

**The Great Doctrines of the Bible  
The Doctrine of the Scriptures**

**By Rev. William Evans, Ph.D., D.D.**

**I. NAMES AND TITLES.**

- 1. THE BIBLE.**
- 2. THE TESTAMENTS.**
- 3. THE SCRIPTURES.**
- 4. THE WORD OF GOD.**

**II. INSPIRATION.**

- 1. DEFINITION.**
- 2. DISTINCTIONS.**

- a) Revelation.**
- b) Illumination.**
- c) Reporting.**

**3. VIEWS:**

- a) Natural Inspiration.**
- b) Christian Illumination.**
- c) Dynamic Theory.**
- d) Concept Theory.**
- e) Verbal Inspiration.**
- f) Partial Inspiration.**
- g) Plenary Inspiration.**

**4. THE CLAIMS OF THE SCRIPTURES THEMSELVES:**

- a) The Old Testament.**

**b) The New Testament.**

**5. THE CHARACTER (OR DEGREES) OF INSPIRATION.**

**a) Actual Words of God Himself.**

**b) Actual Words Communicated by God to Men.**

**e) Individual Freedom in Choice of Words--To What Extent?**

**THE DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES.**

**I. THE BIBLE--ITS NAMES AND TITLES.**

**1. "THE BIBLE."**

**Our English word *Bible* comes from the Greek words *biblos* (Matt. 1:1) and *biblion* (diminutive form) (Luke 4:17), which mean "book." *Ancient books were written upon the biblus or papyrus reed, and from this custom came the Greek name biblos, which finally came to be applied to the sacred books. See Mark 12:26; Luke 3:4; 20:42; Acts 1:20; 7:42.***

***The Bible is not merely a book, however. It is THE BOOK--the Book that from the importance of its subjects, the wideness of its range, the majesty of its Author, stands as high above all other books as the heaven is high above the earth.***

**2. "THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS."**

***See Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6, 14; Heb. 9:15; 12:24.***

***The word Testament means Covenant, and is the term by which God was pleased to designate the relation that existed between***

***Himself and His people. The term Covenant was first of all applied to the relation itself, and afterward to the books which contained the record of that relation.***

***By the end of the second century we find the "Old Covenant" and the "New Covenant" as the established names of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures; and Origen, in the beginning of the third century, mentioned "the divine Scriptures, the so-called Old and New Covenants."***

***The Old Testament deals with the record of the calling and history of the Jewish nation, and as such it is the Old Covenant. The New Testament deals with the history and application of the redemption wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ, and as such it is the New Covenant.***

### ***3. "THE SCRIPTURE," AND "THE SCRIPTURES."***

***The Bible is also called "The Scripture" (Mark 12:10; 15:28; Luke 4:21; John 2:22; 7:38; 10:35; Rom. 4:3; Gal. 4:30; 2 Pet. 1:20), and "The Scriptures" (Matt. 22:29; Mark 12:24; Luke 24:27; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; Rom. 1:2; 2 Tim. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:16). These terms mean that the Scriptures are "Holy Writings." By the early Christians the most common designation for the whole Bible was "The Scriptures."***

### ***4. "THE WORD OF GOD."***

***Of all the names given to the Bible, "The Word of God" (Mark 7:13; Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 2:17; Heb. 4:12; 1 Thess. 2:13) is doubtless the most significant, impressive, and complete. It is sufficient to justify the faith of the weakest Christian. It gathers up all that the most earnest search can unfold. It teaches us to regard the Bible as the utterance of divine wisdom and love--as God speaking to man.***