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TESE be the words which Mō's in incredulity and disobedience.

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B. C. 1451. time, saying, I you myself, I along you, saying, I along you myself, I along you, say and multitude. this day as the last you as he has you as he has you.

## **BIBLE AUTHORITY**

How established, How applied

**By Frank Jamerson** 

# BIBLE AUTHORITY How Established, How Applied

by Frank Jamerson

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#### **Principles of Bible Study**

Lesson 1

The first lesson will be a study of how to learn. These principles are true of Bible study as well as any other subjects.

#### A. Motivation:

- 1. It is difficult to study when you see no purpose for learning the information.
- 2. Ezra understood the importance of motivation, Ezra 7:10.
- 3. Some false motives:
  - a. Do not want the truth, Matthew 13:14, 15; 2 Corinthians 4:2-4.
  - b. Want to believe or defend error, 2 Timothy 4:1-4.
  - c. Want to follow men because we like them, 1 Corinthians 4:1-6.
- 4. Some good motives:
  - a. Love for God's word, Psalm 119:1-9, 97-104.
  - b. Desire to make personal application, Ezra 7:10; John 8:47-52; James 1:22-25.
  - c. Desire to teach others, Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 5:12.
  - d. Desire to defend what you believe, 1 Peter 3:15.

#### B Reaction:

- 1. A reaction is a response to a stimulus. (If you are stuck with a pin, you react!)
- 2. We do not learn simply by letting information pass through the mind. Our minds must be active thinking of the connection with other truths, how it applies to our own lives or to what others believe or practice, Acts 2:37; 7:54.

#### C Concentration:

- 1. Some do not know how to concentrate (focus the mind).
- 2. Proper motivation as well as physical surroundings are important, Psalm 1:1-2.
- 3. Plan a certain time for Bible study (about 30 minutes is a good length of time).

#### The Basis for Obedience

#### D. Organization:

- 1. It helps to see the overall picture of what you are studying.
- 2. Learn to scan the highlights of a book or chapter; listen for the main points of a sermon. (Look at Stephen's sermon in Acts 7 for an overview of Jewish history.)
- 3. This quarter learn the books of the Bible by organizing and memorizing books and learning the main lessons in each section of Scripture.

#### E. Comprehension:

- 1. When you understand what you are hearing or reading, you can express it in your own words. (Repeating the words of others does not mean that you understand.)
- 2. Notice the question Philip asked the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-31.
- 3. As you study, make notes, highlight, outline, or summarize what you are studying.
- 4. Discussing it with others is very helpful in getting the proper understanding.

#### F. Repetition:

- 1. Time should be spent in review. If you do not use it, you lose it!
- 2. God gave us four accounts of the life of Christ. (Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic.)
- 3. We need to be reminded of things we have heard before, Philippians 3:1; 2 Peter 3:1.

#### STUDY QUESTIONS:

<ol> <li>Why did Ezra want to learn God's word</li> </ol>	1.	Why did	d Ezra	want to	learn	God's	word
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2. Give three motives that keep people from learning the truth.

#### Studying Bible Authority...

3.	List some good motivations for study of God's word.
4.	Give two reactions people may have toward the truth.
5.	What are some things that help you concentrate?
6.	Who are the men Stephen mentioned in his sermon?
7.	What did Philip ask the Ethiopian when he heard him reading?
8.	What are some things that help you comprehend what you are hearing or reading?
9.	List the four divisions of the Old and New Testament books.
10.	Learn, in order, the six principles of learning. (Organize them by making an anagram with the first letter in each word - Mr. Cocr.)
	knowledgement: The basic points in this lesson were taken from "How to dy the Bible," by Earl H. West.

#### The Nature of God and the Nature of Man Demand a Divine Revelation

Lesson 2

In this lesson we will see that the nature of God and the nature of man demand a Divine revelation.

- A. Respect for biblical authority begins with respect for God.
  - 1. Pharaoh would not obey because he did not know God, Exodus 5:1, 2. (God sent him a ten lesson course to convince him that He exists!)
  - 2. We often assume that people believe in God without giving strong evidence for such faith.
    - a. Logical evidence:
      - 1) Something cannot come from nothing; Something exists; therefore something always was.
      - 2) Non-intelligence cannot produce intelligence; Intelligence exists; therefore what produced it was intelligent.
    - b. Evidence from the Bible:
      - 1) Fulfilled prophecies show that man could not have written the Bible without Divine inspiration. See prophecies of Jesus: Genesis 12:3 (Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16); Isaiah 7:14 (Luke 1:26-31); Isaiah 9:7 (Luke 1:32, 33); Micah 5:2 (Luke 2:4, 5); Isaiah 53:3, 6, 7 (John 1:11; Matthew 26:67; Mark 15:4, 5); Psalm 16:10 (Acts 2:31, 32); Malachi 3:1 (Luke 7:26-28).
      - 2) The unity of the Bible. It was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1500 years, yet has no genuine contradictions. This is strong evidence of one mind behind all of it.
      - 3) Its harmony with historical and scientific facts. Many archaeological and scientific facts have been discovered that confirm the truthfulness of the Bible.
- B. The nature of God demands a revelation:
  - 1. He is sovereign (supreme in power or authority), because He is the Creator, Psalm 95:6.
    - a. Design is evidence of a designer, Psalm 19:1; Hebrews 11:3; Romans 1:20.

#### Studying Bible Authority...

- b. Failure to respect our Creator results in vain worship and empty lives, Romans 1:21-27.
- 2. He is holy separated from His creation and all creatures, Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8.
  - a. Pantheism says that "God is not a personality...but the self-existing universe is God" (Webster).
  - b. The New Age movement says "nothing is more powerful than the collective human mind" (Out On A Limb, by Shirley MacLaine, page 351). It teaches that we are gods, therefore there is no God who is separate from mankind.
  - c. God commands us to be holy (1 Peter 1:15, 16), which is possible through the provision He has made and revealed, Romans 3:24-26; 6:16-18.
- 3. He is infinite unlimited, unbounded.
  - a. In knowledge (omniscient), Psalm 147:5; Romans 11:33, 34.
  - b. In power (omnipotent), Psalm 29:4. (He cannot do anything inconsistent with His nature, Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; James 1:13.)
  - c. In presence (omnipresent), Psalm 139:7-10; Hebrews 4:13.
- C. The nature of man shows the necessity of a revelation from God.
  - 1. Man is not wise enough to direct his own steps, Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8, 9.
  - 2. Refusal to respect and obey God's revelation results in condemnation, Romans 1:24-28.
  - 3. Sin results in separation from God, Isaiah 59:1, 2. Man must obey God's terms to be reconciled, 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19; 1 Corinthians 1:21-25.

#### STUDY QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why did Pharaoh refuse to obey God, and how does that apply to men today?
- 2. Give some external (outside the Bible) evidence that God exists.

#### The Basis for Obedience

3.	Why do you believe that the Bible is a revelation from God?
4.	List at least five prophecies about Christ and discuss how they prove the Bible is from God.
5.	What happens when people do not respect the sovereignty of God?
6.	What does pantheism say about the nature of God?
7.	What does the New Age doctrine say about the nature of God?
8.	How can we be holy as God is holy?
9.	In what three senses is God infinite, and what do those mean?
10.	How can God be omnipotent if there are some things He cannot do?
11.	Why is man not able to direct his own steps?
12.	How can we know God's will for us?

#### The Two Covenants

Lesson 3

This lesson will be a study of the two covenants. Many problems arise because people do not understand the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant.

- A. Before the old covenant was given, its demise was prefigured, Galatians 4:21-31.
  - 1. The two mothers were symbolic of two covenants (one was cast out, Genesis 21:10).
    - a. Hagar the old covenant, from Mt. Sinai, verse 24.
    - b. Sarah the new covenant, from Jerusalem above, verse 26.
  - 2. The two sons represented Jews and Christians:
    - a. Ishmael Jews, rejecting the new covenant, persecuting the Christians.
    - b. Isaac Christians under the new covenant being persecuted, but free from the law.
- B. At the time the first covenant was given, God symbolized its passing, Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3.
  - 1. The fading on the face of Moses symbolized the passing of the covenant being given.
  - 2. The contrasts in 2 Corinthians 3:

The old covenant (v. 14) The new covenant (v. 6)

The letter (v. 6) The Spirit (v. 6)

Ministry of death (v. 7) Ministry of the Spirit (v. 8) Ministry of condemnation (v. 9) Ministry of righteousness (v. 9)

Reading Moses (v. 15) Turning to the Lord (v. 16)

Veil remains (v. 15) The veil is taken away (v. 14, 16) Glorious, but passed away More glorious and remains (vv. 8,11)

(vv. 6, 11)

- C. While the first covenant was in effect, God foretold its passing, Jeremiah 31:31-34.
  - 1. The old covenant was made with Israel when they came out of Egypt, Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 15.

#### The Basis for Obedience

- a. This covenant included the ten commandments, 1 Kings 8:21; 2 Chronicles 5:10.
- b. The Sabbath was made known on Mt. Sinai, not at creation, Nehemiah 9:13, 14.
- c. The penalty for violating the Sabbath was given in the wilderness, Numbers 15:32-36.
- 2. When Jeremiah prophesied the coming of a new covenant, that indicated that the covenant then in existence would grow old and vanish away, Hebrews 8:7-13; 10:14-18.
- D. When the new covenant was given, the old passed away, Ephesians 2:15, 16; Colossians 2:14-16; Romans 7:4-7.
  - 1. The *middle wall of division* was *the law of commandments contained in ordinances* (which was given to the Jews, not the Gentiles, Romans 2:14; 3:1, 2).
  - 2. Some say it was only the sin debt that was nailed to the cross. Lenski said, "misleading conceptions are introduced when the word (*cheirographon*) is thought to mean a debtor's bond" (<u>Commentary on Colossians</u>). Vincent said, "The law with its decrees was abolished in Christ's death, as if crucified with Him" (<u>Word Studies</u>, Vol. III).
  - 3. The old covenant was dedicated with the blood of animals, the new with the blood of Christ, Hebrews 9:18-26.

#### STUDY QUESTIONS:

I.	What did I	Hagar	and	Sarah	represent?	

- 2. What was Abraham told to do with Hagar?
- 3. Who did the two sons represent?