

What Comprises the Word of the LORD?

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What comprises the word of the LORD? In other words, what makes up the Word of the Lord? Before you answer, think carefully. Which belief system is the standard that guides you?

1. The Bible only and nothing else, or
2. The Words of the LORD throughout history until the end of time

There is a *profound* difference between the two!

If you hold onto Position 1, then nothing outside of the 66 books of the Bible really matters. In fact you have to REJECT anything else that claims to be the Word of the LORD. You don't even have to check it out. This I have seen personally *many* times.

If you hold onto Position 2, then a world of inspiration opens up to you. You test the words of messages by the biblical standard. You “despise not prophesyings.” (1 Thessalonians 5:20) You will likely read the testimony of *Enoch*,¹ you will likely study *the book of the Law and the Testimony*² dictated to Moses on Mt. Sinai, you will likely embrace the *visions of Ellen White*,³ and you are open to other messages that the LORD will send before the great and terrible Day of the LORD!⁴ Your belief system is consistent with inspired texts that say the LORD will send additional messages all along **until the end of time.**⁵

If you hold onto Position 1 like many practicing Christians do, then there is no need to check into anything else other than the Bible. It *feels* safe to hold onto the familiar, to maintain the *status quo*. It requires no additional study on your part. Thus, as some have told me, they reject the notion that God will send ANY MORE messengers.

Are believers really so naïve or arrogant that they would say to the Almighty God, “You can't talk, You can't communicate with us any time You choose? You can't send more visions or dreams?” Isn't that putting themselves above God? Isn't that what Satan tried to do and still does today? Can you see why God is insulted when men and women reject His word through His messengers?

If such a person that holds onto Position 1 doesn't understand something in the scripture, then one simply calls the teaching an allegory, an example, a fable, symbolic or

¹ http://www.bibleplus.org/endoftime/Book_of_Enoch.pdf. See also the paper, “Is the Book of Enoch Genuine?” at http://www.bibleplus.org/endoftime/Is_the_Book_of_Enoch_Genuine.pdf

² http://www.bibleplus.org/endoftime/The_Book_of_the_Law_and_the_Testimony.pdf

³ <http://www.bibleplus.org/endoftime/>

⁴ <http://www.bibleplus.org/messages.pdf>

⁵ Malachi 4:5, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:17, Amos 3:7, 2 Chronicles 20:20

something awaiting explanation for a later time. But is this position really safe? Or is it, in fact, really eternally dangerous?

If you hold on to Position 2, then one may search for answers and find them by examining the books surrounding the Old Testament or even before it (as found among the Dead Sea Scrolls and other troves of ancient books). One may find wonderful, marvelous words that illuminate the Bible's more misunderstood texts. One is open to additional dreams and visions, testing them according to biblical principles. And by doing so, one may also find keys that unlock a greater understanding of the future including the prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation. One sees the illumination of a path to heaven that Jesus Himself testifies of. Should one reject that?

I used to publish a magazine called *Sola Scriptura*, only the Scriptures, which de facto to most professed believers means *only the Bible*. But as I studied the Bible and compiled thousands of Bible texts, I began to realize that while the Bible is complete for salvation, there were many unanswered questions that are fair to ask. There are concepts that appear to be unclear in the Bible that have led to the various perspectives and interpretations and the many denominations in the Christian world today. There are symbols and parables that many do not really understand.

When I asked about more controversial or ambiguous texts, the explanations given me didn't make much sense, or I was told over and over, "it is just an allegory." In other words, we don't know so just take those various teachings as a story. But this felt inadequate and a shirking or dereliction of a Bible student's duties. So I kept studying and was led to the ancient books of history, those found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as more modern messengers of God. And amazing clarity and answers came! No longer were items allegories, but they came alive with understanding, backed upon multiple evidence and sources, and Bible verses glowed with new light. Events were no longer explained in symbols, but in plain clear language. The blinders came off my eyes.

See the Addendum to this paper for just a sampling of valid questions that God has provided inspired answers to that are not found in the Bible, but are found in other sources where the Word of God is given.

But when I tactfully shared these findings, they were not met with openness, but the opposite! Most church leaders and members stopped their ears upon the first mention of something other than the Bible, let alone examined or tested the content. Church leaders stopped me, two ministers essentially kicked me out of their churches ... for finding and sharing truth! Really? Why? The pastors and most members held onto Position 1, only the Bible! ⁶

I have concluded that it is *the Words of the LORD throughout the ages*, and *not* just the Word of the LORD as revealed in the Bible that is important. The Word of the LORD is

⁶ As an active Bible teacher at the church, I had two long-time pastors who sat in my classes afterwards tell myself or someone else that the classes were the best they had ever been to. Why? Because I point to Jesus, and provided clarity due to a greater understanding.

broader than the Bible which is an important snapshot of His Word through that time period *and is the standard against which all else should be tested and measured!*

The LORD seeks to communicate to His professed people today, but sadly, church leaders and members won't even entertain looking at what God might be trying to convey to them. Church leaders and members may study the rejection of Jeremiah, of Jesus, of Paul, of Zachariah and other prophets by the leaders and people of the church and governments of their day, and yet our modern leaders and members do the very same thing! And as in Jesus' day, the higher the position the person holds in the church the more likely they are to reject the Word of the Lord. Is this not sheer hypocrisy for failing to learn!

“It is hardly possible for men to offer greater insult to God than to despise and reject the instrumentalities He would use for their salvation.” Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 402. By instrumentalities, she was referring to God's messengers or prophets.

“As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God.

1. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin,
 2. the blessings perverted,
 - 3. the messengers of God despised,**
 4. the warnings rejected,
 5. the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart
- all appear as if written in letters of fire.”

White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 666.2 (numbers were added and boldface provided to emphasize these grave sins.)

“Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.” Matthew 21:31 Why? The publicans and harlots were open to hearing and obeying the words of the Jesus. The church leaders were not.

“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20

So is it safe to reject messengers God may send? Can one insult God and remain safe for eternity? When one shuns God's representatives, His messengers, where has one consigned themselves to?

Note the pointed no-holds-barred statement of Jesus in His discourse to the scribes and Pharisees who rejected Him: “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” Matthew 23:33.

Within what context did Jesus say that? Look at the next verse: "...behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:" Matthew 23:34

Who was Jesus saying was doing these horrible deeds? The church leaders of Jesus day! Having a leadership or honored position in the church is NO guarantee that your belief system is right, but only your willingness to follow and obey the Word of the LORD!

The Bible is a selection of the Word of the LORD as given over a period of time but not ALL time. The canon as we mostly know it was chosen at the Council of Laodicea in 363 A.D., the same council that outlawed the keeping of the God's seventh-day Sabbath and outlawed the reading of non-canonical books. The canonical books were refined over time, but the truth is, a number of the inspired sacred books entrusted to the custody of the Hebrews were discarded, books that were part of the Scriptures of Jesus' day and to which He referred on the road to Emmaus with two of His disciples. Reject these and one will misunderstand truth in a number of areas.

The Word of the LORD came before the time of the Bible (e.g. since Adam, through Enoch, Balaam and others) and there is much evidence to believe that God has sent, continues to send, and WILL send messengers before the great Day of the LORD.

What does the Bible say about prophets, God's messengers?

Numbers 12:6

"And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.**"⁷

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken

⁷ In Deuteronomy 13:1-5, God gives a sign of a false prophet, i.e. he will seek to draw people to another god.

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."

that which they have spoken. **I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.** And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.**”

Amos 3:7

“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, **but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.**”

2 Kings 17:22-23

“For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, **as he had said by all his servants the prophets.** So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

Jeremiah 23:28-29

“**The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully.** ... Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? ”

Ezekiel 33:33

“And **when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.**”

Daniel 9:6

“Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.”

Joel 2:28-31

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. **Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.** I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood **before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**”

Amos 2:11-12

And **I raised up of your sons for prophets,** and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the Lord. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and **commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.**”

Zechariah 1:4

“Be not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: **but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me,**” saith the Lord.

Malachi 3:1

“**I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.** Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. (This verse was quoted by the gospel writers in Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27)

Malachi 4:5-6

“Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:** And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Matthew 23:34-36

[And to the church leaders (“scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites”), Jesus said] “Therefore **I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.** That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.”

Revelation 11:3,7-8

“And **I will give power unto my two witnesses** [prophets], and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. ... And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit [Satan incarnate] shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.” [Those are 4 clues that the location is Jerusalem]

The Angel of the LORD relates that a Testimony was given through Enoch for all generations

“And in the eleventh jubilee, Jared took to himself a wife, and her name was Baraka, the daughter of Rasujal, a daughter of his father's brother, in the fourth week of this jubilee, and she bare him a son in the fifth week, in the fourth year of the jubilee, and ¹⁷ he called his name Enoch.

“And **Enoch was the first among men that are born on earth who learnt writing and knowledge and wisdom and who wrote down the signs of heaven according to the order of their months in a book,** that men might know the seasons of the years according to the order of ¹⁸ their separate months. And **he was the first to write a testimony** and he testified to the sons of men among the generations of the earth, And **what was and what will be,** he saw in a vision of his sleep, **as it**

will happen to the children of men throughout their generations **until the day of judgment; he saw and understood everything, and wrote his testimony, and placed the testimony on earth for all ²⁰ the children of men and for their generations.**” *Book of the Law and the Testimony* 4:16-20

Note the phrase: “he saw in a **vision** of his sleep, as it will happen to the children of men throughout their generations until the day of judgment” The statement is that dreams and visions will continue through time *until the Day of Judgment*, also known as the Day of Condemnation in the book of the Law and the Testimony.⁸

Ellen G. White is acknowledged to be a messenger (prophet) of the Lord by many, and her visions and books are held in high regard by the younger pastors of many denominations.⁹ Yet holding onto the position of “the Bible and Bible alone” dispenses with the messages given through White, and indeed, there is a movement going on within the SDA church of which she was a cofounder (and which took further root at the SDA General Conference session in 2015) to hold absolutely to Position 1 and thus sadly reduce her writing from authoritative to an opinion. Yet White said she was *not* the last messenger God would send:

“Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says, ‘Behold, I send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.’ **Somebody *is* to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and when he appears,** men may say, ‘You are too **earnest**, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.’ There are many who cannot distinguish between the work of God and that of man. I shall tell the **truth** as God gives it to me, and I say now, If you continue to find fault, to have a spirit of variance, you will never know the **truth.**” Ellen G White, *The Review and Herald*, February 18, 1890

So in conclusion:

- If the Bible writers say God will send messengers/prophets through to the **end of time**,
- If the angel of the LORD indicated that visions like with Enoch “will happen to the children of men throughout their generations **until the day of judgment**”
- If Ellen White wrote that “Somebody *is* to come in the spirit and power of Elijah” (future tense), and that it is a grave insult to God to reject His messengers and those who reject God’s messengers will **not** be in the New Jerusalem,

Then which Position do you take? Which position *should* you take? Which camp do you fall into?

1. Do you hold strictly onto “only the Bible” and potentially become guilty of the greatest insult one can offer our Creator, to ignore, despise and reject His messengers

⁸ http://www.bibleplus.org/endoftime/The_Book_of_the_Law_and_the_Testimony.pdf

⁹ <https://www.barna.org/component/content/article/5-barna-update/45-barna-update-sp-657/178-survey-reveals-the-books-and-authors-that-have-most-influenced-pastors>

and those who follow the Word of the LORD given through them? Persecuting them? Chasing them out of the church? Slandering them? Threatening them with trespassing, disfellowshipping them, etc.?

2. Or do you hold onto the Word of the LORD throughout the ages, being open to the messengers and messages that God may send to teach us the way of righteousness? And then see the miracles that God has promised to those who believe? Both in your life and the life of others?

I hold on to the second and am willing to live and die for the Words of the LORD, past, present and future. Are you open enough to join me in learning and sharing this Word?

Choose Well! Your *eternal* destiny depends on it.

Addendum:

Here is just a short list of questions that one might have from the Bible that one can find clarity and answers in the Word of the Lord from the past *and* the present:

1. Who is the Son of Man, the Elect One, the Anointed One?
2. What were Satan's chief arguments against Jesus that resulted in his rebellion and ejection from heaven? How does he still use these arguments today?
3. Are there more details on Creation week, the naming of the created animals and the creation of Eve?
4. How were Adam and Eve equal but different?
5. What was one of the first commands given Eve that she violated and led to her deception and fall?
6. Who are the Watchers?
7. Did the angels keep the seventh-day Sabbath in heaven before it was made known to any man?
8. Why was Adam *put* into the Garden of Eden?
9. How long after Adam's creation did he have to wait until he was *put* into the Garden? How about for Eve?
10. What was the nature of Adam and Eve when they were first created?
11. When did Adam and Eve sin? (what date?)
12. What are the differences between the pre-fall and post-fall natures of Adam? Compare those to the post-resurrection nature of the redeemed?
13. In which nature did Jesus Christ promise he would come?
14. What does salvation really mean?
15. When did Jesus promise to restore Adam to Eden?
16. Where did the general teaching that there would be six thousand years of transgression followed by a thousand years of quiet before the great judgment day come from?
17. Who is permitted to keep God's seventh-day Sabbath?
18. How old were Cain and Abel when Cain killed Abel?
19. Who did Cain marry? Or for that matter, all the patriarchal line?

20. How did Cain die and what heavenly law did this result in?
21. Who are the sons of God and the daughters of men whose offspring were giants that eventually led to the unauthorized mingling of blood and corruption that resulted in the flood of Noah's time?
22. Who was Melchizedek?
23. How many generations were there from Creation to Jacob?
24. How did Levi end up with the priesthood?
25. How did Jacob fulfill his promise to give the Lord a tenth of all he owned?
26. When was the prophecy that Esau's offspring would serve Jacob's offspring fulfilled?
27. In exactly what year from Creation did the Israelites enter the promised land of Canaan?
28. Why is there a goat for Azazel which the translators called the scapegoat in the Day of Atonement service?
29. Who is Azazel and why is all sin ascribed to him?
30. How did Azazel's sin eventually lead to the great flood?
31. When did the flood take place?
32. Are there any parallels to the visions of Daniel regarding the Son of Man approaching the Ancient of Days?
33. Can we solve the enigmatic time periods of Daniel 12 (1260, 1290, 1335 days) by looking at parallel time periods before then?
34. What are the four categories of the dead as found in the Bible and other prophetic writings?
35. Who are the souls under the altar of Revelation?
36. Why is there a specific number to be killed as they were?
37. Why does the apostle John use the name "Word" for Jesus Christ?
38. Why did Caiaphas get so upset when Jesus called Himself the Son of Man (that title has huge significance)?
39. Who are the angels bound in chains (these are not Satan's angels) awaiting the day of Judgment?
40. Why does Jude quote from the book of Enoch (as do a number of other bible writers)? (and most today reject it)
41. Who is the being symbolized by the beast from the bottomless pit who now is not (visible) yet will become (visible) and rule the whole earth? When did this being become invisible and as a result of what?
42. What major event occurs just before this being appears?
43. How will this being appear and why will it deceive most of those on the earth including most Christians?
44. What is the true Seal of God that is placed upon those who will survive the great tribulation (hint: it is not the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath though those who are sealed will be keeping it)?
45. Why does Jesus say he has the keys to death *and* hell?
46. Why do death *and* hell give up the dead that are in them (plural)?
47. Why is hell finally thrown into the lake of fire if many teach them to be the same thing?

48. Which elements of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus are truth and which are just story elements? Why do so few people believe Jesus?
49. Are humans sinners by DNA (in other words sinners from birth) or by choice?
50. At what age does God hold a person accountable for their choices and considers them a sinner or not?
51. What happens to a child or fetus who dies prior to the age of accountability?
52. Is there a chance that most Christians and pastors have a misunderstanding of grace, obedience, sinlessness, and perfection of character?
53. What kind of worship is honoring to God?
54. What should be done with the leftover communion emblems?
55. What are the four distinct classes of humans around the throne of God?
56. Has God altered his position on homosexuality since what was recorded in the bible?
57. Has God *ever* authorized women to serve as priests, administering the sacred rites and ceremonies that he has instituted?
58. What is the penalty for professed Christians who continually disobey God and His word and what will happen to them?
59. Where is the Ark of the Covenant?
60. What is the mark of the beast law?
61. Will the Father verbally out loud give the day and hour of Jesus' coming to the 144,000 at any time?
62. What the role of a selection of the redeemed during the thousand years in heaven?
63. Who helps them in this process and where do they write the sentences against the wicked in?

One can readily know the answers to all the above questions in the extended Word of God. However, if one rejects anything other than the 66 books of the Bible, one can only guess or speculate regarding the answers to these; one is without the keys that unlocks the clear answers.

Embrace the whole Word of the LORD!