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Week 4: Scripture

We have considered the issue of prayer, which is us talking to **God**. Scripture is **God's** way of speaking to us. **The Scriptures** are composed of the **TaNaKh** (or the Old Covenant) and the B'rit Chadashah (the New Covenant). The Hebrew word **TaNaKh** (pronounced *ta-nakh*) is an acronym, based on the letters **T** (for "Torah"),**N** (for "**N**eviim," or the Prophets), and **K** (for "**K**etuvim," or the Sacred Writings). Also sometimes referred to as **the Torah** or **the Scriptures**. These are texts that anticipate the coming of **Messiah**.

B'rit Chadashah (pronounced *be-reet ha-da-sha, the "ch" sound in Hebrew is a guttural sound and is largely silent*) are the writing of the Apostles, those immediate disciples of **Yeshua** who were who were authorized to give His truth. In many circles this is called the "New Testament" (as Testament is another word for Covenant).

The TaNaKh is **God's** promise of life, and **the B'rit Chadashah** is the fulfillment of that promise. **The Scriptures** are reliable in all its claims about life, both temporal (on earth) and eternal (in heaven).



Please read the following scripture: **Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him (Proverbs 30:5).** The word for **pure** in Hebrew is *tserufab*, meaning *to make* or *prove true through refining*. **God's Word** is tested and found to be eternally true and **pure** (without error). Like the character of **God Himself**, **the Scriptures** can be trusted. In the verse above, how much of

God's Word is pure and proven to be true? _____.

The Scriptures reveal that **every word of God is** completely reliable. The word **every** in Hebrew is *kol*, meaning *all*. Therefore, it is a totally trustworthy testimony of **God** and **His** priorities.

According to **Proverbs 30:5**, what are you guaranteed if you **trust in Him** (that is, believe **in His Word**)? _____. Not necessarily from physical harm, but shielding your testimony and salvation.

Yes, **He is a shield to those who trust in Him** and **His Word**. **A shield** is protection against an attack from **the devil**, like **the shield of faith, which can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16).** The safest place to be is in **God's** will, and **God's Word** is **His** revealed will for you. Thus, as you **trust** and follow **His Word**, **the Scriptures**, you are in **His** will and your testimony and salvation is **shielded**. **The LORD** is not obligated to protect us physically from harm. Our salvation is secure (see **Week Two: Your Identity in Messiah**), but our safety in this world is not. **He** is our spiritual refuge, and our physical refuge when **He** chooses to be.

Now consider this verse: **Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You (Psalm 119:11).** The Hebrew word for **hidden** is *tsafan*, meaning *to hide, treasure* or *store up*. The practical application of having **God's Word** hidden in your **heart** is memorizing, personalizing, trusting and following **the Scriptures**. If you ever have to choose between your feelings and **God's Word**, choose to **believe**, **trust** or have **faith** in **God's Word**. According to **Psalm 119:11**, what is the result of having **God's Word hidden** (or treasured) **in** your **heart**? _____.

When **Yeshua** was confronted by Satan **in the wilderness** the first time **(Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13), the Lord** used **the Scriptures** as **a shield** to temptation. In **His** first temptation when hungry, Lucifer tempted **Yeshua** to turn stones into bread, **the Lord** quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3** where Isra'el was tested with hunger so she would learn dependence on **God**. But she failed to do so. However, **Yeshua** succeeded by saying: **It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of ADONAI" (Mattityahu 4:4; Luke 4:4).**

In the second temptation **the devil led Him to the holy city** of **Jerusalem and**

had Him stand on the highest point of the Temple Mount and tempted **Him** with the words: **If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.** To make the temptation more persuasive, **the great dragon** quoted Scripture, as **Yeshua** had just done. Quoting **Psalm 91:11-12**, **he** said: **For it is written, "He will command His angels concerning You to guard you carefully; and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:5-6; Luke 9-10). Yeshua** responded by quoting **Deuteronomy 6:16** where Isra'el was tested with thirst so she would learn dependence on **God**. But where she failed to **trust God**, **Yeshua** succeeded by **answered the devil** by quoting **Deuteronomy 6:16: It is also written, "Do not put ADONAI your God to the test" (Matthew 4:7; Luke 4:12).**

In **his** third temptation, **the old dragon** then dropped all pretenses and made one final, desperate effort to corrupt **Yeshua**. **He** finally revealed **his** ultimate purpose: to induce **Messiah** to worship **him**. **Again, the great dragon took the Lord to a very high mountain and, in an instant, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor** and said, **"If You will bow down and worship me,** all that **You see will all be Yours."** But **Yeshua** responded by quoting **Deuteronomy 6:13** where **Isra'el** was tested to serve **ADONAI** only; however, **she** failed to do so. But **Yeshua said** to **the devil, "Away from me, Satan! For the TaNaKh says, 'Worship ADONAI your God, and serve only Him' (Matthew 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-8)."** If **the Word of God** was **His** only resource to fight **Satan**, shouldn't we recognize that it should also be ours?

Since **Yeshua** used Scripture to defend **Himself** against the enemy. We should do no less!

You have a Bible now . . . know the Scriptures! When we treasure **God's Word** in our heart and obey **it, He** enables and enlightens us to follow and not rebel against **Him**. The way to keep from **sinning** against **the Lord** and to please **Him** is to believe in, and follow **His Word**.

Having **His Word** in your **heart** is to have **the Word** deep within your being; in the place where you make decisions and choices to either **trust** and follow **the Lord** in every area of your life or not. **God** wants all of you, not part of you. Please read the following verse: **To the Torah and to the testimony! If they do not speak according this word, it is because they have no light (Isaiah 8:20).** According to this verse, where should you turn to for the truth? _____ _____.

We need to say yes, **to the Torah and to the testimony, God's Word**. **The Torah and the testimony** refer to **the Scriptures**, or **God's Word**. **The Torah** means *instruction*, literally, *what is pointed out*, essentially authoritative instruction. The word **testimony**, *te'udah*, is used in reference to the tablets of the Ten Commandments **(Exodus 31:18)**, as well as referring to the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle that contained the Ten Commandments **(Exodus 40:21)**.

As **the Psalmist** wrote: **the testimony of the LORD is true (Psalm 19:7). God's Word** is **His** authoritative and fully trustworthy **testimony** of what is always right and true for your life. When you have a problem to deal with or a decision to make, pray for guidance, then search **the Scriptures**, for in them you have **light** for your path.

Looking again at **Isaiah 8:20**, above, whoever may be teaching, if they do not speak according to **God's Word**, why should we NOT listen to them? _____**.** To be without light (or true enlightenment) means to be without the truth; if the teacher is speaking contrary to **the Word of God**, they cannot be trusted for spiritual matters of guidance for your life. The New Covenant reiterates the same thing about the full authority and sufficiency of **God's Word**.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (Second Timothy 3:16). According to **Second Timothy 3:16**, how much of Scripture is inspired? _____ _____**. It** is just as relevant today, as the day **it** was written. **All** of **it**. Inspired literally means *God-breathed*. In **Genesis 2:7**, *God's breath* gave Adam life. Therefore, the inspired or *God-breathed* **Scriptures** are *God's life-giving* **Word** to you.

As **First Peter 2:2** teaches: **As newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow toward salvation.** New believers are like **babies** in the faith. As **babies desire milk**, so your desire should be for **God's Word, the pure milk,** which nourishes us spiritually and helps us grow up in **the truth**. As with babies, regular feeding as well as nourishing meals are vitally important. As **Messiah** taught us to pray, **give us this day our daily bread (Luke 11:3),** so we need ot have daily meal times in **the Word**. Can you imagine a **baby** eating once a week? **God's Word** is **"the bread of life" (John 6:25-59)** for our souls. We need to regularly read and personalize **Scripture**, praying and seeking to apply **God's Word** to our daily life. This is the way a "**baby** believer" grows to be mature in **the Lord**.

Personalize these verses. Add “me”, “my” or “I” for them, they theirs, us and ours.
Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to ____ when __ trust in Him (Proverbs 30:5).

Give ___ this day ___ daily bread (Luke 11:3).

For further reading regarding the Bible, see **Psalm 19; Psalm 119; Amos 8:11-13; First Peter 1:23-25; Second Peter 1:20-21, 3:15-16;** and **Revelation 1:3, 22:18-19.**

For our next lesson, please memorize, or *hide in your heart*, **Second Timothy 3:16**

Also please start memorizing the order of the books of the Bible. This will make your Bible study much easier.

The three most important words for interpreting Scripture are: context, context, context!
Therefore, beware of people who preach the “Word-of-Faith Movement.”