

The Power of God vs the power of man in the Transmission & Preservation of His Word, the King James Version.

Psalms 12:6-7 The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, **thou shalt preserve** them from this generation forever.

Psalms 119:89-91 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and **the scripture cannot be broken...**

1. In every area of human life, man attempts to usurp and claims control over and above God.
2. Arminianism seeks through free will and man's works to usurp and control God's power in Salvation.
3. Human governments (the State) seek to usurp power and control over us in exercising our God given rights (consider Abortion, Sodomite marriage, religious freedom, property [taxation], etc.). The world even tells us that mankind has the power and control over the weather.
4. And so it is not surprising, that regarding God's Word (the Bible), men & women in the form of Modern Textual Criticism (Bible scholars) attempt to usurp God's power to Inspire, Transmit, and Preserve His Word.

We could go into various methods of Inspiration here, but for time sake, let's just state the truth of God's way of doing it and get into the scriptures themselves.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

- a. The Bible was inspired by God, dictated to prophets and Holy men from God's own mouth to their ears, and they were instructed to write it verbatim! They were moved by the Holy Spirit to write EXACTLY what God said, or "THUS SAITH THE LORD!"
- b. The Transmission, and Preservation of His Word was done with God's **complete oversight and control**. It was never left up to anyone, no matter how educated or not, to decide what is and is not scripture.
- c. The men God blessed to carry out this task treated His word as sacred while Modern Textual Critics (Bible scholars) treat the Bible like it is any other book. There are Textual Critics who specialize in only ancient Greek or Latin books like the Iliad, Homer, or what have you.

Today I only want to concern our study with the Transmission and Preservation as **seen in the scripture itself**. Through this discourse please consider the power that God has.

First, our sovereign God has the power to confuse through language, to blind, and to turn out the light of truth, in the human mind. Consider the tower of Babel where the Lord confuses the tongues:

Genesis 11:1-9 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 **Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.** 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Second, God has the miraculous power to open and enlighten the human mind. This is demonstrated on the Day of Pentecost when God gave His apostles the ability to speak in unknown tongues (languages) so the listeners could hear, each in his own language:

Acts 2:1-11 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.** 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**

Here's another passage where Jesus explains how he can open your mind or close it, based on His sovereign choice:

Matthew 13:11-17 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.** 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing

ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

Romans 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded...

Don't read the whole passage, only verse 18:

Isaiah 44:6-18 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God. 7 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. 8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it*? ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any*. 9 They that make a graven image *are* all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they *are* their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. 10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image *that* is profitable for nothing? 11 Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they *are* of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; *yet* they shall fear, *and* they shall be ashamed together. 12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. 13 The carpenter stretcheth out *his* rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. 14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish *it*. 15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth *it*, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth *it*; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. 16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth *himself*, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: 17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, *even* his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth *it*, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou *art* my god. 18 **They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.**

Now, with this background of how God operates, let's consider His over sight of His words:

When Moses comes down from communing with the Lord, he is given two tables containing the ten commandments:

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him

upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God.**

Moses leaves the meeting/communing with the Lord, and heads back down the mountain:

Exodus 32:15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony *were* in his hand: the tables *were* written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other *were* they written.

Moses sees the idolatry of the Hebrew children and in anger destroys the tablets:

Exodus 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Did God write the second set of tables, or did Moses?

Moses goes back up the mount with the second set of tables:

Exodus 34:1-5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and **I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables**, which thou brakest. 2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. 3 And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. 4 **And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first**; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, **and took in his hand the two tables of stone**. 5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Moses was instructed to write the commandments on second set of tables:

Exodus 34:27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. 28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. **And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.** 29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

So, who wrote the tablets, and who speaks here? The LORD or Moses? Was it not God overseeing the transmission, and also, overseeing the preservation of His words? Moses was merely the secretary. **Hence, when we read scripture, it is God speaking!**

The second example of this is found in **Jeremiah chapter 36**. Time will not allow us to get into this chapter. Please read this!

Let's consider Matthew 4:4:

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It **IS WRITTEN**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **EVERY WORD** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- a. How can someone who doesn't speak Greek or Hebrew be sure that they have EVERY WORD from the mouth of God? ONLY by preservation.
- b. Note the Greek tense of the verb IS WRITTEN (gegraptai SG1125). It is the perfect tense...that is, it's action took place sometime in the past, and that action continues into the future.
- c. Inspired by God, written by Moses (Deut 8:3) in ancient Hebrew aprx 1451 BC, quoted by Jesus in Aramaic in aprx 26AD, later translated into Koine Greek, and finally read by us today in English in 2020 AD. That's Bible preservation!

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

- a. Paul calls what Timothy read as a child... **Holy Scriptures**.
- b. Timothy didn't have the original scriptures. He had copies of copies of copies, etc.

So, Paul must have believed that the scriptures were preserved, even in translation.

Isaiah 59:21 "As for me this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, *shall not pass out of the thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever.*"

That's called Bible preservation!!

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