

INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE  
BIBLE Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

INTRO: Throughout the Bible, there are many claims of Divine inspiration. In the O.T., the phrase “Thus saith the Lord” occurs over 400 times (KJV). Samuel the prophet said, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.” (2 Sam. 23:2). In the N.T., Simon Peter wrote: “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).

This book was written by at least 40 different men over a period of about 1,600 years. Some were shepherds, some were fishermen; some were kings, some were farmers. One was a scribe, one was a tax collector. One was a physician. One was a tent-maker. A few were well educated, most were not. Let us look at some of the evidence in the Bible itself that its claims of inspiration are true.

I. THE O.T. WRITERS GIVE ENDORSEMENT TO ONE ANOTHER.

A. Joshua said of Moses’ writings: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Josh. 1:8).

B. Centuries later, King David charged his son Solomon: “Keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn” (1 Kings 2:3).

C. Still more centuries later, the prophet Daniel acknowledged to God the cause of Israel’s troubles: “All Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and 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).

- D. Many passages in the historical accounts of the books of Samuel and Kings are almost exact parallels of those recorded in the books of the Chronicles. Two chapters of history recorded by Isaiah the prophet are almost identical to parallel chapters in 2 Kings.
- E. The prophet Jeremiah in 26:18, quoted from Micah 3:12.  
Jer 26:18, "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest." '
- F. The prophet Daniel made reference to the prophecies of Jeremiah. "In the first year of [Darius'] 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 seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Dan. 9:2).

## II. N.T. WRITERS SPEAKERS & WRITERS BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH OF THE O.T.

- A. There are said to be at least 855 quotations in the N.T. taken directly from the O.T., many of them with the formula, "It is written."
- B. Every book in the O.T. is quoted from in the New except Obadiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, & Esther. Every N.T. book contains quotations from the Old except 2 & 3 John, Philemon, & Titus.
- C. O.T. characters mentioned in the N.T. almost constitute a "who's who" of O.T. history. Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Job, Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Amos, Daniel, Zechariah – and many others are mentioned by name. Numerous others are referred to or quoted from. No N.T.

speaker or writer ever called in question any historical person or fact referred to in the O.T. Scriptures.

### III. THE N.T. WRITERS BEAR WITNESS TO EACH OTHER.

- A. John records the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to guide the original 12 apostles in all that they taught, John 14:26; 16:13. Himself, Peter, Matthew.
- B. Peter & John embraced the apostle Paul & Peter specifically endorsed Paul's writings, Gal. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:16.
- C. Paul quoted from Luke's account of the gospel, linked it with an O.T. passage, & referred to both as Scripture.

1 Tim 5:18, The Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." (From Deut. 25:4; LK 10:7).

- D. There are 4 separate accounts of the life & death of Jesus. They enhance one another without contradiction. The historical account in the book of Acts helps clarify some of the events mentioned in Paul's epistles, & vice versa.

### IV. THE DOZENS OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES, REACHING HUNDREDS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED APART FROM THE FACT OF DIVINE INSPIRATION.

- A. The land promise made to Abraham 400 years before it was fulfilled. The "Seed" promise, still more centuries ahead of time.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Dan. 2; Daniel's vision in 7, looking centuries ahead & identifying the next 3 world empires. Some astute observer might have been able to predict that the next power to rise would be Persia. But who could have guessed that next after that would be Greece. And still centuries later, Rome? And that in the days of that 4<sup>th</sup> empire, God's Son would come & establish the kingdom of God?

V. THE COMPLETE HARMONY OF THE PLAN & PURPOSE OF THE SCRIPTURES ARE A TESTIMONY TO THEIR DIVINE ORIGIN.

A. The wages of sin. Gen. 3:5; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 3:23; James 1:15

B. The unfolding plan of redemption. Seed of woman, Gen. 3:15. Ahrham's Seed, Gen. 12:3; 28:18.

C. Finally, for the righteous, a complete restoration in heaven of all that was lost because of human sin. The penalty has been paid. The tree of life awaits us in the paradise of God.

CONCLUSION: There is every reason to believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. There is every reason to hope that its promises are true & trustworthy. There is every reason to shape our lives by its precepts and examples and to reject human theories and doctrines of men, no matter how cunningly conceived or how popularly held.

Ps 33:4, The word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth.