



The Words of Life: Scripture as The Living and Active Word of God

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:3

Lesson Two: God Speaks

Consider the following familiar statement: **The Bible is our only authority.**

Is this statement true or false? Explain your answer.

Here is an important premise we will explore: *From a Biblical perspective, God acts by speaking.* In fact God's acting and speaking are often pictured as the same thing.

What is the first thing God does in the Bible (Genesis 1:1-3)?

Notice the recurrence of "and God said" throughout the account of creation.
See also Psalm 33:4-12

What is special about the creation of man (Genesis 1:26-27)?

Read Psalm 29. Notice how "the voice of the Lord" and "the Lord" accomplish the same action.

How is God said to "uphold the universe" (Hebrews 1:3)?

How does Paul describe the Scriptures in 2 Timothy 3:16?

How did the prophets characterize their message (scan through Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel to see what phrases they used to refer to their message)?

How does this information relate to the written Word we have today?

Exodus 19-20

What instructions did God give to Moses (Exodus 19:3-8, 10-14)?

How did God appear to the Israelites on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:9, 16, 18-19; 20:20)? Why?

How did the Israelites react (Exodus 19:16; 20:18-19)? Why?

What competing voices had they been listening to?

Provide some examples of God's word being associated with power.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 55

Why is the figure of ingesting or eating often associated with God's word?

What is the result of hearing God?

How do we "seek the Lord"?

What does God say about His word?

An Invitation to Listen to God
Isaiah 55

COME, everyone who thirsts, **COME** to the waters; and he who has no money, **COME**, buy and eat! **COME**, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not **bread**, and your labor for that which **does not satisfy**? **Jeremiah 2:13; Deuteronomy 8:3; Deuteronomy 18:9-22**

Listen diligently to me,
and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in **rich food**.

Figure of Ingesting God's Word
Rev. 10:10
Ezek. 3:3
Psalm 119:103
Dt. 8:3
Jer. 15:16

Incline your ear,
and
come to me;

HEAR,

that your soul may live;

and I will make with you **an everlasting covenant**, my steadfast, sure love for David. . .

. . . the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for **he has glorified you**.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him **return to the LORD**, that he may have ~~compassion on him, and to our God~~, for he will abundantly pardon.

For **my thoughts** are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **my ways**, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways** higher than your ways and **my thoughts** than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving **seed** to the sower and **bread** to the eater,

so shall **my word** be
that goes out **from my mouth**;
it shall **not** return to me empty,
but it shall **accomplish**
that which **I purpose**,
and shall **succeed** in the thing
for which **I sent it**.

**God sends forth His thoughts
and His ways in His word!**

Results:

For you shall go out in **joy** and be led forth in **peace**; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, **an everlasting sign** that shall not be cut off."