

Why We Know the Bible is from God!

Mark N. Posey

The origin, accuracy and inerrancy of the Bible must be established before it can benefit the soul. Once established as a Divine message, then the soul can be addressed. Thus, how do we know and on what basis do we say that the Bible is the Word of God? The reasons are important and as follows.

First, the Old Testament writers affirmed that they were speaking the Word of God and not the words of men. The phrase "Thus says the Lord" or an equivalent is found more than 2,000 times in the Old Testament (cf. 2 Samuel 23:1-3; Isaiah 8:1, 11; Jeremiah 1:9; 5:14; 7:27; 13:12; Ezekiel 3:4; Micah 5:10; Habakkuk 2:2; etc.). Consequently, the Old Testament speaks from the perspective of divine inspiration. Should we do any less?

Secondly, the apostles regarded the whole of Scripture as the infallible Word of God (1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). Notice the word "all" in 2 Timothy 3:16. Second Peter 1:20-21 informs us that the Holy Spirit did not provide an imperfect revelation!

In the third place, Jesus without reservation endorsed the Scriptures as the inspired Word of God (Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; 12:48). Jesus taught that the whole of Scripture is inspired.

Fourthly, fulfilled predictive prophecy unmistakably demonstrates the authoritativeness of Scripture (Deuteronomy 28:37, 63-65; Isaiah 13:19-22; Jeremiah 46:19-20; 51:37; Ezekiel 29:15; 30:6; Nahum 3:1, 4-6; Zephaniah 2:13-14; Luke 21:24). Fulfilled prophecy is evidence that God is the Author of the Bible.

Fifthly, biblical archaeology confirms the accuracy of Scripture. From the discovery of the Cyrus Cylinder in 1879, to the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, to the Pool of Siloam in 2004, archaeology has provided an independent witness to the truth of God's Word.

The pragmatic test shows the Bible to be the Word of God (i.e., it performs what it promises). The principles and precepts of God's Word work in actual human experience in response to faith. Paul characterized the transformed life of a sinner as one that "proves" the will of God for others to see (Romans 12:2). Therefore, it can and must be said, "It works!" (cf. Psalm 34:8; John 7:17).

- Gospel Gazette Online -

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - John 8:32

News & Notes

PARENT/YOUTH MEETING: TODAY immediately following the morning worship. Please plan to attend.

THANKS: To **Rob & Anita Hopwood** for their donation of ballpoint pens. Also to **Ed Wiersbicki** for his donation of the 2-year pocket calendars. These items are free and available in the foyer.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: Next Friday, Dec. 15th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Food, fun, and fellowship. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Bring a dessert or side dish. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

PANTRY: Pancake mix and syrup.

MALAWI PROJECT: Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Continuing Health Care of Lisbon: Dean Spencer, 100 Vista Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **City Hospital:** Peggy Linger. **At Home:** Marlene Evans, Linda Parkes, Melissa Rosohac, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

2000 Years Later ...

Two thousand years ago a little, old man sat in a cold prison cell writing on a piece of parchment.

The government which imprisoned him was one of the most powerful the world had known. It ruled from India to Spain and from the Sahara desert to distant Britain. The prison house in which he was confined was made of stone and built to last forever.

One day the dungeon was opened, and that man—the apostle Paul—was led down the Appian Way a short distance from Rome where his head was severed from his body.

The government that killed him has long since passed into history. The name of the executioner is forgotten. The prison house has crumbled and only the dungeon is left. The body has long since returned to dust. But the words Paul wrote on that parchment have been alive through almost two thousand years. They have brought comfort, hope, and inspiration to untold millions of earth's inhabitants.

Jesus promised, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Two thousand years have passed, yet the Bible is just as powerful now as it was when fresh from the pen of inspiration. "Learn of me." - Matthew 11:29.

- Author Unknown- (House to House)