

THE BIBLE: A LIVING BOOK

For two readers. (N = narration; S = Scripture)

N – Today I want to give thanks to God for giving us the Bible, his word in written form. I am calling this meditation THE BIBLE: A LIVING BOOK, because the characteristic of being alive is what sets the Bible apart from the other books in our world. In the story of creation in Genesis 2, we find this account of the making of Adam:

S – The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

N – Without the breath of God, Adam would have remained a statue, while WITH the breath of God came all sorts of activity that we associate with being alive. Besides being able to move about and think, Adam became USEFUL for tending the garden, for example, and for naming the animals. The Bible, too, is God-breathed, and because of that, is useful in many ways. Listen to this passage from Paul in 2 Timothy 3:

S – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that God's servant may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

N – What a training manual! And what desirable results come from paying attention to it! Then in chapter 4 of Hebrews, the writer gives us further information about God's living, truly amazing Book:

S – The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

N – The Godlike qualities given to the written word of God reflect the fact that the Holy Spirit – the same Spirit we find hovering over the waters in the opening verses of Genesis – was vitally involved in the writing of the Bible. Listen to this from 2 Peter 1:

S – You must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

N – Truly we should be in awe of such a Book, not just for the volume itself, but for its message. The Bible is basically a love letter from God to us. The centerpiece of the Book is Jesus, God's eternal Word, with a capital W, the one John spoke of in the opening chapter of his gospel:

S – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

N – Let's show appreciation to God for the written word by meditating on it day and night, until our lives overflow with praise to God, the Author of our living Book.

N & S – Amen.

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