

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #3 — REASONS FOR BELIEVING THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED? (PART 1)

As our second major point in our study of this subject, we want to look at the question: What does it mean when we say that the Bible is inspired? What does inspired mean? That's a good question. We use the term rather freely. We need to examine from the Scriptures, and from the meaning of the Greek word. What does it mean? Well, let's look at a definition of this word, as found in W. E. Vine, his "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words." The Greek word translated "inspired," is "theopneustos," and it means "inspired by God." It's composed of two root words: "theos" means "God," and "neustos" means "to breathe." Therefore, in the Bible, the word "inspired" means, "God breathed," or, "breathed out of the mouth of God." So when we say the word "inspired," it means God's Word, breathed out of His own mouth. Well, a good question to ask then: Is the Bible God breathed?

Do we see that statement, or that thought, anywhere in the Bible? And the answer is: yes. Let's look at several passages that tell us that. The first one is in 2 Timothy. 2 Timothy, chapter 3, verse 16. 2 Timothy 3, verse 16. "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." God says that all Scripture is given by His inspiration. There's that key word. It is breathed out of the mouth of God. So we know from that passage, that the Scripture is God breathed.

Then let's look in the book of Jeremiah, in the Old Testament. Jeremiah, the first chapter, verse 9. Jeremiah 1, verse 9. "Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.'" There is the Bible doctrine of inspiration. God placing His words in the mouth of his inspired spokesman. Whether it was the prophets in the Old Testament, or the apostles and prophets in the New Testament. God's word, He placed in their mouth.

Then in the New Testament, in the book of 2 Peter. 2 Peter, chapter 1, verse 21. 2 Peter 1, verse 21. "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Again, we see the doctrine of inspiration. No prophecy came by the will of man. But instead it came as holy men of God spoke. But did they speak on their own? No. Spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit revealed to them the words that they should speak. And that's consistent with the fact that over 2000 times in the Bible, Bible writers speak of the origin of their message as, "thus says the Lord," or some similar statement. They didn't claim to speak their message, their word, but they claimed to speak the Word of God. And that's exactly what they did.

So when we put all of these things together, we must draw a conclusion. The conclusion is that God is the supreme or the highest authority, in the spiritual as well as all other realms. The Father delegated that authority to Jesus, His Son, the Christ. And Jesus gave His apostles and other inspired men the authority to speak and to record His Word, which was His Father's Word, and gave them power to do so, by sending the Holy Spirit to them. The result is the Bible, which is God's Word, and consequently, is the standard of authority in the spiritual

realm. So we know that we can safely and confidently go to the Bible as God's Word as our standard of authority.

That brings us to our next major point. And that is to ask a question: Why believe the Bible is God's Word other than the Bible's own testimony? Are there other reasons for believing that the Bible is the Word of God? And the answer to that question is: Yes, there are other reasons. And we'll study several. We can't study all of them. But we encourage you to study others, as you have time and the opportunity.

One other reason that we know that the Bible is the Word of God is its amazing unity. Amazing unity. Would you please consider these astounding facts about the Bible? It consists of 66 books. And God used about 40 men with different backgrounds and occupations. Men who didn't know each other; men who lived at different periods of time. And it was recorded over a period of about 1,600 years. It was written in three different original languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet, there is one main theme, with no contradictions and no conflicts. That one main theme is the salvation of man and the glorification of God through His beloved Son, Jesus the Christ. Can you imagine 40 musicians without supervision, producing a united, harmonious symphony, written over a period of 1,600 years? No, you can't. That hasn't been done. It never will be done. Only God could orchestrate such a book, the Bible. And we know that because of its amazing unity, and no contradictions and conflicts, this is his Word.

TRANSITION: Continuation of lesson, recorded at a different time.

Today, we'd like to continue with that thought by looking at a second, among many reasons, why we believe the Bible is the Word of God. And that is its accurate fulfillment of prophecy, hundreds of years after those prophecies were recorded in the Bible. Men have never been able to do this. They have never been able to look into the future, hundreds of years down the stream of time, and say exactly precisely what was going to happen. We're not talking about guesses of what it looks like things will happen, because all the facts go together. We're talking about precise, detailed, remarkable things, that some would never predict would happen. That's what we see in the Bible. And that is a sure indication that God is the author of the Bible, not any men. For example, some have counted 456 Old Testament prophecies, referring to Jesus the Christ and His Kingdom, before He ever came to this earth. We'd like for you to consider with us several examples. And these are only several of the many, many hundreds that we could look at.

First of all, we have the first promise of the Messiah, or the first Messianic promise, and that is found in the Old Testament, in the very first book, Genesis 3, verse 15. God promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the seed of Satan, or crush Satan's head. The first promise of a Savior, a Messiah, and that is fulfilled in the New Testament, in Galatians 4, verse 4. A second prophecy that the Messiah would be born of the tribe of Judah, one of the children of Jacob or Israel, found in the Old Testament, in Genesis 49, verse 10. Fulfilled in the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, chapter 5, verse 5.

Another remarkable prophecy: that the Savior would be born of a virgin, found in Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14. Fulfilled in Matthew chapter 1, verse 23. that never had been done before,

and never has been done again. Only through the miraculous work of God could Jesus be born of a virgin, and it was predicted some 700 years before He came to Earth.

Another prophecy, that He would be born in Bethlehem. Even the place of his birth, was predicted, in Micah, chapter 5, verse 2. A remarkable passage that talks about one coming out of Bethlehem, who would be the ruler in Israel who's goings forth had been from everlasting. So an eternal one would come to be ruler in Israel, and be born in Bethlehem, fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ, in Matthew chapter 2 verses 1 through 6.

Another one: that he would be acquainted with sorrow, despised and rejected, found in Isaiah chapter 53, verse 2 and verse 3 and fulfilled in the New Testament, in Matthew chapter 27, verse 30, and verse 31. We'd like to read those two verses from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 53, verse 2 and 3. And please, as we read these, keep in your mind, that God recorded them through his prophet Isaiah, some 700 years before the Lord Jesus set foot on this earth. Isaiah 53 is one of the most remarkable prophecies recorded in the Bible. And it is a living testimony that this book is from God, and not from any man, Isaiah 53, verse 2 and 3. "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root, out of dry ground. He has no form, nor comeliness. And when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were, our faces from him. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." Now, if you are going to predict a savior, one who is going to be a ruler, would you predict someone that was going to be not attractive from the physical standpoint? One that is not desirable from the physical standpoint? Would you predict one who is going to be despised and rejected by men, hated, afflicted by men, those whom he came to seek and save? I wouldn't do that. No man would do that. But God would, and God did. And this remarkable prophecy was fulfilled exactly and precisely by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's look at another one concerning the Lord found in Isaiah chapter 53. It said that he would bear the sins of others. And again, keep in mind, this was recorded 700 years before he came to this earth. This is found in Isaiah chapter 53, verse 5, verse 6, and verse 11; and fulfilled in the New Testament, in Matthew chapter 27, of verse 30, and 31. And you might also make a record of 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 24, 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 24. And I'd like to read these verses also from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 53, verse 5 and 6, and then verse 11. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Then in verse 11, "Yet it please the Lord to bruise him. He has put Him to grief. When you make his soul and offering for sin, He shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand, he shall see the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge, my righteous servant shall justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities." What a remarkable prophecy. And can you see how that was fulfilled when Jesus came to this earth? That Israel rejected Him, despised him, hated him, put him to a criminal's death, and he bore in his own body, our sins, so that we might be forgiven of those sins? That's amazing. No man could record this kind of material hundreds of years before it happened. Only God could do that. And this is further testimony, that the Bible is the Word of God, just as God claims it is in the sacred pages of the Sacred Volume

Then, let's go and look at another remarkable prophecy. This one is that the the Savior, would be betrayed by a friend. Betrayed by a friend. You wouldn't predict that kind of thing either. But that's found in the Old Testament, in Psalm 41, verse 9; fulfilled in the New Testament, in John 13, verse 18. And then another: that he would be trade for 30 pieces of silver. Even the exact amount, the exact price of his betrayal was predicted by God. In Zechariah, chapter 11, verse 12, and verse 13, fulfilled in the New Testament, in Matthew chapter 26, verse 15.

These are amazing prophecies. And to get the full effect of these, just these few prophecies, we'd like to look at another chart summarizing the major points we've seen in these prophecies. And please keep in mind that these are just eight of the hundreds of prophecies concerning the Lord, and allow the impact of these prophecies to soak in and affect your mind. We have the first promise of the Messiah and Genesis 3, the first book of the Bible. We have that he would be born of a tribe of the tribe of Judah, in the nation of Israel. Not only that, but that he would be born of a virgin, something which never happened before, and never has happened since. That even the city of his birth was predicted, that he would be born in Bethlehem. That he would be despised and rejected by men acquainted with sorrows, rejected by those who came to seek and to save. That he would bear the sins of others in his own body, that those may be forgiven by the blood, that he would shed. That he would be betrayed by a familiar friend, one whom he knew, one who he dipped bread with. And that even his betrayal price was predicted 30 pieces of silver. I submit to you, that such prophecies, given hundreds of years in advance, are a startling and remarkable confirmation that the Bible is the Word of God, not the word of men.

So we've seen now two reasons, other than the Bible's own testimony for believing that the Bible is the Word of God. It's amazing unity, and the remarkable, astounding fulfillment of accurate, precise detailed prophecies, hundreds of years after they were recorded in the Bible.