

God's Word

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Luke 4:4

Luke 4:4, *“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”*

Is the Bible really God's Word? Most people's answer would be, “Yes,” as well as yours; but how would you proceed to prove it? If you were asked where the Bible came from, who wrote it, when and where, could you give an intelligent and convincing answer to these questions?

There are many thousands of people who love the Bible; it is their daily companion and friend. They have been brought up from their early childhood to believe that the Bible is an infallible book, word for word inspired.

When called upon to give a reason for their faith in the Word of God, they simply say, “We have been brought up to believe the Bible; our fathers and mothers believed it; and, therefore, we believe it, and have never entertained any doubt concerning it.”

But we should have more than a traditional faith in the Bible. Such a ground of faith is not only unreasoning and unstable; it is insufficient for the trials to which our faith is subjected.

There is one thing of which we are sure the Bible is here; we have it. True or false, good or bad, inspired or uninspired, from God or from men, it is here.

Our fathers had it before us; their fathers had it, too. Where did they get it?

Let us notice several facts concerning God's Word:

God's Word is inspired.

Because it seems to be.

This is seen in its origination.

Most books of men are the products of one man or a few men. Not so with the Bible, for it was written by about forty men, who were guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is human. These books have passed through the minds of men; they were written in the language of men; they were penned by the hands of men.

Yet, the Bible is also divine. There are other great books in the world, but none can compare with this one, because it is more than the product of men, it is divine.

This is also seen in its preservation.

God's Word has passed through many periods of persecution, yet it has withstood every attack of those who would exterminate it. Matt. 24:35, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*"

This is also seen in its circulation.

It has gone into many languages. After more than 1900 years the Scriptures exist in 210 different languages for the entire Bible, and in 270 different languages for the New Testament; so report the American Bible Society.

It has gone into many copies. The American Bible Society alone distributes more than a million copies of the Bible each year.

Because it claims to be inspired. (This claim is made throughout the Scriptures).

In the Old Testament.

- The Pentateuch Here we find many such expressions as "the Lord said." (Gen. 3:9; 6:13; 12:1; 35:1; Ex. 13:1; 20:1).
- The Historical Books Here again we find similar expressions as above. (Josh. 1:1; 8:1; 1 Sam. 3:1; 1 Kings 9:2-3; 1 Kings 23:14).
- The Poetical Books Here again we find the same sort of expressions. (Job 1:7; 2:3; 38:1; Psalms 50:1).
- The Prophetic Books Many times in these books we read such expressions as "the Lord hath spoken." (Isa. 1:2; 6:7; Jer. 1:4; Ezek. 1:3; Hosea 1:1; Amos 2:1; 3:1; Jonah 1:1).

In the New Testament Here many passages are found that affirm that the Bible is inspired.

- The Four Gospels. John 14:24, "*He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*"
- Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 2:16, “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;*”

Acts 2:25, “*For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved.*”

Acts 2:33-35, “*Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.*”

- The Epistles.

1 Cor. 2:12-13, “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*”

1 Cor. 14:37, “*If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*”

1 Thess. 2:13, “*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*”

- The Revelation of John. Rev. 22:18-19, “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*”

Because it proves to be inspired.

This is seen in the fulfillment of its many prophecies.

Take, for example, the prophecy concerning Babylon. Isaiah 13:14-22, “*And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one*

into his own land. Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword. Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children. And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged."

That the Bible proves itself to be inspired is also seen in its marvelous unity.

The unity of the Bible implies oneness of authorship. We speak of the Bible as a book, and in a real sense, it is; but it is a collection of sixty-six books, written on one grand theme—man's relation to God.

That the Bible proves itself to be inspired is seen in the immeasurable superiority of its teachings to those of any other book or all other books.

It seems to be the fashion of the day with the skeptics of our time to compare the teachings of the Bible with those of the world's great philosophers of the past, like Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, and others.

But anyone who puts these writings in the same category with the Bible must be ignorant of the teachings of the Bible, or ignorant of the teachings of these men, or both.

God's Word is authoritative.

To whom shall we go for authority in religion?

Jesus said in Matt. 28:18, "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*"

Power: authority. This settles the matter of authority in Christianity. Jesus has all authority. This leaves none today for Moses, David; none for Joseph Smith, or Mrs. E. G. White, or Mrs. Baker Eddy; none for the councils and synods of men.

Why do we receive the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice?

Because it was given to us for this very purpose.

- Matt. 7:21, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*
- Matt. 7:24-27, *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*
- Luke 10:16, *“He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.”*

Because this divine rule is infallible.

- Psalms 19:7, *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”*
- 2 Tim. 3:16-17, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

God’s Word is powerful.

In its influence upon world civilization.

Unquestionably, it has been the dominating influence upon world civilization.

Take, for example, the art of painting. The works of the great master painters all show the influence which the Bible has exerted in this field: Da Vinci’s “Last Supper,” Raphael’s “Sistine Madonna,” and “The Transfiguration,” and Michelangelo’s “Moses.” They all own their origin to the Bible.

Take, for example, the field of dramatics. Many of the great plays of today own their origin and inspiration to the Bible. “The King of Kings,” “Green Pastures,” and “The Ten Commandments” were all inspired by the Bible.

Take, for example, the field of music. The great world composers such as Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Beethoven; they all received most of their inspiration from the Bible.

In its transforming power.

There is a strong power to transform and convert an individual into a beautiful human life lifted up by God and His Word. No other book possesses the power the Bible has.

In its comforting power.

There has never been and never will be any other source that can bring the comfort to sorrowing hearts as God’s Word can. (Many passages throughout the Bible could be quoted for many different occasions.)

God’s Word is indestructible.

It is an indisputable fact that what man can produce, man can destroy. Why, then, if the Bible is a mere product of mortal man, have nineteen centuries of assault upon the Bible been unable to destroy it?

Down through the centuries enemy after enemy has come forth to war against God’s Word, but this Holy Book has survived despite the frequent and continued attempts to destroy it.

The Christian believes the Bible to be God’s Holy Word which cannot be destroyed.

- Psalms 119:89, *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”*
- 1 Pet. 1:24-25, *“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”*

Conclusion.

It is not without purpose that God has inspired, revealed, recorded, and preserved His Word. It was written for the purpose that we “*might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*” (John 20:31).

Therefore, may we have humble hearts to hear this Word, obey its every commands, and by its power bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Study it daily; study it prayerfully and obediently. Walk in the light of its precepts and be saved at last by its power.

