

IS THE BIBLE ACCURATE?

July 26, 2015

For centuries preachers have exclaimed, “The Bible is the only book at man’s disposal that can answer the questions closest to his heart,” “How did I come to be?” “What is my purpose in life?” “Is there anything beyond the physical world in which we live?” However, when that great truth is proclaimed, the inevitable question, “How do you know?” rings loud. It is possible to prove the authenticity of the Bible as God’s Word, but it takes a little effort on the part of the searcher. The study of the Bible’s origin, authenticity, accuracy, inspiration, translation, and almost every other detail is known as bibliology. Through this series of articles we will notice the inspiration of the Bible, its rightful place in the canon, and its translations.

INSPIRATION

One of the great questions asked by cynics, searchers of “truth”, and those who want affirmation that the Bible is God’s Word is, “How do we know the Bible came from God and not from man?” One of the greatest evidences that the Bible is a Divine creation lies in the fact that it has endured the test of time, while all other ancient religions of that period have died out and succumbed to the annals of history (The Book God Breathed, 21). God has revealed Himself to mankind in two different ways: general revelation and special revelation. General revelation is seen in nature. The Psalmist wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (Psa. 19:1). However, God showing His power through nature does not inform man of his purpose in life for that knowledge is found only in the Bible. Since the Bible is a product of special revelation, it is inherently connected to inspiration. The inspired and revealed Word tells man that his purpose is to “fear God, and keep his commandments” (Ecc. 12:13).

One can be confident that the Bible is from God because it can be, and has been proven to be accurate. Logic teaches the law of the Excluded Middle which states, “A thing must either be, or not be.” Therefore, the logical approach to Biblical inspiration is, the Bible is inspired or it is not. When the many prophecies and statements of the Bible are examined, it becomes apparent that the message could not have originated with man (2 Pet. 1:21). Most Bible scholars agree that the book of Isaiah was penned around 750 B.C., and within his writings, the great prophet foretold of the virgin birth of Jesus (Isa. 7:14). Is it possible for a man living almost one thousand years before Christ, to be able to make such a statement based upon his own knowledge? Around fifty years later the prophet Micah wrote that Christ would be born in the city of Bethlehem, seven hundred years before His birth (Micah 5:2). It is beyond the reason of any person to believe such a good “guess” could have been made. Those are just two of the more commonly known prophecies that have been proven to be correct.

Notice a few of the scientific statements found in the Bible. Isaiah said the earth was round (Isa. 40:22), but the average third grader has been taught that most people understood the earth to be flat until A.D. 1492. It isn’t possible for a man to learn the shape of the earth by simply living upon it, so the only way Isaiah could have known that fact is if God told him. For years the Bible was criticized because it speaks of the Hittite people, but it wasn’t until the late eighteen hundreds and the early nineteen hundreds that archaeologists finally uncovered the remains of that ancient people and finally laid to rest that criticism (The World Book Encyclopedia). If the Holy Bible was not inspired by God, those facts could not have been known.

The Bible's contents are the Words of God, recorded by men, and are the "adequate expression of His mind and will" (*What Does Theology Have To Do With The Bible? A Call For The Expansion Of The Doctrine Of Inspiration*, Grubbs and Dunn, 2010). However, the message of the Bible which was written for our learning (Rom. 15:4) was precisely recorded according to God's commandment and is known as the verbal, plenary, inspiration of God. This means that God spoke to and chose the exact words from the writer's vocabulary. The great king David said, "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word *was* in my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2). The various styles of writing among the Biblical scribes prove the previous point to be true! The life experiences and educational opportunities of each writer become very apparent to the reader, and through God's miraculous inspiration and providential oversight, the words recorded were fully the words of the prophet, but also the exact words that God had chosen to be recorded for the benefit of all men.