

# How We Can Know that God Authored the Bible

**I**t is a common expression, when discussing a talented author, to describe his or her work as “inspired.” What is meant, of course, is that the individual demonstrates the ability to adroitly create and communicate ideas in written form. The Bible certainly fits that definition, but of infinitely greater importance is whether the book was divinely inspired, that is, whether God Himself caused its writing. It is clear that the Bible claims to be authored by God: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God,” (II Timothy 3:16); another reference says, “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit,” (II Pet. 1:21).

**I**n this age of post-modernist philosophy and so-called “higher criticism” of the Bible, which is essentially an attack against its truthfulness and authenticity, some doubt or deny that the Bible is the literal word of God. Even some denominations and religious institutions of higher learning cast doubt on the divine nature of this book, which in turn leads to a rejection of the authority of the Scriptures and a departure from God’s will.

We, however, believe that the canon of 66 books of Scripture comprises the complete revelation of God to mankind in written form and is not the work of mere mortals. It has been said that the Bible is a book that men could not write if they wanted to, and would not write if they could. When one understands how the book came to be, its teachings, revealed knowledge, fulfilled prophecies and other attributes, the truth of that saying becomes abundantly clear.

To demonstrate how we can know with certainty that the Bible was inspired of God, consider the utter impossibility of any human author(s) duplicating His literary feat:

- Assign 40 different people from all walks of life to include heads of state, shepherds, tax collectors, doctors, and blue collar workers to write 66 separate books. The writers chosen will be selected over a period of 1,500 years and they will write

books of history, law, poetry, letters, and prophecy. Every subject of every book, and every word in every book, must supplement all of the others as part of a cohesive whole, and not contradict anything written by any of the other authors. The entire book will contain truth that, though railed against and belittled by skeptics and disbelievers through the ages, will never be disproven.

- Provide a logical explanation for the origin of the universe and everything contained therein that corresponds exactly with the laws of nature and material evidence.
- Describe the existence and characteristics of an unseen, eternal spirit being who has the attributes that are demonstrated in nature including infinite love, omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. The Bible says that, “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork,” (Psalm 19:1) and, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead,” (Romans 1:20).
- Identify features of nature that will be unknown to anyone living at the time of writing and will not be seen or understood until researchers “discover” them thousands of years later. The Bible references

the existence of ocean currents, underwater springs in the sea, and the earth’s water cycle, to name just a few such features that were not identified until as recently as the 19th century.

- Describe ancient civilizations, people and places that will be lost to history and rediscovered centuries later. As just one example of hundreds that could be given, the Bible mentions the nation of the Hittites 47 times; for many years, critical scholars doubted that it even existed since the Bible contained the only then-known record of its historicity. This changed in 1876, when the ancient capital of the Hittite kingdom and thousands of Hittite writings were discovered by archaeologists.
- Write two moral codes, one of which will precede the other by 1,500 years, that will result in happier, longer, and more prosperous lives for their adherents than any other such code in existence at the time of writing. The second code, which will replace the first and exceed it in every way, will prescribe moral conduct so profoundly beneficial to the human condition that it will topple pagan governments, usher in a new and lasting era of benevolence, and shape the thoughts, attitudes and actions of people around the world more than anything or anyone before it. The gospel of Jesus Christ, which followed the law given

to Moses, has had these and many other wondrous effects on the world.

- Seven hundred years before his birth, write more than 300 predictions about a certain man who will be born in the town of Bethlehem and raised in the town of Nazareth in Israel. Describe his future lineage, his ability to perform miracles, the type of life that he will live and, with great specificity, how he will die. Each of the predictions must come true exactly as written. The Bible includes prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ and many, many other people and events, all of which came true precisely as written.

The task of duplicating the effort of writing a book like the Bible is actually much more complicated than even these challenges, but they provide strong evidence for the divine inspiration of the eternal Book of Books, the Holy Bible. If you have questions about the Bible or want to learn more, please let us know.

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