



Lecture # 5 Part 3

The evidence that *the very words* of the Bible are God-given may be summarized briefly as follows:

5. The New Testament constantly equates the Word of God with the *Scripture* (*writings*) of the Old Testament (cf. [Matthew 21:42](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [2 Peter 3:16](#)).

[Matthew 21:42 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?"

[Romans 15:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

[2 Peter 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

6. Jesus indicated that not even the smallest part of a *Hebrew word or letter* could be broken ([Matthew 5:18](#)).

[Matthew 5:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

7. The New Testament refers to the *written record* as the "oracles of God" ([Hebrews 5:12](#)).

[Hebrews 5:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

8. Occasionally the writers were even told to "not omit a word" ([Jeremiah 26:2](#)), and John even pronounced an anathema upon all who would add to or subtract from the "words of the book of this prophecy" ([Revelation 22:18-19](#)).

[Jeremiah 26:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² "Thus says the LORD, 'Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah who have come to worship *in* the LORD'S house all the words that I have commanded you to speak to them. Do not omit a word!

[Revelation 22:18-19 \(NASB\)](#)



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¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

9. The *very words* uttered by men in the Old Testament were considered to be God's words by the New Testament writers. It may be an academic option to deny that the Bible claims "**verbal inspiration**" for itself, but it is clearly not a biblical possibility.
10. *It is identified* with God's words. The words of the writers of Scripture are used interchangeably with what "**God said.**" This gives rise to the expression "**What Scripture says, God says.**" Sometimes the Old Testament gives what the human author said, and the New Testament quotes the statement as what "**God said.**" At other times the Old Testament records what "**God says**" and the New Testament quotes that text as what the human author says. Thus, what the author says and what God says are used interchangeably, as the following chart illustrates.

What Scripture Says, God Says

GOD SAYS ...

[Genesis 12:3](#)
[Exodus 9:16](#)

SCRIPTURE SAYS ...

[Galatians 3:8](#)
[Romans 9:17](#)

SCRIPTURE SAYS ...

[Genesis 2:24](#)
[Psalms 2:1](#)
[Psalms 2:7](#)
[Psalms 16:10](#)
[Psalms 95:7](#)
[Psalms 97:7](#)
[Psalms 104:4](#)
[Isaiah 55:3](#)

GOD SAYS ...

[Matthew 19:4-5](#)
[Acts 4:24-25](#)
[Hebrews 1:5](#)
[Acts 13:35](#)
[Hebrews 3:7](#)
[Hebrews 1:6](#)
[Hebrews 1:7](#)
[Acts 13:34](#)

It is unbreakable

Another biblical claim for inspiration is that the **written word is unbreakable, or infallible**. Jesus said to the Jews, to whom He had quoted from [Psalms 82](#), "Scripture cannot be broken" ([John 10:35](#)).

[Psalms 82:6](#) (NASB)

⁶ I said, "You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.



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John 10:34-35 (NASB)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"

³⁵ "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

Edward J. Young has put it,

"The force of his argument is very clear, and it may be paraphrased as follows: "what is stated in this verse from the psalms is true because this verse belongs to that body of writings known as Scripture, and the Scripture possesses an authority so absolute in character that *it cannot be broken*."

When Christ here employs the word Scripture, he has in mind, therefore, not a particular verse in the psalms, but rather the entire group of writings of which this one verse is a part."⁴

For Jesus, then, inspiration meant a divinely authoritative and *unbreakable writing*.