

“How Do We Know the Bible is True?” (part 2 of 2)

In our last column, we discussed the subject of the reliability of the Bible. We briefly examined some ways we can know that the Bible is accurate and truthful in the physical and historical things that it covers. In this column, we will discuss the related subject of Biblical authority, or, to put it another way: “How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?”

As I mentioned in the last column, an element of faith is involved in our acceptance of the Holy Bible as God’s own written Word. It is important to remember that. However, this faith is not blind, or foolish, but rather is a faith based in good, sound reason.

Some skeptics may charge that the Bible is not trustworthy because it was “written by men.” However, as Dr. Voddie Baucham points out¹ such an attack is absurd because there are plenty of books written by men which no one claims are false simply based upon the fact that they are authored by humans.

It is important to demonstrate the divine origin of the Bible to confirm that it is not a book written merely by men who claimed divine inspiration without any justification. To start our examination of the Bible as God's Word, we should notice that many specific prophecies given in the Bible later were fulfilled exactly the way they were foretold. Many of these relate to the coming of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, but there are also numerous prophecies regarding nations, kings, false prophets, and about many other topics. Because of the uniquely accurate nature of these prophecies, the Bible cannot be simply the work of men. Rather, God's omniscient power must have been at work through the writing of the Scriptures. This fact makes the Bible unique among sacred books.

Another aspect of the Bible that shows it is God's Word, is its scientific accuracy. One scientist and Bible scholar, the late Dr. Henry Morris, noted that there are many allusions to scientific principles or laws mentioned in the Bible, which have later been discovered by men.² The Bible may not be detailed in its description of the scientific aspects of God's creation, but when it does speak to an area of science, it has been found to be accurate. The fact that the Bible anticipated many scientific discoveries shows that the God of creation is the same One who has revealed Himself to us through His Word, the Bible.

According to one source, in the Bible there are more than 3,000 instances where divine inspiration is claimed.³ One might argue that it is “circular reasoning” to claim that the Bible is true because it says it is, or to claim that the Bible is God's Word because it says it is. However, “circular arguments” related to foundational requirements of knowledge are not necessarily faulty if it can be shown that they are not arbitrary in nature.⁴ In other words, there must be a good reason behind any circular claim for it to be valid. Additionally, it is important to recognize that every person accepts without question certain axioms as a foundation upon which they build the rest of their worldview.⁵ Accepting the Bible as the Word of God is the axiom or “presupposition” of Christians. Of course, a non-Christian is not going to accept that the Bible is God's Word, but they might hold to other axioms⁶ without question as the foundation for their worldview. In the case of the Bible, we find that the Bible claims to be the true and accurate Word of God, and in actuality, it is demonstrated to be such by the very necessity that it has to be true in order to make sense of the world around us.⁷ Basically, there are certain foundational concepts⁸ that almost everyone, regardless of their religious viewpoint, holds to in order to operate in this world, and these concepts are taken from the Bible. Even an atheist takes for granted many of these principles and concepts in order to function in this world.

This is just a small sampling of confirmations of the validity of the Bible's divine origin. Knowing this helps us to

¹ See p. 135 of *The Ever-Loving Truth: Can Faith Thrive in a Post-Christian Culture?* by Dr. Voddie Baucham Jr., published by B&H Publishing Group

² See p. 2 of *The Bible Has the Answer* by Henry M. Morris II published by Master Books

³ See p. 1 of *The Bible Has the Answer* by Henry M. Morris II, published by Master Books

⁴ For more about this, please refer to pp. 23 – 31 of Dr. Jason Lisle's excellent book *Discerning Truth: Exposing Errors in Evolutionary Arguments* published by Master Books.

⁵ These are called “presuppositions” – something that the person assumes to be true without question.

⁶ Common presuppositions, held by non-Christians, that are sometimes circular in their reasoning include Naturalism, Humanistic Rationalism, Evolutionism, and Atheism to name a few.

⁷ For more on the reasoning behind this, please read my response in the Jan. / Feb. 2010 issue of our newsletter to the question “What is the Best Proof of Creation?”

⁸ Such things as the Laws of Logic, the Moral Law, the reliability of our senses, and certain presuppositions such as the assumption that the future will be like the past. Each of these ultimately is based in a fundamental attribute of God's character, or of His creation, as revealed in the Bible. In order to operate in this world, most people take these presuppositions for granted without realizing that they are based in the Bible.

have a “reason” for our faith, and assures us that the Bible is the written word of the One, True, God of the Universe. In closing, let us remember that the Bible was given to us “*by inspiration of God, and 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.*”⁹

Editor's Note: *This year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.*

⁹ 2 Timothy 3:16, 17