

Chapter 4: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (1) Authority

1. The Four Characteristics (attributes) of Scripture.

- a. The _____ of Scripture
- b. The _____ of Scripture
- c. The _____ of Scripture
- d. The _____ of Scripture

2. Define the authority of Scripture.

- a. The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's word in such a way that to _____ or _____ any word of Scripture is to _____ or _____ God.

3. What does the Bible claim when it uses phrases like "Thus says the LORD"?

- a. Matthew 4:4
- b. Jesus is saying that the words that proceed "from the mouth of God" are the _____ Scriptures of the OT.

4. How, according to Grudem, are we convinced of the Bible's claims to be God's words?

- a. Our ultimate _____ that the words of the Bible are God's words comes only when the Holy Spirit speaks in and through the words of the Bible to our hearts and gives us an inner _____ that these are the words of our Creator speaking to us.

— 1 Corinthians 2:14

— John 10:27

- b. The Bible is historically _____.
- c. It is _____ consistent.
- d. It contains _____ that have been fulfilled hundreds of years later.
- e. It has influenced the course of human history more than any other book.
- f. It has continued changing the lives of millions of individuals through its history, that through it people come to find _____.
- g. It has majestic beauty and a profound depth of teaching unmatched by any other book.
- h. It claims hundreds of times over to be God's very words.

5. How are the Words of Scripture Self-Attesting?

a. They cannot be "proved" to be God's words by appeal to any higher authority. For if an appeal to some higher authority (historical or logical consistency) were used to prove that the Bible is God's Word, then the Bible itself would not be our highest or _____ authority: it would be _____ in authority to the thing to which we appealed to prove it to be God's Word.

6. Is it a circular argument to claim the Words of Scripture to be self-attesting?

7. How then does a Christian, or anyone else, choose among the various claims for absolute authority?

a. Ultimately the _____ of the Bible will commend itself as being far more _____ than any other religious book.

8. The truthfulness of Scripture.

a. God cannot _____ or speak _____.

— Titus 1:2

— Hebrews 6:18

b. All the Words in Scripture are completely true and without _____ in any part.

— Psalm 12:6

— Proverbs 30:5

— God's word is _____ in heaven from all eternity ...

— Psalm 119:89

— Matthew 24:35

c. God's words are the ultimate _____ of Truth.

— John 17:17

— The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is the ultimate _____ of what is true and what is not true: God's Word is itself truth.