

The Purpose of Scripture

2 Peter 1:16-21

- **The Bible provides the only rational explanation for the origin and existence of the universe, fully consistent with the reality we observe.**

- **The Bible is the inspired Word of God.**

The inspiration of Scripture is the supernatural work of God by which, through the Holy Spirit, He guided human authors so that the inspired texts they wrote are the true, authoritative, and inerrant Word of God, while fully preserving the personalities of the authors, their individual writing styles, and the historical context in which they lived.

- **The Bible speaks about salvation, grounded in real historical events.**

I. The Bible Is Historically Accurate

2 Pet. 1:16-18 For **we did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' **we ourselves heard** this very voice borne from heaven, **for we were with him on the holy mountain**.

2 Pet. 1:16 For **we did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**.

Cleverly devised myths - σεσοφισμένοις μύθοις from σοφίζω μῦθος

Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, **having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you**, most excellent Theophilus, **that you may have certainty** concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 2:1-2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Luke 2:3-4 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.

Luke 3:1-2 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

1 John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us

John 21:24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

Mat. 3:5-6 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

2 Sam. 24:9 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand.

John 20:30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Bible is a book that answers the essential questions of life, accurately reflecting reality, and is written in clear and understandable language consistent with the historical setting in which its events took place.

II. The Bible Is a Book That Gives Life

2 Pet. 1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, **to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 Pet. 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us **his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Scripture is the only means of the new birth, and without the new birth there is no salvation.

1 Pet. 1:23-25 Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.' And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

The Bible is a book designed to shine light into your world and transform your life.

- **God's Word is the source of salvation and eternal life.**

2 Tim. 3:15 And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

John 20:30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- **God's Word reveals the true nature of reality.**

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- **God's Word makes us capable of loving.**

1 Pet. 1:22-23 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

- **God's Word sanctifies the soul.**

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- **God's Word gives real freedom.**

John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

- **God's Word brings success.**

Josh. 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

The Bible is a book:

that answers the essential questions of life,
that accurately reflects reality,
that is written in clear and understandable language consistent with historical realities,
that shines light into your world,
that gives eternal, abundant life.

Questions for Prayerful Reflection

- What is your view of Scripture?
- Do you recognize its divine authority?
- Do you seek it as the light that guides the path of your life?
- Do you trust it to transform your life?