

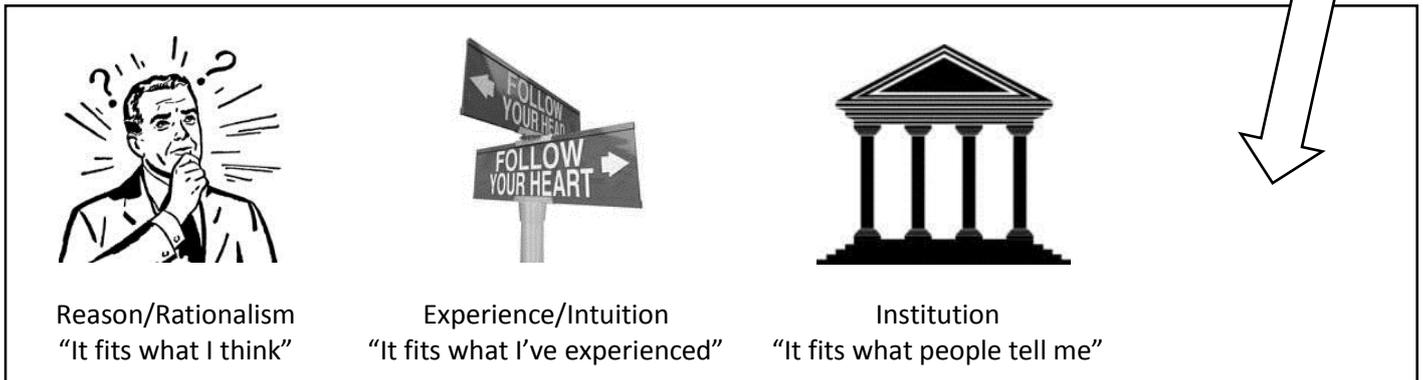
The Doctrine of the Word of God

The Bible is God speaking authoritatively and sufficiently, about His rescue plan through Jesus.

Introduction: the '1 Dempster Terrace' universe.

How can we know the truth?

REVELATION



Problems with our search for truth:

- Finitude - see Job 38-42!
- Fallen-ness

'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.'

Romans 1:18-20

We need revelation...and God has spoken!

The Nature of Scripture - The Bible is God speaking

'All Scripture is breathed out by God...'

2 Tim 3:16

'Theopneustos' = 'God-spirited'

'...no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.'

2 Peter 1:20-21

Implications:

- Can't pick and choose
- No particularly special bits

See also:

- *Heb 1:1 – The Old Testament and Jesus are God speaking*
- *John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:12-15 & 2 Peter 3:15-16, 1 Tim 5:18 – The Apostolic writings (the New Testament) are also Scripture*

The Authority of Scripture - The Bible is God speaking... authoritatively

'This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.'

Isaiah 66:2

'...we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God...'

1 Thess 2:13

'If these words were written by a man, we might reject them; but O let me think the solemn thought, that this book is God's handwriting—that these words are God's...Thou book of vast authority, thou art a proclamation from the Emperor of Heaven; far be it from me to exercise my reason in contradicting thee. Reason, thy place is to stand and find out what this volume means, not to tell what this book ought to say. Come thou, my reason, my intellect, sit thou down and listen, for these words are the words of God.'

Charles Spurgeon

The Content of Scripture - The Bible is God speaking...about His rescue plan through Jesus

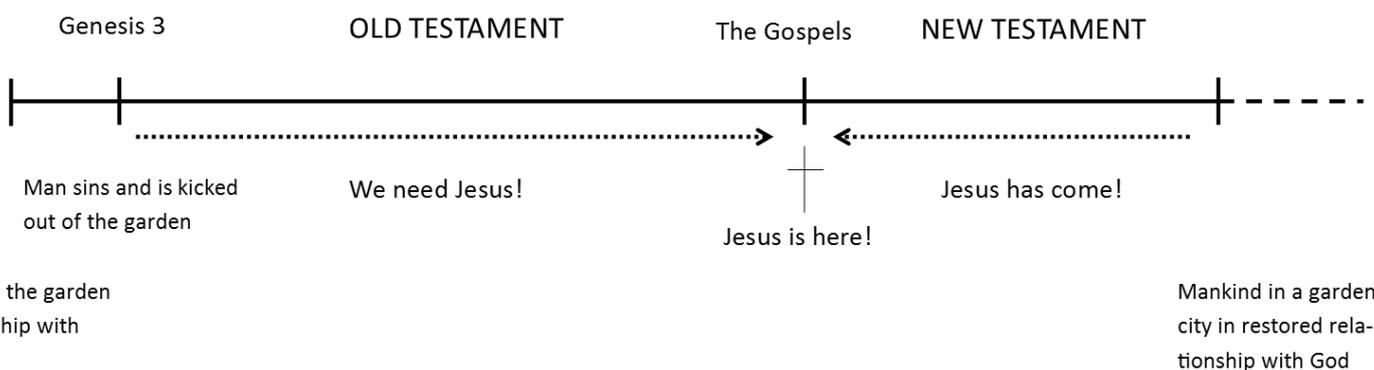
- The Bible is *not* essentially:
 - A book of rules - though there are commands in it
 - Wisdom about how to live - though there is wisdom in it
 - About finding fulfilment - though you will find fulfilment in it
- It is rather a *story* about God's *rescue*

'God...[made] known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.'

Ephesians 1:9-10

Genesis 1

Revelation 21-22



See also: John 5:39, Luke 24:26-27, 44-47

The Sufficiency of Scripture - The Bible is God speaking...sufficiently

'Scripture contains all the divine words needed for any aspect of human life.'

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*

1) God's final word

'Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature.'

Hebrews 1:1

'Scripture is God's testimony to the redemption he has accomplished for us. Once that redemption is finished, and the apostolic testimony to it is finished, the Scriptures are complete, and we should expect no more additions to them.'

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*

See also: Colossians 2:3.

2) Everything we need to know...

'...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'

2 Tim 3:15-16

a) ...for salvation

b) ...for pleasing God

'The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.'

WCF 1.6

Implications:

- We shouldn't *expect* God to speak to us in other ways today

For more on Guidance in particular, see the talk from MYC14 on the website.

- Treasure the Bible!

'To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.'

From the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953

See also...

...what these passage have to say about the relevance of the OT to us today:

Romans 15:4, 1 Cor 10:1-13, 1 Peter 1:10-12

Summary: The Bible is God speaking authoritatively and sufficiently, about His rescue plan through Jesus.