

REASONS TO BELIEVE

PART IV: Inspiration of the Scriptures

(No. 1060 – 5/7/14 - NLC)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In previous studies, we have looked only at the historical and archaeological evidences to show the authenticity of the Bible as a historical document.
- B. In this study, we want to go further and investigate the very nature of the Bible – is it merely a collection of religious writings of men, or is it, as Christians (and Jews, as far as the Old Testament is concerned) have always maintained, the very Word of God?
- C. In other words, is the Bible divinely inspired?

II. UNIQUE STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

- A. As we have already seen, “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblos* which simply means “book.”
- B. Although it is actually a library of many books written by 40 different authors over a period of 2,000 years, it is one unified volume – one book, in fact, *the Book!*
- C. The authors of 55 of the 66 books are known; the authors of the other 11 books (Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Esther, Job and Hebrews) are not definitely known, and some of the Psalms and Proverbs
- D. Some books such as Genesis, Judges, Kings and Chronicles cover such long periods of history that they probably represent collections of ancient records compiled and edited by some individual (e.g., Moses in the case of Genesis) who lived near the close of that historical era
- E. All of the authors (except Luke possibly) were Jews from a diversity of backgrounds & education [see Rom. 3:1-2]
 - 1. Two writers were kings (David & Solomon)
 - 2. Two writers were priests (Jeremiah & Ezekiel)
 - 3. One writer was a physician (Luke)
 - 4. Two writers were fishermen (Peter & John)

5. Two writers were shepherds (Moses & Amos)
 6. Paul was a Pharisee & theologian
 7. Daniel was a statesman
 8. Matthew was a tax collector
 9. Joshua was a soldier & army commander
 10. Ezra was a scribe
 11. Nehemiah was a butler
 12. Backgrounds and occupations of other authors are not known
- F. With all of this diversity, all of the authors develop the same overarching theme and NEVER contradict one another!
- G. Uniqueness of the Bible summarized:
1. Only book of antiquity that gives an account of a special creation of all things *ex nihilo* (out of nothing)
 2. Only book that gives a continuous historical record from the first human to the present era
 3. Only book of ancient history that reveals *HIS*-story – it reveals a purpose in history, i.e. God’s purpose
 4. Only book that reveals the origin of evil, sickness, murder, suffering & death
 5. The Bible reveals the highest moral standards of all the religious books of the ancient world
 6. Only book containing detailed prophecies predicting future events
 7. Only book from antiquity which has the power to convict men of sin and lead them to the One who can forgive and free them from that sin

III. CLAIMS OF THE BIBLICAL AUTHORS

- A. Old Testament writers frequently claimed they were recording the very words of God (e.g., “The Lord spoke to Moses and said...” and “The word of the Lord came to me, saying...” etc.), with a total of 2,600 claims of inspiration
1. 680 claims of inspiration in the Pentateuch
 2. 1,370 claims of inspiration in the Prophetical Books

3. 418 claims of inspiration in the Historical Books
 4. 195 claims of inspiration in the Poetical Books
- B. Examples of specific Old Testament writers
1. Moses
 - a) **Deut. 4:2** (NKJV): *You shall not add to the word which I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the **commandments of the LORD** your God which I command you.*
 - b) Almost 50% of Exodus consists of direct quotations of God speaking and 90% of Leviticus
 2. David
 - a) **2 Sam. 23:1-4**: ¹*These are the last words of David: “The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel’s singer of songs: ²“**The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; His word was on my tongue.** ³The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, ⁴he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.’*
 3. Jeremiah
 - a) 36 times in Jeremiah: **The word of the Lord came to me** (Jeremiah)
 - b) **Jer. 20:9**: *But if I say, “I will not mention Him or speak any more in His name,” **His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.***
 - c) **Jer. 36:1-4, 27-32** – written twice!
 4. Ezekiel
 - a) 50 times in Ezekiel: **The word of the Lord came to me.**
 - b) **Ezek. 1:3**: ***The word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.***

C. New Testament claims of inspiration

1. Paul

- a) **Gal. 1:11-12:** ¹¹*I want you to know, brothers, that **the gospel I preached is not something that man made up.** ¹²*I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it **by revelation from Jesus Christ.****
- b) **1 Cor. 2:13:** *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in **words taught by the Spirit**, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*
- c) **1 Thess. 2:13:** *And we also thank God continually because, when **you received the word of God, which you heard from us**, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it **actually is, the word of God**, which is at work in you who believe.*
- d) **Eph. 3:4-5:** ⁴*In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been **revealed by the Spirit** to God's holy apostles and prophets.*
- e) **Rom. 16:25-26:** ²⁵*Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now **revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God**, so that all nations might believe and obey Him.*
- f) **1 Cor. 14:36-37:** ³⁶*Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? ³⁷If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that **what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.***

2. Peter

- a) **2 Pet. 1:16-21:** ¹⁶*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the*

Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸*We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.* ¹⁹*And we **have the word of the prophets made more certain**, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* ²⁰*Above all, you must understand that **no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.*** ²¹*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- b) **2 Pet. 3:2:** *I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the **command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.***

3. John

- a) **Rev. 1:1-3:** ¹*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant **John**, ²**who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God** and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³*Blessed is the one who reads the words of **this prophecy**, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.**
- b) John was told 14 times to write down what God was dictating to him (e.g., **Rev. 21:5**): *Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “**Write, for these words are true and faithful.**”*
- c) John closes Revelation (and thus the whole New Testament!) with a bold declaration that his writings were God’s divinely inspired prophecy (**Rev. 22:18-19** - NKJV): ¹⁸*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹**and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy**, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

IV. OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. From previous studies, we know that the Jews at the time of Christ revered the Old Testament Scriptures as fully inspired and authoritative – the very words of God
- B. As already noted, there are over 320 direct quotations of the Old Testament found in the New Testament, as well as over 1,000 clear and definite references to it
- C. Whenever Christ or the New Testament writers alluded to the Old Testament, they often (34 times) referred to it as “the Scripture” [see Mat. 12:10; 15:28; Luke 4:21; John 2:22; 7:38, 42; 10:35, 13:18, 17:12; 19:24, 28, 36-37; 20:9, etc.]
- D. Specific importance of Genesis 1-11 (creation, fall, flood, Babel)
 - 1. Part of the Old Testament most severely criticized and ridiculed by modern liberals
 - 2. Over 100 quotations or clear allusions to this section (each one of the 11 chapters!) found in the New Testament
 - 3. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, Jude and the writer of Hebrews all refer to it
 - 4. **Rom. 15:4:** *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

V. NEW TESTAMENT AFFIRMS ITS OWN INSPIRATION

- A. Examples where both Testaments are referred to as Scripture
 - 1. **1 Tim. 5:18:** *For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”*
 - a) In one verse, Paul quotes from both the Old Testament (**Deut. 25:4:** *Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.*) and the New Testament (**Luke 10:7:** *Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.*)
 - b) He refers to both quotations as “the Scripture”

2. **2 Pet. 3:2:** *I want you to recall the **words spoken in the past by the holy prophets AND the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.***
 3. **Heb. 1:1-2:** *¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.*
- B. New Testament references to other parts of the New Testament
1. **2 Pet. 3:15-16:** *¹⁵Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother **Paul also wrote you** with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. **His letters** contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do **the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction.*
 - a) To a Jew, the term “Scriptures” was only used in reference to the divinely inspired writings
 - b) Peter is unequivocally regarding Paul’s epistles as part of the Holy Scriptures
 2. Jude quotes directly from 2 Pet. 3:3 in **Jude 17-18:** *¹⁷But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.”*

VI. THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST

- A. Jesus knew and understood the true nature of the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament)
1. **John 10:35:** *The Scripture cannot be broken.*
 2. **Luke 16:29:** *They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.*
 3. **John 5:46-47:** *⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?*

- B. Jesus indirectly promised the coming of the New Testament Scriptures
1. He promised that His words would never pass away (**Mat. 24:35**): *Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will never pass away.***
 2. **John 14:26**: *But the Counselor, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.***
 3. **John 16:12-13**: ¹²*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all truth. **He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.***
 4. **Acts 1:8**: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***
 5. All of Christ's promises were fulfilled, as the Holy Spirit came, guided the apostles in remembering the things of Christ, led them into new truth and showed them things to come; through the writings that resulted, the apostles have literally been witnesses to the ends of the earth!
 6. When the last book of the New Testament was written, the Lord Jesus came to put His seal upon it (**Rev. 22:7**): *Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.*
- C. Jesus claimed that all of His words were inspired
1. **John 7:16-18**: ¹⁶*Jesus answered, "**My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent Me.** ¹⁷If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own. ¹⁸He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but He who works for the honor of the One who sent Him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about Him."*
 2. **John 8:31-32**: ³¹*To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "**If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"*

3. **John 8:47-55:** ⁴⁷**“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”** ⁴⁸The Jews answered Him, “Aren't we right in saying that You are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” ⁴⁹“I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor My Father and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰I am not seeking glory for Myself; but there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹I tell you the truth, if **anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.**” ⁵²At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that You are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet You say that if anyone keeps Your word, he will never taste death. ⁵³Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. **Who do You think You are?**” ⁵⁴Jesus replied, “If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies Me. ⁵⁵Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word.**”
4. **John 12:47-50:** ⁴⁷As for the person who hears My words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸**There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.** ⁴⁹For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me **commanded Me what to say and how to say it.** ⁵⁰I know that His command leads to eternal life. So **whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say.**
5. **John 17:6-8, 14:** ⁶I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and **they have obeyed Your word.** ⁷Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. ⁸**For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me...** ¹⁴**I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.**

VII. CONCLUSION: EVERY WORD OF GOD IS INSPIRED

- A. **2 Tim. 3:16-17** (NKJV): ¹⁶*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,* ¹⁷*that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- B. **Prov. 30:5-6** (NKJV): ⁵*Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.* ⁶*Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*
- C. Examples of how literally *EVERY* word is inspired:
- Gal. 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.*
 - Paul is quoting from Gen. 22:17-18
 - Not only does he base his entire argument on a single word of Scripture (seed), but on the fact that the word is singular rather than plural!
 - Heb. 12:26-27**: ²⁶*At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”* ²⁷*The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.*
 - The writer of Hebrews is quoting from Hag. 2:6
 - Just two words, “once more,” are used to make his point – *every* Word of God is pure!
 - Mat. 22:29-32**: ²⁹*Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.* ³⁰*At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.* ³¹*But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you,* ³²*“I AM the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”*
 - Jesus was debating the Sadducees about resurrection
 - He based His whole argument on the tense of one verb, “am” and not “was!”
- D. **Ps. 12:6**: *And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.*