

Sunday, February 7, 2016—Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*  
Lesson 19 The Living Word's Attitude Toward the Written Word

### **Introduction**

- In Lesson 18 we studied that **God's design in inspiration was to make the written word equal with the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- First, we noted that God attributes His own attributes to His word. According to Galatians 3:8, the scriptures, like God, have the ability to see the future and therefore preached unto Abraham before God's written word even existed.
- Second, we studied the absolute equality between the Living Word (the Lord Jesus Christ) and the written word (the scriptures). In doing so, we looked at 39 pairs of verses where similar declarations are made regarding the Living and Written Word and fifteen pairs of passages that attribute similar effects to Christ and the scriptures.
- In the end, we considered the following statement from Brother Jordan regarding God's design in inspiration:
  - “The living Word, (the Lord Jesus Christ), and the written word are that close. God attributes His own attributes to His word, and the reason for that is that He is demonstrating that word to be the final authority. It is what He says. *When you are dealing with God's word, you are dealing with God Himself.* And if you are going to deal with God, you will have to deal with His word. That is God's design and inspiration.” (Jordan. *MSS 101*, Lesson 1)
- Today, in this Lesson, we want to consider the attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Living Word) toward the written word. In other words, what did the Lord Jesus Christ believe about the Old Testament Scriptures?

### **The Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ**

- As we consider the testimony of the Living Word toward the written word, I would like to do so under the following four sub-points:
  - Attitude Toward the Words Themselves
  - General Declarations Regarding Scripture
  - Critical Theories of Old Testament Authorship
  - Advanced Authentication of the New Testament

*Attitude Toward the Words Themselves*

- Jesus Christ believed that every word in the Bible was the word of God. He even believed the very words in the bible.
- Matthew 22:29-32—Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. 31) But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32) **I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**”
  - “The point is that the whole argument turns on the fact that God says, “I am.” It is the tense of the verb that is important. He does not say, “I was a God of the living when they were alive.” He says, “I am, right now, the God of the living.” Then the implication is that Abraham, who is dead, is included in the verse. It says, “I am”. Right now, in the present tense, God is the God of Abraham, so Abraham must be alive. Isaac must be alive and Jacob must be alive. That is the issue that is being dealt with, and the whole thing turns on the tense of that verb – present tense.” In short, Jesus Christ believed every word of scripture.” (Jordan, MSS 101, Lesson 5)
- Matthew 22:41-46—While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42) Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son* of David. 43) He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44) The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45) If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46) And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*.
  - “Jesus hangs the Pharisees on one word. David called Him Lord. Well, how can Jesus be David’s son and his Lord? He takes that one word and builds a question on it. The Lord Jesus Christ believed the very words of the bible.” The point is that the whole argument
- My point is that Christ believed the Old Testament to be the very words of God, and He divided between them. The attitude of Christ is that the words are the very words of God.
- Luke 4:16-21—notice what Jesus does as he reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue in Nazareth.

<b>Isaiah 61:1-2</b>	<b>Luke 4:18-19</b>
1 ) The Spirit of the Lord GOD <i>is</i> upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to <i>them that are</i> bound; 2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;	18) The Spirit of the Lord <i>is</i> upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

- In Luke 4, Jesus stopped reading at the comma in Isaiah 61:2, closed the book, gave it back to the minister, and said unto them “this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” What did Jesus just do? He rightly divided between His first and second comings. That is how precise Christ was in His attitude and handling of the scriptures (*graphē*).
- 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.**
- When you believe that your Bible is entirely comprised of the words of God that places you in some pretty good company. We need to have the same attitude toward the scriptures that our Lord had.

#### *General Declarations Regarding Scripture*

- John 10:35—Jesus Asserted Its Unbreakability. He said, “. . . the scripture cannot be broken.” Geisler believes that this is equivalent to claiming that the Bible is infallible.
- Matthew 4:3-10—Jesus Affirmed Its Divine Authority. When the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted, He answered Satan every time with the words “it is written.” He just kept coming back with verses. He recognized that the power, spiritually, is in the book, in the words of God.
- Matthew 26:24, 54—Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy. Jesus Christ not only believed the very words of scripture; He not only acknowledged the power of scripture, but He also fulfilled the prophecies of scripture. He is fulfilling the prophecies of the scripture. He has come to do exactly what they say must be done.
  - Matthew 27:46—Christ quotes Psalm 22:1 in fulfillment of the scriptures.
- Matthew 5:17-18—Jesus Affirmed Its Imperishability. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, i.e., to do what they said needed to be done. He recognized their authority in that regard, and He also verified their truthfulness. Jesus Christ never one time questioned the Old Testament. He always quoted it in such a way as to endorse it, and He endorsed it as verbally inspired.

- Matthew 15:3, 6—Jesus Declared Their Ultimate Supremacy. The Bible is exalted above all human instruction.
- Matthew 22:29 and John 17:17—Jesus Affirmed Their Factual Accuracy. In short, the Bible is wholly true and without error.
- Mark 13:19—Jesus Affirmed Their Scientific Accuracy. Even on the highly debated matter of the origin of the world and mankind, Jesus insisted on the truthfulness of scripture. (Geisler, 197-202)
  - Matthew 19:4-5—Jesus believed that God created Adam and Eve “at the beginning.”

#### *Critical Theories of Old Testament Authorship*

- There are 66 chapters in Isaiah. The first 39 chapters in Isaiah are a unit, and chapters 40 through 66 are another unit. It is interesting that Isaiah has 66 chapters just like your Bible has 66 books. It is also interesting that whoever wrote the book of Isaiah knew right where to make the break – after the 39th chapter.
- There are 39 books in the Old Testament. Also, the first 39 chapters of Isaiah talk about the judgment on the nation Israel and the captivity and that kind of thing. Then John the Baptist shows up in chapter 40 of the book of Isaiah. Isaiah 40:3 – “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isn’t it interesting that Isaiah 1:2 says, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth”, which refers to the heaven and the earth just like Genesis does. There are 39 chapters, and then there is a break, and then you begin in chapter 40 and see a verse quoted about John the Baptist. Then you read chapter 66 and you conclude with the new heaven and the new earth. The book of Isaiah is like a capsule of the bible. The second half of the book is about the restoration – what God is going to restore.
- There is a view out there called *Deutero-Isaiah* (*Deutero* means two) which maintains that one Isaiah wrote the first 39 chapters, and that an entirely different Isaiah wrote chapters 40 through 66. This view was posited by the German Rationalists and Higher Critics.
- John 12:37-38—But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38) That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?
  - Verse 38 is a quotation from Isaiah 53:1. According to Christ in John 12:38, Isaiah the prophet wrote Isaiah 53, and Isaiah 53 is in the second section of the book. So, I know if there are two authors to Isaiah, I know that Isaiah the prophet wrote the second section in spite of the fact that some people say that he wrote the first and editors wrote the second.

- John 12:39-41— Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40) He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41) These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.
  - Verse 40 is a quote from Isaiah 6:10, the first section of Isaiah. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ said that it was spoken by Esaias. So did the Lord Jesus Christ believe the *Deutero-Isaiah* theory? No, Jesus says in John 12 that Isaiah the prophet wrote the first part of the book of Isaiah, and Isaiah the prophet also wrote the second part of the book of Isaiah.
- As with the *Deutero-Isaiah* theory, there are many who question whether or not Moses wrote Genesis through Deuteronomy. In fact, these people say that Moses could not even write. I have never quite understood how they figured that out, since Moses was trained in the School of the Egyptians and had all their wisdom according to Acts 7:22.
- Supporters of the Graph-Wellhausen Theory maintain that Genesis through Deuteronomy were written by five different authors J, E, P, D, R. The Jehovist passages, the passages where God is called by the name of Jehovah, are written by “J”. The passages where God is called by the name of Elohim are written by “E”. The priestly passages are written by “P”. The Deuteronomic passages, the law passages, are written by “D”. “R” is a redactor or an editor that put all this stuff together.
- John 5:45-47—Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. 46) For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47) But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?
  - The Lord Jesus Christ believed that Moses wrote all five books.
- Jesus Christ verifies the authenticity of the following Old Testament figures and narratives. Christ believed these events as having actually occurred in history.
  - God created Adam and Eve—Matthew 19:4-5
  - The birth of Seth—Luke 3:38
  - Marriage before the flood—Luke 17:27
  - The days of Noah and the flood—Matthew 24:37-38
  - Noah’s son Shem and his descendants—Luke 3:35-36
  - The birth of Abraham—Luke 3:34
  - Sodom and Gomorra—Luke 17:29-32

- Moses and the burning bush—Matthew 12:26; Luke 20:37
- Israel ate manna in the wilderness—John 6:31-51
- The brazen serpent—John 3:14
- Jonah was swallowed by a whale—Matthew 12:40
- David wrote the Psalms ascribed to him—Matthew 22:43-45
- Daniel was a prophet not a mere historian—Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14
- The slaying of Zechariah—Matthew 23:35 (Geisler, 197-202)

#### *Advanced Authentication of the New Testament*

- In John 16, Jesus gave an advanced announcement concerning the inspiration of the New Testament. The New Testament had not been written when Jesus Christ was on the earth, and yet He gives a pre-authenticating announcement about the New Testament. This is a very important passage for us to grasp.
- John 16:12-14—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. 14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.
  - “The Lord Jesus Christ pre-announced the coming of the Holy Spirit in such a way that guarantees the authenticity and genuineness of the New Testament. There are two words that you need to remember: authenticity and genuineness. “Authenticity” means “truthfulness, and accuracy”. When we say that the scriptures are authentic, we mean that they are true, and they are accurate. “Genuineness” means “the scriptures are written by who they say they were written by”. The genuineness of Genesis means that Moses really wrote it. The authenticity of Genesis means that what is written is true and accurate.” (Jordan, MSS 101, Lesson 5)
- John 16:13—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 show you things to come.
  - Notice how Christ guarantees the authenticity and the genuineness of the New Testament.

- John 14:26—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.
  - You want to be able to get John 16:12, 13 and John 14:26 together. So when those men, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), begin to write down the gospel account, Jesus Christ has already given assurance of the fact that the Holy Spirit is going to bring to remembrance those things. There is a pre-authentication of the gospel records. We can now look back and see how He was given a statement that preannounced and guaranteed the authenticity of those books. This passage is very important in understanding that the New Testament books were pre-authenticated.

### **Final Thoughts**

- You need to remember that Jesus Christ never one time questioned the Old Testament. He always quoted it in such a way as to endorse it. When he endorsed it, he endorsed it as verbally inspired. Remember these three things and fix them in your mind.
  - Christ never questioned the Old Testament.
  - Christ always quoted it in such a way as to endorse it.
  - Christ endorsed it as verbally inspired.
- There are only three possibilities concerning that testimony of Christ to scripture.
  - *Number One*—there are errors in the scripture, but Jesus did not know about them; so He really is not God. (And if He is not God, you can just throw the whole Bible out the window, and we can stop studying right now.)
  - *Number Two*—there are errors, and Jesus Christ knew about them, and He covered them up. (Well, then He is not holy, and He would not be a suitable or sufficient Savior.)
  - *Number Three*—there are not any errors and that it is God’s word; and when you are dealing with the bible, you are dealing with God Himself. This is the one we opt for. (Jordan, *MMS 101*)

### **Works Cited**

Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2011.

Jordan, Richard. *Manuscript Evidence 101*. Chicago, IL: Grace School of the Bible.