

BIVO Seminars

BING JAMES VERSION ONLY

Seventh Day Adventists

Believe

**Selected Messages, Volume 1
Pages 15 – 18**

The Inspiration of the Word of God

“This is a time

when the question with all propriety may be asked,

“When the Son of man cometh,

shall he find faith on the earth?”

(Luke 18:8).

“Spiritual darkness has covered the earth and gross darkness the people. There are in many churches skepticism and infidelity in the interpretation of the Scriptures. Many, very many are questioning the verity and truth of the Scriptures. *Human reasoning and the imaginings of the human heart are undermining the inspiration of the Word of God*, and that which should be received as granted, is surrounded with a cloud of mysticism. Nothing stands out in clear and distinct lines, upon rock bottom. This is one of the marked signs of the last days.

This Holy Book* has withstood the assaults of Satan, who has united with evil men to make everything of divine character shrouded in clouds and darkness.

**But the Lord has preserved this Holy Book*
by his own miraculous power
in its present shape**

—a chart and guidebook to the human family to show them the way to heaven.

But the oracles of God have been so manifestly neglected that there are but few in our world, even of those who profess to explain it to others, who have the divine knowledge of the Scriptures. There are learned men who have a college education, but these shepherds *do not feed the flock of God*. They do not consider that the Excellencies of the Scriptures will be continually unfolding their hidden treasures as precious jewels are discovered by digging for them.

There are men who strive to be original, who are wise above what is written; therefore, their wisdom is foolishness. They discover wonderful things in advance ideas, which reveal that they are far behind in the comprehension of the divine will and purposes of God. In seeking to make plain or to unravel mysteries hid from ages from mortal man, they are like a man floundering about in the mud, unable to extricate himself and yet telling others how to get out of the muddy sea they themselves are in. *This is a fit representation of the men who set themselves to correct the errors of the Bible.*

**No man can improve the Bible *
by suggesting what the Lord meant to say
or ought to have said.**

Some look to us gravely and say, *“Don’t you think there might have been some mistake in the copyist or in the translators?”* This is all probable, and the mind that is so narrow that it will hesitate and stumble over this possibility or probability would be just as ready to stumble over the mysteries of the Inspired Word, because their feeble minds cannot see through the purposes of God.

Yes, they would just as easily stumble over plain facts that the common mind will accept, and discern the Divine, and to which God's utterance is plain and beautiful, full of marrow and fatness. All the mistakes will not cause trouble to one soul, or cause any feet to stumble, that would not manufacture difficulties from the plainest revealed truth.

God committed the preparation of His divinely inspired Word to finite man. This Word, arranged into books, the Old and New Testaments, is the guidebook to the inhabitants of a fallen world, bequeathed to them that,

**by studying and obeying the directions,
not one soul would lose its way to heaven.**

*Those who think to make the supposed difficulties of Scripture plain, in measuring by their finite rule that which is inspired and that which is not inspired, **had better cover their faces**, as Elijah when the still small voice spoke to him; for they are in the presence of God and holy angels, who for ages have communicated to men light and knowledge, telling them what to do and what not to do, unfolding before them scenes of thrilling interest, waymark by waymark in symbols and signs and illustrations.*

And He [God] has not, while presenting the perils clustering about the latter days, qualified any finite man to unravel hidden mysteries or inspired one man or any class of men to pronounce judgment as to that which is inspired or is not. When men, in their finite judgment, find it necessary to go into an examination of scriptures to define that which is inspired and that which is not, they have stepped before Jesus to show Him a better way than He has led us.

**Take the Bible* just as it is,
as the Inspired Word.
I believe its utterances in an entire Bible.***

Men arise who think they find something to criticize in God's Word. They lay it before others as evidence of superior wisdom. These men are, many of them, smart men, learned men, they have eloquence and talent, **the whole lifework** [of whom] **is to unsettle minds in regard to the inspiration of the Scriptures.** They influence many to see the full meaning of the words of Christ, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

**Brethren,
Let not mind or hand be engaged in criticizing the Bible*.
It is a work that Satan delights to have any of you do,
But it is not a work the Lord has pointed out for you to do.**

Men should let God take care of His own Book, His living oracles, as He has done for ages. They begin to question some parts of revelation, and pick flaws in the apparent inconsistencies of this statement and that statement.

Beginning at Genesis, they give up that which they deem questionable, and their minds lead on, for Satan will lead to any length they may follow in their criticism, and they see something to doubt in the whole Scriptures. Their faculties of criticism become sharpened by exercise, and they can rest on nothing with a certainty. You try to reason with these men, but your time is lost they will exercise their power or ridicule upon upon the Bible. They even become mockers, and they would be astonished if you put it to them in that light.

**Brethren,
Cling to your Bible*,
As it reads,
And stop your criticisms in regard to its validity,
And obey the Word
And not one of you will be lost."**

The ingenuity of men has been exercised for ages to measure the Word of God by their finite minds and limited comprehension. If the Lord, the Author of the living oracles, would throw back the curtain and reveal His wisdom and His

glory before them, they would shrink into nothingness and exclaim as did Isaiah, "I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5).

Simplicity and plain utterance are comprehended by the illiterate, by the peasant, and the child as well as by the full-grown man or the giant in intellect. If the individual is possessed of large talents of mental powers, he will find in the oracles of God treasures of truth, beautiful and valuable, which he can appropriate. He will also find difficulties, and secrets and wonders which will give him the highest satisfaction to study during a long lifetime, and yet there is an infinity beyond.

Men of humble acquirements, possessing but limited capabilities and opportunities to become conversant in the Scriptures, find in the living oracles comfort, guidance, counsel, and the plan of salvation as clear as a sunbeam. No one need be lost for want of knowledge, unless he is willfully blind

We thank God that the Bible is prepared for the poor man as well as for the learned man. It is fitted for all ages and all classes.--Manuscript 16, 1888 (written at Minneapolis, Minn., in autumn of 1888).

[Emphasis Supplied]

QUESTION: Does Ellen White's example and written instruction tell us anything about which version to use?

***Ellen White wrote this article in 1886. She used the King James Version 99.99% of the time in her writings, even though there were at least thirty six other translations available to her.**