

# Word of God

*Max Barnett*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 1.

B. Jesus is the Word of God, the Bible is the Word of God, and preaching can be the Word of God.

## II. The Bible must be interpreted.

A. The Bible is to be interpreted literally, but not necessarily literal in every instance (e.g. John 7, 15).

B. The Bible is true, but not all of it is to be interpreted literally. Old Testament miracles are quoted as facts, though, not symbols. (Exodus 3:8)

## III. The Bible was written by men in history.

A. God worked through men speaking Greek and Hebrew.

B. God was not hindered by speaking through men.

## IV. Exegetical principles.

A. Tenses in Greek.

1. The past tense in Greek means once for all.

2. The present tense denotes a continuous action. (I John 3:9, I John 1:9)

B. Bible dictionaries and Word studies are helpful for understanding what words meant in the original language.

C. Historical background is valuable for interpretation. (Matthew 6:18, Matthew 5:41, James 5:14)

D. One needs to be careful of allegorical readings of the Scripture. It skews the true meaning of God's Word. (Acts 27:27, Mark 2:3, Luke 18)

## V. Theological principles. Never build a doctrine off an obscure verse (e.g., the baptism of the dead in I Corinthians 15). (Matthew 5:29, I Corinthians 15:12)

## VI. The Bible is a divine work. (II Peter 1:21, II Peter 3:15-16, II Timothy 3:16, Jeremiah 36:17)

VII. The purpose of the Bible is to bring a person to salvation and then once saved to equip a person for living and ministry, to know God, to help in prayer, to gain peace, to help in temptation, to meditate, etc. (II Timothy 3:16-17, I Peter 1:23, John:39-40, Philippians 3:10, Matthew 5:39-40, Matthew 4:4, Job

23:12, I Peter 2:2, Acts 20:32, Matthew 22:29, Proverbs 14:12, Psalm 19:11, Ephesians 4:30, Psalm 119:133, Jeremiah 15:16, Colossians 3:16, Jeremiah 5:29, Isaiah 40:18, I John 3:22, Matthew 4:3, John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26, Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 1:2-3, Joshua 1:8, I Peter 3:15, Jeremiah 20:9, Luke 24)

**Application questions:**

1. Why is it wrong to read the Bible literally in every instance? Give some examples.

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2. Which purpose of the Bible stood out to you? What struck you about it?

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3. How will you approach Bible interpretation differently in light of the message? Explain.

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