

Biblical Claims for Inspiration

Introduction

- Many books have been written by men.
- One book has been written by God.
- No book has been subjected to more criticism than the Bible.
- No one seems to doubt the authenticity of what is attributed to Aristotle, or Plato, or even Shakespeare.
- Some may say that Shakespeare was inspired. Some claim that George Frederick Handel was inspired when he wrote “The Messiah”.
- Only the Bible claims to have been inspired by God; only the Bible claims to speak the very words of God.

How has the Bible come down to us?

- From the time when God first placed it in the minds of his prophets
 - Through the process of writing
 - Through the copying and recopying
 - Through its translation into so many different languages?
- How we got the Bible must include a discussion of:
 - The Inspiration of the Bible
 - The Canon of Scripture
 - The Transmission of Text
 - The English Bible
- This lesson focuses on “The Inspiration of the Bible”.

What is meant by “inspiration”?

- The Bible claims to be inspired.
- A few evidences of inspiration
 - Prophecies made 100’s or 1000’s of years in advance that happened as predicted is one evidence of inspiration.
 - Medical accuracy – Lev. 17 – the life is in the blood
 - Leviticus 17:10-14
 - At one time, medical science advocated blood-letting to rid a body of disease
 - I wonder how many people died from this practice.
 - The earth is round – only concluded by man apart from the Bible a few hundred years ago.
 - Isaiah 40:22

- Criticism of the Bible
 - Article – U.S. News and World Report, “Who Wrote the Bible?”

- The Process of Inspiration
 - 2 Timothy 3:15-16
 - God
 - writer
 - God-breathed
 - One word in Greek
 - Θεοπνευστος
 - Theopneumotos
 - “Sacred” writings
 - God exerted a supernatural influence over the writers so that what is recorded in the scripture is exactly what God wanted.
 - On the other hand ἐὰν τις ἑαυτὸν προφητεύοντα πνεύματος ἁγίου ἡγοῖται καὶ οὐκ ἔσται ἐκ τοῦ ἁγίου, ἀλλὰ ἐκ ἀνθρώπου, ὁ ἐκείνους ἐκκαυχόμενος, ὁ αὐτοὺς ἐκκαυχῶνται, ὁ αὐτοὺς ἐκκαυχῶνται, ὁ αὐτοὺς ἐκκαυχῶνται
 - one who, acting the part of a divinely inspired prophet, utters falsehoods under the name of divine prophecies
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - If you diagram the sentence
 - Subject: God
 - Verb: Spoke

The Old Testament Canon

- Luke 24:27 (Moses and all the prophets)
- Luke 24:44-47 (law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms)
- John 1:45
- Acts 3:18-21
- Acts 13:15
- Acts 24:14
- Acts 28:23
- Rom 3:21
- Rom 16:26
- Old Testament divided into 3 parts:
 - Law
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - Prophets
 - Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, The Twelve
 - Writings
 - Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job, Ruth, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1-2 Chronicles

God Has Spoken

- The Books of Law
 - Genesis 1
 - 10 times “and God said”
 - It is writing what God said
 - Genesis 6:1-8
 - Writing what God was thinking
 - Exodus 3:1-ff
 - God spoke from a burning bush
 - Exodus 20:1-ff
 - God spoke on Mt. Sinai
 - Leviticus
 - “Jehovah spake unto Moses” 33+ times
 - Leviticus 1:1-ff, 4:1-ff
 - “I am the Lord” 43+ times
 - Leviticus 11:44-45
 - Leviticus 26:45-46

- Numbers
 - “The Lord spake unto Moses” 51 times
 - Numbers 1:1
 - Numbers 35:9
- Deuteronomy
 - “the Lord your God” 44+ times (310)
 - Deuteronomy 1:26
 - Deuteronomy 31:26
 - The Lord’s “commandments” 42+ times (123)
 - Deuteronomy 4:2
 - Deuteronomy 31:5
- An incredible number of times that the claim --- these are the words of God --- is asserted.
- The prophets
 - “Thus saith the Lord” 2500+ times
 - Joshua 24:2-ff
 - Judges 6:8
 - 1 Samuel 10:18
 - 1 Kings 11:31
 - Isaiah 10:24
 - Jeremiah 2:2
 - Amos 3:11
 - Obadiah 1:1
 - Micah 2:3
 - Haggai 1:5
 - Zechariah 1:3
 - Malachi 1:4
 - How many pages are in your Old Testament?
 - I have one with 1,080 pages
 - “Thus saith the Lord would average close to 2.5 times per page

First Key to Inspiration

- It must claim to be of God!
 - 2 Samuel 23:2 (David)
 - Isaiah 34:16

Jesus' View of Verbal Inspiration

- Matthew 5:18
 - not the smallest letter or stroke ...
 - Hebrew Yod י
 - Hebrew Tav ט
 - Every word is inspired

New Testament

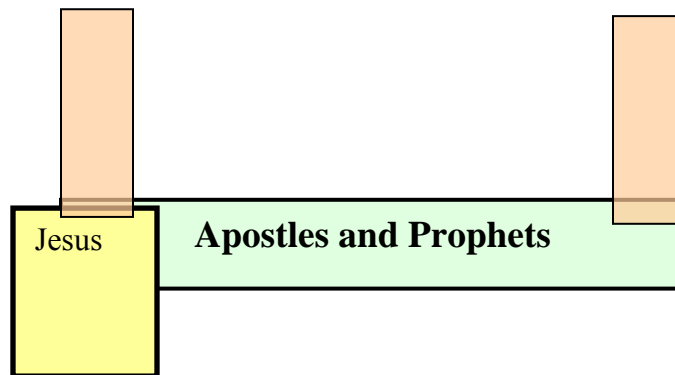
- Hebrews 1:1-2
 - God
 - Spoke
 - by His Son
- Critics of the Bible question the validity of the New Testament on the basis that Jesus did not write anything, even though the book bears His name: The New Testament of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Inspiration of the Apostles
 - The Twelve
 - John 16:13
 - Paul
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - 1 Corinthians 2:13
 - 1 Corinthians 14:37
- Critics point out that, not only did Jesus not write anything himself, but that parts of the New Testament were written by men who were not apostles (Mark, Luke, James, Jude).
- Inspiration of Prophets
 - Prophecy – the ability to receive and communicate revelations from God
 - The Apostles imparted the gift of Prophecy by the laying on of their hands
 - Acts 8:18
 - 2 Timothy 1:6

God Spoke to Us by His Son

- Jesus sent the Spirit to his apostles
- The apostles laid hands on men and endowed them with a gift of prophecy
- The apostles and prophets wrote the New Testament
 - Ephesians 3:3-5
- There is not a single book of the N.T. that was not written by either an apostle or a prophet.

The Church

- Jesus is its cornerstone
 - 1 Peter 2:6
 - Ephesians 2:20
- It is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets
 - Ephesians 2:20
- It is the pillar and support of the truth
 - 1 Timothy 3:15



- It is made up of Christians who are “living stones”
 - 1 Peter 2:5
- By it we come to God, the object of acceptable worship
 - 1 Peter 2:5

Since the Bible is Verbally Inspired

- Study it carefully
- Allow it to guide our thinking and beliefs
- Obey its teachings in our daily actions

Writers are continually making the claim that, their words (written) are the words of God.

You can choose to reject the Bible as the inspired word of God, but you cannot honestly deny that the Bible is claiming to be the inspired word of God.

One may read the writings of a man, such as Shakespeare, and claim that the man must have been inspired. But Shakespeare himself never made such a claim, nor does he do so in his writings.

The Bible is unique in that it claims to be from God.

Prophets were endowed with an ability to receive and communicate revelations from God.