

The Effectual Working of the Word

I Thess 2:13

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Introduction

Let me begin by reminding you of a familiar statement that appears three times in the Bible. Once in Deuteronomy 8, once in Matthew 4, and a third time recorded in Luke 4, and this is that statement: **“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”** What kind of living are we talking about? What kind of life is in view? Well this refers to all of life, encompassing the spiritual life as well as the temporal, physical life.

In Psalm 1 we read, **“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night.”** In the 19th Psalm we read regarding the Scripture the words that are recorded there, **that they are more desirable than gold, yes**

than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

True believers know that it is the Word of God and the Word of God alone that keeps them alive and strong and produces blessing and joy and power and strength and effectiveness. On one occasion, in John chapter 6, a group of disciples abandoned Jesus after He had some hard things to say. And Jesus looked at those who remained and said, “Will you also go away?” And Peter gave the great response for those who remained, “To whom shall we go? You and You alone have the words of life.” We find our life in the Word of God. It is called the Word of Life. And those who are spiritually alive love the Word. They love to feed on the Word. They hunger for the Word of God because it alone provides the truth that brings them satisfaction.

Indifference to Scripture is not a mark of regeneration. Indifference to Scripture is not a mark of salvation. Indifference to Scripture is a mark of spiritual death. And I believe that in all generations, including this one, God’s true church, the genuinely redeemed, are desperately hungry for the truth. They want the Word fed to them. They want the Word taught to them, preached to them.

They want the Word explained to them with all its richness and depth. But that’s not what they get most of the time. Serious study of the Word of God, diligent hard labor in the text of Scripture in the original languages and racing throughout the *analogia scriptura*, the analogy of Scripture as it explains itself across the sixty-six books, the diligence required for that to bring

up the rich treasure is not the interest of most pop Christian personalities.

It was years ago that J I Packer characterized evangelicalism in a way that I found to be exactly the way it could be characterized today. Nothing much is changed in the several decades since he originally wrote this. This he wrote in the preface to a reprint of Richard Baxter's *Christian Directory*. This is what Packer said in characterizing evangelicalism. He said, "It is egocentric, zany, simplistic, degenerate, half-magic spell casting which is all the world sees when it watches religious television or looks directly at the professed evangelical community." Pretty strong language from an Anglican.

And he was saying all that because he was comparing it to this massive tome written by the Puritan Richard Baxter. It is well beyond a million words applying the Scripture to Christian living. He further said, "Baxter's work is a high level of intelligent Bible-based, theologically integrated wisdom with unflinching, unimpaired clarity that is dazzling to the mind."

R.C. Sproul suggests in a issue of *Table Talk* that our culture is embedded in proud mediocrity. We're mediocre and we're proud of it. There are still hard-working scholars, hard-working scholastic minds in science and technology and research of various kinds. There are still those who are applied to very formidable tasks and problems, and they make a tedious and long-term effort to solve whatever the problem is. But they're becoming more and more the exception.

We're not producing those kinds of people at the rate we used to in our educational system, because our culture has redefined education. The culture has, in general, settled for what is quick and what is cheap, junk music, junk art, junk literature, junk thinking. Our culture is far too easily satisfied, far too easily entertained. Excellence, truth and beauty, which used to be the

triad of human virtues, have been replaced by funny, cool and cute. And we get mediocrity by the boatload because we want it. Having welcomed it with open arms, we don't just accept mediocrity, we crave it. And accommodating the culture is the church.

Pastors now are more concerned about being funny and being cool and being okay. And they're committed to cleverness and creativity and style and not interested in the demanding rigors of searching the Word of God and proclaiming the depths of its glorious truths because they think the culture needs what the culture wants.

How far have we fallen? **J.I. Packer wrote another introduction...he writes a lot of them. This one was an introduction to *Puritan Theology*.**

He said this. *"It does not seem possible to deny that the Puritans were the strongest just where evangelical Christians today are the weakest. Here were men of outstanding intellectual power in whom the mental habits fostered by sober scholarship were linked with a flaming zeal for God and a minute acquaintance with the human heart. All their work reveals this unique fusion of gifts and graces. Where the Puritans called for order, discipline, depth and thoroughness, our temper is one of casual, haphazardness and restless impatience. "We crave for stunts, novelties and entertainments. We lost our taste for solid study, humble self-examination, disciplines, meditation and unspectacular hard work in our study.*

"Again, where Puritanism had God and His glory as its unifying center, our thinking revolves around ourselves as if we were the hub of the universe." And so he writes, "In evangelizing we preach the gospel without the Law and faith without repentance, stressing the gift of salvation and glossing over the cost of discipleship. No wonder so many professed conversions fall away. "And then," he writes, "in teaching on the Christian life, our habit is to depict it as a path of thrilling feelings rather than of

working faith and of supernatural interruptions, rather than of rational righteousness.

“And in dealing with the Christian experience, we dwell constantly on joy, peace, happiness, satisfaction and rest with no balancing reference to the divine discontent of Romans 7, the fight of faith in Psalm 73, or any of the burdens of responsibility and providential chastenings that fall to the lot of the child of God.

Even within the mainstream of traditional and historical Christianity those people who question the truthfulness of Scripture. For example, a poll of Protestant clergymen recently was conducted by sociologist Jeffrey Hayden. He surveyed 10,000 clergymen of whom 7,441 replied. The questions he asked them were questions like this, for example:

Do you accept Jesus' physical resurrection as a fact? Fifty-one percent of Methodists said no. Thirty-five percent of United Presbyterian said no. Thirty percent of Episcopalians said no. Thirty-three percent of American Baptist said no. Thirteen percent of American Lutheran said no. And seven percent of Missouri Synod Lutheran said no.

When asked if they believed that the Scriptures are the inspired and inerrant **Word** of God, 87 percent of Methodists said no. Ninety-five percent of Episcopalians said no. Eighty-two percent of Presbyterians said no. Sixty-seven percent of American Baptists said no. Seventy-seven percent of American Lutherans said no. And 24 percent of the Missouri Synod Lutherans said no.

We have no doubt entered into a time of judgement of God on a Nation that has rejected The Word of God. and MORE Sobering a Church that has rejected the Word of God.

Amos 8:11 “ ‘For behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord God, ‘when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord. And people will stagger from sea to sea – ’ from the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, to the Mediterranean – ‘east to west, and from the north even to the east, and they will go to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord but they will not find it.’ ”

Boy, that is so relevant. A famine of the Word of the Lord. They will seek it and they will not find it. This is a divine judgment on people who refuse to hear it when they had it. Eight centuries before Christ the northern kingdom, Israel, is confident, actually smug, feeling good. They shouldn't have. Morals had crashed. Read the whole prophecy of Amos; it's all there. Morals had crashed, honesty was gone, abuse of the poor was common, the upper class was vile. But money was plenty, prosperity was widespread and they were engaged in worship.

This is so characteristic of the day we live in

It is no wonder that we find Paul constantly thanking God for the reception of the Word of God by the Thessalonians. It is truly a supernatural event when the Word is received.

Paul finds the the reception by the Thessalonians praiseworthy for 3 Reasons

1. *The Reception of the Word*
2. *The Reality of the Word*
3. *The Result of the Word*

I. The Reception of the Word

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us you welcomed *it*.....

received

paralambanó: to receive from

Original Word: παραλαμβάνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: paralambanó

Phonetic Spelling: (par-al-am-ban'-o)

Short Definition: I take, receive

Definition: I take from, receive from, or: I take to, receive (apparently not used of money), admit, acknowledge; I take with me.

HELPS Word-studies

3880 *paralambánō* (from **3844** /*pará*, "from close-alongside" and **2983** /*lambánō*, "aggressively take") – to take (receive) by showing strong *personal initiative*.

welcomed

dechomai: to receive

Original Word: δέχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dechomai

Phonetic Spelling: (dekh'-om-ahee)

Short Definition: I take, receive, accept, welcome

Definition: I take, receive, accept, welcome.

HELPS Word-studies

1209 *déxomai* – properly, to *receive* in a *welcoming* (*receptive*) way. **1209** (*déxomai*) is used of people *welcoming* God (His offers), like receiving and sharing in His salvation (1 Thes 2:13) and thoughts (Eph 6:17).

1209/*dexomai* ("warmly receptive, welcoming") means receive with "ready reception what is offered" (Vine, Unger, White, *NT*, 7), i.e. "welcome with appropriate reception" (Thayer).

Paralambano pictures an objective, outward receiving whereas **dechomai** pictures an acceptance with approval or welcoming and denotes a more subjective reception. **Paralambano** looks to the content of that which is received, whereas **dechomai** implies a favorable evaluation of that which is accepted. In other words the Thessalonians not only heard and intellectually understood the message (*paralambano*) but they also appropriated and welcomed it (*dechomai*) into their hearts.

Dechomai means to accept with a deliberate and ready reception of what is offered, to receive kindly and so to take to oneself what is presented or brought by another. It means to welcome as a teacher, a friend, or a guest into one's house. The word describes accepting persons with open arms, minds, and hearts, even going beyond normally expected gracious hospitality. The term was often used of welcoming honored guests and meeting their needs with special attention and kindness.

This reception is not a natural thing. Men and Women do not naturally accept, receive or believe the Bible. It is not a matter of academics, intellectual capacity, or spiritual heritage.

Men are naturally unwilling and unable to receive the word.

A. UNWILLING

1. Men Suppress the truth
Romans 1:18
2. Men are Willfully ignorant 2 Peter 3:5

When people reject the Bible's historical accounts of Creation and a global Flood, for example, Peter says they are "willfully" ignorant ([2 Peter 3:5](#)). It's not a matter of evidence; they just don't want to be convinced.

God tells us in bold terms the root problem. It's not the nonbelievers' view of the Book; it's their view of the Author. They have rejected the God of the Bible even before they begin to consider whether His Word could be true.

B. Unable

2 Cor 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Matt. 13:11,13-15

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

*‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

¹⁵ *For the hearts of this people have grown dull.*

Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.’

[John 8:43](#)

⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

[Romans 8:6](#)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

II. The Reality of the Word

“not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God,”

2 Tim. 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:16

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

1 Manuscript Evidence. There are way more copies of the biblical manuscripts, with remarkable consistency between them, than there are for any of the classics like

Plato, Aristotle and Socrates. "There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament." F.F. Bruce, [*The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*](#)

- 2 Archaeological Evidence.** Again and again archaeological discoveries have verified the accuracy of the historical and cultural references in the Bible. The more they dig, the more it confirms the Bible. "It is important to note that Near Eastern archaeology has demonstrated the historical and geographical reliability of the Bible in many important areas." E.M. Blaiklock, [*The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*](#).
- 3 Eyewitness Accounts.** The Bible was written by people who witnessed the events it describes; many were persecuted or martyred but never changed their story. Would you die for something you knew was untrue? "It is no moderate approbation of Scripture that it has been sealed by the blood of so many witnesses, especially when we reflect that they died to render testimony to the faith ...with a firm and constant, yet sober, zeal toward God." John Calvin, [*Institutes of the Christian Religion*](#).
- 4 Corroborating Accounts.** There are plenty of references in non-biblical sources to the events described in the Bible. The Jewish historian Josephus, born in 37 AD, "provide(s) indispensable background material for the student of...New Testament history. In them, we meet many figures well known to us from the New Testament. Some of his writings provide direct commentary on New Testament references." J.D. Douglas, ed., [*The New Bible Dictionary*](#).
- 5 Literary Consistency.** The Bible contains 66 books written over 1,500 years by 40 different writers but it tells one "big story" of God's plan of salvation that culminated in Jesus Christ. You can't even pass a secret

around a circle of 12 people and get the same message at the end. "There is indeed a wide variety of human authors and themes (in the Bible). Yet behind these... there lies a single divine author with a single unifying theme." John R.W. Stott, [*Understanding the Bible*](#).

- 6 Prophetic Consistency.** There are over 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. "The very dimension of the sheer fulfillment of prophecy of the Old Testament Scriptures should be enough to convince anyone that we are dealing with a supernatural piece of literature....God has himself planted within the scriptures an internal consistency that bears witness that this is his Word." R.C. Sproul, [*Now That's a Good Question*](#).
- 7 Expert Scrutiny.** The early church had extremely high standards for what books were judged to be authentic and therefore included in the Bible. A book had to have been written by an Apostle or someone in their immediate circle, had to conform to basic Christian faith and had to be in widespread use among many churches. This was a careful process of "the people of God in many different places, coming to recognize what other believers elsewhere found to be true"; these writings were truly God's word. G.J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson and R.T. France, [*The New Bible Commentary*](#).
- 8 Leader Acceptance.** A majority of the greatest leaders and thinkers in history have affirmed the truth and impact of the Bible. "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong." [*Abraham Lincoln*](#).
- 9 Global Influence.** The Bible has had a greater influence on the laws, art, ethics, music and literature of world civilization than any other book in history. Can

you think of one that even comes close? “Christianity”, as set forth in the Bible “is responsible for a disproportionately large number of the humanitarian advances in the history of civilization—in education, medicine, law, the fine arts, working for human rights and even in the natural sciences....” Craig L. Blomberg, in [*Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*](#).

10 Changed Lives. From St. Augustine to Martin Luther to Joni Eareckson Tada to countless everyday men, women and children, the words of the Bible have transformed lives unmistakably and forever. “As unnamed masses of Christians down through the ages have shown us, the Bible is the most reliable place to turn for finding the key to a life of love and good works.” T.M. Moore, [*The Case for the Bible*](#).

11. Science

Science and the Bible

The Bible is not a science book, yet it is scientifically accurate. We are not aware of *any* scientific evidence that contradicts the Bible. We have listed statements on this page that are consistent with known scientific facts. Many of them were listed in the Bible hundreds or even thousands of years before being recorded elsewhere. Many concepts and notes on this page are adapted from ideas and statements that appear in *The DEFENDER’S Study Bible*.

Statements Consistent With Paleontology

- Dinosaurs are referred to in several Bible books. The book of Job describes two dinosaurs. One is described in chapter 40 starting at verse 15, and the other in chapter 41 starting at verse 1. We think you will agree that 1½ chapters about dinosaurs is a lot—since

most people do not even realize that they are mentioned in the Bible. (Actually *reading* the Bible would help, though.)

Statements Consistent With Astronomy

- The Bible frequently refers to the great number of stars in the heavens. Here are two examples.
- - 1 Genesis 22:17
 - 2 Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.
- - 1 Jeremiah 33:22
 - 2 “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.”
- Even today, scientists admit that they do not know how many stars there are. Only about 3,000 can be seen with the naked eye. We have seen *estimates* of 10^{21} stars—which is a lot of stars. (The number of grains of sand on the earth’s seashores is estimated to be 10^{25} . As scientists discover more stars, wouldn’t it be interesting to discover that these two numbers match?)
- The Bible also says that each star is unique.
- - 1 1 Corinthians 15:41
 - 2 *There is one* glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.
- All stars look alike to the naked eye.* Even when seen through a telescope, they seem to be just points of light. However, analysis of their light spectra reveals that each is unique and different from all others.[1] (*Note: We understand that people can perceive some slight difference in color and apparent brightness when looking at stars with the naked eye, but we would not expect a person living in the first century A.D. to claim they differ from one another.)
- The Bible describes the precision of movement in the universe.
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1 Jeremiah 31:35,36
2 Thus says the LORD,
3 Who gives the sun for a light by day,
4 The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night,
5 Who disturbs the sea,
6 And its waves roar
7 (The LORD of hosts *is* His name):
8 “If those ordinances depart
9 From before Me, says the LORD,
10 *Then* the seed of Israel shall also cease
11 From being a nation before Me forever.”

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- The Bible describes the suspension of the Earth in space.
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1 Job 26:7
2 He stretches out the north over empty space;
3 *He* hangs the earth on nothing.

Statements Consistent With Meteorology

- The Bible describes the circulation of the atmosphere.
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1 Ecclesiastes 1:6
2 The wind goes toward the south,
3 And turns around to the north;
4 The wind whirls about continually,
5 And comes again on its circuit.

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- The Bible includes some principles of fluid dynamics.
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1 Job 28:25
2 To establish a weight for the wind,
3 And apportion the waters by measure.

- The fact that air has *weight* was proven scientifically only about 300 years ago. The relative weights of air and water are needed for the efficient functioning of the world’s hydrologic cycle, which in turn sustains life on the earth. (If you are a physics enthusiast,

please ignore our omission of the terms mass, gravity, and density from this comment.)

Statements Consistent With Biology

- The book of Leviticus (written prior to 1400 BC) describes the value of blood.
- - 1 Leviticus 17:11
 - 2 ‘For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.’
- The blood carries water and nourishment to every cell, maintains the body’s temperature, and removes the waste material of the body’s cells. The blood also carries oxygen from the lungs throughout the body. In 1616, William Harvey discovered that blood circulation is the key factor in physical life—confirming what the Bible revealed 3,000 years earlier.
- The Bible describes biogenesis (the development of living organisms from other living organisms) and the stability of each kind of living organism.
- - 1 Genesis 1:11,12
 - 2 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
- - 1 Genesis 1:21
 - 2 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
- - 1 Genesis 1:25
 - 2 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.

- The phrase “according to its kind” occurs repeatedly, stressing the reproductive integrity of each kind of animal and plant. Today we know this occurs because all of these reproductive systems are programmed by their genetic codes.
- The Bible describes the chemical nature of flesh.
 - 1 Genesis 2:7
 - 2 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- - 1 Genesis 3:19
 - 2 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
 - 3 Till you return to the ground,
 - 4 For out of it you were taken;
 - 5 For dust you *are*,
 - 6 And to dust you shall return.
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- It is a proven fact that a person’s mental and spiritual health is strongly correlated with physical health. The Bible revealed this to us with these statements (and others) written by King Solomon about 950 BC.
- - 1 Proverbs 12:4
 - 2 An excellent wife *is* the crown of her husband,
 - 3 But she who causes shame *is* like rotteness in his bones.
- - 1 Proverbs 14:30
 - 2 A sound heart *is* life to the body,
 - 3 But envy *is* rotteness to the bones.
- - 1 Proverbs 15:30
 - 2 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
 - 3 *And* a good report makes the bones healthy.
- - 1 Proverbs 16:24
 - 2 Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb,
 - 3 Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.
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- 1 Proverbs 17:22
- 2 A merry heart does good, *like* medicine,
- 3 But a broken spirit dries the bones.

Statements Consistent With Anthropology

- We have cave paintings and other evidence that people inhabited caves. The Bible also describes cave men.
- - 1 Job 30:5,6
 - 2 They were driven out from among *men*,
 - 3 They shouted at them as *at* a thief.
 - 4 *They had* to live in the clefts of the valleys,
 - 5 *In* caves of the earth and the rocks.
- Note that these were not ape-men, but descendants of those who scattered from Babel. They were driven from the community by those tribes who competed successfully for the more desirable regions of the earth. Then for some reason they deteriorated mentally, physically, and spiritually.[1] (Go into a bad part of your town and you will see this concept in action today.)

Statements Consistent With Hydrology

- The bible includes reasonably complete descriptions of the hydrologic cycle.
- - 1 Psalms 135:7
 - 2 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth;
 - 3 He makes lightning for the rain;
 - 4 He brings the wind out of His treasuries.
- - 1 Jeremiah 10:13
 - 2 When He utters His voice,
 - 3 *There is* a multitude of waters in the heavens:
 - 4 “And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth.
 - 5 He makes lightning for the rain,
 - 6 He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”
- In these verses you can see several phases of the hydrologic cycle —the worldwide processes of evaporation, translation aloft by

atmospheric circulation, condensation with electrical discharges, and precipitation.

1 Job 36:27-29

2 For He draws up drops of water,

3 Which distill as rain from the mist,

4 Which the clouds drop down

5 *And* pour abundantly on man.

6 Indeed, can *anyone* understand the spreading of clouds,

7 The thunder from His canopy?

- This simple verse has remarkable scientific insight. The drops of water which eventually pour down as rain first become vapor and then condense to tiny liquid water droplets in the clouds. These finally coalesce into drops large enough to overcome the updrafts that suspend them in the air.
- The Bible describes the recirculation of water.

1 Ecclesiastes 1:7

2 All the rivers run into the sea,

3 Yet the sea *is* not full;

4 To the place from which the rivers come,

5 There they return again.

1 Isaiah 55:10

2 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,

3 And do not return there,

4 But water the earth,

5 And make it bring forth and bud,

6 That it may give seed to the sower

7 And bread to the eater,

- The Bible refers to the surprising amount of water that can be held as condensation in clouds.

1 Job 26:8

2 He binds up the water in His thick clouds,

3 Yet the clouds are not broken under it.

1 Job 37:11

- 2 Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds;
- 3 He scatters His bright clouds.

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- Hydrothermal vents are described in two books of the Bible written before 1400BC—more than 3,000 years before their discovery by science.

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- 1 Genesis 7:11
- 2 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

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- 1 Job 38:16
- 2 Have you entered the springs of the sea?
- 3 Or have you walked in search of the depths?

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Statements Consistent With Geology

- The Bible describes the Earth's crust (along with a comment on astronomy).

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- 1 Jeremiah 31:37
- 2 Thus says the LORD:
- 3 "If heaven above can be measured,
- 4 And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath,
- 5 I will also cast off all the seed of Israel
- 6 For all that they have done, says the LORD."

- Although some scientists claim that they have now measured the size of the universe, it is interesting to note that every human attempt to drill through the earth's crust to the plastic mantle beneath has, thus far, ended in failure.

- The Bible described the shape of the earth centuries before people thought that the earth was spherical.

- 1 Isaiah 40:22
- 2 *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth,
- 3 And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers,
- 4 Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
- 5 And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

- The word translated “circle” here is the Hebrew word **chuwg** which is also translated “circuit,” or “compass” (depending on the context). That is, it indicates something spherical, rounded, or arched—not something that is flat or square.

The book of Isaiah was written sometime between 740 and 680 BC. This is at least 300 years before Aristotle suggested that the earth might be a sphere in this book *On the Heavens*.

This brings up an important historical note related to this topic. Many people are aware of the conflict between Galileo and the Roman Catholic Pope, Paul V. After publishing *A Dialogue on the Two Principal Systems of the World*, Galileo was summoned to Rome, where he was forced to renounce his findings. (At that time, “theologians” of the Roman Catholic Church maintained that the Earth was the center of the universe, and to assert otherwise was deemed heretical.)

We could not find any place in the Bible that claims that the Earth is flat, or that it is the center of the universe. History shows that this conflict, which took place at the time of the Inquisition, was part of a power struggle. As a result, scientific *and* biblical knowledge became casualties—an effect we still feel to this day.

Statements Consistent With Physics

- The Bible suggests the presence of nuclear processes like those we associate with nuclear weaponry. This is certainly not something that could have been explained in 67 AD using known scientific principles (when Peter wrote the following verse).
- - 1 [2 Peter 3:10](#)
 - 2 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
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- The television is a practical (if not always worthwhile 😊) device that uses electromagnetic waves (which transmit its video signal). The Bible contains passages that describe something like television

—something that allows everyone on earth see a single event.
(Note: such passages typically refer to the end of time. It may not be long before *all* of us learn *for sure* whether the Bible is true or not.)

1 Matthew 24:30

2 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

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1 Revelation 11:9-11

2 Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

Things In The Bible That Science Can Not Explain

The purpose of this page is *not* to explain what a great science text the Bible is, but to show that it is consistent with scientific facts. Still, the Bible mentions some things that we can not explain. Yet, if God is really God, He should have the ability to do some things we can not explain. In the last 100 years (and especially in the last ten) scientists discovered many proofs that confirm the Bible's accuracy. Since these proofs support the accuracy of the text we can understand scientifically, it makes sense to trust the Bible's text that we can not yet understand. (For example, how many people knew what hydrothermal vents were 30 years ago?)

Voddie Bauchman

I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses.

They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin. (see 2 Peter 1:16-21)

III. The Result

“which also effectively works in you who believe.”

effectively works

energeó: to be at work, to work, to do

Original Word: ἐνεργέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: energeó

Phonetic Spelling: (en-erg-eh'-o)

Short Definition: I work, accomplish, am operative

Definition: I work, am operative, am at work, am made to work, accomplish; mid: I work, display activity.

HELPS Word-studies

1754 *energéō* (from **1722** /en, "engaged in," which intensifies **2041** /érgon, "work") – properly, energize, working *in* a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current *energizing* a wire, bringing it to a *shining light bulb*.

I might ask the question...how does it work? What specifically?
Well, let me just give you a little list, Here is what the Word does

in you and in any believer. By the way, I might add that note, it performs its work only in you who are believing, only in believers. It doesn't work in the unbeliever. The only thing the Word will do in the unbeliever is...what?...convict. But in the believer it is performing glorious things.

For example,

it saves us

"You have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but unperishable," **1 Peter 1:23** says. "That is through the living and abiding Word of God." **James 1:18**, "He brought us forth by His Word."

it blesses us.

Luke 11:28, "Blessed is the one who hears the Word of God and obeys it."

.It teaches us,

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for teaching."

It also reproves us. "It is profitable for reproof."

It also corrects us. "It is profitable for correction."

It also trains us in righteousness. "It is profitable for training in righteousness."

It also perfects and equips us

that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

guides us.

Psalms 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light to my path."

It counsels us.

Psalm 119:24, "Thy testimonies also are my delight, they are my counselors."

It revives us.

Psalm 119:154 says, "Revive me according to Thy Word."

It makes us fruitful.

Colossians 1 says, "The Word of truth which has come to you is constantly bearing fruit...constantly bearing fruit."

It grows us up.

I Peter says, "We're to long for the pure milk of the Word whereby we grow."

It warns us.

Psalm 19:11, "By the Word Thy servant is warned."

It rewards us. "In keeping them there is great reward," same verse.

The Word of God works in us to judge us.

Hebrews 4:12 says, "That it pierces as far as the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

It sanctifies us.

John 17:17, Jesus prayed that marvelous prayer, "Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy Word is truth."

It purges us.

John 15:3, "We are cleansed by the Word."

It frees us. J

John 8, "The truth shall make you free, **John 8:31** and **32**

It enriches us. "Let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you leading to all wisdom, teaching, admonishments, psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, thanksgiving."

It gives us joy.

John writes, "These things that are joy might be full," **1 John 1:4.**

It protects us. "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." Psm

It strengthens us

Psalm 119:28, "My soul weeps because of grief, strengthen me according to Thy Word."

It makes us wise.

Psalm 119:97 to 100, "O how I love Thy law, it is my meditation all the day, Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged because I have observed Thy precepts, yes it makes us wise."

It prospers us.

"The man who is in the Word will be like," says the psalmist in Psalm 1, "a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yield its fruit in a season and its leaf does not wither and whatever he does he prospers."

In Joshua it says in chapter 1 verses 8 and 9, "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, 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." You will have success.

it gives us hope.

Psalm 119:147, "I have hope in Thy Word."

And that is not an exhaustive list. The Word performs. It does work in us. Just to be reminded, it saves us, blesses us, teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us, perfects and equips us, guides us, counsels us, revives us, makes us fruitful, grows us up, warns us, rewards us, nourishes us, prospers us, gives us hope.

The psalmist may have well summarized it all in the magnificent **words of Psalm 19 in which he says,**

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true, they produce comprehensive righteousness."