

# The Gospel of John

## The Accuracy of the Scripture

### John 10:34-36

#### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with the Gospel of John. We are in the tenth chapter. This is a turning point as you know in John's history. This chapter records the last account that John gives of the public ministry of Jesus.

Verse 24 is the verse that sets up today's message.

#### **John 10:24 (NASB)**

***24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."***

So we see the Jews, once again, in conversation with Jesus.

Jesus is attempting to persuade the Jews one last time that He is the Son of God. In a sense this is Jesus giving His final invitation to the Jews who were **persistently** rejecting His claims to be the Messiah, the Son of God.

They want Jesus to tell them **plainly** that He is the Christ. And I believe this is exactly what Jesus is doing in verse 30 when He makes this amazing claim:

#### **John 10:30 (NASB)**

***30 I and the Father are one."***

No ordinary man could ever say this! No ordinary man could ever say, "God and I are one!" But Jesus could say this because He was not an ordinary man. He was the GOD-MAN (perfect God and perfect Man). Only He could claim to be ONE WITH GOD.

The Jews knew exactly what Jesus was saying, and they, once again, wanted to stone Him. Their biggest hang-up was trying to justify how a human being could be equal with God. They considered it to be **blasphemy** for a **MAN** to claim to be **one with God**. But Jesus was not guilty of blasphemy because **what He said was true!**

Now that we have established the context of our passage. I would like to set you up for the theme of the message that I have entitled "***The Accuracy of Scripture***". We all know that the scriptures repeatedly claim to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Men wrote the words, but the Holy Spirit ensured their accuracy. This morning I would like to take a little different approach and look at the inspiration of scripture from Jesus' point of view and see how He used them to teach others.

Every week I have to cut my sermons down to a thirty minute message which is always a challenge. Often I have to cut the sermon into two or more messages because what falls to the floor is too important to leave out. This message is a result of one of those cuts. It is an amazing parenthetical statement from Jesus at the end of verse 35. It was like saying "**Oh, and by the way**".

## All Stand and Read Scripture

### **John 10:34-36 (NASB)**

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" <sup>35</sup> If he called them gods, **to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)**, <sup>36</sup> do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

## Prayer

### **BODY:**

#### **I. JESUS' USE OF THE SCRIPTURE.**

The argument that Jesus uses in our text is somewhat difficult to understand. It can be explained as follows: The first point that Jesus makes in our text is that in the Old Testament men are called "gods". The passage Jesus is referring to is Psalm 82:6. This Psalm is a judgment by God on the **rulers** of Israel where sinful, human judges are called "gods." We went over this in some detail last week.

Judges have a very important responsibility. They are responsible before God to judge in the right way. When judging their fellow men they must judge just like God would if He were in their place. So in a very real way these judges were taking God's place and doing the work that God has given them to do. So in this sense they are called "gods". These judges were to act on God's behalf.

Jesus then made His second point in our text. He was saying something like this: If the Scripture calls mere sinful men small "g" gods (and by the way, the Scripture cannot be broken), then how can I be wrong to call Myself God? If **men** are called gods in Psalm 82:6, then how can it be blasphemy for the **Son of God** to be called God?"

Wow! This shows the complete knowledge that Jesus knew concerning the scriptures, which would be unparalleled in any human being who ever lived, to scour in an instant the Old Testament and pluck out an **obscure** section from the Psalms.

This is an amazing argument. He goes right into the Old Testament, that the Jews completely believe to be true, to make His case. Certainly, if the term "gods" could be applied to corrupt rulers, it's not a stretch for the incorruptible, perfect, sinless, righteous, Son of God to be called God. Consider what you are doing before you start throwing stones.

### **John 10:35 (NASB)**

<sup>35</sup> If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came **(and the Scripture cannot be broken)**,

Notice the "by the way" footnote "(and the Scripture cannot be broken)". In this encounter, Jesus makes an amazing statement that the translators have put in parentheses. It is so unique that it shows up here. He says, "To whom the word of God came," and by the way, "the Scripture cannot be broken." There is a couple of things going on here. Notice that the Word of God and the Scripture are parallel. Did you see that? The Word of God and Scripture are synonyms. Therefore, Scripture is the Word of God and the Word of God is Scripture. The Holy Spirit, here, inspires John to write the words of Jesus accurately, and Jesus equates the Word of God with the Scripture.

Now, that one phrase has tremendous importance. In the discussion it appears to be just a kind of digression. But in reality, it is a treasure that needs to be lifted out. What does He mean? Scripture cannot be **broken**? The word for broken, it is not a word like broken in English. Basically it means that God's inspired scripture will not change or go away.

So what is our Lord saying? Scripture cannot be changed. This passage gives us Christ's view of Scripture, that it is a seamless chain, and not one link can be pulled out. The passage itself in Psalm 82 has no connection to His deity, but He uses the one word, "gods," there to make a point from the lesser to the greater. The sinful judges were small "g" representatives for God. Jesus is the capital "G" Son of God. He and the Father are one.

But He stops in the middle of that and makes this powerful, overarching statement that Scripture cannot be broken. While He is very busy proving that His claim to deity is valid by His works, He doesn't try to prove this statement. Scripture cannot be broken, period.

Why doesn't He prove it? Because the Jews already understood the inspiration and accuracy of the scripture. They don't question that. It is a chain. All the links have to be in place. Scripture is the final word. In fact, He makes His whole argument on **one word** (gods) in one obscure verse in a Psalm. You can't touch a word. You cannot loosen up a word and pull it out.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

### **2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter of one's own interpretation*, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## **II. JESUS' VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURE.**

So, whenever we get into discussions about the authority, the inerrancy, the accuracy, the inspiration of Scripture, I like to start with: **what did Jesus think of Scripture?** Because I want to have His view. His view is more accurate than our view. And if you do not have His view, I am sticking with Him. You cannot touch a word. You cannot pull a word out. And our Lord, in a discussion about the most serious claim He could ever make, His claim of deity, turns His argument on one word. **On just one word.** This was **His** view of Scripture.

Let me show you another illustration. Go back to Matthew 22.

### **Matthew 22:23-33 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> On that day *some* Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, <sup>24</sup> asking, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.’” <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; <sup>26</sup> so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> Last of all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had *married* her.”

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But regarding the resurrection of the dead, **have you not read what was spoken to you by God:** <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the **dead** but of the **living.**” <sup>33</sup> When the crowds heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

“The Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection),” why did they say that? Because they believed that the first five books in the Old Testament, written by Moses, were authored by God, and all the rest of the Old Testament was human commentary on the first five books.

Okay?

So, they believed in the first five books as the inspired Word of God. And since they were convinced that Moses did not write about resurrection in the first five books, they did not believe in resurrection.

So they want to stump Jesus about the resurrection, so they tell them this crazy sort of story about seven brothers. There was a law in the Old Testament that if a man died, his brother, if he was unmarried, would take up his wife, and care for her. This was what brothers did as a tribute of honor for their deceased brother. So in the case of this hypothetical situation, seven brothers, the first marries and dies, no children. The second marries and dies. The third marries and dies. All the way down to the seventh.

Let me insert a comment here. I would suggest that the last four guys were stupid because everybody in front of them has died, and there is one common denominator here. It is the same lady in the kitchen.

But anyway, that is not the point. They all die. And so, they think this is so ridiculous because **if there is a resurrection, whose wife will she be?** Jesus said: you are mistaken because you do not understand the Scriptures. Then He goes back to the Scriptures again. “**For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.**” There is no marriage in heaven. But let us get back to the resurrection. Verse 31, “**have you not read what was spoken to you by God?**” Jesus goes right back to the Old Testament and He quotes from Exodus when Moses was in front of the burning bush.

### **Exodus 3:1-6 (NASB)**

3 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said also, "**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**" Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

When God spoke to Moses from the bush in Exodus 3:6, Abraham was dead, Isaac was dead, and Jacob was dead. **If** there is no resurrection, God should have said, "I **was** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." But when He says, "I **am** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," He is speaking in the **present** tense. That is to say that they are alive while He is speaking, and the whole argument turns not only on a word, but on a tense. Present tense.

So you see the Sadducees thought they knew the scripture. They were certain that resurrection was not mentioned by Moses. Jesus proved that resurrection is mentioned in the first five books written by Moses by using not only one word, but a present tense of that word.

So what was Jesus' view of Scripture? You cannot loosen a word. You cannot touch a tense.

And then one other illustration is found in the Sermon on the Mount.

### **Matthew 5:17-19 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to **abolish** but to **fulfill**. <sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law** until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Until the end of creation as we know it, "**not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law.**" You can't touch the words. You can't touch the tenses. You can't touch the letters.

Notice the warning in verse 19. "**Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;**".

You want to know who is least in the kingdom of heaven? People who tamper with the inerrancy of Scripture and teach others to do the same. Frightening. Who's the greatest in the kingdom? Whoever keeps and teaches them shall be exalted.

So, that is Jesus' view of Scripture. It cannot be broken.

## **III. EVIDENCES OF THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE.**

Finally let's look at the evidences of the inspiration of the scriptures.

### **A. Fulfilled prophecy.**

God spoke to men telling them of things He would bring about in the future. Some of them have already occurred. Others have not. For example, the Old Testament contains more than 300 prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ. There is no doubt that these are prophecies from God because many manuscripts have been found that date before the birth of Christ. These were not written after the fact but beforehand.

### **B. The unity of Scripture.**

The Bible was written by approximately 40 human authors over a period of approximately 1,600 years. These men were quite diverse. Moses, was a shepherd and a political leader; Joshua, a military leader; David, a king, military leader, and a shepherd; Solomon, a king; Amos, a herdsman and fruit picker; Daniel, a prime minister; Matthew, a tax collector; Luke, a medical doctor; Paul, a Pharisee and tent maker ; and Peter, a fisherman; among others. The Bible was also written under a variety of circumstances. It was written on 3 different continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Yet, the great themes of Scripture are maintained in all the writings. The Bible does not contradict itself. There is no way, apart from the Holy Spirit supervising the writing of the Bible, that this could have been accomplished.

### **C. TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION.**

The Bible presents its heroes truthfully with all of their faults and weaknesses. It does not glorify men as other religions do their heroes. Reading the Bible, one realizes that the people it describes have problems and do wrong just as we do. What made the heroes of the Bible great was that they trusted in God. One example is David, who is described as “**a man after God’s own heart**”. Yet, David committed adultery and murder. This information could have easily been omitted from Scripture, but it was included by God.

### **D. ARCHEOLOGICAL SUPPORT.**

Archaeological findings support the history recorded in Scripture. Though many unbelievers throughout history have tried to find archaeological evidence to disprove what is recorded in the Bible, they have failed. It is easy to **say** that Scripture is untrue but proving it to be untrue is another matter. In fact, it has not been done. In the past, every time the Bible contradicted a current “scientific” theory, the Bible was proven later to be true and the scientific theory wrong. A good example is found in Isaiah 40:22 "**It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,**"

All the while that science declared the earth to be flat, the Bible stated that God “sits on the circle [sphere] of the earth.”

### **CONCLUSION:**

Once we truly understand that the scriptures are accurate and inspired, it should encourage us to read them daily. They contain God's absolute truths and are our only instruction manual for eternal salvation.

**This is the Day.**