

The Scriptures are God's Perfect Word: The Foundation of *Bearing the Standard*

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The message of *Bearing the Standard* rests on the belief that the Scriptures¹ are the written revelation of God's Perfect Word. The Scriptures—in their original autographs and languages, and in every substantial respect of subsequent copies—are absolutely true, totally reliable, completely objective, and solely authoritative for all faith and practice for the follower of Yeshua (Jesus). This belief, stated as non-negotiable fact, is nevertheless a matter of faith, requiring spiritual revelation, personal experience with the text, and the internal testimony of Scripture to establish it. If, however, we can accept that the Scriptures are the very Word of God—encoded in the stuff of human language, transcribed into something we can grasp—then we can fully accept everything it says with complete confidence and conviction.

We can trust it, for example, when it says that life itself comes from the Word of God (**Matthew 4:1-4**), and that it is a light and a lamp (**Psalms 119:105**) to the feet of those who follow in its way. We can believe that the Word is the תורה, *Torah* of ADONAI (**Isaiah 2:3**)—the instructions and teachings for Israel—and the sayings of the Prophets who spoke by inspiration, moved by the Spirit of God (**Acts 28:25**). The Word is the Sword of the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**), separating spirit and soul, joint and marrow, discerning the thoughts of the heart (**Hebrews 4:12**). The Word is Truth (**Psalms 119:160, John 17:17**) and it is alive (**Hebrews 4:12**)—it is straight and upright (**Psalms 33:4**), never crooked in its ways. The Word is the very seed (**Luke 8:11**) of the Good News of the Messiah Yeshua; and more than that, it is the Messiah Himself—the Son, the Only Begotten One (**John 1:1ff**). This unbreakable Word—dictated by the mouth of God, inscribed by about forty human hands over a span of 1500 years—is preserved for us in the Scriptures of our faith. Indeed, the Master Yeshua Himself said,

“...having been written... the word of God came... and the Scripture is not able to be broken.”

JOHN 10:34-35

Consider Yeshua's own reliance upon and submission to the Scriptures:

- ▶ The Master often and explicitly pointed to Scripture as our source of authority, explanation, prophetic fulfillment, and power. (Matthew 21:42, 22:29, 26:54; Mark 12:10, 12:24, 14:49; Luke 4:17-21, 24:27; John 5:39, 7:28, 10:35, 13:38)
- ▶ He also regularly referred to the Scriptures to establish truth, fact, and fulfillment of prophecy, stating, “it is written.” (Matthew 4:4-10, 11:10, 21:13, 26:31; Mark 7:6, 11:17, 14:27; Luke 4:4-10, 7:27, 19:46, 22:37; John 6:31, 6:45, 8:17, 10:34, 15:25)

¹ Scripture, consisting of the Hebrew Scriptures—the “Old Testament”—and the Scriptures written in Greek—the “New Testament,” cf. Deuteronomy 18:18, 1Corinthians 2:10.

- ▶ Yeshua, by asking, “Have you not read?” often indicated in his debates and teaching that the truth could be determined simply by reading the Scriptures. (Matthew 12:3-5, 19:4, 21:16, 21:42, 22:31; Mark 2:25, 12:10, 12:26; Luke 6:3, 10:26, 20:17)
- ▶ The Master also believed the historical accounts recorded in Scripture—all the way back to creation itself—to be factually accurate and true (Matthew 12:40, 19:4-8, 24:37-39; Mark 10:6-8; Luke 11:49-51, 17:26-27; John 5:46)

Additionally, the Master Yeshua Himself establishes the Scriptures (represented by the threefold division of the Torah, Prophets and Psalms)² as the written revelation of Truth by pointing to their combined testimony of Him. Following His resurrection, Yeshua said to His disciples,

“...it [was] necessary for all the things that are written about Me in the תּוֹרָה, *Torah* of מֹשֶׁה, *Mosheh*, and the Prophets, and the Psalms to be fulfilled.” Then He opened up their understanding to understand the Scriptures... LUKE 24:44-45

Had the Master strayed from “all the things that are written” about Him in the Scriptures, or failed to fulfill them, His messianic calling *and claim* would have been nullified. Indeed, the disciples recognized Him as Messiah *because* of what the Scriptures say (**John 1:45, 2:17, 2:22, 12:16**). Only by the authority and truth of the written Word of God could Yeshua accomplish His work as Messiah.

The Spirit has been sent to us to “teach [us] all things” (**John 14:26**). Nevertheless, everything—including spiritual insights and experiences, which are naturally subjective—must be measured and verified by the *objective* standard of Scripture (which is, itself, spiritual, **Romans 7:14**). Without the Scriptures, we have no foundation for our faith and trust, and no banner under which we may rally and walk together as one. Indeed, as the Scriptures teach us in John 20:31, the written testimony of the Word of God is not only for our faith, but the very salvation of our lives.

And these [things] have been written [so] that you will believe that Yeshua is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that, believing, you will have Life in His Name.

The Scriptures—from Genesis to Revelation—are not a set of archaic, obsolete, powerless texts. On the contrary, speaking of the written Word of God, the Master Himself declared, “[U]ntil [the time] that the heaven and the earth pass away, not one yud [the smallest Hebrew letter] or one stroke [of the text] will pass away” (**Matthew 5:18**). The Scriptures *are* God’s perfect Word. If we truly believe in the One they proclaim, then we are obliged to honor and obey them—not merely with the intentions of our hearts, or the words of our lips, but with the very way we live our lives.

Every Scripture *is* God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for rebuke, for setting aright, for instruction that *is* in righteousness, that the man of God may be [fully] equipped—having been completed for every good work. 2TIMOTHY 3:16-17

² Yeshua clearly considers the “Old Testament” to be Scripture, but can the “New Testament” truly be called Scripture, too? Peter thinks so. He says in 2Peter 3:16 that Paul’s writings are twisted by people “as also the other Scriptures.”