

A Generation That Knows

The Inspiration of the Bible
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Introduction:
1. There are many books that claim to be the word of God (ex. Koran, the Divine Principle, Book of Mormon, Science and Health with Keys to the Scriptures).
 2. How then are we to know that the Bible is the inspired (God-Breathed) Word of God.
 3. Consider the evidences of divine authorship.
 - a. Once you observe this, you can stop your search.
 - b. Ills. of a picture of a family member with 1000 other people.
 4. Let's examine the evidences of the Bible's inspiration.

I. Internal Claims

- A. One has a right to testify in his own defense.
- B. If the Bible makes claims that can be substantiated, then its testimony is proven trustworthy.
- C. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).
- D. A total of 3,808 times, the Old Testament uses such phrases as, "Thus says the Lord," "The word of the Lord came to me," or "the word of the Lord was in my mouth."

II. Its Unity

- A. The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by approximately 40 authors, over the span of approximately 1500 years.
- B. Yet, the Bible is united, consistent, and pursues the theme of Jesus.
 1. Law – The Foundation for Jesus.
 2. History – The Preparation for Jesus.
 3. Poetry – The Aspiration for Jesus.
 4. Prophets – The Expectation of Jesus.
 5. Biography – The Manifestation of Jesus.
 6. History – The Propagation of Jesus.
 7. Epistles – The Expectations of Jesus.
 8. Prophecy – The Consummation of all things in Jesus.

III. Its Indestructability

- A. (Matthew 24:35; John 10:35).
- B. Many have tried to destroy the Bible and its influence, but all attempts have failed (Jeremiah 36:22-23).

IV. Its Impartiality

- A. The Bible records both the morality and immorality, triumphs and failures, glorious events and scandalous events in the lives of its heroes.
- B. The Bible contains an objective honesty that humans would have great difficulty achieving.

V. Its Historical, Scientific, and Geographic References are Accurate.

- A. While the Bible is not a history book, science book, or geography book, when it does reference such matters, it does so accurately.

VI. Logic and Rationality Demand it

- A. Consider the possibilities for the Bible.
 - 1. Evil Men were the authors – but is it within the ability and disposition of evil men to write such a book?
 - 2. Good Men wrote it – good men could not have written it if they lied by saying God was the author.
 - 3. God wrote it – this is the only one that makes sense and is exactly what the bible claims.

VII. Fulfilled Prophecy is an Evidence

- A. For prophecy to be convincing, it must meet the following criterion.
 - 1. It must be detailed enough to exclude chance fulfillment.
 - 2. It must have no historical hints.
 - 3. It must be 100% free from error.
- B. No other book but the Bible can satisfy these criteria.
- C. Examples of fulfilled prophecy.
 - 1. (Daniel 2) Rise and fall of four nations.
 - 2. (Isaiah 44:28, Ezra 1:1) Jews return to Jerusalem.

- Conclusion:
- 1. In light of the evidence, one can affirm with assurance that the Bible is the inspired word of God.
 - 2. And if it is the word of God, how should we receive it (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
 - 3. Some day, the words contained in the Bible will just or lives (John 8:48).