

# Major Bible Themes

## 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*  
written by Lewis Sperry Chafer and revised by John f. Walvoord

### The Bible: The Word of God

- Introduction
  - It is called “The Bible” from the Greek word βιβλος which simply means “book”.
  - Its unusual nature is due to the fact that it is the Word of God even though penned by human authors.
  - Two lines of evidence are usually offered supporting the conclusion that the Bible is the Word of God:
    - ✦ Internal evidence – the Bible’s own claim to be the Word of God.
    - ✦ External evidence – the nature of the facts given in Scripture which support its supernatural character.
- Internal Evidence
  - The Bible declares or assumes itself to be the Word of God in many passages (Deut 6:6-9, 17-18; Josh 1:8; 8:32-35; 2 Sam 22:31; Ps 1:2; 12:6; 19:7-11; 93:5; 119:9, 11, 18, 89-93, 97-100, 104-105, 130; Pr 30:5-6; Isa 55:10-11; Jer 15:16; 23:29; Dan 10:21; Mt 5:17-19; 22:29; Mk 13:31; Lk 16:17; Jn 2:22; 5:24; 10:35; Acts 17:11; Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 2:13; Col 3:16; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:15-17; 1 Pet 1:23-25; 2 Pet 3:15-16; Rev 1:2; 22:18).
  - Ps 19:7-11 asserts the Bible as the Word of the Lord and cites six transformations of human character it accomplishes.
  - In Matt 5:17-19 Jesus declares that the Law and the Prophets (two sections of the O.T.) must be fulfilled.
  - Heb 1:1-2 affirms that God spoke to our fathers through the prophets who wrote the Word of God (in the Old Testament) and also to us in the person of His Son Jesus Christ (written about in the New Testament).
- External Evidence
  - The Bible supports its claim as the Word of God by abundant evidence that has convinced many a skeptic.
    - ✦ The Bible, though composed of 66 books written over a period of about 1,600 years by over 40 human authors from all walks of life (kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, physicians, statesmen, scholars, poets and farmers) in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), maintains a continuity from cover to cover. Type is followed by antitype, prophesy by fulfillment.
    - ✦ In its unfolding of truth, the Bible is inexhaustible. Biblical truth goes far beyond human discovery, revealing facts which only God could know. Although not a

science book, no biblical truth has ever been refuted by scientific discovery. No other book even attempts to present comprehensive truth as the Bible does.

- ✦ The Bible is the most influential book in human history. No other book has been published in as many languages and for as many different peoples and cultures as the Bible. Many skeptics (such as Voltaire) have predicted that the Bible would become obsolete and yet it continues to be widely distributed throughout the world.
  - ✦ The Bible deals as freely with the unknown (and unknowable) as it does with that which is known. It describes eternity past including creation before man was even in existence. Biblical prophecy unfolds God's plan for all of human history and even into eternity future. On every subject presented, the Bible's statement is final, accurate and timeless.
  - ✦ Even when considered as literature, the Bible reigns supreme. It includes historical narrative, poetry, stories of love and war, etc. No other book as literature has captivated readers of all ages and of all degrees of scholarship.
  - ✦ Though penned by human authors, the Bible does not contain a bias in favor of mankind. It records the sin and weakness of even the best of men. It warns of judgment and discipline in a message which is clearly from God to man rather than from man to man. Even if man could write such a book, he would not choose to do so apart from divine direction.
  - ✦ The Bible reveals the person and glory of God as manifested in His Son. A person such as Jesus Christ could never have been invented by man because His attributes and perfections could never have been comprehended by even the wisest and holiest in all the world. Both the Bible and the Son of God are supernatural in origin, presenting an inscrutable and perfect blending of that which is divine and that which is human.
- Non-biblical authors (such as the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish historian Josephus) attest to the events of the Bible and confirm the existence of people of the Bible such as John the Baptist, Jesus of Nazareth Himself, Jesus' brother James, and so on.

- Questions
  - What is the meaning of the word “Bible”?
  - What are the two general lines of evidence that the Bible is the Word of God?
  - Name five passages in the Old Testament and five passages in the New Testament in which the Bible declares or assumes itself to be the Word of God.
  - Name six perfections and six corresponding transformations of human character which the Word of God accomplishes according to Psalm 19:7-11.
  - Why is the continuity of the Bible evidence of its inspiration?
  - What are some of the evidences of continuity in the Bible?
  - How does the Bible differ from other books in the extent of its revelation of truth?
  - How does the extensive publication of the Bible relate to its transforming power?
  - Relate the supernatural character of the Bible to its subject matter.
  - Evaluate the Bible as literature.
  - How can the human authorship of the Bible be related to the unbiased authority of the Bible?
  - Relate the Bible as a supernatural book to Jesus Christ as a supernatural person.