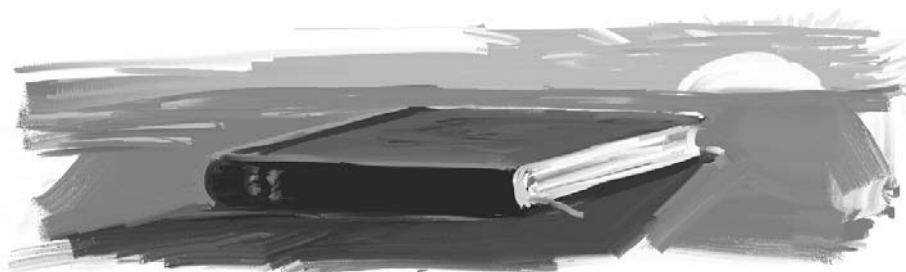


# The Word of God Stands Forever



## SABBATH—JUNE 23

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY:** Micah 6:8; John 3:14-17; John 10:10; Romans 4:21; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 4:7; 2 Peter 3:9.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “ ‘All people are like grass. All of their glory is like the flowers in the field. The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But the word of the Lord stands forever’ ” (1 Peter 1:24, 25, NIV).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The Bible is still very meaningful to us today.

**MANY HISTORIC (OLD) BOOKS ARE STILL AROUND**—everything from the Egyptian Book of the Dead to the writings of famous leaders and thinkers, such as Aristotle and Julius Caesar. But none of these has the influence<sup>1</sup> and power that the Bible has had and still has today.

Yes, the Word of God lasts, even in a world of space shuttles, high-tech television, cell phones, and laptop computers. Science and technology<sup>2</sup> and art and culture have made many advances today. But we are still people struggling with the same problems that humans (people) have struggled with from the beginning of history. Problems about life, death, happiness, health, religion, and family have stayed the same across time. And the Bible's answers to them have not changed either.

This week, our final week in this quarter, we will look more at why the Word of God is still meaningful to us as it was in the past.

<sup>1</sup>influence—the power to act on or affect persons or things.

<sup>2</sup>technology—science that is put to use for practical work.

**SUNDAY—JUNE 24****THE WORD OF GOD TODAY  
(Micah 6:8)**

For many people, the Bible is meaningless now. Here are the reasons they give: (1) The Book is so old. (2) The Book came from a very small group of people, the Jews. (3) The world is so different today from the days in which the Book was written that the Bible can not be meaningful anymore.

**How would you answer those reasons?**

The problem with those reasons comes down to one question: How did the Bible receive its start? Suppose the Bible is just a human book, a book written only by humans explaining their own cultural ideas. Then the argument against it would be a good one.

But, as Christians, we do not accept this argument. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. We believe that God, the Creator, has spoken to us through the Bible. We believe that He has revealed (made known) His will to all people through the Book. Yes, the Bible was written long ago or written by a small group of people or written in a world very much different from today. But all these things make no difference, because we believe that God has spoken to us through the Bible.

**Below are some verses that discuss issues found in the Bible. As you read these verses, ask yourself (1) What issues are being dis-**

**cussed? (2) How meaningful are those issues to us today?**

Micah 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 10:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 17:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 17:31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Think about each of the topics listed above. If we did not have the Bible, what answers would we have to these issues? Think how different your life would be were you left without the guidance, hope, and promises offered to us in the Bible. Meanwhile, what can you do to help make what the Bible offers you more real for yourself?**

**MONDAY—JUNE 25****GOD'S EVERLASTING PLAN  
(Psalm 33:11)**

**“But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever. What he wants to do will last for all time” (Psalm 33:11, NlrV).**

**What important principle<sup>3</sup> found in Psalm 33:11 helps us understand that the Bible is still meaningful today?**

**What does God want for us? Read John 3:14-17; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9.**

The Bible is meaningful today, because the plans of God are made known in it. The plan of salvation<sup>4</sup> has been made known to us through the Word. That salvation is to be for all people in every time period. “A man may have many plans in his heart. But the Lord’s purpose [plan] wins out in the end” (Proverbs 19:21, NIV).

God is an eternal<sup>5</sup> God (Deuteronomy 33:27). He has an eternal kingdom (Daniel 2:44). God’s will for us as revealed (made known) in the Bible has not changed with the passing of time, because He never changes: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). “ ‘You [Jesus] will roll them [the earth and the heavens] up like a robe. They will be changed as a person changes clothes. But you remain the same. Your years will never end’ ” (Hebrews 1:12, NIV).

Sure, times change. The way people live changes. Attitudes<sup>6</sup> change, and people change. Change is a fact of life. We see it all around us. But God Himself and His purposes for us always remain the same.

<sup>3</sup>principle—basic rule of life.

<sup>4</sup>salvation—God’s plan for saving sinners from eternal (without end) death.

<sup>5</sup>eternal—forever; without end.

<sup>6</sup>attitudes—ways of thinking, acting, or feeling.

So, it makes no difference that the Bible was written many centuries ago, or in a different culture. What is important is that God’s love for us and His desire for our salvation remain the same throughout the whole history of the world.

Then this is the secret of the Bible: The Bible is meaningful today because the God of the Bible is as real to us today as He was to the people in the past.

**Think about all the changes that take place in your own life or in the world around you. Look at how much trouble there is everywhere. But what does it mean to you that the Lord’s love for us and plan for our salvation never changes? What hope can you get from this important truth?**

## TUESDAY—JUNE 26

### THE ETERNAL CROSS (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Bible is so meaningful to us today for one most important reason. It shows God’s chosen method of making known to us the most important truth we can ever know. This is the truth of Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the grave. As long as this great truth is taught to us, it does not matter to us how old the Bible is or who wrote it or when it was written.

What is really important is that God has made known to us the great truth of salvation<sup>7</sup> through Jesus. This is truth that will last through all eternity (forever), long after this old earth ends and a new one is made by God. So, as long as the Word of God shows us Christ and Him crucified,<sup>8</sup> the Bible will never stop being meaningful to our sinful world.



The most important truth we can ever know is that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave.

**What messages do the following verses have for us? As you read them, ask yourself, Were it not for the Bible, where else could I have learned the truths about life and God?**

Isaiah 65:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24:30 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Going over the verses listed above, write out what they all seem to be telling us. Study the promises that the Bible has made known to**

<sup>7</sup>salvation—God’s plan for saving sinners from eternal (without end) death.

<sup>8</sup>crucified—Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins.

us. Why should the Bible mean so much to each of us? Share your answer with your class on Sabbath.

### WEDNESDAY—JUNE 27

#### UNBROKEN PROMISES (1 Kings 8:56)

“ ‘I [Solomon] praise the Lord. He has given peace and rest to his people Israel. That’s [that is] exactly what he [God] promised to do. He gave his people good promises through his servant Moses’ ”  
(1 Kings 8:56, NIV).

The Word of God lasts forever, because God’s promises never fail. Human promises are often broken, but God always keeps His promises.

What hope is found in Romans 4:21 for us? How have you experienced how real this verse is?

What special promise is found in John 16:33 for all of us? How have you experienced that promise in your own life?

How have you experienced the promise found in Matthew 28:20?

God also has promised us (1) everlasting life (John 3:15), (2) answers to prayer (Matthew 7:7), (3) unlimited blessings (Mark 9:23), (4) removal of the things that block (Luke 17:6), (5) spiritual fullness (John 6:35), (6) sal-

<sup>9</sup>inspiration—something that gives hope to someone.

<sup>10</sup>ministry—work done for God.

vation (Romans 1:16), (7) help in overcoming temptation (Hebrews 2:18), and (8) victory (James 4:7). “Through these promises Christ gives us His grace and power. They are leaves from the tree that is ‘for the healing of the nations.’ Revelation 22:2. When we receive these promises and make them part of our heart and mind, they are to be the strength of the character, and the inspiration<sup>9</sup> and support of the life. Nothing else can have such healing power.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Ministry*<sup>10</sup> of Healing, p. 122.



God’s promises are leaves from the tree of life. When we receive these promises, they heal our lives.

What promises are you still waiting for Jesus to fulfill? How can you hold on to the Lord in hope and trust in the meantime?

### THURSDAY—JUNE 28

#### THE BIBLE LASTS (Matthew 24:35)

Throughout history, people have made prophecies that the Bible would “die.” They have also said that the

Bible would soon fade away and would be seen as nothing but an interesting historical book of long ago.

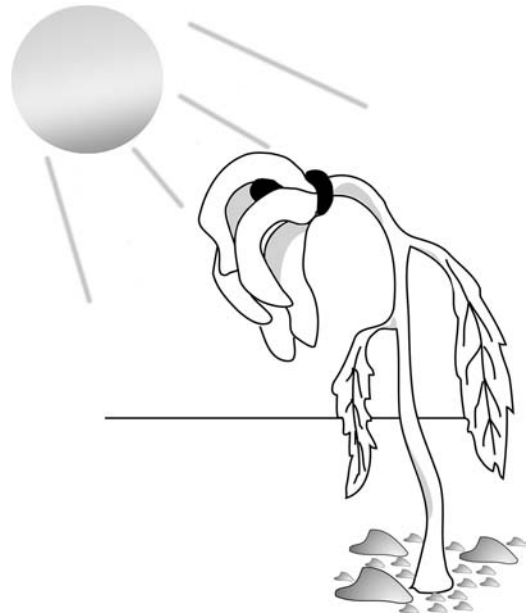
How wrong those prophecies have been!

**How do the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:35 foretell that the Bible would be around even in the last days?**



**Satan has tried to destroy the Bible.**

Satan has tried to destroy the Bible. This enemy of souls has tried to use science and philosophy to remove the influence<sup>11</sup> of the Bible. But, today, millions and millions of people believe in the Bible as God's Word. They try to claim its promises and live by its commands. Should this be a surprise? No, not at all! As we have been told: "The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8, NIV).



**"The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8, NIV).**

Meanwhile the United Bible Societies reports, "At the start of the nineteenth century, the Bible was available in just 68 languages. Today, at least one book of the Bible is available in no less than 2,303 languages. The complete Bible has been translated into at least 405 languages, and the New Testament into some 1,034. In addition, parts of the Bible have been made available in some 864 languages." (Read [www.biblesociety.org](http://www.biblesociety.org).)

**Stop to think that what was written in 1 Peter 1:24, 25 was written nearly 2,000 years ago! What mes-**

<sup>11</sup>influence—the power to act or affect persons or things.

**sage is here for us, today? How should these words help us trust in the Bible, in its promises and in its warnings?**

**The Bible continues, now and forever. The question is, What has the Bible done in our lives? The Word of God can be on our shelves, on our desks, and even in our minds. But it needs to be in our hearts. When we let it into our hearts, what good does it do? What does your life say about how you relate to God’s Word?**

### FRIDAY—JUNE 29

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Ellen G. White, “The Scriptures a Safeguard,”<sup>12</sup> pp. 593–602, in *The Great Controversy*.<sup>13</sup>

“God will have a people upon the earth to hold up the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard<sup>14</sup> of all doctrines [beliefs] and the basis of all reforms [changes]. The opinions of learned men, the teachings of scientists, the decisions [choices] of religious councils, none of these should be counted as proof for or against any point of religious faith. Before we accept any doctrine or religious rule, we should require a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 595.

<sup>12</sup>safeguard—anything that keeps someone or something safe; protection.

<sup>13</sup>great controversy—the war between Jesus and Satan over good and evil.

<sup>14</sup>standard—example, guide, principle, or law.

<sup>15</sup>eternity—life without end; forever.

“The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of saved people through all eternity.<sup>15</sup> In Christ glorified they will see Christ crucified. People will never forget that the Lord Himself, Creator of countless worlds throughout the huge universe, humbled Himself upon the cross to save fallen sinners. They will not forget that He suffered the guilt and shame of sin, and the hiding of His Father’s face, until His heart was broken and His life was crushed out on the cross. That the Creator of the universe put aside His glory and humbled Himself upon the cross out of His love for man will always inspire the wonder, admiration, and worship of the universe.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 651.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❶ As a class, go over your answers to Tuesday’s final question. What can you learn from one another?
- ❷ How can you as a class help the church understand where it is failing and then help it reach a higher standard?
- ❸ Talk about some of the Bible promises that have not been fulfilled as we would like. For example: Someone prayed for a sick friend or spouse or child who did not recover. What does the Bible say we should do to help one another deal with these problems?