

“Sword of the Spirit: Seven Keys for Unlocking Scripture’s Truth.

The Seven Keys to Sound Bible Study

According to Scripture, there are principles which should guide and protect everyone in their study of Scripture. Many are the warnings in Scripture about “false teachers” and “deceivers”;

NA28 ἐγερθήσονται γὰρ ψευδόχριστοι καὶ ψευδοπροφήται καὶ δώσουσιν σημεῖα μεγάλα καὶ τέρατα, ὥστε πλανῆσαι, εἰ δυνατόν, καὶ τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς

“...that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect,” **Matthew 24:24.**

1. All “Scripture” is inspired by God as had been committed to writing up to that point, and later all books of the completed canon.

Not only in Christ’s day, but in the first thirty years of the Christian Church, “*the Scriptures*” only referred to the writings of the FIRST Testament called the Torah or *Tanach*¹. The New Testament Scriptures did not exist until many decades after² the New Testament Church had been established. As late as A.D. 67, Paul would instruct Timothy regarding “holy Scriptures”:

2 Timothy 3:14–17

NA2814 σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνων ἔμαθες, 15 καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. 16 πᾶσα γραφὴ θεόπνευστος καὶ ὠφέλιμος πρὸς διδασκαλίαν, πρὸς ἐλεγμὸν, πρὸς ἐπανόρθωσιν, πρὸς παιδείαν τὴν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ, 17 ἵνα ἄρτιος ᾦ ὁ τοῦ θεοῦ ἄνθρωπος, πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἐξηρτισμένος.

*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures
[the original Hebrew Scriptures], which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for*

¹ Tanach (תנ"ך) is a Hebrew acronym formed from the initial letters of the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible: תורה – ת (Torah) – the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) נביאים – נ (Nevi'im) – the Prophets כתובים – כ (Ketuvim) – the Writings

² Paul was speaking of the OT canon as Timothy knew it, but by the time of **2 Peter**, Paul’s own writings were being classed with “*the other Scriptures.*” in **2 Peter 3:16.**

correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2Ti 3:14-17

NA28 ἔφη αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· οὐ διὰ τοῦτο πλανᾶσθε μὴ εἰδότες τὰς γραφὰς μηδὲ τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ θεοῦ;

And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? Mar 12:24

NA28 καὶ ἀρξάμενος ἀπὸ Μωϋσέως καὶ ἀπὸ πάντων τῶν προφητῶν διερμήνευσεν αὐτοῖς ἐν πάσαις ταῖς γραφαῖς τὰ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luk 24:27

NA28 ὅσα γὰρ προεγράφη, εἰς τὴν ἡμετέραν διδασκαλίαν ἐγράφη, ἵνα διὰ τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ διὰ τῆς παρακλήσεως τῶν γραφῶν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἔχωμεν.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime [in First Testament times] were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Rom 15:4

NA28 φανερωθέντος δὲ νῦν διὰ τε γραφῶν προφητικῶν κατ' ἐπιταγὴν τοῦ αἰωνίου θεοῦ εἰς ὑπακοὴν πίστεως εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη γνωρισθέντος.

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets [in Old Testament times], according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: Rom 16:26

NA28 καὶ αὐτὸς εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς· ὧ ἀνόητοι καὶ βραδεῖς τῇ καρδίᾳ τοῦ πιστεύειν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν οἷς ἐλάλησαν οἱ προφῆται.

Then he [Christ] said unto them [his disciples after his resurrection], O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets [in First Testament] have spoken: Luk 24:25

NA28 εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς· οὗτοι οἱ λόγοι μου οὓς ἐλάλησα πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔτι ὢν σὺν ὑμῖν, ὅτι δεῖ πληρωθῆναι πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ νόμῳ Μωϋσέως καὶ τοῖς προφήταις καὶ ψαλμοῖς περὶ ἐμοῦ

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were

*written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms,
concerning me.* **Luk 24:44**

Christ warned:

NA28 ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν· ἕως ἄν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἐν ἡ
μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου, ἕως ἄν πάντα γένηται.

*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one
tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law [entire corpus of the Old Testament]
till all be fulfilled.* **Mat 5:18**

NA28 εὐκοπώτερον δέ ἐστιν τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν παρελθεῖν ἢ τοῦ νόμου μίαν
κεραίαν πεσεῖν.

*And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than **one tittle** of
the law to fail.* **Luke 16:17**

While many prophecies were fulfilled in the disciples' time, many major prophecies in "the law" writings of Moses and First Testament have not yet been "fulfilled." Christ and Paul taught: "All Scripture" is still just as valid today as it has always been "**profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**" and, just as Christ warned, the First [Old] Testament is still the true foundation for the Completed Testament, for all credible Bible Study, and not vice versa. This is why approximately forty percent of the New Testament quotes the First [Old] Testament as its authority.

A very zealous church organization with millions of members, daringly call themselves 'the only true Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.' One of Mormon's major doctrines is 'Baptism for the dead,' which is based on both their false translation and resulting false interpretation of **1Peter 3:19-20**:

NA28 19 ἐν ᾧ καὶ τοῖς ἐν φυλακῇ πνεύμασιν πορευθεὶς ἐκήρυξεν,
20 ἀπειθήσασιν ποτε ὅτε ἀπεξεδέχετο ἡ τοῦ θεοῦ μακροθυμία ἐν ἡμέραις Νῶε
κατασκευαζομένης κιβωτοῦ εἰς ἣν ὀλίγοι, τοῦτ' ἔστιν ὀκτὼ ψυχαί, διεσώθησαν δι'
ὑδατος.

*By which [Christ] also he went and proclaimed ["preached"] unto the spirits in
prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God
waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is,
eight souls were saved by water. KJV* **1 Pe 3:19-20**

Mormons claim while Christ was in the tomb, he went and preached to the living "spirits" of lost souls destroyed by the flood so they could be saved. First of all, according to **Jude 1:6**;

NA28 ἀγγέλους τε τοὺς μὴ τηρήσαντας τὴν ἑαυτῶν ἀρχὴν ἀλλὰ ἀπολιπόντας τὸ ἴδιον οἰκητήριον εἰς κρίσιν μεγάλης ἡμέρας δεσμοῖς αἰδίοις ὑπὸ ζόφον τετήρηκεν.

KJV *And the **angels** which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.* **Jude 1:6;**

these “*spirits in prison*” or [*fallen*] *angels* were not human beings for whom Christ died, but especially wicked angels [1 **Enoch**] “who cohabited with” אֶל־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם “*the daughters of men,*”

1. Genesis 6:1–4

BHS (1) וַיְהִי כִי־הִתְחַל הָאָדָם לְרַב עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּבָנוֹת יִלְדוּ לָהֶם: (2) וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הָנָה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרוּ: (3) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לֹא־יָלוּד רוּחִי בָאָדָם לְעֹלָם כִּשְׁגָם הוּא בָשָׂר וְהַיּוֹם יָמָיו מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה: (4) הָיוּ בָאָרֶץ בְּיָמֵי הַהֵם וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם וַיִּלְדוּ לָהֶם הֵמָּה הַגִּבּוֹרִים אֲשֶׁר מְעֹלָם אֲנָשֵׁי הַשָּׁמַיִם:

KJV(1) *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,(2) That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. (3) And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always [*strive*³] with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.(4) There were **giants** in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto **the daughters of men**, and they bare children unto them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

Genesis 6:1-4, to mix Satan’s cherubim seed line and corrupt Jehovah’s ‘*elohiym seed line*, **Psalms 82:6**; (**BHS**)

אֲנִי־אָמַרְתִּי אֱלֹהִים אַתֶּם וּבְנֵי עֲלִינוּ כְלַכְּכֶם:

KJV: *I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. Psalm 82:6*

³ The Hebrew verb יָדָן (yadhon) from דָּן (din) means ‘to judge, contend, or rule’ - to strive is semi-legitimate eisegesis.

Except for Noah’s own “*perfect*” or uncontaminated seed line, **Genesis 6:9**, much of the remaining world had Satan’s genes or was conceived as the “*giants*” or “*nephilim*” seed of Satan⁴.

Jud 1:6

NA28 ἀγγέλους τε τοὺς μὴ τηρήσαντας τὴν ἑαυτῶν ἀρχὴν ἀλλὰ ἀπολιπόντας τὸ ἴδιον οἰκητήριον εἰς κρίσιν μεγάλης ἡμέρας δεσμοῖς αἰδίοις ὑπὸ ζόφον τετήρηκεν.

KJV *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he [Jehovah] hath reserved in everlasting chains [“prison”] under darkness [the nether world that is in the water under the earth as this “prison” is described in Exodus 20:4] unto the judgment of the great day. Jud 1:6*

In mercy to the human race, Jehovah has these especially wicked angels or evil ‘spirits’ imprisoned in the netherworld at the center of this earth until, according to **Revelation 16:13-14**, they will again be released during tribulation, to do their final work of deception. It was absolutely not to these “spirits in prison,” Christ went to preach the gospel at all. Instead, His body lay in the tomb while His spirit went to proclaim His victory to the imprisoned spirits.

Since these fierce demons were not present to witness the death or resurrection of Christ, the moment he was resurrected, “*when it was yet dark*,” **John 20:1**, the very first thing Christ personally did was a quick visit to his fiercest enemies in the netherworld. Why? To totally demoralize his worst enemies and proclaim and announce his complete triumph and irreversible victory over them.

How do we know this is true? The Greek word translated ‘preached’ may be misleading in this context and is better understood as ‘proclaimed’ or ‘heralded’. This Greek word has not one but at least **two** very different meanings. Whilst it can be translated as “preached” as in to “preach” the “divine truth” of the gospel it can equally and just as correctly be translated “*herald (as a public crier)*,” or to announce or “*proclaim*” a certain important event has taken place. The very first Greek definition of this word is “*to herald (as a public crier)*.”

G2784 κηρύσσω kērussō kay-roos’-so Of uncertain affinity; *to herald* (as a **public crier**), especially divine truth (the gospel): preach (-er), **proclaim**, publish.

The authoritative lexicon **BDAG entry** for κηρύσσω states:

κηρύσσω κηρύσσω (s. κἠρυξ; Hom.+; ins, pap, LXX, Philo, Joseph.,

Test12Patr)1. to make an **official announcement, proclaim, announce** (in the manner of

⁴ We acknowledge the claim of a demonic seed line - the Serpent Seed doctrine - is a minority interpretation not accepted by most mainstream scholarship. However, some conservative interpreters and our own research support this thesis based on Genesis 3:15 and 6:1–4 and more texts and Apocrypha, including 1 Enoch.

a herald, κῆρυξ)a. of an official announcement, e.g., of a victor in the games (Herodas 2, 90; 1 Macc 14:8, 10) ... b. gener. of making a matter known: **proclaim, make known, report** (Plut., Mor. 166b; Ps.-Lucian., Deor. Conc. 12; Da 5:29 Theod.)

The King James translation is likely in error here as it directly contradicts **Jude 1:6**, and many passages regarding death in the First Testament such as **Ecclesiastes 9:5**, **Ecclesiastes 12:7**, **Psalms 146:4** and even **Acts 2:29**⁵.

Mormons claim to be God’s only true church on earth. Yet error must first be mixed with truth to make it credible to those who are not the most diligent Bible students — which is precisely why the Bereans searched the Scriptures daily.

Mormons are not alone in this form of deception. The above vital Scriptural exposure, of the Mormon religion, is simply a typical example of what it means to “study” the Scriptures so one will not be deceived by very dedicated, earnest, yet thoroughly deceived false prophets, and teachers. We need to look up the original meaning in the original Biblical languages “Hebrew and Greek” or “the original languages” and “compare” “*Scripture with Scripture*,” and “*precept with precept*,” “*here a little and there a little*,” **Isaiah 28:10**, as “*the spirit*” “*will guide you into all truth*,” **John 16:13**. By using this simple method of study, it is easy to demonstrate that there are many falsely translated and interpreted texts upon which false teachings and denominations are founded⁶.

2. True believers must search and study all the Scriptures, both the First and Completed Testaments for themselves, so they will not be deceived.

NA28 σπούδασον σεαυτὸν δόκιμον παραστήσαι τῷ θεῷ, ἐργάτην ἀνεπαίσχυντον, ὀρθοτομοῦντα τὸν λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:15

NA28 ἐραυνᾶτε τὰς γραφάς, ὅτι ὑμεῖς δοκεῖτε ἐν αὐταῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἔχειν, καὶ ἐκεῖναί εἰσιν αἱ μαρτυροῦσαι περὶ ἐμοῦ.

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:39

⁵For a detailed treatment of the intermediate state and the unconscious sleep of the soul, see our companion paper “Death, Sleep, and the Soul in Torah Scripture.”

⁶ See our paper of the many, actually one hundred falsely translated and misinterpreted verses in Torah.

NA28 οὗτοι δὲ ἦσαν εὐγενέστεροι τῶν ἐν Θεσσαλονίκη, οἵτινες ἐδέξαντο τὸν λόγον μετὰ πάσης προθυμίας, τὸ καθ' ἡμέραν ἀνακρίνοντες τὰς γραφὰς εἰ ἔχοι ταῦτα οὕτως.

These [in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Act 17:11

NA 28 21 οὐ γὰρ θελήματι ἀνθρώπου ἠνέχθη προφητεία ποτέ, ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ πνεύματος ἁγίου φερόμενοι ἐλάλησαν ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἄνθρωποι.

For the prophecy came not in old time [Old Testament times] by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2Pe 1:21

3. True believers must study Scriptures exactly how they're instructed they should be studied.

1Thessalonians 5:17 admonishes us to “*Pray without ceasing.*” Therefore the Scriptures should never be studied without prayer because “spiritual things” “are spiritually discerned,”

1Corinthians 2:13-14.

In addition to this rule there are seven specific passages which instruct us how to actually study, interpret, and thus correctly learn the Scriptures so we will not be deceived.

First, the Scriptures are to be continually read to have a thorough knowledge of them:

NA28 Καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς Ναζαρά, οὗ ἦν τετραμμένος, καὶ εἰσῆλθεν κατὰ τὸ εἰωθὸς αὐτῷ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῶν σαββάτων εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν καὶ ἀνέστη ἀναγνῶναι.

And he [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luk 4:16

Second, Scriptures are to be rightly divided to the correct original meaning and intent of the original words:

NA28 σπούδασον σεαυτὸν δόκιμον παραστήσαι τῷ θεῷ, ἐργάτην ἀνεπαίσχυντον, ὀρθοτομοῦντα τὸν λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:15

G3718 ὀρθοτομέω orthotomeō or-thot-om-eh'-o

From a compound of G3717 and the base of G5114; to make a straight cut, that is, (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message): - rightly divide.

Third, “the Scriptures,” especially as defined by Isaiah for the last days, are to be studied by placing precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little as the Scriptures of the entire Bible “Hebrew and Greek” or “the original languages.” are intended to interpret themselves.

BHS

- (9) אֶת־מִי יִנְרֶה דַעַה וְאֶת־מִי יִבְיִן שְׂמוּעָה גְּמוּלִי מִתְּלֵב עֵתִיקִי מִשְׁדָּדִים: (9)
 (10) כִּי צוֹ לְצֹוֹ צוֹ לְצֹוֹ קוֹ לְקוֹ קוֹ לְקוֹ זָעַר שָׁם זָעַר שָׁם: (10)
 (11) כִּי בְּלַעֲגֵי שִׁפָּה וּבְלִשׁוֹן אֲחֵרֵת יִדְבַר אֶל־הָעַם הַזֶּה: (11)
 (12) אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֲלֵיהֶם זֹאת הַמְּנוּחָה הַגִּיחִי לַעֲיָר וְזֹאת הַמְּרַגְעָה וְלֹא אָבִיא שְׂמוּעָה: (12)
 (13) וְהִיא לָהֶם דְּבַר־הַזֵּה צוֹ לְצֹוֹ צוֹ לְצֹוֹ קוֹ לְקוֹ קוֹ לְקוֹ זָעַר שָׁם זָעַר שָׁם לְמַעַן יִלְכוּ וְכִשְׁלוּ אַחֲרָי וְנִשְׁפְּרוּ: (13)
 וְנִקְּשׁוּ וְנִלְכְּדוּ:

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips [how God “speaks” not “once,” but “twice,”] and another tongue [Hebrew and Greek, the Bible code languages] will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isa 28:9-13

Fourth: spiritual things are to be compared with spiritual things as the Scriptures are to be permitted to explain and teach themselves.

This is especially true for how the writings of the New Testament are compared to the writings of the First [old] Testament to be correctly understood for:

BHS לְתוֹרָה וְלַתְּעוּדָה אִם־לֹא יֵאמְרוּ כְּדִבְרֵי הַזֵּה אֲשֶׁר אֵי־לֹו שְׁחַר:

“...if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. **Isaiah 8:20:**

NA28

12 ἡμεῖς δὲ οὐ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ κόσμου ἐλάβομεν ἀλλὰ τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα εἰδῶμεν τὰ ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ χαρισθέντα ἡμῖν· 13. ἃ καὶ λαλοῦμεν οὐκ ἐν διδακτοῖς ἀνθρωπίνης σοφίας λόγοις ἀλλ’ ἐν διδακτοῖς πνεύματος, πνευματικοῖς πνευματικὰ συγκρίνοντες. 14 ψυχικὸς δὲ ἄνθρωπος οὐ δέχεται τὰ τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ θεοῦ· μωρία γὰρ αὐτῷ ἐστίν, καὶ οὐ δύναται γινῶναι, ὅτι πνευματικῶς ἀνακρίνεται.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:12-14

Fifth, we are to study the Scriptures in light of the fact “all”⁷ of the major events of sacred history recorded in Scripture are to be somehow typologically repeated⁸ in our day:

(BHS) מֵהַיְשָׁהֵיכָּהֵן כָּבָר הוּא וְאַשֶׁר לְהִזּוֹת כָּבָר הִיגָה וְהֵאֱלֵהֵם יִבְקֶשׂ אֶת־נִרְדָּף:

*KJV: That which hath been is now; and that which is to be **hath already been**; and God requireth that which is **past**.*

Ecclesiastes 3:15

BHS

(9) מֵהַיְשָׁהֵיכָּהֵן הוּא שִׁיחֵהָ וּמֵהַיְשָׁנָעֲשֶׂה הוּא שִׁיִּעֲשֶׂה וְאִין כָּל־תְּדַשׁ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ:

(10) לֹשׁ דְּבָר שִׁיאִמַּר רֵאֵה־זֶה תְּדַשׁ הוּא כָּבָר הִיגָה לְעֵלְמִים אֲשֶׁר הִגָּה מִלְּפָנָיו:

(11) אִין זְכָרוֹן לְרֵאשִׁיטִים וְגַם לְאַחֲרָיִים שִׁיחֵהָ לְאִי־הִגָּה לְהֵם זְכָרוֹן עִם שִׁיחֵהָ לְאַחֲרָנָה:

*KJV: (9) The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that **which shall be done**: and there is no new thing under the sun. (10) Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. (11) There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that **are to come** with those that shall come after.*

Ecclesiastes 1:9–11

NA28

⁷ The Greek adverb *τυπικῶς* (*typikōs*) means ‘as types’ or ‘typologically.’ The paper says “*all* meaning 100%.” This is accurate for the Greek word *πάντα* (*panta*) — Paul does say “*all these things*.” Many historical events in Israel’s history serve as typological patterns.

⁸ The BHS text has *יִבְקֶשׂ* (*piel, imperfect*). The verb *יִבְקֶשׂ* (*yəbaqqēš*) from the root *בָּקַשׁ* (*bāqaš*), which means “*to seek, require*.” The standard reading is that God calls back or requires an account of the past - the idea being that everything returns in cycles.

(11) ταῦτα δὲ τυπικῶς συνέβαινεν ἐκείνοις, ἐγράφη δὲ πρὸς νουθεσίαν ἡμῶν, εἰς οὓς τὰ τέλη τῶν αἰώνων κατήντηκεν. (12) ὥστε ὁ δοκῶν ἐστάναι βλεπέτω μὴ πέσῃ.

KJV: 11) *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (12) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
1 Corinthians 10:11–12

Sixth; we are to personally prove or disprove everything we hear about the Scriptures and only “hold fast” to that which agrees with all other Scripture:

NA28 πάντα δὲ δοκιμάζετε, τὸ καλὸν κατέχετε.
 KJV: *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

1 Thessalonians 5:21

The Greek verb δοκιμάζετε (dokimazete) means ‘*test, examine, approve after testing.*’ This applies to every translation and interpretation of every word in Scripture. The principle is best stated: Test every teaching against the whole counsel of Scripture.

(NA28) οὗτοι δὲ ἦσαν εὐγενέστεροι τῶν ἐν Θεσσαλονίκη, οἵτινες ἐδέξαντο τὸν λόγον μετὰ πάσης προθυμίας, τὸ καθ’ ἡμέραν ἀνακρίνοντες τὰς γραφὰς εἰ ἔχοι ταῦτα οὕτως.

KJV: *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11*

Seventh: And how are we to prove all things, or all teaching? It is by the foundational truths of the Scriptures, especially in the First Testament.

BHS : לְתוֹרָה וְלַתְּעוּדָה אִם־לֹא אֶמְרֵנוּ כַּדְבָּר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־לֹ שֵׁמֶר:

KJV: *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
Isaiah 8:20

NOTE on **Isaiah 8:20**: This is a crucial hermeneutical principle: the Torah and the prophetic testimony -the First Testament are the standard by which all teaching is measured. The use of this verse is consistent with the Berean principle in **Acts 17:11**.

Concluding Verses;

NA28
 (17) ἵνα ἄρτιος ᾦ ὁ τοῦ θεοῦ ἄνθρωπος, πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἐζηρητισμένος.

KJV: (17) *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

2 Timothy 3:14–17

2 Peter 3:15–17 (NA28)

(15) καὶ τὴν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν μακροθυμίαν σωτηρίαν ἠγεῖσθε, καθὼς καὶ ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἡμῶν ἀδελφὸς Παῦλος κατὰ τὴν δοθεῖσαν αὐτῷ σοφίαν ἔγραψεν ὑμῖν, (16) ὡς καὶ ἐν πάσαις ἐπιστολαῖς λαλῶν ἐν αὐταῖς περὶ τούτων, ἐν αἷς ἐστὶν δυσνόητά τινα, ἃ οἱ ἀμαθεῖς καὶ ἀστήρικτοι στρεβλοῦσιν ὡς καὶ τὰς λοιπὰς γραφὰς πρὸς τὴν ἰδίαν αὐτῶν ἀπώλειαν. (17) ὑμεῖς οὖν, ἀγαπητοί, προγινώσκοντες φυλάσσεσθε, ἵνα μὴ τῇ τῶν ἀθέσμων πλάνῃ συναπαχθέντες ἐκπέσητε τοῦ ἰδίου στηριγμοῦ.

KJV: (15) *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (16) As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (17) Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 2 Peter 3:15–17*

Critical Note on **2 Peter 3:16:** This verse is critical because Peter explicitly calls Paul’s letters “*Scripture*” τὰς λοιπὰς γραφὰς – “*the other Scriptures*” This demonstrates that the New Testament writings were recognized as divinely authoritative within the apostolic period itself.

Our paper earlier claimed that “*all scripture*” in 2 Tim 3:16 referred only to the OT; while that was true when Paul wrote as the NT canon was incomplete, Peter’s testimony here shows that the NT books were already being treated as Scripture. Paul was speaking of the OT canon as Timothy knew it, but by the time of **2 Peter**, Paul’s own writings were being classed with “*the other Scriptures.*”

(NA28) ἐγὼ οἶδα ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου.

KJV: *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Acts 20:29*

This points to our need to study to show ourselves approved to God, not to man, human traditions, or church institutions alone.

Revelation 22:18–19 - NA28

(18) μαρτυρῶ ἐγὼ παντὶ τῷ ἀκούοντι τοὺς λόγους τῆς προφητείας τοῦ βιβλίου τούτου· ἐάν τις ἐπιθῇ ἐπ’ αὐτά, ἐπιθήσει ὁ θεὸς ἐπ’ αὐτὸν τὰς πληγὰς τὰς γεγραμμένας ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ, (19) καὶ ἐάν τις ἀφέλῃ ἀπὸ τῶν λόγων τοῦ βιβλίου τῆς προφητείας ταύτης, ἀφελεῖ ὁ θεὸς τὸ μέρος

αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς καὶ ἐκ τῆς πόλεως τῆς ἁγίας, τῶν γεγραμμένων ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ.

KJV: (18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18–19

We acknowledge that the immediate context is the book of Revelation itself. However, the principle of not adding to or taking away from God’s word can be extended broadly to the whole canon, and this application is eternally sound

Summary of The Seven Keys to Sound Bible Study

- 1. All Scripture is inspired by God in the original languages.**
- 2. Search and study all the Scriptures for yourself.**
- 3. Scripture is of no private interpretation.**
- 4. Study as instructed:** read, rightly divide, compare precept with precept, compare spiritual with spiritual, recognize typological patterns, prove all things, and test by the First Testament.
- 5. Recognize that major events of sacred history serve as typological patterns for our day.**
- 6. Prove all things and hold fast to what is good.**
- 7. Test all teaching by the Torah and the testimony - the First Testament.**

Conclusion: it is these principles which should guide and can protect everyone in their study of the Scriptures.

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