

Psalm 12 — "Stand in Scripture in a Land of Liars!"

The Scripture is the **staff** that many hurting saints have leaned on as they journeyed thru life; the **cross** that many have died upon as they leaned upon the Truth of God; the **song & melody** in their lips as they suffered before the arrogant Rebels; the **pillow** that many have slept upon with threats hanging over their head; the **compass** to guide them thru cloudy, confusing times of life; the **lighthouse** to direct you while on the high waves of dark night of the sea; and the **honey** that sweetens the mouth when everything around makes the stomach bitter.

"The words of Jehovah are holy in his precepts, just in his laws, gracious in his promises, significant in his institutions, true in his narrations, and infallible in his predictions. What are the thousands of gold and silver compared to the treasures of the sacred page!" (George Horne)

Prov 12.22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord

Prov 6.17 - God hates a 'lying tongue'

John 8.44- Satan is a liar & the father of lies

Isa 65.16 - our God is the "God Of Truth"

Our God is Truth.

- He is Truthful
- He is Faithful
- He is Reliable
- He is Infallible

THESIS — from Ps 12, Let's *learn how to stand on Scripture in a land of liars...*

1. Sinful Words (1-5)
2. Sacred Words (6-8)

I. NOTICE THE SINFUL WORDS (1-5)**• verses 2-4 - the description of the sinful words:**

Falsehood —

Flattering lips —

Double heart —

Boasting —

II. NOTICE THE SACRED WORDS (6-8)**Doctrine of Bibliology —**

1. **Inspiration** - the supernatural breathing out of God so that all Scripture is in fact the true, infallible, God-breathed Word.
2. **Infallibility** - the certitude that God's Truth can't fail.
3. **Authority** - the Bible alone is authority over man.
4. **Inerrancy** - the Bible is fully without error in the original manuscripts.
5. **Sufficiency** - the Bible is all that the believer needs for life and godliness to deal with any issue of life and holiness.
6. **Necessity** - we need God's Truth to know God, to understand Christ, to trust the gospel, b/c the Spirit works with & by His Word.
7. **Clarity** [perspicuity] - the Word *can* be understood by a believer because He has the Spirit of God.

• Verses 6-7 — footholds to stand upon:

The words of God are...

1. Divinely supernatural
2. Perfectly pure
3. Tried and reliable
4. Refined and perfect

Christian, Because God's Word is true, you should...

1. Read the Word.
2. Study the Word.
3. Memorize the Word.
4. Disciple with the Word.
5. Counsel with the Word.
6. Evangelize the Word.
7. Parent with the Word.
8. Edify with the Word.
9. Trust in the Word.
10. Rejoice in the Word.

Additional Notes:

Psalms were used in six ways in synagogue worship (C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms*):

- 1) Psalms, in part or in whole, were recited in synagogue services.
- 2) Specific psalms were assigned for reading on certain festivals.
- 3) After various liturgical acts (such as putting on the prayer shawl), verses from the Psalms were recited.
- 4) The Psalms may have been read in a three-year cycle.
- 5) During synagogue services the congregation participated in responses from the Psalms.
- 6) Many prayers were composed of phrases from the Psalms.

Truthfulness & Authority of the Scriptures:

There is, I imagine, no body of literature in the world that has been exposed to the stringent analytical study that the four Gospels have sustained for the past 200 years. This is not something to be regretted: it is something to be accepted with satisfaction. (FF Bruce)

The particularity of each New Testament author was in no way smothered by the unique process of inspiration. On the contrary, the Holy Spirit first prepared, and then used, their individuality of upbringing, experience, temperament and personality, in order to convey through each some distinctive and appropriate truth.

The dual authorship of Scripture is an important truth to be carefully guarded. On the one hand, God spoke, revealing the truth and preserving the human authors from error, yet without violating their personality. On the other hand, men spoke, using their own faculties freely, yet without distorting the divine message. Their words were truly their own words. But they were (and still are) also God's words, so that what Scripture says, God says. (John Stott)

Note what Christ taught about the inspiration of the Old Testament:

1. Its **entirety**; the whole of the Bible is inspired (Matt. 4:4; 5:17-18). In Matthew 4:4, Jesus responded to Satan's temptation by affirming verbal plenary inspiration when He said, man is to live by every word (plenary) that proceeds out of the mouth of God (inspiration). In Matthew 5:17-18, Christ promised that the entire Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets, would be fulfilled, not abolished. In fact, He declared that not even the smallest Hebrew letter, the yodh, which looks like an apostrophe ('), or stroke of a letter, a small distinguishing extension or protrusion of several Hebrews letters (cf. the extension on the letter R with its absence on the letter P), would pass away until all is fulfilled. Christ's point is that it is all inspired and true and will be fulfilled.
2. Its **historicity**; He spoke of the Old Testament in terms of actual history. Adam and Eve were two human beings, created by God in the beginning, who lived and acted in certain ways (Matt. 19:3-5; Mark 10:6-8). He spoke of Jonah and his experience in the belly of the great fish as an historical event (Matt. 12:40). He also verified the events of the flood in Noah's day along with the ark (Matt. 24:38-39; Luke 17:26-27). He verified God's destruction of Sodom and the historicity of Lot and his wife (Matt. 10:15; Luke 17:28-29). These are only a few illustrations; many others exist.
3. Its **reliability**; because it is God's word, the Scripture must be fulfilled (Matt. 26:54).
4. Its **sufficiency**; it is sufficient to witness to the truth of God and His salvation (Luke 16:31).
5. Its **indestructibility**; heaven and earth will not pass away until it is all fulfilled. Nothing can stop its fulfillment (Matt. 5:17-18).
6. Its **unity**; the whole of the Bible speaks and witnesses to the person and work of Christ (Luke 24:27, 44).
7. Its **inerrancy**; men are often in error, but the Bible is not; it is truth (Matt. 22:29; John 17:17).
8. Its **infallibility**; the Bible cannot be broken, it always stands the test (John 10:35).

Psalm 12 — "Stand in Scripture in a Land of Liars!"**ONLY A HOLY GOD**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
 Who else could make every king bow down?
 Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
 Only a Holy God
 What other beauty demands such praises?
 What other splendor outshines the sun?
 What other majesty rules with justice?
 Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire?
 What other power can raise the dead?
 What other name remains undefeated?
 Only a Holy God
 Who else could rescue me from my failing?
 Who else would offer His only Son?
 Who else invites me to call Him Father?
 Only a Holy God

EVERY PROMISE OF YOUR WORD

From the breaking of the dawn
 To the setting of the sun,
 I will stand on every promise of Your word.
 Words of power, strong to save,
 That will never pass away,
 I will stand on every promise of Your word.
 For Your covenant is sure,
 And on this I am secure,
 I can stand on every promise of Your word.

When I stumble and I sin,
 Condemnation pressing in,
 I will stand on every promise of Your word.
 You are faithful to forgive,
 That in freedom I might live,

So I stand on every promise of Your word.
 Guilt to innocence restored:
 You remember sins no more!
 So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice,
 I will listen for Your voice,
 And I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
 Through this dark and troubled land
 You will guide me with your hand
 As I stand on every promise of Your word.
 And you've promised to complete
 Every work begun in me,
 So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

PSALM 12: *The Psalter* [Tune: it came upon the midnight clear]

Help, Lord, because the godly man
 doth daily fade away;
 and from among the sons of men
 the faithful do decay.
 Unto his neighbor every one
 doth utter vanity:
 they with a double heart do speak,
 and lips of flattery.

God shall cut off all flattering lips,
 tongues that speak proudly thus,
 our tongues prevail; our lips are ours:
 who is lord over us?

For the oppression of the poor,
 for him in need that sighs,
 to save him from his scornful foes,
 God saith, I will arise.

Jehovah's words are words most pure;
 they are like silver tried
 in earthen furnace, seven times
 that hath been purified.
 Lord, thou shalt them preserve and keep
 for ever from this race.
 On all sides walk the wicked, when
 vile men are high in place.