

# Evidence of Inspiration

Text : **Heb. 2: 1-4 , II Tim. 3: 10-17**

## **INTRODUCTION :**

### **A. We have seen that the bible claims to be inspired of God.**

1. Paul declares, “**All scripture is of God.**” **II Tim. 3: 16**
2. The word “**inspired**” literally means “**God breathed.**” ( **As He breathed life into Adam** )
3. Thus, the bible claims that the words literally came from God. ( **Verbal Inspiration** )

### **B. The Old Testament prophets claimed to speak for God.**

1. **Jer. 1: 9- Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.”** ( Vs. **4-10** )
2. Jesus endorsed the Old Testament prophets as speaking for God.  
( **Rich man & Lazarus** ) **Luke 16: 29- But Abraham said,**  
**‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’**

### **C. The New Testament writers claimed to be inspired by God.**

1. The Apostle Paul :  
**I Tim. 4: 1- But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away**
2. The Apostle John :  
**Rev. 1: 1-2 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,<sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.**
3. Peter and all the Apostles : **Acts 2** ( **Fulfilled Promise of Jn 16** ) ( **Peter ... Acts 10** )

### **D. The Muslim Koran is the only other book claiming to be written by inspiration.**

1. **Surah 2:2, 87, 89, 101, etc.**
2. Muslims claim the Koran was dictated to their supposed prophet Mohammed by the angel Gabriel from an eternal book in Heaven. ( **Surah 7: 158** )

**\* Considering Mohammed could neither read nor write, this is a strange claim.**

3. The character of the Koran demonstrates that it could not have come from God.
  - a. It presents a distorted view of God ... inconsistent with His true character ... love.
  - b. It pictures life in Heaven as being very carnal in nature. ( e.g., **promise of 70 virgins** )
  - c. It advocates a degrading attitude toward women.

### **TRANSITION :**

**Since the Christian faith is founded upon that which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures,  
Let us observe a few of the many evidences that the bible really is God's revelation of Himself  
and of His will to man.**

### **I. The Character of the bible commends it as being from God.**

- A. **It presents God as holy and demands that man strive to develop holiness.**
  1. It appeals to man's higher nature. ( **Left alone, man is like water, he runs down hill.** )
  2. The bible condemns all evil.
- B. **Heroes of the bible are presented realistically.**
  1. A human author would make them paragons of virtue. ( **superheroes** )
  2. The bible presents it's heroes as having human frailties.
    - a. Abraham lacked courage and had a habit of lying.
    - b. Moses committed murder, did not circumcise his children, lost his temper, etc.
    - c. David committed adultery and killed to cover it up. ( **Solomon, Jacob, etc.** )
    - d. Peter was undisciplined, quick-tempered, spoke before he thought, etc.
    - e. Paul was had a problem with pride and struggled with sin.
- C. **Jesus, God in flesh, was the one notable exception.**
  1. He set a sinless example. **Heb. 4: 15**
  2. Jesus demanded that men rise above the world's standard.
    - a. **Matt. 5: 48-** ... you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- b. **Matt. 5: 20-** ... unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees
  - c. **John 13: 34-35** ... be renowned for love.
  - d. **Mark 9:35-** “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”
3. The character of the teaching of Jesus was not like anyone before or since.
- a. **Mark 1: 22-** They were amazed at His teaching;  
for He was teaching them as one having authority,
  - b. **John 7: 46-** The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”
4. Jesus proved himself to have been God in flesh by the **resurrection** from the dead.

## II. The Holy Spirit confirmed the bible as God’s word.

### A. The word of God was given by the Holy Spirit.

- 1. **John 16:13-** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; ...
- 2. **II Pet. 1: 20-21** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### B. The Holy Spirit confirmed the word was from Him by miracles and signs.

- 1. **John 3:2-** “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ...
- 2. **John 3:36-** “... ; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish – the very works that I do – testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.”
- 3. **Heb. 2: 2-4** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every

transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, <sup>3</sup> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup> God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

- a. **Acts 5: 14-16** ... Even Peter’s shadow would heal ALL the sick.
- b. **Acts 9: 36f** ... Peter raised the dead. ( Tabitha / Dorcas )

- c. **Acts 20: 7-12** ... Paul could also raise the dead. ( Eutychus )

### **III. The fulfillment of prophecy proves the bible is from God.**

#### **A. Every prophecy in the bible has come to pass as predicted.**

1. **Deut. 18: 22-** When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken.
2. If any part of the writing of a prophet does not come to pass, he does not speak for God.
  - a. Even a clock that's stopped is right twice a day.
  - b. If a so called prophet speaks enough things, eventually one is bound to be right.

#### **B. There were hundreds of prophecies in the O.T. and all of them came to pass.**

1. **Isa. 11:11ff** ... The Israelites would be gathered back together.
2. **Dan. 2, 7** ... The coming of the great kingdom.
3. Foretold the fall of kingdoms other than Israel : ( named king before he is born )
  - a. **Ezek. 26** ... Tyre
  - b. **Obad. 1-4** ... Edom
4. **Isa. 7, 9, 11, 53** , **Dan. 9: 24-27** , **Mic. 5** , etc. ... The coming of the Messiah.

#### **C. New Testament prophecies also came true.**

1. Judgment against Jerusalem ... **Matthew 24**
2. Judgment against Rome ... **The Revelation of John**

#### **D. The ultimate prophecy was when Jesus prophesied His death and resurrection.**

1. **John 2: 19-22** ( Compare : **Luke 11: 29-32** ... Jonah )
2. **Matt. 17: 22-23**
3. **Rom. 1: 4** ... Having proven Himself to be God, all He said can be trusted.

#### **IV. The historical accuracy of the bible proves it is from God.**

##### **A. The bible covers more than 1500 yrs. of history with NO mistakes.**

1. The historical facts in the Old Testament have been confirmed by archeology.
  - a. Patriarchs in Egypt ... found grain bins ... found walls with no straw in latter bricks
  - b. Conquest of the Promised Land.
  - c. Kingdoms of David and Solomon

**\* Many have sought historical errors, but none have been found.**

2. Critics claimed the Hittite nation did not exist, but it was found by archeologists.

##### **B. The New Testament events are also well documented.**

1. There is abundant archeological evidence in Palestine. ( **thousands** )
2. The accounts of Paul's journeys have been proven accurate.
3. Many scholars have tried to disprove the bible or to find errors, but without success.  
This is amazing considering it was written by those who were NOT scholars.

**\* The bible is also geographically and scientifically accurate.**

#### **V. There is no other logical explanation possible for the origin of the bible.**

##### **A. Charles Wesley made a very valid point called ... "Alternate Possibilities."**

##### **B. Good men or angels could not have written the bible.**

1. Hundreds of times the writers say, "Thus, saith the Lord." ( and similar things )
2. Good men would and could not keep on lying like that.

##### **C. Bad men or demons would not have written the bible.**

1. The bible commands people **not** to do the things bad people practice.

2. The bible condemns bad people and demons to hell.

**D. Therefore, the bible must have come from God.**

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. The bible is unique in history.**

1. More people have tried to **destroy** it than any other book, yet it remains.
  2. More scholars have tried to **disprove** it than any other book, but all have failed.
  3. It has been **translated** into more languages than any other book in history.
  4. **More copies** of the bible have been sold than any other book in history.
- \* **This is true even though Christianity has always been a minority religion.**

**B. It is all these things because it is God's word.**

1. God providentially watches over His word because He wants all men to have it.
2. God wants you to have it.
  - a. Not to gather dust on the shelf.
  - b. Not to carry around as a religious symbol.
  - c. But for you to use as a roadmap to His abode.

**C. God must often feel like our mates :**

1. *"You never listen to Me." "I might as well be talking to Myself."*
2. In modern society people are more attuned to the devil's voice than to God's.
  - a. The devil speaks to us through the **TV**.
  - b. He speaks to us through **music**.
  - c. He speaks to us through **people** who follow him. ( **pop culture** )
3. **Today, it's rare to find a person who spends more time with God than with the TV.**

**D. Though bibles are everywhere today, few people read it or know much about it.**

1. The bible is the only way God reveals Himself to man.
2. Thus, to refuse the bible is to refuse God.
3. Open your heart to God by opening the bible because it is a message from Him to you.

**INVITATION :**