

Why Did God Give The Scriptures?

When the children of Israel were traveling through the wilderness, God gave them several vital blessings. The first was visual and its purpose was protection, geographical guidance, the Pillar of Fire and Cloud (Ex. 13:21). In the grace of God they were not redeemed and then left to find their own way to the promised inheritance. The other was the law of God which was for their moral guidance (Ex. 20:1-17). Note these were not all the laws. There were over six hundred of them, some given verbally by God to Moses (Ex. 25:1; 40:1; Lev. 4:1; 7:22 and another 104 verses). The law was given to them and told them what to do in the majority of cases. However, there was at least one situation of uncertainty, when the man gathered sticks on the Sabbath (Num. 15:32-36). The hesitancy was on the question, "Had the man broken the law" which said: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy? Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work" (Ex. 20:8-9), but was gathering sticks for a fire to keep warm or prepare a meal, breaking the Sabbath." For this situation God gave Moses through revelation the gift of wisdom so that the congregation knew what had to be done. God also gave them the Urim and Thummim (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21) for the gift of wisdom was not available in perpetuity.

God gave the scriptures for two basic foundational reasons.

- 1) On the lower level, they were given to answer man's God-given curiosity which inquired into questions such as:
 - a) Why am I here?
 - b) What is the purpose of life?
 - c) Where are my origins?
 - d) Why the diversity of life forms?
 - e) What am I?
 - f) Where is everything moving on to, for time emphatically reminds me that nothing stays the same?
- 2) On the higher level, there are many reasons why God gave the scriptures and the following are some of the major ones:
 - a) To unveil His:
 - i) Person by His names: "Adoni," normally translated "Lord" (Gen. 18:27); "Elohim," normally translated "God" (Gen. 1:1); and "Jehovah," normally translated "LORD" or "GOD" (Gen. 2:4).
 - ii) Purposes: Relative to men but principally for Christ (Psa. 2:6-9; Jer. 23:5-6)
 - iii) Power: He can create both inanimate and animate life forms (Gen. 1:1-26); or destroy creation (Gen. 7:19-21); secure man's life (Gen. 4:15), or slay him (Gen. 19:24; Jer. 32:27).
 - iv) Principles: "I am the LORD" (Ex. 20:2-17)
 - v) Prerogatives: (Gen. 2:18; 12:2; Ex. 23:23; Lev. 26:21, 22, 25, 28, 30, 31)
 - b) To provide a literary record which is unchangeable in contrast to the whims of men which are changeable (Isa. 40:8)
 - c) To reveal how sin came into the world and its effects (Rom. 5:12-19)
 - d) For our admonition and learning (1 Cor. 10:1-11)
 - e) For instruction on how to live godly lives (1 Tim. 3:14-15)
 - f) To give instructions how God's people were to maintain fellowship with Him (Lev. Chs. 1-6; 1 Jn. 1:7-9; 2:1-2)
 - g) To give understanding about the character of men who lead the people of God (Num. 1:5-15; they must have the right pedigree (Num. 1:18); and having this qualification they were chosen by God (Num. 1:5-16); they were renowned (Num. 1:16); they were princes among the people; Note: they did not become this after they were named (Num. 1:16); and those who were recognized heads among the people of God (Num. 1:16; Titus 1:5-9).
 - h) To give information on how man can be made righteous before God and the consequences of rejecting God's warnings and principles of living (Dan. 4:27, 29-33; Rom. 1:16-17; 19-31)

- i) To make man aware of how sinful he really is (Rom. 7:7-13)
- j) To be a schoolmaster to bring man to Christ (Gal. 3:19-24)
- k) To make the individual “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15)
- l) To provide us with written instructions to correct us doctrinally and practically (2 Tim. 3:16)
- m) To enable guidelines for spiritual maturing, and assuring us of the provision of God for our every spiritual need (1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Jn. 2:2).
- n) To enable us to overcome the wicked one by giving a record of what he is, his government, and how he functions (2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Jn. 2:14).
- o) Perhaps the greatest reason is to unfold to humanity His sovereign control in which He is letting things develop, accepting man’s rejection of Him, and all that is His and will ultimately bring man into judgment (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; Jn. 5:27).

The Descriptive Terms For The Scriptures

The scriptures are never called “the Bible” or “the Holy Bible.” These are the terms man gave to them. The word translated “Bible” simply meant “paper” or “scroll,” in time becoming the word for any book, and this possibly came from the Phoenician port called Byblos from where Egyptian papyrus was exported. The Christian use of the term can be traced to approximately 223 B.C. and F.F. Bruce suggests that Chrysostom was the first to write the word to describe both Old and New Testaments.

As books began to be written by Paul, there became two sets of “Holy Books,” the Jewish Holy writings (Genesis to Malachi) which were called “The Old Testament” and the Christian Church's Holy writings which were called the New Testament. The expression “New Testament” was originally “Novum Testamentum” and was first found in the writings of Tertulian 190-220 A.D. The full New Testament as we have it can be dated from the Council of Laodicea in 363 and the Council of Carthage in 397. By the end of the fourth century all the books we have were recognized as being from God. It was in the fourth century Jerome called these writings “The Divine Library” and due to change in language it became “the Biblia,” in our language, the Bible. Consequently, it has been called by that name ever since.

The descriptive terms God uses for the scriptures, either in entirety or sections are:

Term	Reference	Term	Reference
The book of the law of God	Josh. 24:26	The scripture of truth	Dan. 10:21
The book of the law of the Lord	2 Chron. 17:9	The Oracles of God	Rom. 3:2
The book of the law of Moses	Neh. 8:3	The Word of God	Heb. 4:12
The Book	Psa. 40:7	The Holy Scriptures	2 Tim. 3:15
The law of the Lord	Isa. 30:9	The word of truth	Jam. 1:18
The book of the Lord	Isa. 34:16	The Word	1 Pet. 2:2

The Bible
Why Did God Give The Scriptures and It's Descriptive Terms - Part 2

God's Word Pictures of The Scriptures

Picture	Reference	Picture	Reference
A lamp unto my feet	Psa. 119:105	As water to cleanse	Eph. 5:26
A light unto my path	Psa. 119:105	A sword that pierces	Heb. 4:12
A fire that consumes	Jer. 23:29	An engrafted word, seen as a branch	Jam. 1:21
A hammer that breaks	Jer. 23:29	As milk to nourish	1 Pet. 2:2
A seed that grows	Lk. 8:11		

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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