

# **The Bible: God's Revelation to Mankind**



*“The writing, history and preservation of Scripture”*

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## PEACE WITH GOD

Do thoughts about God and eternity trouble you? Do you have a guilty conscience before God? You can be certain of your relationship to God. The Scriptures speak clearly about the great issues of sin, salvation, death, heaven, and hell. Romans 3:23 says, For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The ALL in this verse shows us that sin and guilt is the condition of every person born into this world. Many people attempt to remove the guilt by morality, meditation, church membership, water baptism or communion. No pathway of human works will ever give lasting inner peace or freedom from guilt.

The good news is that God has done for man what he was unable to do for himself. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to pay man's sin debt in full. When Christ was crucified on the cross, He shed His divine blood to pay the supreme sacrifice for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 9:22). On the third day, God raised Christ bodily from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-6). Having conquered death, hell, and the grave, Jesus Christ is alive forever and offers eternal life to anyone who will repent of their sins and believe on Him for their salvation. To repent means to turn from your sin (Acts 17:30). To believe means to trust in Christ's precious blood and believe you are forgiven by faith (Acts 16:31). To receive Christ and be saved, pray this prayer sincerely to God:

**Dear God,**

**I am a lost sinner. I repent of my sins. I believe Christ died for me and was raised from the dead. I trust in His precious blood. Lord Jesus Christ, come into my heart and save me now, and I thank you by faith it is done.**

**Amen.**

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you are saved on the authority of the written WORD OF GOD (Romans 10:13). Here are the first steps to follow in your new Christian life:

- 1) Be baptized (immersed) in water (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 2) Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 8:14-17)
- 3) Join a church which teaches the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible (66 books), the Trinity, the Deity and Virgin birth of Christ, salvation by repentance and faith in Christ's blood, the new birth, holy living, bodily resurrection and His literal second coming (1 Timothy 3:15)
- 4) Read and study the Scriptures systematically (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16)
- 5) Spend time in prayer daily (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18)
- 6) Confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9)

## ***MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE***

Memorizing Scripture is very important to the Christian life. One scholar has memorized 14,000 verses of Scripture. When he started this, he began to experience victory in his spiritual walk. This is important for adults as well as children. The Psalmist said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

On one side of a 3 x 5 card, write out the verse WORD FOR WORD, complete with the chapter number and verse number. Be accurate with your wording and punctuation. On the other side of the card, write out the verse by putting down only the first letter of each word as a reminder. When you can quote the entire verse word for word, looking at only the first letter of each word, you are well on your way to having it memorized.

Here is how John 3:16 would look on a card:

**F G S L T W, T H G H O B S,  
T W B I H S N P, B H E L.  
JOHN 3:16**

Write out or type whole chapters on a sheet of paper, complete with verse numbers, punctuation, and Scripture reference. Remember word for word.

You can also choose great themes of Scripture such as salvation, grace, peace, love. Also, the great fundamental doctrines of Scripture can be mastered this way. When you can quote Scripture word for word, you are armed with the Sword of the Spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Satan hates to hear Scripture quoted!

***REMEMBER: HE WROTE IT, WE QUOTE IT!***

## **Principles of Bible Interpretation**

1. Determine the literal meaning of each biblical word in the original languages.
2. Make a complete and systematic study of the main doctrines of the Bible.
3. Make a study of the history of truth and error in the church.
4. Interpret the Bible in the context of the time in which it was written.
5. Christ and the Apostles took the Scriptures literally; they are an example to us.
6. Interpret symbolic passages by comparing them with those which are literal.
7. Gain an understanding of the main people and events from Genesis to Revelation.
8. The Bible is the final authority, not the church or any man.
9. Acknowledge the pre-eminence of Christ and the Apostles over modern men.
10. All matters of faith and practice must agree with Christ and the Apostles.
11. No Scripture is to be interpreted apart from the whole counsel of God's Word.
12. God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture.
13. Read and study the Bible in the fear of God with reverence for each word.
14. While some may specialize in one area, they should know and respect all of Scripture.
15. Beware of those who deliberately distort the plan of God.
16. Major on the majors, minor on the minors and speak the truth in love.
17. The Word of God should be spoken with clarity, conviction, force and power.
18. One should become a student of Scripture on a daily and lifelong basis.
19. One should meditate on Scripture day and night in a prayerful attitude.
20. Maintain the distinction between the Jew, the Gentile and the Church.
21. Look for practical principles in applying the Word of God to daily living.
22. When we stand before God, we will be judged by the Scriptures.

## The Trail of Truth

God the Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture, the 66 books of the Bible

The true doctrine is called the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible

Verbal means God gave the writers His exact words with no mixture of human error

This teaching is the guardian doctrine of all we know about God

God used the circumstances and personality of the writers; but gave His words

Plenary means inspiration extends to all parts of the Bible; cover to cover

Inspiration includes all Scripture; not just the words of Christ in red

God gave his exact words to chosen prophets and apostles over 1600 years

The original writings are referred to as autographs; each word inspired by God the Holy Spirit

They were infallible down to the jot and tittle; the smallest punctuation marks

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew; with a few chapters in Aramaic

The New Testament was written in Koine' Greek; a very precise language

The Scriptures have been transcribed into manuscripts through the centuries

Approximately 5,000 manuscripts exist today; much more than for any ancient document

By comparing manuscripts, scholars are 999% certain of the exact words of the original text

When speaking of verbal inspiration for the autographs; we are on a firm foundation

All modern translations must be evaluated by their conformity to the original languages

A concordance puts the original words in the hands of all men (Strong's Concordance, etc.)

The King James Version, a masterpiece of history, has stood the test of time

Many today prefer modern translations, which is acceptable if they are reliable translations

With modern translations, make certain the fundamentals of Christianity are not compromised

There are dishonest religious leaders who tamper with Scripture; often for money or power

God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture

God Almighty will judge any person who tampers with the Holy Scriptures (Rev. 22:18-20)

## The Bible: God's Bestseller

The Bible has two Testaments: the Old and the New

There are 39 books in the Old and 27 in the New

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic; the New was written in Greek

Scripture has been translated into many languages and preserved throughout the centuries

The Bible has: 1,189 chapters, 31,101 verses, and 783,137 words

It was written by 40 authors over 1600 years: 1492 B.C. to 96 A.D.

Including: kings such as David and Solomon, statesmen such as Daniel and Nehemiah, prophets such as Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Amos the herdsman, Luke the physician, fishermen such as Peter, James, and John, and men from all walks of life. There is a unity to Scripture explained only by the fact that God inspired these men to write it.

### The Five Divisions of Scripture are:

- 1) Preparation – Genesis to Malachi
- 2) Manifestation – Matthew to John
- 3) Propagation – Acts of the Apostles
- 4) Explanation – Romans to Jude
- 5) Consummation – The Book of Revelation

### Keys to Understanding Scripture:

**Fundamental Doctrines:** Verbal inspiration of the Bible, Trinity, Deity of Christ, Virgin Birth, Salvation by repentance and faith in the blood of Christ, the new birth, the bodily resurrection of Christ, literal visible second coming of Christ.

**Specific word meanings in the Hebrew and Greek:** Is the translation accurate?

**Great Doctrinal Themes:** repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, spiritual gifts, resurrections, eternal judgment, dispensations, covenants, righteousness, healing, deliverance, Israel, Gentiles, the Church, rapture, tribulation, millennium, Satan, angels and demons.

**Prominent O.T. Characters:** Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Judah, Joseph, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, David, Solomon, and many more.

**Prominent N.T. Characters:** John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Christ, the twelve apostles, Peter, James, John, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Stephen, Philip, the Antichrist, the False Prophet.

### Key Principles to Understanding Scripture:

- 1) Who wrote it?
- 2) When did he write it?
- 3) Who did he write it to?
- 4) Why did he write it?
- 5) How does it fit into the overall plan of God?
- 6) What does it mean to us today?

### Practical Application of God's Word:

- 1) Know the author personally (John 3:3)
- 2) Study the Word systematically (2 Timothy 2:15)
- 3) Meditate on the Word of God (Joshua 1:8)
- 4) Learn from God the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Romans 10:17)
- 5) Submit to the Word of God as final authority (Revelation 3:8, 10; 22:18-19)

## Doctrine

The word *doctrine* has both a secular and a biblical use. For example, you may have the doctrines of communism, secular humanism, new age occultism or the doctrine of Christ. The biblical word *doctrine* means teaching. A true doctrine is a true teaching. A false doctrine is a false teaching. True Christianity is based only on the doctrines of the Bible. Creeds rise or fall based on their conformity to the Word of God. One minister said we have grown into a generation of people who abhor the word *doctrine*. This is evidenced by a popular cliché heard often today in the religious world calling for men to “set aside your doctrine” for the sake of ecumenical unity. One mark of the last days is that men will not endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3). Rejection of Bible doctrine is rebellion against God’s divine authority. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). All preaching and teaching of biblical doctrine should be energized by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is anointed and the human vessel that delivers it should be also.

Great Fundamental Doctrines of Scripture are:

The verbal plenary inspiration of the 66 books of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17)  
The Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20)  
The Deity and Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 7:14)  
The substitutionary death of Christ on the cross for the sins of the world (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)  
The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead (Luke 24:39)  
Salvation by repentance and faith in the shed blood of Christ (Acts 20:21; Hebrews 9:22)  
The New Birth (John 3:3; Titus 3:5)  
The visible return of Christ to reign on earth from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:6)  
Repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:1-2)

A complete knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible will prevent you from being led astray when religious apostasy sets in. Smith Wigglesworth once said, “I am first of all a man of the Word of God, and second of all a man of the Spirit of God.” God the Holy Spirit will never contradict or supersede Scripture. Christ commended the church at Philadelphia in saying, “you have kept the word of My patience and have not denied My name.” (Revelation 3:10).

Doctrine occurs 51 times in 50 verses throughout the Bible  
Doctrine comes from the Greek word *didache* used 30 times in 20 N.T. verses  
Study the Bible systematically to master its sacred contents (2 Timothy 2:15)  
In the beginning was the Word . . . . . John 1:1  
And the Word became flesh . . . . . John 1:14

# The Apocryphal Books

In some large family Bibles there is a section of fourteen books called the *Apocrypha*, a group of spurious books that were rejected from our present canon of Scripture because:

1. They did not pass the tests required of inspired books.
2. They were not written or approved by a prophet.
3. They were not recognized by the Jews as inspired and as a part of Scripture.
4. They were not recognized or even quoted by Christ and the apostles, a fact more striking as Paul quotes twice from heathen poets.
5. The last Old Testament prophet predicted that the next messenger to come to Israel from God would be the forerunner of Christ (Mal. 3:1). Most of these books were written during the period between Malachi and Christ.
6. Divine authority is not claimed by their authors, and by some it is virtually disowned (2 Macc. 2:23; 15:38).
7. They contain statements at variance with biblical history.
8. They are self-contradictory and opposed to doctrines of Scripture.
9. Josephus did not regard them as Scripture. He lived at the time of the apostles and stated that the present books of the Old Testament, which are in our version, were the only inspired books (see *Josephus*, Book I, section 8).
10. They were not a part of the ancient versions of Scripture.
11. They were first added after A.D. 300. The Laodicean Council in A.D. 363 rejected them as being not inspired, thus proving that by that time some were claiming inspiration for them. They first appeared in the Vatican Version of the fourth century. At the Council of Trent in A.D. 1546, the Catholics accepted six of these books as inspired and added them to their modern versions of Scripture. They are the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Tobit, Judith, and 1 and 2 Maccabees.
12. Philo and others did not regard them as inspired.
13. The lack of prophetic element in them, and apparent imitation of other books of the Old Testament that are inspired.
14. Too free use of imagination, giving rise to silly stories, and the lack of spiritual force and power.

# Proofs of Revelation and Inspiration

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The following reasons are sufficient to prove to an unbiased mind that the Bible is an inspired revelation of God:

1. **ITS WONDERFUL UNITY.** Over 40 different authors wrote the 66 books of the Bible during a period of over 1,600 years, and they all had one theme—the creation and redemption of the human race by God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

These books of the Bible were written by men from all walks of life, such as kings, priests, judges, lawyers, princes, shepherds, soldiers, courtiers, statesmen, musicians, inventors, singers, poets, preachers, prophets, fishermen, farmers, tentmakers, publicans, physicians, rich men and poor men. They were written in various lands of three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa. They were written in different ages and by many men, some who never saw each other or knew what the others wrote on the same subjects. Yet when their writings became one book, there is not one contradiction among them.

Suppose 40 medical men, each in a different land and age, would each write their own book on how to cure a particular disease, what kind of cure would such collections make? How much unity would there be among their writings? Collect together 40 books on the same subject, each written by a different author, and see how many contradictions and controversies exist among the writers. Some will try to prove how the others are wrong and why his theory is right. This is all too apparent to those who have read different authors on any one subject. There is no unity of thought between the books of men on any subject. But there is perfect unity between the books of the Bible, which speak of hundreds of subjects in the realm of religion, politics, science, etc. This proves there is one divine author for all 66 books. Who else but a divine author could produce such a work?

2. **ITS SUPERIORITY TO OTHER BOOKS.** There is an abundance of evidence that the Bible is superior to all other books. It is not like any other book in its claims—in its message, its moral tone, its insight into the future, and in its words of peace, comfort and hope to all men. It is different because of its insight into human nature and into all things of life here and hereafter.

It is the outstanding book among millions of books. It is in a class by itself. Other books can be classified as to their subject matter, message, and style. But this is not so with the Bible. It does not fit into any human classification of books. Its unique origin, its message, and its wonderful structure all prove its superiority.

It is also unequalled in its benefits to men, in its circulation, and in its popularity. In spite of all competition and the advantage of advertising that other books have over the Bible, it is still the best seller. More than 30 million copies are distributed annually. Millions of men in all lands acclaim the Bible as the only book that satisfies the soul and gives any hope of life beyond the grave. When the book of a modern writer is translated into a few languages, the author is as proud as a peacock. The Bible has been translated into 1,086 languages and dialects, and new translations are being made every year. There are twelve editions solely for the blind. It is the most modern book of all ages, and all other books are hopelessly outclassed when compared with the Bible.

From the standpoint of literature and truth, the Bible is a recognized authority on the affairs of daily life as well as those things in the next life. It has no equal. Millions of men in all ages have lived and died by its teachings. No such trust can be placed in any other book. Religions,

secret orders, and practically every kind of human doctrine claim to be based upon the Bible. It is the simplest book to understand and yet it needs constant study. Even the non-believer feels he is uneducated without a sound knowledge of its teachings. The more one reads, the more he realizes that he is far short of mastering its contents. There are always new discoveries of truth in the Bible. It is always new to those who read it most. This is not so with any other book. When they are read a time or two, their contents are mastered, and the subject matter becomes old and uninteresting. All this proves the divine origin of the Bible.

3. **ITS INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD.** No book has had an influence on the world like the Bible. It has been and still is as high as the heavens above the Earth in comparison with other books. In lands where the Bible is unknown, this fact is plainly evident. While the Bible has made modern civilization, if man's present trend of rejecting the Bible continues, such civilization will be destroyed. Without the Bible men would be in dense spiritual and moral darkness, and in mental ignorance believing pagan superstition. Millions of lives have been enlightened and changed in every generation by its teachings, thus proving that its superior influence must be of divine origin.

4. **THE CHARACTER OF THOSE WHO ACCEPT IT PROVES THE BIBLE TO BE INSPIRED OF GOD.** Those who grow in holiness and consecration to the highest good of others, accept it as from God and cherish it more and more. Only infidels, skeptics, moral and spiritual rebels, and human wrecks of all kinds are the ones who refuse to accept its inspiration. Naturally, they reject it because it condemns all their activities and promises punishment in the end.

5. **THE GREATNESS OF THOSE WHO ACCEPT IT AS A REVELATION FROM GOD PROVES THAT IT IS MORE THAN AN ORDINARY HUMAN PRODUCT.** Some men argue that the Bible and its religion is accepted only by the weak, the young, and the ignorant, and that its champions outside the pulpit are few and far between.

This is one of the greatest errors in the camp of infidels, and shows willful prejudice or superficial knowledge of the question. The greatest thinkers and representative men of all ages have openly confessed their faith in Christianity and the Bible. The wise men of the world, who have been best qualified to detect error and imposture, have laid at the feet of Christ their homage, and confessed that the Bible is the Word of God.

We have over a thousand testimonies of the greatest men since Christ outside of the clerical profession who have left witness of their unwavering faith in the Bible as the Word of God and in Christ as the Son of God. Thus, men who have been leaders of human thought through the centuries, and who were not biased (as preachers are accused of being), and who had no personal interest at stake, have simply been honest in acknowledging facts. When such men use their pen and voice to extol Christ and the Bible to be what they claimed to be, it is time for skeptics and unbelievers to listen to facts without bias.

These men have been kings, presidents, senators, congressmen, diplomats, philosophers, scientists, poets, authors, historians, artists, philanthropists, reformers, educators, lawyers, physicians, soldiers, journalists, financiers, governors, leaders of great movements and men acknowledged to be representative of the old and new world. *Carlyle said*, "No sadder proof can be given a man of his own littleness than disbelief in great men." *Webster said*, "Great authorities are great arguments." We shall not take time or use space but for a very few testimonies to prove our point. In addition to these statements consider the following remarks by other famous men:

"Above all, the pure light of revelation has had an influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society. It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."—*George Washington*

“I have always said that a studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands.”—*Thomas Jefferson*

“The first and almost the only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world.”—*John Quincy Adams*

“It [the Bible] is the rock on which our Republic rests.”—*Andrew Jackson*

“It was for the love of the truths of this great and good Book that our fathers abandoned their native shores for the wilderness.”—*Zachary Taylor*

“I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book that you can by reason and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man. It is the best book which God has given to man.”—*Abraham Lincoln*

“I have known ninety-five of the world's great men in my time, and of these eighty-seven were followers of the Bible.”—*W. E. Gladstone*

“Almost every man who has by his lifework added to the sum of human achievement . . . has based his lifework largely upon the teachings of the Bible.”—*Theodore Roosevelt*

“A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this” (a knowledge of the Bible.)—*Woodrow Wilson*

“There is no other book so various as the Bible, nor one so full of concentrated wisdom. Whether it be of law, business, morals, etc. . . . he who seeks for guidance . . . may look inside its covers and find illumination.”—*Herbert Hoover*

“The Bible contains more philosophy than all the libraries that I have ever seen; and such parts as I cannot reconcile with my little philosophy, I postpone for future investigation.”—*John Adams*

“To the influence of this Book we are indebted for the progress made in civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.”—*Ulysses S. Grant*

“The young must be taught, and they must be taught truly if the spring-waters of democracy are to be kept untainted . . . The influence of the Scriptures in the early days of the Republic is plainly revealed in the writing and thinking of the men who made the nation possible . . . They found in the Scriptures that which shaped their course and determined their action.”—*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

“England has become great and happy by the knowledge of the true God through Jesus Christ . . . This is the secret of England's greatness.”—*Queen Victoria*

“Do not join those who either ignore the Bible altogether, or, at least, give it a spurious interpretation of their own devising.”—*Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany*

“What I was as an artist, seemed to me of some importance while I lived; what I really was as a believer in Christ Jesus, is the only thing of importance to me now. What can I do with respect to the next world without my Bible? No philosopher offers anything that meets, and, much less, relieves, my case.”—*John Bacon*

“The Bible is more than a Book; it is a living being with an action, a power which invades everything that opposes its extension.”—*Napoleon Bonaparte*

“The sacredness of the Bible awes me.”—*William Cohen Bryant*

“It is hard to make a choice of the most beautiful passage in a Book which is gemmed with beautiful passages as the Bible.”—*Mark Twain*

“The only spiritual light in the world comes through Jesus Christ and the inspired Book . . . Without His presence and the teachings of the Bible we would be enshrouded in moral darkness and despair . . . nations without Christ, contrasted with those where Christ is accepted, reveal so marked a difference that no arguments are needed.”—*Samuel Colgate*

“All other books are of little importance in comparison with the Holy Scriptures, which are a revelation from God, and are given as the only rule of faith and practice.”—*Alexander Cruden*

“Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe, that He governs it by His providence; that He ought to be worshipped; that the most acceptable service we can render Him is doing good to others; that the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another world respecting his conduct in this. As to Jesus of Nazareth, I think His system of morals, as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw, or is likely to see.”—*Benjamin Franklin*

“I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I were sitting as a juror upon its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth as clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man.”—*Alexander Hamilton*

“I hope that the Bible will be more and more studied by all ranks of people and expounded simply by the teachers, for the religion of the people can never be founded on moral philosophy.”—*Alfred Tennyson*

“We, the undersigned, Students of the Natural Sciences, desire to express our sincere regret that researchers into scientific truth are perverted by some in our own times into occasion for casting doubt upon the truth and authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. We conceive that it is impossible for the Word of God written in the book of nature and God's Word written in Holy Scripture, to contradict one another . . . physical science is not complete, but is only in a condition of progress.”—Signed by *eight hundred scientists of Great Britain*, recorded in the Bodelian Library, Oxford, England.

“The Bible is the Book of faith, and a Book of doctrine, and a Book of morals, and a Book of religion, of special revelation from God; but it is also a Book which teaches man his responsibility, his own dignity, and his equality with his fellow man.”—*Daniel Webster*

**6. MAN COULD NOT HAVE WRITTEN THE BIBLE IF HE WOULD, NOR WOULD HE HAVE WRITTEN IT IF HE COULD.** If any man questions this statement, let him write a book one-billionth as good as the Bible. History does not record a single instance where a critic of the Bible ever tried to improve it.

**7. GOOD MEN MUST HAVE WRITTEN THE BIBLE.** The writers claimed to be inspired of God. They either were inspired or they were liars. If they were liars, then bad men must have written it, and such is contrary to every known human trait. The Bible condemns all sin and this no evil man would do. Some of the Bible writers recorded their own sins which brought them into disgrace. No man would so expose himself unless divine power moved him so

that others might profit. Only a good man would submit to such a revelation of his own life, so good men must have written it. If good men wrote it and said they were moved by the inspiration of God, then the Bible is an inspired book.

8. **ALL MAN'S NEEDS ARE MET BY THE BIBLE.** This has been true of all ages. Every promise in God's Word has been fulfilled in the lives of men who have met the conditions, so it must be from God who fulfills these promises. In due time, we shall show you from the Bible that you can get what you want in this life as well as the life to come. We shall not only tell you how, but you can personally experience the fruition of the promises.

9. **THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE THROUGH THE AGES PROVES ITS INSPIRATION.** No other book has ever gone through the same conflicts that the Bible has. Whole kingdoms and religions have tried to destroy the Bible, but it has weathered every storm; and it still exists long after its enemies have passed off the scene of action. Voltaire, over one hundred years ago, said, "The Bible in one hundred years will be a thing of the past." Nevertheless, today in the same house where Voltaire lived and made this statement there are thousands of Bibles stacked, and from that house many thousands of Bibles are distributed annually. Most books written a few hundred years ago have been destroyed and forgotten, but the Bible has come down to us from thousands of years and it becomes more and more known throughout the world as time goes on.

10. **THE HEAVENLY CHARACTER OF ITS CONTENTS PROVES THE BIBLE TO BE A REVELATION FROM GOD.** The Bible is full of heavenly truths that could never have been known except by revelation.

11. **THE RESPONSE OF THE SOUL TO THE BIBLE PROVES ITS SOURCE.** The author of the Bible and the creator of the soul are the same person. The Bible is perfectly adapted to the soul. It shows complete acquaintance with the soul. It was made for all parts of man's nature. The Law and the Epistles are for man's reason, the Psalms and Gospels for the affections, and the prophecies and revelations of the wonders of God for the imagination. The Bible judges the soul by contradicting its passions, revealing its guilt, and humbling its pride and vanity. No mere human product could or would look down upon and condemn that nature. The Bible meets the deepest needs of the soul by solving its problems, and presenting a way out of its slavery to sin and Satan.

12. **THE INFINITE DEPTH AND LOFTY IDEALS OF THE BIBLE PROVE A DIVINE AUTHOR.** The Bible is inexhaustible and infinite in its coverage of truth, for this life and the one yet to come. Men have found it to be practical in serving every common purpose and meeting every requirement. It is universal in its appeal, reasonable in its teachings, reliable in its promises, durable in its conflicts, everlasting in its usefulness, new and modern in its statements, indispensable to human civilization, indisputable in its authority, interesting in its histories, colorful in its biographies, accurate in its prophecies, individual in its messages, far reaching in its vision, complete in its laws, comprehensive in its knowledge, infinite in its detail, unselfish in its purpose, simple in its application, just in its demands, righteous in its judgments, clear in its application, and masterful in its wisdom. No activity is ignored in its pages. In matters of government, the home and in every sphere it is unequalled for wisdom and instruction. Nothing can be added or taken away. It gives instruction to the lawmakers and counsel to the magistrate. It cautions the witness, requires an impartial verdict of a jury, and furnishes the judge with the sentence. It tells the wife how to manage the home and the husband how to rule the household. It instructs in matters of courtship and marriage. It entails honor to parents and enjoins obedience to children. It prescribes and limits the power of a sovereign and master, and commands subjects and servants to obey. It gives directions for weddings and burials. It promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both. It unveils the destiny of the dying and instructs and comforts the bereaved. It defends the rights of all and reveals vengeance to every oppressor. It is the first book, the best book, and the oldest book in the world. It contains the choicest matter, gives the

best instructions, and affords the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that ever was enjoyed. It contains the best laws and the most profound revealed mysteries that have ever been penned. It exhibits life and immortality and shows the way to glory. It is a recital of all the past and a certain prediction of all that is to come. It settles all matters of debate, makes the wise foolish and the foolish wise, and detects all lies and confutes all errors. It is the most compendious Book in the world, the most authentic and genuine, and the most entertaining that was ever published. It contains the most ancient antiquities, the most strange events, the most wonderful stories of love, biography, history, wars, heroic deeds, and unparalleled adventures, travels, and voyages. It describes the celestial, terrestrial, and infernal worlds, and the origin of the universe, angelic myriads, human tribes, devilish legions, and innumerable living creatures. It instructs the most accomplished mechanic, politician, scientist, historian, rhetorician, mathematician, and the most learned professional in any subject. It puzzles the wisest critic, corrects the vain philosopher, confutes the wise astronomer, exposes the subtle sophist, and rebukes the vain and sinful. It is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divine truth, an unequalled narrative, and the only written revelation of God to man. To understand it is to be wise. To be ignorant of it is to be destitute of divine wisdom.

### **13. FULFILLED PROPHECY PROVES THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE.**

This is an indisputable proof, for there are hundreds of prophecies spoken centuries before fulfillment which exclude all human possibility of fulfillment. They are in such infinite detail as to be beyond all human power to predict. There were 333 prophecies fulfilled in the life of Christ. Hundreds have been fulfilled in the rise and fall of nations and numerous other events. There are many now being fulfilled and are yet to be fulfilled, as we shall see in Lessons Thirty-seven through Fifty-two. About 3,268 verses of the Bible prophecies of thousands of details have been fulfilled. There are 3,140 verses that are being fulfilled and will yet be fulfilled. Not one detail of any prediction that should have been fulfilled up to 1948 has ever failed. Those that have not been fulfilled will be in due time, as we shall see in our future lessons. Only God could foretell such future events, thus proving the Bible to be a revelation of God by inspiration.

According to the laws of simple and compound probability, the 333 prophecies of Christ could have only one chance in one and 97 ciphers of fulfillment. Men today who make prediction of events a few days ahead based upon the present trend of things do not claim to be more than about 80 percent correct. Many men can guess like this, but no man can predict things hundreds and thousands of years ahead, as did God, without having one failure of any single detail of prediction. Yet this is true of Bible prophecies. No sane man will dare attempt to refute this claim. No man has ever found one failure in prophecy after trying a whole lifetime to do so. So we can rest assured that the Bible is God's Word.

### **14. MIRACLES ALSO PROVE THE DIVINE REVELATION OF THE BIBLE.**

Hundreds of miracles are recorded in Scripture which only God could have brought about. Millions of men have been healed of diseases and saved from sin through the centuries by obedience to the Word of God. This cannot be said of any other book. Any man today can prove this claim in his own life if he will put the Bible to a test. No man can have any right to unbelief until he has done this.

**15. THE TESTIMONY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TO THE INSPIRATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.** Jesus has been proven to be not only a credible witness, but a messenger from God. In all His teachings He referred to the divine authority of the Old Testament (Mt. 5:17-18; 8:17; 12:40-42; Lk. 4:18-21; 10:25-28; 15:29-31; 17:32; 24:25-45; Jn. 5:39-47). He quoted the Old Testament 78 times, the Pentateuch alone 26 times. He quoted from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah, and Malachi. He referred to the Old Testament as "The Scriptures," "the word of God," and "the wisdom of God." The apostles quoted 209 times from the Old Testament and considered it "the oracles of God." The Old Testament in hundreds of places

predicted the events of the New Testament; and as the New Testament is the fulfillment of, and testifies to the genuineness and authenticity of the Old Testament, both Testaments must be considered together as the Word of God.

**16. THE CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE AND ITS WRITERS PROVE ITS INSPIRATION.** The Bible claims a supernatural origin. The writers of the Bible were credible witnesses. They possessed actual knowledge of the facts they relate and of the revelations they received from God. They were capable, competent, honest, reliable, and unselfish, and no man has ever been able to discredit one thing they said. Many times their very lives and worldly interests were imperiled because of their testimony, and no man is going to go through this without being upheld by a higher power.

Over 3,808 times such expressions as “Thus saith the Lord,” “The Lord spake,” “The word of the Lord came unto me,” etc., are found. (See point 7, above, for proof they were good men.) These writers claimed what they wrote was from God (Exod. 20:1; 24:4; 35:1; 2 Sam. 23:2). They claimed that all the Bible was inspired (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God (Deut. 8:3; Heb. 4:12). It claims life-giving qualities (Jn. 6:63; 8:31-32; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; Mt. 4:4; Ps. 1; Rom. 1:16). Many are its claims along every line, and not once have its enemies disproved one of them. On the other hand, millions of men through the ages have proven its claims when its conditions were met.

**17. ITS PERFECTION.** The perfection of the Bible proves its inspiration. There never was and never will be another perfect book that meets so perfectly all the needs of the human race, not only in this life, but also in that which is to come. It claims perfection (Ps. 19:7; Jas. 1:25). Not one flaw has ever been found in the original writings of the authors of the Bible. In fact, the many thousands of copies of the originals are so perfect that they prove the perfection of the originals. Not one important omission can be found in comparing all these copies and versions of the Bible. There are over 800,000 different renderings of the Bible, and they all contain the same important truths.

**18. THE BIBLE IS SCIENTIFICALLY CORRECT.** Modern telescopes have disproved every theory on the astronomy of the past, but not one statement in the Bible on astronomy has been disproved. Astronomers admit that such telescopes tell the same story that the Bible does. This discovery has silenced critics of the Bible in this field. The story of creation is in perfect harmony with geology. Geologists of Yale, Princeton, Harvard, and other universities agree to this fact. One says, “Creation as given in Genesis is faultless.” Another says, “The more the leaves of the book of the earth are turned, the more they show the Old Book, the Bible, is true.”

Over 250 plants are mentioned in the Old Testament alone. Botanists claim the Bible flawless botanically. Many facts stated about animals, birds, insects, music, law, art, architecture, and many other known subjects of study have all been proven true as man scientifically studies these things. Mysteries of the human body, the soul, the spirit, the things in the natural world, such as rain, water, currents, winds, evaporation, clouds, thunder, lightning, and many other natural phenomena have been recorded in the Bible for thousands of years. Man is just now learning the true facts about these phenomena. In other words, it has taken man many centuries to discover what the Bible has stated for millenniums. Where did the writers of the Bible get this information? Why did they know these things centuries before modern man, since modern man claims to be so far ahead of the men in Bible times? The answer is revelation and inspiration.

**19. THE BIBLE IS HISTORICALLY CORRECT.** Man-made histories more than a generation old are full of mistakes and misstatements. Not so with the Bible—despite its records dating back thousands of years. Hundreds of places spoken of in the Bible have been definitely located by geographers and explorers. Hundreds of statements in the Bible, which in times past

have been held untrue by enemies of the Bible, have recently been proven true by archeologists. The deeper the archeological spade goes, the higher the biblical statements go up.

20. **ITS UNIVERSAL ADAPTABILITY FOR ALL AGES AND PEOPLES.** Books on all the above subjects are constantly being discarded because they are out of date. Not so with the Bible. It is always up to date on any of these subjects. It is the book for all ages and peoples and it is ever new and fresh in its lessons and values to man. Wherever it goes it lifts men up to a higher plane of life. Its doctrines, precepts, promises, and its moral and spiritual tone are the world's greatest inspiration.

21. **THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF THE BIBLE.** The soul of man longs for the truths of God as recorded in the Bible, which meet and satisfy all his spiritual needs. The book is just what one should expect of a Heavenly Father, to point the way of salvation and provide help in every life struggle. No one question of importance can be asked about man's life here or hereafter, but what is fully satisfactorily answered by the Bible. It is the chart of the sea of life. It is the great inspirer and guide in prayer and points the way to direct relations with God. Man's soul thus finds what it craves—fellowship with God. It answers the longing for immortality and assures eternal life to all who submit to God. It holds out a future as big as the universe. It must be divine.

22. **TWENTY CENTURIES HAVE NOT IMPROVED IT.** Enemies of the Bible have made many claims that the Bible can be improved upon, but none of them have ever tried to prove such claims except in talk, and talk is very cheap. If man had written the Bible in the first place he certainly could make a better one today, since he claims to be far superior to the original writers of the Bible. Is it too much to expect of the modern superiors of the Bible authors? Until man makes a better book or one a billionth as good as the Bible, common sense requires him to lay aside all criticism of something better than he can produce. All books written and rewritten by man without inspiration can and are constantly being improved. Even men who are not authors of these books can improve upon them. Why can't they do this with the Bible? Why do not other books stand the criticism of the Bible? All this proves that the Bible must be of divine origin.

23. **THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE ARE CONTRARY TO ALL HUMAN TEACHINGS.** It is the strangest book and has the strangest teachings. Its ideal and the method of approach to that ideal are wholly unlike those of any human book. The teaching of the Bible of receiving life through death, self-exaltation through self-abasement, salvation through grace and not of works, and many other teachings are supernatural and unlike human teachings. The way of the Bible to become great is by being a servant of all, not through lording it over all and making all servants to self as is the human way. When one is nothing from the standpoint of the Bible he is somebody, and when he is somebody he is nothing. When one loses his life he finds it, and finds his life he loses it. The way up is down. So it continues with practically all principles and ways of life according to the Bible. This is why a complete change must be made in every man who consecrates himself to obey the Bible.

God's way of worship was not man's way, as proven by Cain and Abel. Man's way of improvement in life is not God's way. Man goes at it by self-effort and human culture, while God demands a new creation and complete abandonment of self-effort and works. He requires entire dependence upon God and His working in the life. For this reason many natural men cannot understand the ways of God. For this reason many of them refuse God's way, as did Cain. Paul said, "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). No man could have written such things contrary to his natural self, and no man can attain to the principles of the Bible apart from God; so the Bible must be of God.

24. **THE GENUINENESS AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE BIBLE PROVES IT TO BE AN INSPIRED REVELATION FROM GOD.** By “genuineness” we mean that the books were actually written in the age to which they are assigned and by the men to whom they are ascribed. By “authenticity” we mean that the Bible relates truthfully the matters of which it treats, and its contents are the same today as written originally. From man's standpoint, the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible rest upon the claims of the Bible itself, the original manuscripts, lectionaries, patristic quotations, ancient and modern versions, archaeology, and secular history.

(1) **THE CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE ITSELF.** As we have seen in points 13-16, fulfilled prophecy, Bible miracles, and the claims of the Bible, all go to prove its revelations and inspiration. If the Scriptures are inspired they are also genuine. If they are genuine they are authentic, for genuineness is based upon authenticity.

(2) **SECULAR HISTORY.** The events described in the New Testament were well-known as facts throughout the Roman Empire and have been quoted and referred to as actual events by 50 other authors of the first four centuries of the Christian era. The whole fragments of their writings still remain. Jerome (A.D. 392) mentions about 50 others whose writings have perished. These writers belonged to all parts of the world and represent both pagans and Christians. They agree in quoting Scripture as genuine and authentic. They refer to the Bible as a distinct volume, universally received as God's Word. Early versions attest the truth of the Scriptures. Heretics who separated from the main body of believers still held to the fact that the Bible was God's Word and was genuine and true. They differed only in doctrines, which they supposed the Bible to teach. Even ancient infidels who fought the Bible based their reasonings upon the very facts our present Bible contains, so it must have been in existence then as it is today.

Heathen and Jewish writers confirm the facts of Christ and His followers and the existence of both the Old and the New Testaments. Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Juvenal, Pliny and others (A.D. 93-117) all confirm statements of sacred history. There is no event in ancient history that can produce more than a fraction of evidence by which the Bible in its entirety is sustained as genuine and authentic. The Christian has more proof and more right to believe that all the versions of Scripture had one original than for Americans to believe that all the copies of the Declaration of Independence had one original.

We do not receive the canon of Scripture upon the authority of the Fathers and Church Councils. We receive them only on the same grounds that they received them—because we have evidence that they were written by a group of credible and inspired men. The Scriptures are here, and as seen in all the points above, there is only one way to account for such a book and that is by revelation and inspiration of God. They have power because God is in them.

In San Francisco in 1921 we heard Robert Dick Wilson, Ph.D., D.D., professor of Semitic Philology at Princeton University, say, “As a young man I began to hear criticism of the Bible. I made up my mind that I would consecrate my whole life to finding out if the Bible was genuine and authentic. For fifteen years I studied and mastered the ancient languages and dialects so that I could examine all the ancient versions and manuscripts of the Bible. I spent another fifteen years in biblical textual study of these ancient documents. I spent another fifteen years in writing out what I had learned so that the whole church might share them. After forty-five years I am fully convinced that the Bible, as we now have it, is genuine and authentic. No man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament upon which the New Testament is based. Once, in order to answer a single sentence of a critic of the Bible, I read all the extant literature of that period in numerous languages, and collected together no less than 100,000 citations from that literature in order to get at the facts and disprove the argument of the critic of the Bible.”

Just before Thomas Newberry (author of the Newberry Bible) departed this life, he was asked if he had ever been tormented with doubts as to the inspiration of the Bible. He replied, “I

have spent sixty years in the study of the Scriptures in the original languages, marking carefully every tense and preposition, and the impression left on my mind is not the difficulty of believing but the impossibility of doubting the inspiration of the Scriptures.”

Ferrar Fenton, the author of a complete Bible in English translated direct from the original languages, says, “I never ceased to read Philology, Scientific Writers, and Scientific Research, History, Sociology, Statesmanship, and every field which the Scriptures touch upon, to enable me to attain my object [to see if the Bible was true]. The laws and writers upon Criticism, whether Orthodox, Heterodox, ‘Higher,’ ‘Broad,’ ‘Lower,’ ‘Assyriologic,’ or ‘Sanskrit,’ have all been open to me, and my conclusion is that in the Hebro-Christian Scriptures we have the only key that unlocks the Mystery of the Universe . . . In this conviction I present the last section of the Bible to my race, not as a ‘parson paid to preach it up’ . . . but as a man who began the investigation of the possibility of a Divine Revelation, as an absolute disbeliever in any such thing, and who, after fifty years of honest and independent research, have become a profound believer in such a revelation as the only solution to the mystery of existence, not only of man but of all things.”

(3) **MANUSCRIPTS.** No original Manuscript of the Bible can be produced because of the fact that they were written thousands of years ago on perishable material, but they do not need to be found in order to prove the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible. After 170 years the original Declaration of Independence shows old age and should it be lost, we could still believe its original contents by the many copies we have of it today. Scholars today are willing to admit as genuine and authentic any writing of the same period if ten or more copies can be found. There are many thousands of copies of the original writings of the sacred writers. These writings are in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Syriac, Chaldee, Samaritan, Arabic, Armenian Egyptian, Ethiopic, Gothic, Persian, Coptic, and many other languages.

Many of these ancient Manuscripts date back to the third and fourth centuries and a few even before that. Additional discoveries of new and older Manuscripts are being found continually. Many thousands of ancient writings (even running into the millions) have recently been found in Egypt in a good state of preservation because of the dry climate where papyri (paper) could be best preserved. These are throwing much new light upon the New Testament, but always the light confirms the fact that it was in the beginning as it is today. (See *The New Archeological Discoveries* by Camden M. Cobern.)

Many used to argue that the early Bibles were not like ours, but since many new ones have been found that date even from a time long before Constantine, it is certain that the first ones were like ours of today. Not even one discovery has been made that is opposed to the overwhelming testimony regarding the antiquity of the Bible. About ninety years ago we had only 550 Manuscripts collated by scholars. Thirty years ago there were 1,700. Today there are 4,200 and they all confirm the integrity and purity of the Bible.

(4) **LECTIONARIES.** These make another link in the chain of evidence proving the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible. The lectionaries were lessons or portions of Scriptures from the Gospels and Epistles that were read in churches. There are 1,000 of the Gospels and 300 of the Acts and Epistles known to exist.

(5) **THE PATRISTIC QUOTATIONS.** These are quotations from the early Christian writers. They form a gap between the oldest whole Manuscripts of the third and fourth century back to the time of the apostles. If the New Testament were destroyed, all but eleven verses of it could be collected again through the writings of the early Church Fathers of the first three centuries. These writings may be bought today in ten large volumes called *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*. These early writers all quote from both Testaments and agree that they are genuine and authentic. They refer to both Testaments as a distinct volume, universally received as divine, so

both of them were in existence in their day. Some of these writers quote the Bible as many as 17,922 times.

**(6) ANCIENT AND MODERN VERSIONS COMPLETE THE CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, THAT THE BIBLE IS GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC.** These versions are in many languages, some dating back to the first and second centuries. They are valuable in determining the exact text of the Bible.

Besides these, we are finding today many hundreds of fragments of Scripture and whole sermons dating back to the first three centuries, in which are quoted many portions of the Old and New Testaments. Harmonies of the Gospels, ancient prayers and amulets, Christian hymns and letters, commentaries of certain Scriptures, catalogs of Bible books, and many other forms of evidence of ancient times are now in our hands. So we can say with a definite assurance that our Bible today is the same as it always has been when holy men of God wrote “as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:21).

**25. THE BIBLE MUST BE FROM GOD BECAUSE OF THE INEXHAUSTIBLE PROOFS OF ITS INSPIRATION.** It would take a lifetime to search out and record all the proofs of all ages and lands that the Bible is a revelation from God inspired by the Holy Spirit. A book like this must be divine.