



QA: Should James 4:5 Be Translated "Scripture"? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: "In your opinion, is there a demand that GRAPHE ["the Scripture" jtpll] of James 4:5 be translated 'Scripture.' If there is, what would so demand it?"

Or do you think that **the Scripture** says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? (**James 4:5**)

ANSWER: My opinion about "the Scripture" doesn't matter. **Every use of the expression "he graphe" in the New Testament always denotes the inspired Word of God!**

1. **James 2:8** quotes **Leviticus 19:18**; **James 2:23** quotes **Genesis 15:6**; and **James 4:5** teaches **Genesis 2:7** and **Exodus 34:14**. Whether it is a direct quotation, specific reference, or inspired summary of a former passage, **it always refers to what God has previously said in "writing" (graphe).**

2. **Jesus emphasized "the Scripture":**

Matthew 21:42: Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in **the Scriptures**: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" (**Psalms 118:22-23**);

Matthew 22:29: You are mistaken, not knowing **the Scriptures** nor the power of God.

Matthew 26:54, 56: How then could **the Scriptures** be fulfilled, that it must happen thus? ... But all this was done that **the Scriptures** of the prophets might be fulfilled.

- a. **To Jesus Christ, "the Scriptures" referred to a reliable, written record of what God had exactly spoken** that people in Jesus' day could refer to and confirm what He quoted to them;
- b. "The Scriptures" contained detailed prophecies that were being specifically fulfilled before the eyes of those who could read Scriptures for themselves;
- c. What God had spoken before, and was written, did not contradict what Jesus either said or did to prove that He (Jesus) was, indeed the Christ, the only begotten Son of God!

It is not my opinion, but a matter of faith, that the expression "the Scripture" always refers to God's inspired Word in writing, even if I cannot find the exact phrase referred to another passage! ***My conclusion is based upon my conviction: God knew what He meant when He said something in time past, and He is calling attention to what it meant then by what He is stating about it in the New Testament. There is no other source of information about the mind of God:***

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (**1 Corinthians 2:11-12**)

— jtpll, January 3, 2021