

Chapter 2: The Word of God

1. What two things are referred to as the "Word of God"?

a. "The Word of God" as a _____: Jesus Christ.

- (John 1:1; 1:14; 1 John 1:1; Revelation 19:13)

b. "The Word of God" as _____ by God.

• God's _____.

- Sometimes God's words take the form of powerful decrees that cause _____ to happen or even cause things to come into _____.
- **Genesis 1:3**
- All of the _____ world was put into place by _____ his powerful word.
- **Genesis 1:24**
- The whole world was _____ by the Word of God — by the _____ of his mouth.
- **Psalms 33:6**
- These powerful, creative words from God are often called God's _____.
- A decree of God is a word of God that causes something to happen.
- These decrees of God include not only the _____ of the original creation but also the continuing _____ of all things.
- **Hebrews 1:3a**

• God's Words of _____ Address.

- Personal address: When God communicates with people on earth by speaking _____ to them.
- God spoke directly to Adam: Genesis 2:16-17.
- God spoke directly to Adam and Eve after the fall: Genesis 3:16-19.
- God spoke directly to Moses in the giving of the Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-3.
- God spoke from heaven at the baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3:17.
- God's personal words of address are always seen in Scripture to be the actual words of God, they are also _____ words in that they are spoken in ordinary human language that is immediately understandable.
- The words always place an absolute _____ on the hearers to believe them and to obey them _____. To disbelieve or disobey any part of them is to disbelieve or disobey God himself.

• **God's Words as _____ Through Human Lips.**

- Frequently in Scripture God raises up prophets through whom he speaks.
 - **Deuteronomy 18:18-20**
 - **Jeremiah 1:9**
 - **Other passages:** (Jer. 1:7; Ex. 4:12; Num. 22:38; 1 Sam. 15:3, 18, 23; 1 Kings 20:36; 2 Chron. 20:20; 25:15-16; Isa. 30:12-14; Jer. 6:10-12; 36:29-31).
- Anyone who claimed to be speaking for the Lord but who had not received a message from him was severely _____ (Ezekiel 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 18:20-22).
- Thus God's words spoken through human lips were considered to be just as _____ and just as true as God's words of personal address.

• **God's Words in Written Form (the Bible)**

- The first of these is found in the narrative of the giving of the two tablets of stone on which were written the Ten Commandments.
 - **Exodus 31:18**
 - **Exodus 32:16**
- The writing of the Law.
 - **Deuteronomy 31:9-13**
- In the NT, Jesus promises his disciples that the Holy Spirit would bring to their _____ the words which he, Jesus, had spoken (John 14:26). Paul can say that the very words he writes to the Corinthians are "a command of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:2).

2. As Grudem considers speech by God, he mentions several things that the words of God do.

- There is a much more _____ preservation of God's words for subsequent generations.
- To depend on _____ and the repeating of oral tradition is a less reliable method of preserving these words throughout history than is their recording in _____.
- The opportunity for _____ inspection of words that are written down permits careful study and discussion, which leads to better _____ and more complete obedience.
- God's words in writing are _____ to many more people than they are when preserved merely through memory and oral repetition.
- They can be _____ at any time by any person and are not limited in accessibility to those who have memorized them or those who are able to be present when they are recited orally.

- Thus the reliability, permanence, and accessibility of the form in which God's words are preserved are all greatly _____ when they are written down. Yet there is no indication that their authority or truthfulness is _____.

3. What is the value of the written Word of God, the Bible?

- It is available for study, for public inspection, for repeated _____, and as a basis for mutual discussion.
- It tells us about and points us to the Word of God as a person, namely Jesus Christ, whom we do not now have _____ in bodily form on earth. Thus we are no longer able to observe and imitate his life and teachings _____.
- Important to note: God's words as spoken through human lips _____ to be given when the NT canon was completed.
- God commands us to study His Word.

- **Psalm 1:1-2**

- **Joshua 1:8**

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

- **Hebrews 4:12**