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## Who Wrote The Bible? & Why Should I Believe The Bible?

### Has God spoken?

Are the words of Scripture merely human in origin or are they in fact the very words of God Himself? When we communicate with one another we rely heavily on words. God also speaks to men through words; the words of the Bible. The Bible claims that its very words are inspired. It declares emphatically over 3000 different times such words as, "thus saith the Lord," "the Lord spake," "the Lord commanded" or "God said." This is why in the Bible it is claimed that Scripture "*came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).*" Simply, what they wrote was not a concoction of their own ideas, and it was not the result of human imagination, insight, or speculation. God directed these men (through the Holy Spirit) as to the very words to write, and yet He did not destroy the individuality or style of the writers. This is one of the key verses in the Bible on divine inspiration.

### Who wrote the Bible?

It is accurate to say that God wrote the Bible. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, Scripture is "*breathed out*" by God. This is confirmed in Matthew 4:4 and Deuteronomy 8:3 where the Bible is said to proceed from the mouth of God. However, saying that God wrote the Bible does not mean He took pen in hand, grabbed some parchment, and physically wrote the text of Scripture. His writing of Scripture was not a physical action on His part. Rather, God's authorship was accomplished through the process of inspiration, as human writers

wrote God's message.

So, it is also accurate to say that inspired men of God wrote the Bible. God "superintended" the human authors of the Bible so that while using their own individual writing styles and personalities, they still recorded exactly what God wanted to be said. The Bible was not dictated from God, but it was perfectly guided and entirely inspired by Him. Each author wrote at the direction of the Holy Spirit who "breathed out" Scripture to them. Peter described the process of inspiration this way: "*Prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit ( 2 Peter 1:21).*"

The Bible affirms its own divine authority when it tells us that, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).*" The phrase "inspiration of God" here in the Greek is *theopneustos*, or literally, "God-breathed." The entirety of Scripture, then, including the Old and New Testaments, is the product of the unique, direct, creative, and supervisory work of God's Holy Spirit ( 2 Peter: 21). God's Holy Spirit used human writers, means that He utilized their vocabularies, writing styles, and personalities in the process; however, the attending influence of the Holy Spirit protected those men from making any doctrinal, historical, or even scientific errors. The result is that the Scriptures as they appear in the original parchments are fully vested with God's own authority. God guided the writers of Scripture to produce exactly the message He wanted. Therefore, we conclude that all the Bible is God-breathed, has God as the author, and it was written by people as they were moved by the Spirit of God i.e. by revelation. The apostle Paul, who wrote the majority of the New Testament said, "*I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from God (Galatians 1:11-12).*" Paul also said this is precisely why the Bible is not called "*the word of man,*" but rather, "*the word of God (1 Thess. 2:13).*" When we read the Bible we are hearing from God.

Famous writers throughout history have used amanuenses, or secretaries to produce their literature. The well known poet John Milton was blind by the age of 44. His entire "*Paradise Lost*" was dictated to friends and relatives; anyone who would write for him and

that's how the entire epic was recorded (a total of more than 10,000 lines of poetry). We understand the function of an amanuensis. While God did not "dictate" His Word to the human authors, the principal is similar. God, the ultimate author of the Bible, used human agents as His "amanuenses," and the result was the divinely inspired Word of God.

Humanly speaking, the Bible was written by more than 35 divinely inspired writers. The Bible, though regarded as a book, is in fact a library of 66 unique volumes, written over a span of 1500 years. It was written on three continents, in three languages, on totally different topics, and in extraordinary different circumstances. These writers came from all walks of life; from kings to peasants and they wrote under every conceivable condition. Isaiah was a prophet, Ezra was a priest, Matthew was a tax collector, Luke was a doctor, John was a fisherman, Paul was a tent maker and Moses was a Shepherd. One wrote history, another biography, one wrote on theology, another poetry, another prophecy; others on philosophy, genealogy, ethnology and narratives of wonderful journeys. Also, it was impossible for the man who wrote the first pages to have the slightest knowledge what others would write 1500 years later. Even though the Bible has been written over 15 centuries with vastly different writers and covering hundreds of controversial subjects, yet it does not contradict itself but has the same theme. This unity is organized around one theme: God's redemption of humanity and all of creation through the Person and works of Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Lest anyone think that the Bible isn't something miraculous, I'd like to give you this challenge. Find 10 people from your local area having similar backgrounds, that speak the same language, and are from basically the same culture. Then separate each individual and ask them to write their own opinion on one controversial subject such as the meaning of life.

When they have finished, compare the conclusions of these 10 writers. Do they agree with each other? Of course not! Yet, the Bible did not consist of merely 10 authors but over 35. It was not written in one generation but over a period of 15 centuries. It was not written by authors of the same education, culture and language, but with vastly different educated authors and from many different cultures. It was written on three continents, in three different languages, and finally not

just one subject but hundreds and yet the Bible is a unity. There is complete harmony, which cannot be explained by coincidence or collusion. The unity of the Bible is a strong argument in favour of its divine inspiration.

In Scripture, God always tells us; "*let us reason.*" So let us explore another avenue. If the Bible was not inspired by God then whose invention would it be? What would be the purpose of these 35 writers in producing these 66 volumes of Scripture over a period of 15 centuries? What could they get out of it? Why would they do it? What would their motives be? You see it doesn't make any sense! The Bible must be the invention of either *good* men, *bad* men, or of *God*. Therefore:

1. It could not be the invention of *good* men, for they neither would or could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it; saying "*Thus saith the Lord,*" when it was their own invention.
2. It could not be the invention of *bad* men, for they would not make a book which commanded all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell for all eternity.
3. Therefore, I draw this conclusion; that the Bible must be given by *divine* inspiration. Case closed!

How else can you explain a prophecy of Isaiah who accurately detailed the crucifixion of Christ Jesus some 700 years earlier. But, what's really amazing is that at the time of Isaiah's writing, capital punishment was delivered by the stoning of the individual. The Roman's use of crucifixion was not invented until 300 years later, after the writings of Isaiah. How could Isaiah and other writers of Scripture describe in detail events hundreds and hundreds of years before they took place? This was only possible by the inspiration of God, who divinely inspired and used these human authors to sit down and write what He wanted to say.

Its inspiration means the Bible truly is the Word of God, and makes the Bible unique among all other books. The Bible is not the book-of-the-month, nor the book of the year. It is the Book of the Ages. Throughout the ages the Bible has withstood and outlasted all of its attackers and still is the most widely published book in the world today. Year after year it is still on the best-sellers list out selling all other books. It is

unlike any other book; for we read other books, but this Book reads us. It is the living, breathing Word of God.

“Who wrote the Bible?” This is indeed a question that everyone must ask. If indeed it is the Word of the living God, then no other book gives us more insight into our lives, our condition or more hope for our future – a true path to a relationship with God. You should search the Bible with openness and honesty and see for yourself what the Creator of the universe wants to tell you.

## **Reasons to believe in the Bible**

In the previous paragraphs on who wrote the Bible I have already briefly covered a few reasons to believe in the Bible such as to its *formation*, the wonder of its *authors*, *inspiration* and *unification*. In my book called "Death and God" I list in detail 10 compelling reasons to believe in the Bible, covering some 28 pages. Here, I won't go into detail but give you an overview of what I have previously written and briefly focus on a few other reasons such as the Bible's language, honesty, preservation, its power to change lives and mainly focus on the wonder of its fulfilled prophecies.

But, before I do I just want to say this: most criticism of the Bible comes from those who have never read the Bible or have just glanced at it or have listened to someone else but have never studied it for themselves. If a person wants to be sceptical they should at least go about it honestly. Take the Bible and study several books of the New Testament; the book of John, the book of Luke and the book of Acts and ask God to reveal Himself to you as you read His Word. You might be surprised at the results, in fact God challenges us to seek and search for Him with an honest and open heart and that He would reveal Himself to us through His Word and that is the greatest evidence of all.

Most people today, unfortunately, have not read any of the books of Scripture. In fact, few have even opened the pages of the Bible itself! Thus, many people tend to go along with the popular delusion that the Bible is full of mistakes and no longer relevant to our modern world. But that is not true; the Bible is relevant to all ages; it's the Book of the Ages. The Bible is God's letter to humanity to give guidance in our journey through life to eternity.

The Bible makes claims about the creation of the universe, the nature of the God who created the universe and reigns supremely over it, and the fate of mankind. If these claims are true, then the Bible is the most important book in the history of mankind. If the Bible is true, then it holds the answers to life's biggest questions: "From where did I come?" "Why am I here?" and "What happens to me when I die?" The importance of the Bible's message demands it receive fair consideration, and the truthfulness of its message is observable, verifiable and able to withstand scrutiny.

As I just wrote earlier on "Who wrote the Bible" the inspired writers of the Bible claim that the Bible is God's very Word. The apostle Paul writes that "*all Scripture is God-breathed*" that is to say, all the words recorded in the original writings of Scripture originated from the mouth of God before ever reaching the minds and pens of the biblical writers. Again, the apostle Peter also writes that "*prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*" The phrase 'carried along' is indicative of a sail being propelled by the wind. That is, the writing of Scripture was directed by the Holy Spirit. The Bible did not originate with man and is, then, a product of God and carries the authority of God.

The internal evidence of scriptural truth provides many compelling arguments for why one should believe the Bible. First, the unique message of the Bible sets it apart from other religious texts. The Bible, for instance, teaches that mankind is inherently evil and deserving of eternal death. If man were responsible for the content of the Bible, the view of humanity would not be so dark as we tend to make ourselves look good. The Bible also teaches that humans can do nothing of themselves to remedy their natural state. This, too, goes against human pride.

Another reason to believe the Bible is in the wonder of its honesty. The Bible is painfully honest. It shows Jacob, the father of its "chosen people," to be a deceiver. It describes Moses, the lawgiver, as an insecure, reluctant leader; who, in his first attempt to come to the aid of his own people, killed a man, and then ran for his life to the desert. It portrays David not only as Israel's most beloved king, general, and spiritual leader, but as one who took another man's wife and then, to cover up his own sin, conspired to have her husband killed. At one

point, the Scriptures accuse the people of God, the nation of Israel, as being so bad they made Sodom and Gomorrah look good by comparison (Ezekiel 16:46-52). The Bible also presents human nature as hostile to God. It predicts a future full of trouble. It teaches that *"small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to eternal life (heaven), and only a few find it."* By contrast it goes on to say that the "broad road" leads to destruction (hell) and that "many" will be on that road. The Bible in its honesty simply tells us that entering the narrow gate that leads to heaven will be difficult because of the opposition of human pride, our natural love of sin, the opposition of Satan, and the influence of the world that is under his control; all of which battle against us in the pursuit of eternity.

God also makes it honestly clear that Jesus Christ is the final authority on all matters in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18; John 5:27). Individuals will be judged on what they do with His words. He said, *"He who rejects me, and does not receive My words, has one who judges him; the word that I have spoken will Judge him in the last day (John 12:48)."* I want to be perfectly honest with you and tell it like it is and what Scripture says. Yes, God is love, but He is also a God of justice and I want you to understand that. God means what He says and everyone who rejects His words will stand before the judgement bar of God.

Another reason why one should believe the Bible is its historical and geological accuracy. Down through the ages, many have doubted the historical and geological accuracy of the Bible. Yet modern geologists have repeatedly unearthed evidence of the people, places, and cultures described in the Scriptures. Time after time, the descriptions in the biblical record have been shown to be more reliable than the speculations of scholars.

For example: recent archaeological finds have corroborated the ancient manuscripts confirming the biblical details surrounding the trial that led to the fatal torment of Jesus Christ; including Pontius Pilate who ordered Christ's crucifixion and Caiaphas, the high priest who presided over the religious trials of Christ. Even unbelieving scholars agree that King David, King Solomon, the Philistines, and countless other persons mentioned in the Bible were real people, and such cities as Ephesus, Philippi, and Thessalonian were real places.

The ancient Ebla Tablets, a collection of 1700 tablets discovered since 1968 and written around 2500 BC mention the ancient biblical cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar found in Genesis 14. The Mari tablets, some 25,000 tablets written around 1900 BC, mentions the names of Abraham, Jacob, Nahor, Dan, Levi, Benjamin and Ishmael, found in the book of Genesis. Also a Canaanite bronze calf was discovered a couple of years ago and reported in Time magazine, confirming the Bible's account that pagan nations worshipped calves. Repeatedly, comprehensive archaeological fieldwork and careful Bible interpretation confirmed the reliability of the Bible.

Equally amazing is the fact that the Bible has been virtually unaltered since the original writing, as is attested by scholars who have compared the earliest manuscripts with manuscripts written centuries later. As an example: A Bedouin Shepherd discovered one of the most important archaeological discoveries of our time. In a cave off the northwest rim of the Dead Sea, a broken jar yielded documents that had been hidden for two millennia. The Dead Sea Scrolls produced manuscripts that predated previous oldest copies of the Bible by 1000 years. One of the most important was a copy of Isaiah. It revealed a document that is essentially the very same as the book of Isaiah that appears in our own Bibles today; there are no significant differences. This discovery discredited the claims of those sceptics who believed that the original Bible had been lost to time and tampering. The accuracy has been preserved despite every attempt to corrupt, attack, or destroy it, is a clear testimony to the fact that the Bible is truly God's word and is supernaturally protected by Him. After all it should not surprise us because Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away (Mark 13:31)."*

Evidence of divine inspiration is found in the fact that some of the principles of modern science were recorded as facts of nature in the Bible long before scientists confirmed them experimentally. A good example of this is the roundness of the earth. In Job 27:7, we read a modern description of the earth as it spins in empty space. This was written in about 3000 BC. This description is in sharp contrast to the false view which the rest of the world thought or believed at that time and up to around 1400 A.D. Up to that time scientists believed that the earth was flat. Isaiah 40:22 points out that God sits upon *"the circle of the earth."* Isaiah wrote this description of the earth around 700 BC.

Now, the Bible should not be confused with a science textbook, but that does not mean that the Bible does not speak to issues that are scientific in nature. The water cycle was described in Scripture centuries before it was a scientific discovery. In some cases science and the Bible have seemed to be at odds with each other. Yet, when science has advanced, the scientific theories have proved wrong and the Bible proved right. For example, it used to be standard medical practice to bleed patients as a cure for illness. Many people died because of excessive blood loss. Now medical professionals know that bloodletting as a cure for most diseases is counterproductive. The Bible always taught that *"the life of the creatures is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11)."* There are many more scientific examples, dealing with the gravitational field, atmospheric circulation, hydrologic cycle, law of conversion of mass and energy, and many more.

The Bible's true claims concerning world history have also been substantiated. Sceptics used to criticize the Bible for its mention of the Hittite people (e.g. 2 Kings 7:6). The lack of any archaeological evidence to support the existence of a Hittite culture was often cited as a rebuttal against Scripture. In 1876, however, archaeologists discovered evidence of the Hittite nation, and by the early 20th century the vastness of the Hittite nation and its influence in the ancient world was common knowledge. Through both archaeological evidences and other writings, historical accounts of the Bible have been proven time and time again to be accurate and true. In fact, all the archaeological and manuscript evidence supporting the Bible makes it the best documented book from the ancient world.

The scientific and historical accuracy of the Bible is important evidence of the Bible's trustworthiness, but the Bible also contains fulfilled prophecies. Some of the biblical writers made claims about future events centuries in advance. If any one of the events predicted had occurred, it would be astounding. But the Bible contains hundreds upon hundreds of prophecies, in fact scholars claim over 2000 prophecies are in the Bible. Some of the predictions were fulfilled in a short amount of time (Abraham and Sarah had a son, Peter denied Jesus three times, Paul was a witness for Jesus in Rome, etc.) Other predictions were fulfilled hundreds of years later. The 300 messianic prophecies filled by Jesus could not have reasonably been fulfilled by one person unless some greater power was involved. Specific

prophecies like Jesus' birthplace, activities, manner of death, and resurrection demonstrate the extraordinary accuracy of Scripture.

The Bible also has the power to change lives. The men who wrote the New Testament knew the truth of their message because they had seen and spent time with Jesus Christ after He had risen from the dead and it had a tremendous impact on them. At first, they went from hiding in fear after the crucifixion and death of Christ Jesus and then later at Pentecost to be willing to die for the message God had revealed to them. After Pentecost (Acts 2:4), or the start of the Church, when the Holy Spirit of God came down to indwell believers; they were transformed into warriors for Christ Jesus and the gospel message. They endured great persecution for what they saw and what they knew. They were eyewitnesses to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and held to their story even under threat to their own lives.

If the events of the Bible were false, no writer in his right mind would endure such torture for a lie. Matthew was slain with a sword in Ethiopia. Mark died by being dragged through the streets of Alexandria. Luke was hanged on an old olive tree. John was banished to a prison on the Isle of Patmos. Jude was shot to death with arrows. Peter was crucified upside down. Paul was beheaded in Rome by Emperor Nero. While martyrdom is not unusual, the basis on which these people gave their lives is what's important. Many have died for what they believed to be the truth, but people do *NOT DIE* for what they know to be a *Lie*. Their lives and deaths testified to the fact that the Bible truly is God's Word.

Let me now expand on the wonder of its fulfilled prophecies. Prophecy is foretelling what is going to happen and only God can foretell the future. A large percentage of the Bible is devoted to prophecy. You may wonder why more than 1/4 of the Bibles writings is on prophecy. Quite simply, prophecy demonstrates the power of God to bring to pass what He decrees. Fulfilled prophecy is also irrefutable proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible. A good majority of biblical prophecy had already been fulfilled at the time of Christ's first coming. The rest of prophecy is still waiting fulfilment at the time of Christ's second coming and the end times. And this is primarily the reason for my writing this book "*The Signs Of Our Times*" – dealing with the conditions of the end times. By informing and describing future events of Scripture that is only possible in our generation so that readers

would know that the Bible is God's Word because of the events they will be seeing happening before their very eyes. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the most powerful proofs that the Bible truly is the Word of God; where readers can put their total faith and trust in His written word. Since all of the prophecies that have been written at Christ's first coming were fulfilled to the finest detail, we can be sure that the Bible itself is God's revelation to man, since no human writer could be 100% accurate. As I've previously mentioned "*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.*" Man cannot predict the future; only God can.

Dr. Hugh Ross (Science-faith think tank), writes that there are approximately 2500 prophecies in the Bible pertaining to cities, nations, empires, events and individuals that can be verified in the historical record. He says about 80% of which have already been fulfilled to the letter with no errors. This is particularly astounding when according to scholars there are no prophecies, not one, in the writings of Buddha, Confucius or the Koran. Why? Only a supernatural God would be capable of knowing and revealing the future with 100% accuracy, time after time, in hundreds and hundreds of instances. That's exactly what the Bible does and that's precisely why the Bible is trustworthy. There simply is no logical way to explain the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible other than by divine origin.

The strongest, verifiable prophetic evidence has to be the 300 specific Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled concerning Jesus Christ. Every aspect of the life of Jesus was prophesied; the place of His birth, the nature of His birth, the quality of His ministry, the purpose of His life, and the agony of His death. The literal fulfilment of so many prophecies in the life of one individual transcends any mere coincidence and serves to validate that Jesus was who He was; the divine Son of God. So when Isaiah talked about "*a virgin*" someday being "*with child*" and calling this child's name "*Emanuel*" meaning God with us, it was no fluke (7:14). Eight hundred years later, in a feeding trough in Bethlehem, the incredible reached zenith proportions. For the first time in the history of the world, God's actual voice could be heard coming from this babe's tiny human vocal chords. Incredible, yet some of these prophecies concerning Jesus were made well over 2000 years prior to His birth and the last one, being made, some 400 years before his birth.

For example, it was not only prophesied that Jesus would be a descendent of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), but that He would be from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10) and the house of David (Ps. 110:1). Also, He would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12f), and also that His hands and feet would be pierced (Ps. 22:16). It is noteworthy that this last prediction was made long before crucifixion was invented as a form of capital punishment. David made this prediction approximately 1000 years before it was made common by the Romans who crucified Jesus.

It was also prophesied that Christ would be crucified with transgressors (Isa. 53:9, 12); that none of His bones would be broken (Exodus 12:46; Ps. 34:20), that soldiers would be gambling for His clothes (Ps. 22:11, that He would be buried among the rich (Isa. 53:13), and that He would cry out from the cross, *"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me (Psalms 22:1)?"* Moreover: Christ's resurrection (Psalm 16:8-11), His ascension to heaven (Psalm 68:18), and hundreds of other details were predicted in minute detail. These prophecies do not deal with vague generalities but they are specific and verifiable. Each is literally fulfilled down to the smallest detail in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ Himself appealed to prophecy as a proof of His identity. Christ said, *"Search the Scriptures; They.... testify of me (John 5:39)."*

Peter Stoner (Science Speaks) says that if you just took eight of these prophecies, the odds of a person coincidentally fulfilling all eight of these would be one in 10 to the 17th power. Since we can't easily picture what that means, he gave us this illustration: Suppose you took the state of Texas and spread silver dollars 2 feet deep across the entire state, then marked just one of them and buried it somewhere in the state, then, if you chose one person, blindfolded him, and told him to pick just one silver dollar, his chances of getting the marked one on his first try would be one in 10 to the 17th power. Unbelievable, and that's only on 8 out of 300 prophecies and what about the other 2000 plus prophecies in the Bible. Totally amazing, but that's the power of God and His prophetic evidences for the Bible's trust-worthiness.

I could go on further as there are hundreds upon hundreds of other prophecies that we can talk about and that one could write volumes on but I think the point has been made. Only God knows the future; the beginning from the end, and that will give every honest sceptic

irrefutable proof of the Bible's inspiration and accuracy. There simply is no logical way to explain the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible other than by divine origin. Prophecy sets God's word apart from all other literature. The world is full of the records of man looking back and recording what happened in the past. Only the Bible is full of records of God's writing the events of history before they take place. Prophecy is history pre-written.

All the evidence means nothing, unless we are willing to investigate and examine the Scriptures. After all, it is God's word we are talking about and we should make every effort to examine the evidence for its validity in our quest for the truth. Would this not make sense? Would that not also be God's desire?

When it is put to the test, the Bible has proved true in every area. Its truth extends to the spiritual, as well. That means that when the Bible says the Hittite nation existed, then we can believe that there were Hittites, and when the Bible teaches that *"all have sinned"* and the *"wages of sin is (spiritual) death,"* then we need to believe that, too. And, when the Bible tells us that *" God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)"* and that *"whoever believes in (Jesus) shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16),"* then we can and should believe that, also. The evidence is overwhelming when presented with the miracle of the Bible's structure, survival, integration (unity), historical and archaeological evidence, scientific insights, and over hundreds upon hundreds of fulfilled prophecies. There can only be one conclusion – **The Bible is truly the Word of God.**