

# DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

## Is the Bible Reliable? - The Origin of the Bible

Introduction: Once a person believes that God exists, the next logical question is, “How can I learn about Him and what He expects of me?” Christians know that the answer to that question is, “By reading the \_\_\_\_\_.” But then come the questions, “Is the Bible reliable? How do I know I can trust what it says? Who wrote the Bible, and when? How did that ancient book get in its modern form, and how can I know it was not \_\_\_\_\_ by the church along the way to suit its purposes? Is there any evidence that shows me the Bible is reliable?” In this portion of our study we will seek to answer those questions about the Bible.

*2 Peter 1:21 NKJV for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

### THE BIBLE CAME THROUGH MEN.

- God chose more than \_\_\_\_ individuals to be His tools for writing the Bible.
  - Moses - a scholar from the universities of Egypt
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - a shepherd, warrior, king
  - Daniel - a prime minister of Babylon
  - Amos - a herdsman
  - Nehemiah - a cup bearer for the King of Persia
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - a tax collector
  - Luke - a doctor
  - Peter - a fisherman
  - Paul - a rabbi
- The Bible took over \_\_\_\_\_ years to write.
  - Job was probably written well before Moses lived.
  - Moses began writing shortly after \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., the date of the Exodus.
  - The Revelation was given to John between 90 and 95 A.D.
- In three languages
  - Hebrew - most of the Old Testament
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - Dan. 2 - 7 and most of Ezra 4 - 7, Mt. 27:46
  - Greek - most of the New Testament

- In many different styles and \_\_\_\_\_ forms
  - historical narrative
  - poetry
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - didactic treatise
  - personal correspondence
  - memoirs
  - biography
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - prophecy
  - parable
- About many controversial subjects
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - divorce
  - parenting
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - adultery
  - homosexuality
  - authority
  - character development
  - sin
  - salvation
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - end times

Much of the content above has been based upon Josh McDowell's book *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*.

## **THE BIBLE CAME FROM \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2 Peter 1:21 NKJV** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

- 2 Peter 1:21 says that while it was the men that spoke, they did not speak according to their own will but according to the will of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- God was the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_, and He did not change over all the years that comprised the writing of the Scriptures.
- That is why the Bible is called, “The Word of \_\_\_\_\_.”

2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

- **The meaning of inspiration**

- World’s meaning: When a modern day book is called “inspired,” people mean that its thoughts and writing are elevated beyond a normal level.
- \_\_\_\_\_ meaning: The Greek for inspiration is “theopneustos” which means “God breathed.”
  - not in the sense that God blew upon the writings and thereby blessed them
  - but in the sense that God blew them \_\_\_\_\_ of Himself to give to the writers.

- **The means of inspiration**

Often people search for a \_\_\_\_\_ methodology by which God communicated His truth to men to record. Sometimes people argue, favoring one means of inspiration over another. The testimony of the Scriptures is that God used \_\_\_\_\_ means of inspiration. One means is not preferable over another. The fact is that through each of the means, God breathed out His Word to the recipient. Let us explore some of those means of inspiration with a sample of each.

- \_\_\_\_\_ - **God wrote it Himself.**

Exodus 34:1 NKJV And the LORD said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on *these* tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.

- **Dictation - God dictated word for word, and the human author wrote it down.**

Exodus 34:27 NKJV Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

- \_\_\_\_\_ - **God showed the author something and told him to write what he saw.**

Revelation 1:11 NKJV saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

- **Research - God revealed the truth through the research of the author.**

Luke 1:1-4 NKJV 1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **first hand experiences - God's revelation came through the experiences of the author.**

2 Peter 1:16 NKJV For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- **Teaching by the Holy Spirit - God revealed truth through the internal testimony of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of the author.**

1 Corinthians 2:13 NKJV These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- **The results of inspiration**

- **The whole Bible is inspired. This is called Plenary Inspiration (plenary means \_\_\_\_\_)**

Matthew 4:4 NKJV But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*'"

As we discussed above, the Bible is composed of many \_\_\_\_\_ of literature. Understanding whether a passage is history or poetry in the original language is important for reading, understanding, and interpreting the text. However, \_\_\_\_\_ type is inspired; and one type is not more inspired than the other. All of the Bible is inspired.

- **Every word is inspired. \_\_\_\_\_ Inspiration (Verbal means pertaining to words)**
  - Many mistakenly equate Verbal Inspiration with Mechanical \_\_\_\_\_
    - Mechanical Dictation means that God dictated the words and man wrote them down mechanically.
    - Some of the Bible was mechanically dictated, but not all.
  - Verbal Inspiration means that whatever the means of inspiration (dictation, vision, research...), the end \_\_\_\_\_ was that the very words God desired to be used to express His truth were the ones that made it to the page.
  - Jesus referred to the words written by \_\_\_\_\_ as the word of God.

Mark 7:10-13 NKJV 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

- \_\_\_\_\_ also affirmed that it is the very words which are inspired.

1 Corinthians 2:13 NKJV These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- The truth of Verbal Inspiration is in \_\_\_\_\_ with the popular modern theory called Dynamic Inspiration.
  - Verbal Inspiration - each \_\_\_\_\_ of the original is inspired.
  - Dynamic Inspiration - only the \_\_\_\_\_ were inspired, but the human authors selected the words as seemed best to them.
- The human authors of Scripture recognized this distinction and responded in such a way as to affirm Verbal Inspiration. Paul made a major theological point because of the \_\_\_\_\_ form of a noun was used in Genesis rather than the plural.

Galatians 3:16 NKJV Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

- This truth is important in considering Bible translations.
  - Dynamic - translate the \_\_\_\_\_ (NIV)
  - Literal - translate the \_\_\_\_\_ (KJV, NKJV, NASB, HCSB, ESV)
- This truth makes word study important.
- This truth makes the study of Greek and Hebrew important.
- **Inspiration makes the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ and infallible.**
  - Inerrant means that in the original autographs, there are no \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Infallible means that if you follow it, it will not lead you astray.
  - How could words breathed out by God be anything less?
  - This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures themselves.

Psalm 19:7 NKJV The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;

Psalm 119:89 NKJV Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:160 NKJV The \_\_\_\_\_ of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Isaiah 40:8 NKJV The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

- \_\_\_\_\_ treated the Scriptures as if they were inerrant.

Matthew 5:18 NKJV For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

John 17:17 NKJV Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- Jesus affirmed the \_\_\_\_\_ accuracy of the Scriptures.
  - That Adam and Eve were historical people, not symbols of mankind.

Matthew 19:3-5 NKJV 3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’ 5 and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’?”

- Jesus referred to Noah’s ark and the flood as historical \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 17:26-27 NKJV 26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

- Jesus believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was a man literally swallowed by a great fish.

Matthew 12:40 NKJV For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

## **GOD GAVE THE BIBLE IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE.**

- To \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to us.
- To reveal us to ourselves.
- To reveal God’s plan of \_\_\_\_\_ and sanctification.

**One of the evidences of the reliability of the Bible is the testimony of \_\_\_\_\_ lives. You are an evidence for the reliability of the Bible!**