

Worksheet 4

The Foundation of Faith



The Old Testament uses the Hebrew word *dabar* for ‘the word’ of God, and usually refers to a spoken word from God. It points to ‘a meaningful sound which reveals what lies behind the sound’. This self-revelation is the essence of biblical teaching about God’s word. A person’s *dabar* was regarded both as an extension of their personality and as having its own existence.

What do these passages teach about the Word?

Psalm 103:20

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Deuteronomy 12:32

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Isaiah 40:8

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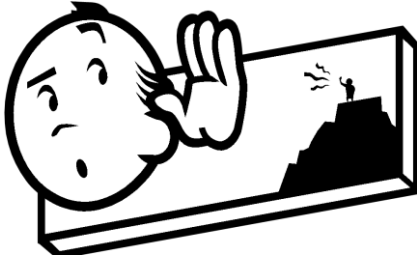
Isaiah 55:11

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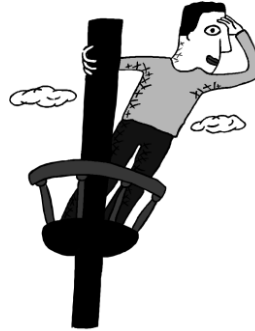
LOGOS

In the Greek version of the Old Testament, *logos* is used to translate *dabar*. This sense of a full divine self-revelation is taken into the New Testament, where *logos* is also used as a title of Jesus – who is both the self-revelation of God, and yet distinct from the Father.

This does not mean that the Scriptures are unimportant. But we must not forget that the biblical emphasis of faith is that it comes more from hearing and seeing than from reading that it is centred more upon Jesus than Scriptures; and that it is a clinging to God rather than just a mental understanding of the Bible.



HEARING



SEEING

Other uses

In the New Testament, logos does not only to Jesus, it is also used in many different ways. **Read the following passages, and then note the different ways that logos is used.**

Matthew 13:20

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Matthew 2:35

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Mark 7:13

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Luke 7:7

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John 15:20, 25

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Acts 2:40

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Acts 8:25

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Acts 10:36

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Acts 15:7

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Acts 16:32

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Romans 9:9

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Romans 9:28

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1 Corinthians 2:13

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1 Corinthians 12:8

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1 Corinthians 14:9

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1 Corinthians 19

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2 Corinthians 1:18

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Galatians 5:14

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Galatians 6:6

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Ephesians 1:13

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Philippians 2:16

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Colossians 1:5

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Colossians 3:16

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1Thessalonians 1:5

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1 Thessalonians 4:15

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1 Timothy 4:6

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2 Timothy 1:13

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Titus 1:9

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Hebrews 4:12

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Hebrews 6:1

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1 John 2:7

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Revelation 1:2, 9

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The *rhema* of God is not different from his *logos*, it is an aspect of *logos*. By a *rhema* word, God highlights one element within his *logos*. Every word is always consistent with both the full self-revelatory *logos* of God and also with every *rhema* of God.

How should we test words which people claim to come from God?

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How have you received *rhema* words from God?

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THE WORD OF GOD

What do Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 33:6 & 2 Peter 1:19-21 teach about God's word?

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Which parts of the Bible do you read least frequently? Why is this?

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What do the following scriptures teach about God's word?

2 Chronicles 6: 14-15

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Isaiah 55:10-11

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Romans 4:18-21

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Hebrews 4:12

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What do these passages teach that the Word brings?

Psalm 1:1-3

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Psalm 17:4

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Psalm 107:20

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Psalm 119:105, 130

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Luke 4:4, 8, 12

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John 5:24

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Romans 10:17

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Ephesians 5:25-27

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Ephesians 6:17

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James 1:18

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1 Peter 2:1-2

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2 Peter 1-4

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