

## THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

INTRO: The importance of this subject cannot be overstated. If the Bible is in the inspired word of God we need to know it & behave accordingly. If it is not, we need not spend our time reading, studying, or discussing it.

For the next few minutes I want to share with you a few of the more important reasons I am convinced that the Bible is a Divine revelation to man.

### I. THAT IS WHAT IT CLAIMS TO BE.

A. At least 70 times the O.T. writers begin or continue their dissertations with the phrase, "Thus saith the Lord..."

B. Those writers quote from one another in such a way as to underscore their own acceptance of the O.T. writings as divine revelation. Josh 8:34-35; 1 Kings 2:3; Dan 9:2, 11.

And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings & the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones and the strangers who were living among them. (Josh. 8:34-35)

In the first year of his [Darius the Mede] reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem. (Dan. 9:2).

Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, & has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse & the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. (Dan. 9:11)

C. The N.T. speakers & writers accepted these claims of the O.T. speakers & writers. "It is written..."

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).

- D. The apostles & prophets of N.T. times claimed the same inspiration for their teachings & recognized the same inspiration in each other, Acts 2:4; Gal. 1:11-12

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the H.S. teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual [words]. (1 Cor 2:13).

1. Peter refers to Paul's writings as Scripture on a level with the other inspired writings, 2 Pet 3:15-16.
2. Paul quotes Luke on the same level as Moses' writings, 1 Tim 5:18 [LK 10:7].

## II. ITS AGE TESTIFIES TO ITS ACCURACY & VALUE.

Portions of it are over 3,500 years old. Its most recent parts are more than 2,000 years old.

1 Pet 1:23; Matt 24:35; Rev 14:6

## III. ITS IMPARTIALITY SUPPORTS ITS CLAIMS OF DIVINITY.

- A. Its God is not a national god but the Father of the spirits of all men. Eph 4:4-6.

1. God called & used certain nations & individuals for certain purposes. But He never dealt exclusively with one nation or one individual.
2. Israel was His chosen nation for bringing Christ into the world, but the purpose of Christ was to bless all nations, Gen 22:18.
3. Even as God worked thru the Israelite nation to bring Jesus into the world He worked thru other nations to accomplish other purposes which He had upon the earth. He sent Jonah to Assyria,

Daniel to Babylon. Whole chapters of Isaiah & Jeremiah are addressed to nations other than Israel & Judah.

B. Today, His spiritual blessings are clearly for all races & nations & peoples. Acts 10:34-35.

#### IV. ITS AMAZING HARMONY VIRTUALLY PRECLUDES THE CONCEPT THAT IT IS THE INVENTION OF MAN.

40 writers of different occupations & backgrounds, from different countries, speaking different languages, over a period of 1600 years with one basic message & no real contradictions.

#### V. ITS CORRECT PROPHECIES PROVE ITS DIVINE SOURCE.

A. Jer 25:11-12 foretold the 70 years of Jewish captivity in Babylon so clearly that Daniel could tell when it was time for the captivity to come to an end, Dan. 9:2.

B. Dan 2 looked hundreds of years into the future & has been accurately fulfilled in detail in the unfolding centuries. 2:38-40; 5:28; 8:21

C. Hundreds of O.T. prophecies were fulfilled in the life & teachings of Jesus. Micah 5:2; Isa 7:14; Isa 53; Psa 22

**CONCLUSION:** We have not mentioned its high literary standards. We have not mentioned its brevity, its calmness, its historical & scientific accuracy. We have not discussed the good it has done civilization or the hope it gives of life beyond the grave--but these are a few of the many reasons we can proclaim with Paul: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, & is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Cox Springs, TX, May 14, 1967

Jonestown, TX, August 23, 1970

Springhill, LA, April 9, 1972

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, July 1, 1973

La Porte, TX, March 23, 1980

Exton, PA, April 5, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 3, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 23, 2001