

2 Peter 1:16-21; Revelation 21-22
The Insufficient, Boring Bible?

INTRO: People seem to be increasingly *bored* with the “ancient Scriptures.”
As a result of this, many are looking for *new* “revelations,” *fresh* experiences, and/or “prophetic impressions.”

Provide some contemporary examples of this:

Key Questions:

- 1) Is the Bible knowable, necessary, relevant, and enough?
- 2) Are the ancient Scriptures truly sufficient for all things pertaining to life and godliness
OR should we be open to new prophecies and fresh visions from the Lord?
- 3) When someone suggests that “God told me to do this or say that” what should we think?
- 4) When publishers print books about alleged "out of body" trips to heaven and back,
how should we view such things?

2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-13; 1 John 1:1-4; Revelation 21-22

Because the Bible is the 'more sure,' Word of God

1) _____

2) _____

Let us receive the God-breathed Scriptures in this manner (see above) BECAUSE of its:

A)

B)

For Further Reflection/Application: *How has God been sanctifying you through His Word?*

What specific evidences do you see around you that seem to suggest that many seem to be increasingly *bored* with the “outdated, insufficient” Bible?

When it comes to books on eternity why are publishers more interested in publishing books on someone’s alleged “out of body experience” (such as *Heaven is For Real: a Four-Year-Old Boy’s Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven*) then they are with promoting sound resources that simply explain everything the God’s (more sure) Word has to say about this important subject? What resources fly off the shelves and what kind of book(s) on heaven seem to attract very little interest? What does this trend suggest? (see sermon introduction)

Go over these three questions with your wife and kids and/or your coffee friends this week:

1) Is the Bible knowable, necessary, relevant, and enough? 2) Are the ancient Scriptures *truly sufficient* for all things pertaining to life and godliness OR should we be open to new prophecies and fresh visions from the Lord? 3) When publishers print books about alleged "out of body" trips to heaven and back, how should we view such things?

How does 1 John 1:1-4, Matthew 17:1-13, 2 Peter 1:16-21, and Revelation 22:6, 8, 18-21 relate to our current expository series on heaven and hell (Revelation 20-22)?

Many humans have claimed to receive special revelation from God. Talk a little bit about the false testimony of Joseph Smith/Brigham Young (Mormonism), Muhammed (Islam), Mark Baker Eddy (Christian Science), Scientology (L. Ron Hubbard), Jehovah Witnesses (New World Translation). The Word of God has dual authors (God and the prophets/apostles). It is the only Book God has authored (review the 2 Peter 1:16-21 four main sermon headings; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13, Matthew 4:4; John 5:39, 17:17; Psalm 12:6).

When someone justifies a decision based on subjective factors (personal feelings, God told me to do this or say that) versus making a decision based on the objective Word of God/the wisdom principles of Scripture, what difference does it make? For more help thinking through the implications of this check out Gary Gilley’s book, “Is That You Lord: Hearing the Voice of the Lord, Kevin DeYoung’s, “Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God’s Will, and John MacArthur’s, “Found: God’s Will.”

When the Bible speaks, God speaks. What does God have to say about creation, the fall of man, Himself, man, sin, Jesus, salvation, heaven, hell, gender roles, marriage, sexuality, work, repentance, forgiveness, the local church, worship, etc.?

What does “confident humility” in God’s Word look like in everyday living?

When someone is striving to pay close attention to God’s Word in effort to follow its precepts, how will they listen to God’s Word? Study God’s Word? Prioritize exposure to God’s Word?

Related Scripture Passages: *Search the Scriptures to see if these things be so.*

Revelation 21-22/ Matt. 17:1-13; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 3:16; 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 1:25; Psalm 1:1-3; 119; Eph. 6:17; Is. 55:11; John 5:39; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 1-2; Isaiah 40:8; Joshua 1:8-9; 1 Peter 2:2.

Related Praise Songs: *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in God's Word in order that we may go high in praise and adoration!*

This Is My Word- AFLBS Concert Choir and AFLBS Proclaim

How Firm a Foundation- Classic Hymn

Ancient Words- Michael W. Smith

Speak O Lord- Keith and Kristyn Getty

Every Promise (of Your Word)- Keith and Kristyn Getty

By Faith- Keith and Kristyn Getty

As We Read Your Holy Word- Fred Coleman

God's Word Shall Stand Forever- Martin Luther/Faye Lopez

God Has Spoken by His Prophets- George Briggs, John Zundel

This Is My Word

As the snow falls from heaven,
As it comes in swirling showers from the sky,
So is my Word.
As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry,
So is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty:
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word.

As the rain brings renewal
And the tender buds begin to come alive,
So is my Word.
Giving seed to the sower,
And the bread to the hungry 'til they thrive,
So is my Word. So is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word. This is my Word!

O Lord, when I am weary,
When I feel the days I'm living are in vain,
My God, help me be faithful to the Word You have given to proclaim.
Proclaim the Word, and you will go out in joy,
And be led forth in peace,
And the hills will break before you into song.
So be faithful, brave and true,
For I will go before you,
And when your earthly journey here is done.
I'll say, "well done," I'll say "well done!"
I'll say "well done, well done!"

As the snow falls from heaven,
And the rain comes in showers from the sky,
This is My Word!

Songwriters: Pepper Chaplin
AFLBS Concert Choir/Proclaim Choir