

# The Character of Scripture – Outline

## I. **Scripture's Introduction to Itself – Psalm 19**

### A. *The Revelation of God In Creation – v. 1-6*

#### 1. The Clarity of General Revelation – 1-2

- a. The twofold work of creation:
  - i. The telling of God's glory
  - ii. The proclamation of the work of His hands
- b. This is parallel to:
  - i. Daily pouring forth speech
  - ii. Nightly telling forth knowledge

#### 2. The Comprehension of General Revelation – 3-4

- a. The lack of literal speech
- b. The universal presence of a literal message

#### 3. The Power of General Revelation: Lessons from the Sun – 5-6

- a. Its majesty paralleled to a bridegroom and a strong man
- b. Its circuit is large and consistent
- c. Its heat is wide and unparalleled

### B. *The Revelation of God in Scripture – v. 7-11*

#### 1. What Scripture Is

- a. “The Law of the Lord is perfect” (7) – Scripture is Everything It Needs to Be
- b. “The Testimony of the Lord is sure” (7) – Scripture is Dependable
- c. “The Statutes of the Lord are right” (8) – Scripture is Accurate and True
- d. “The Commandment of the Lord is pure” (8) – Scripture is Without Defect (There is nothing that takes away from it's beautiful, God-breathed character)
- e. “The Fear of the Lord is clean” (9) – Scripture is Without Defilement or Error
- f. “The Judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” (9) – Scripture is Consistent With God's Character

#### 2. What Scripture Does

- a. Converts the Soul – Scripture Addresses the Inner Man – It is Powerful
- b. Makes the Simple Wise – Scripture Addresses the Mind – It is Practical
- c. Rejoices the Heart – Scripture Addresses the Heart – It is Edifying
- d. Enlightens the Eyes – Scripture Addresses the Sight – It is Spiritual
- e. Endures Forever – Scripture Addresses Human Inconsistency – It is Eternal

#### 3. Response

- a. It Enriches Me – “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold.”
- b. It Delights Me – “Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

#### 4. Reward

- a. What It Preserves Me From – “By them, Your servant is warned.”
- b. What It Brings Me To – “In keeping them there is great reward.”

### C. *The Revelation of God in Application – v. 12-14*

#### 1. Consciousness of Sin

- a. An understanding of his tendencies
- b. A desire to be free from sin
- c. An expectation toward innocence
- 2. Enjoyment of God
  - a. Desire toward proper praise – “the words of my mouth”
  - b. Desire toward considerate, heartfelt worship – “the meditation of my heart.”
  - c. Adherence to God's standard – “acceptable in Your sight.”
  - d. Appreciation of God's Being – “O Yahweh, my Rock, and my Redeemer.”

## II. **Scripture's Names For Itself**

### A. *Names Communicating Its Authority*

- 1. THE BOOK OF YAHWEH – “Seek out of the book of the LORD, and read...” (Isaiah 34:16)
- 2. THE BOOK OF THE LAW – “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” (Gal. 3:10)
- 3. LAW OF THE LORD – “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” (Psalm 1:2)
- 4. [GOD'S] LAW – “So shall I keep Your law continually for ever and ever.” (Psalm 119:44)
- 5. [GOD'S] PRECEPTS – “The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.” (Psalm 119:69)
- 6. [GOD'S] STATUTES – “I will keep Your statutes: O forsake me not utterly.” (Psalm 119:8)
- 7. [GOD'S] COMMANDMENTS – “LORD, I have hoped for Your salvation, and done Your commandments.” (Psalm 119:166)
- 8. [GOD'S] JUDGMENTS – “I will praise you with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned Your righteous judgments.” (Psalm 119:7)

### B. *Names Communicating Its Authenticity*

- 1. HOLY SCRIPTURES – “Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures.” (Romans 1:2)
- 2. ORACLES OF GOD – “Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.” (Romans 3:2)
- 3. WORD OF GOD – “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...” (Hebrews 4:12)
- 4. WORD OF CHRIST – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” (Colossians 3:16)
- 5. WORD OF TRUTH – “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” (James 1:18)
- 6. SCRIPTURES OF TRUTH – “But I will shew you that which is noted in the scripture of truth...” (Daniel 10:21)
- 7. TRUTH – “Sanctify them through Your truth: Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

### C. *Names Communicating Its Nature*

- 1. [GOD'S] TESTIMONIES – It is God's witness of Himself – “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.” (Psalm 119:2)

2. WORD OF LIFE – It is that which communicates life – “Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” (Philippians 2:16)
3. THE BURDEN OF THE LORD – It is a weighty message – “And the burden of the LORD shall you mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for you have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.” (Jeremiah 23:36)
4. [GOD'S] WAYS – It is God's prescribed pattern – “They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.” (Psalm 119:3)
5. THE BOOK – It is God's singular volume of His dealings – “Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do Your will, O my God: yea, Your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:7-8)
6. THE WORD – It is the embodiment God's message – “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2).
7. THE SCRIPTURES – The God-given written record of His dealings and message – “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3 cf. Romans 4:3)
8. THE PROPHECY – It is God speaking through men – “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:19-20)
9. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT – It is God's means of battle – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

### III. Features of the Scriptures

- A. *Christ-Centered* – “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” ... “Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (Luke 24:27,32; John 5:39)
- B. *A Thoroughly Spiritual and Spirit-taught Book* – “But the anointing which you have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, you shall abide in him.” (1 John 2:27)... “...the things that are freely given to us of God, which things also we speak [truth which we find in Scripture], not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth [truth of a higher order than man's mental compositions], but which the Holy Ghost teacheth [thoroughly Spirit-guided]; comparing spiritual things with spiritual [thoroughly spiritual in nature].” (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- C. *True and Accurate* – “He that believes on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)
- D. *Unbreakable and Permanent* – “...the Scripture cannot be broken [undone/set at naught].” ... “For ever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.” (John 10:35; Psalm 119:89)
- E. *Always Profitable* – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for

doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." ... "Do you think that the scripture says in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy? [The answer is no, because it is always profitable and purposeful.]" (2 Timothy 3:16; James 4:5)

- F. *The Substance of a Man's Preaching* – "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." ... "Preach the Word..." (Acts 8:35 / 2 Tim. 4:2)
- G. *The Content of God's Promises* – "Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures." (Romans 1:2)
- H. *The Believer's Source of Learning, Hope, and Comfort* – "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

#### IV. **Scripture's Metaphors/Comparisons of Itself**

- A. *A Seed: It Bears Fruit* – "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." (Luke 8:11)
- B. *Milk: It Nourishes* – "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2)
- C. *Meat: It Matures* – "But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- D. *Water: It Cleanses* – "Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word..." (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- E. *A Mirror: It Reflects* – "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass..." (James 1:23)
- F. *A Lamp: It Guides* – "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)
- G. *A Sword: It Pierces* – "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)
- H. *A Fire: It Consumes* – "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD..." (Jeremiah 23:29)
- I. *A Hammer: It Demolishes* – "...and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)
- J. *Gold: It Enriches* – "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold..." (Psalm 19:10)
- K. *Honey: It Delights* – "The Judgments of the Lord are... sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 19:10)
- L. *Silver: It Endures* – "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD, You will preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:6-7)