

The Incarnate & the Inspired Word – chapter 4

- Is the Bible the Word of God or does it contain the Word of God?
- Why is this distinction important?

>>Jesus enunciated the Word of God in His preaching.¹

>>Philip preached Christ in Samaria and the apostles discovered that the Word of God had been received there (Acts 8:5, 14).²

>>Paul affirmed his preaching was the Word of God, not man.³

“The Incarnate Word and the Inspired Word are inseparable.”⁴

Christ	The Bible
Divine, eternal, (Jn. 1:1) Author of written revelation (1 Pet 1:11; Rev. 19:10), named the “Word of God” (Jn. 1; Rev. 19:13).	Divine, eternal (Ps. 119:89); mystery of revelation laid hid in God (Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:26-27).
Conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).	God-breathed (inspired by God) [2 Tim. 3:16] carried along/moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:21)
“The Divine and eternal Christ became human, visible, and accessible to men, (John 1:14).” ⁵ He was humbled in order to make the revelation known to humanity, in a way we could understand, (Phil. 2:7; John 7:15; Luke 10:21)	“The unsearchable thoughts of the Ruler of the universe have been expressed in our earthly language: the Word of God became the human word, (Is. 55:8-9)...It deliberately addresses itself to the humble to reveal them the glories of the Lord, (1 Cor. 2:4-10). ⁶
Voluntarily humbled, limited by physical body, progressive development, human birth, locality, and cultural context, (Phil. 2:5-8).	Accommodates itself to human comprehension, only partial revelation (1 Cor. 13:12), slowly developed (Gen-Rev), difficult to understand/interpret, primarily Jewish.
fully man yet perfect, w/o sin (Jn. 8:46; Heb. 2:17; 4:15), omniscient (Jn. 4:16-19*), true (14:6), and omnipotent (11:44).	Truth (Jn 17:17; Ps. 19:8; 119:142, 160). Living, active, sharper than 2-edged sword...discern the thought and intents of the heart, (Heb. 4:12). Fully human and divinely inspired.
Unique authority (Mk. 1:22; Jn. 7:46).	Unique authority (Is. 1:2) OT affirms 3,808x that it is transmitting the very words of God.

¹ Ibid, 35. [cf. Luke 5:1]

² Ibid 35.

³ Ibid, 35. [cf. 1 Thess. 2:13]

⁴ Ibid, 35. [cf. Heb. 10:5-7].

⁵ Ibid, 36.

⁶ Ibid, 36.

*This citation may be disputed as to the evidence of Jesus’ omniscience.

Betrayed/rejected: by His own (Jn. 1:11-12; 7:5), by religious leaders (7:48). Men loved darkness more than light because of their evil deeds (4:19; 7:7). Crucified because He affirmed His Divinity (19:7). Accused of ambiguity & lying (10:24; 8:13).	Detested and rebelled against more than any other book. Fiercely opposed, torn to pieces, burned (Jer. 36:23), and forbidden. "Men cannot endure its claim to be the Word of God, having authority to govern their lives." ⁷ Men claim it to be ambiguously divine and untruthful in its testimony about itself.
Portrayed as victor over enemies, light of the world, living bread from heaven (Jn. 8:12; 6:51). Regenerates, gives life eternal (5:24; 10:28), from His mouth proceeds the sharp 2-edged sword of His sovereign word (Rev. 1:16; 19:15). He is the Judge and Savior of the world (Acts 10:42; 1 Tim. 4:10).	Triumphs over enemies, always living and relevant. Light on our path (Ps 119:105); Man does not live by bread alone, but by every <i>word</i> that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Mttw. 4:4). Living, permanent Word of God regenerates and saves (1 Pet 1:23; James 1:21). It is the 2-edged sword which penetrates and reaches to the depths of our lives (Heb. 4:12). Will judge the unbeliever in the last day (Jn. 12:48).
Only acknowledged for who He is through faith, (Jn. 11:40; 20:27-28).	Only useful and accessible to believers (Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 3:14-16).
Bears witness to the scriptures (Mttw. 4:4; 5:17-18; Jn. 10:35).	Bear witness to Christ, (1 Pet 1:10-12; Lk 24:27, 44).
Alone makes known the Father (Jn 1:18; 14:9, 6). When He speaks, it is God who speaks, requiring our absolute faith and obedience (8:28, 24).	Alone brings the full revelation of the Father and of the Son, (Jn. 5:39). When the written revelation speaks it is the Word of the Father and of the Son and demands of us unreserved faith and obedience, (Rev. 1:3; 22:18-19).

Human attitude in regard to the Written Word determined by our attitude concerning the Living Word:

By hardening their hearts and shutting out Jesus Christ:	men cannot see nor understand the revelation, (Jn. 12:37-41) the Word does not penetrate into them (8:37, 43), & the Bible remains a sealed book which condemns their sealed hearts (Is. 29:11; Jer. 6:10).
It is impossible to claim belief in the scriptures and not in Christ, for they bear witness of Him, (Jn 5:39-40).	One who doubts the scriptures could not maintain faith in Christ, who constantly confirmed them, (Jn. 5:46-47).
When we listen to the message of Christ:	The scriptures convince us of their truth (Acts 17:2-3, 11; 18:28).
When hearts are converted to Christ:	The OT and the whole Bible shine forth as the veil is lifted (2 Cor. 3:15-16)

⁷ Ibid, 37.

When we obey Christ:	The Word of truth sanctifies us, (Jn. 17:6, 17).
If we preach Christ:	The scriptures are our authority (Acts 2:17, 25, 31, 34-35; 3:18; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, etc.)
If we love Christ:	His Word fills us with joy, strength, and comfort (Jn. 14:23; 15:9-11; Jer. 15:16).

(adopted from Pache, pp. 35-40).