's spiritual hunger.
2. God is saying that man cannot survive spiritually apart from God's provision of His Word.
3. Man has no more right to make substitutions in His Word than he had in substituting some other food for manna (God became angry when Israel complained about His supply of manna & gave them quail meat until it came out their nostrils!).

ILLUS.: Look anywhere in the world at man's condition apart from God's Word: from the primitive to the educated. Man struggles, rapes, murders, maims & persecutes. (Nazi Germany had a 99% literacy rate!) Compare religion to life in Christ thru the

Peter Ruckman succinctly summarized the history of mankind & Hollywood's & TV's portrayal with 4 words: "Kiss, kiss – bang, bang!" (Sex & Violence) Every soap opera & drama are fueled by this simple plot and reflects humanity apart from God.

B. The Sustenance of Manna Is Like the Sustenance Of God's Words:

1. What food is to the body, God's Word is to the soul.
2. As Manna was a perfect food for the body – God's Word is a perfect food for the soul.

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 **All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilder-ness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou would-est keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.**

III. AVAILABILITY: **"...every word"**

NOTE: Jesus quoted God's Words from copies He considered faithful, trustworthy and contained "every word."!!!!!!

A. Israel Was to Protect, Preserve & Keep God's Words With Them: Rom.3:1,2

1. God gave Moses the Torah in preparation for entering Canaan.
2. Moses commanded the Torah to be placed in the Ark for future generations. Deut.31:24-28
3. The Ark, w/the Torah inside (along w/manna) was placed inside the Tabernacle, and later the Temple.

B. The Church Is Commanded to Protect, Preserve & Keep God's Words with It.
Mt. 28:19,20; Rev.22:18,19

1. The Great Commission tells the Church (believers) to evangelize, immerse & indoctrinate: *"all things whatsoever I have commanded you."*
2. As Israel was the repository of the O.T. Script., the Church is the custodian & Guardian of both O.T. & N.T. I Tim.3;15

- a. The Apostolic church received the test of the N.T. (TR)
- b. The text was preserved & proclaimed from the 1st thru the 21 centuries

by the churches (Syrian – 1st; Italic – 2nd; Gallic – 3rd; Gothic – 4th; Waldensian – 5th – 16th; Albigensian – 13th; Anabaptists – 16th; and Baptists & others – 17th-21st centuries).

IV. PRESERVATION: "...it is written"

NOTE: Jesus, instead of resorting to His omnipotent power to defeat Satan, used the phrase *"it is written"* & quoted Scripture instead. 1) He knew Satan is under Scripture authority & 2) He knew we too would have access to His preserved & authoritative words.

Jesus did not have nor need the "originals" – He had "the Living Bible" – and trusted the copies of His day to be accurate (*"every word"*) according to His Father's promise in ***Ps.12:6,7.***

- A. Christ Submitted Himself to the Inscripturated Words of God.
- B. Satan was Forced to Submit Himself to the Inscripturated Words of God.
- C. Christ Defended Himself by the Inscripturated Words of God.
 - 1. Christ declared the Hebrew text to be trustworthy and intact in His day.
 - 2. He promised that every word - & every *"jot & tittle"* – would be available For future generations of believers, including consonants, vowels & even vowel points. ***Mt.5:17-18***

CONCL.: The words **"IT IS WRITTEN"** are powerful words which speak of the Source, Revelation, Inspiration, Authority, Availability and Preservation of God's Word and words. What was true when Jesus spoke these words is true today. Praise the Lord!