

In this inaugural study, we will discuss *the fact* that the Bible is the Word of God. The reasons may seem obvious, but let us say this: if the Bible is not God's Word, then it need not be obeyed, we cannot know for sure what is on God's mind, we can never know how to be saved, Jesus and His death and resurrection are not real, and all the stories are just myth and of little value. If the Bible is not God's Word, then the writings of other religions carry equal weight. If the Bible is not God's Word, then Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, etc., are all valid religions.

BUT THE BIBLE ALONE IS GOD'S WORD!! There is no other book like it.

The Bible is the word of God: supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in valor, infinite in scope, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, inspired in totality. This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are absolute. Here paradise is restored, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell are disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good is its design, and the glory of God is its end.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

Think about it!

The one thing the Bible does that no other book in the world even dares to do is accurately predict the future.

There are about 3856 verses directly or indirectly dealing with prophecy- about 1 in 6 verses tells of future events. Buddhists, Confucianists, and Muslims all have their own sacred writings, but in them the element of prophecy is clearly missing. Yet, Biblically as you read, you will see the invasion of Jerusalem, the fall of Babylon and Rome- each accurately predicted & fulfilled to the smallest detail!

In the brief life of Jesus alone there are over 300 prophecies fulfilled. The odds that all would be fulfilled in 1 man by accident are laughable. By the laws of chance, the odds of even just 48 prophecies being fulfilled by one man are 1 in 10^{167} - that's a one followed by 157 zeroes!!!

THE BIBLE

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure. It brings into man the personality of God and changes him by transforming his mind and character.

WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS ITSELF

The Bible is called "the Scripture" in Mark 12:10; 15:28; Romans 4:3; Galatians 4:30; 2 Peter 1:20, and "the Scriptures" in Matthew 22:29; Luke 24:27; Acts 17:11; Romans 1:2. These terms basically mean the Scriptures are "Holy Writings". The most common term used by our early brothers and sisters for the whole Bible was "the Scriptures".

Of all names given to the Bible, "The Word of God" (see Mark 7:13; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 2:17; Hebrews 4:12) is the most significant. It teaches us to regard the Bible as God speaking to man- the utterance of divine wisdom and love.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE: In determining that the Bible is God's Word, consider some of the following facts:

The Bible was written over a period of several thousand years by over forty different authors, from completely different backgrounds, most not even familiar with each other, writing 66 books that are unified, in agreement and with no contradictions.

When the Bible speaks scientifically, it does so accurately **all the time**.

There are a large number of Bible manuscripts, manuscripts copied by scribes as far back as the second century BC. This guarantees us that we can know with the utmost certainty what the actual text of the Bible is- free from the errors or interpretations of human translators.

“Any single verse of the Bible, taken in isolation, may actually be dangerous to your spiritual health. Every part of it must be read in relation to the whole passage.”
- Louis Cassels

The Bible is a supernatural book that can be understood only by supernatural aid- pray before you read it!

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE AND WHAT IT MEANS

The key verse regarding this is 2 Timothy 3:16- “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

The term “inspired” is the Greek word translated accurately above as “God-breathed” (the New Testament was originally in the Greek language). To be “God-breathed” signifies that the writings of the Bible are the result of a definitive influence exerted by God on their authors.

The inspiration of the Bible means that there was a strong, conscious inbreathing of God into men, qualifying them to give expression to the truth. It is God speaking through men, and the Scriptures are therefore just as much the Word of God as if God spoke every word of it from His own lips.

2 Peter 1:21- “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Again, in summary: Holy men of God, qualified by the infusion of the breath of God, wrote in obedience to the divine command, and were kept from all error, whether they revealed truths which they did not know before or recorded truths already familiar.

In this sense, the Bible is indeed and in truth the very Word of God and the books of the Bible are of divine origin and authority.

There are 66
books in the
Bible

There are 39
books in the
Old
Testament

There are 27
books in the
New
Testament

All versions
say the same
thing- they
differ only in
ease of
understanding

DID YOU KNOW?

The Old Testament (OT) was written in Hebrew and Aramaic and the New Testament (NT) in Greek, the languages of both the writers and readers of that day.

Translations of the full Bible are available for 438 languages, translations of one of the two testaments in 1,168 additional languages, and portions of the text exist in 848 additional languages. This means that partial or full translations of the Bible exist in a total of 2,454 languages!



The Bible is God's love letter to man..

Important words on inspiration and the 'human element'

The writers of the Scriptures claimed to being moved on by the Spirit of God. The first chapter of the book of Genesis has the words "God said" ten times alone! Some say that terms like "the Lord spoke", and "the word of the Lord came", etc., occur at least 3800 times in the OT!

Many of the OT writers started their prophecies with the expression "Thus saith the Lord", and were obviously not deceived: they recorded in minute detail names, times and places and there was literal fulfillment of the "words" given.

NT writers also claimed inspiration in their writings. Following are OT and NT verses that demonstrate their claims:

Exodus 4:10-15; Deuteronomy 4:2; Jeremiah 1:7-9; Ezekiel 3:4;
Micah 3:8; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 1 Peter 1:10,11; Acts 1:16; 28:25; 1
Corinthians 2:13; 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 3:1,2.

It is obvious in the verses above and in others that the writers of the OT and NT were conscious that the Holy Spirit was moving them and they felt they were giving expression to the infallible truth of God.

How does this play out regarding the human element? Much has been said and written concerning this. Here are two things to consider:

- 1) At least some of the words of Scripture are the identical words written or spoken by God Himself. (E.g. Exodus 31:18; 32:16; Daniel 5:5)
- 2) It is also stated in Scripture that God put into the mouths of certain men the very words they should speak and told them what they should write. (E.g. Isaiah 8:1, 11, 12; Jeremiah 13:12; 30:1,2; Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18)

This being true, it leaves out one very important thing: the writers' personalities come out in the writing. How is this possible without damaging the idea of divine inspiration?

Easy! *In a certain sense, and in respect to some parts of Scripture, the authors were (humanly speaking) left to choose their own words in relating divine truth. The Holy Spirit employed all the faculties of the writer. He guided the writer to choose what narrative, state papers, imperial decrees, genealogies or historical matters he might find necessary for the recording of the divine message of salvation. He produced in, with and through their spirits, so as to preserve their individuality to others.*

A bit of the Book in the
Morning...
To order my onward way

A bit of the Book in the
Evening...
To hallow the end of the
day

-Margaret Sangster

See what you have learned!

Answer the following questions...

...and be a pro who knows the Bible!

- 1. What does the word 'Scripture' mean anyway?**
- 2. What is the Bible useful for? (Hint: 2 Timothy 3:16)**
- 3. How long did it take to write the Bible? How many writers are there?**
- 4. What does 'inspired' mean?**
- 5. How many languages has the Bible been translated into?**
- 6. Look up the verses on page 4. What is consistent about them?**
- 7. According to page 1, how should you read the Bible?**