

Question: What evidence do we have that the Bible is from God? (Part 3)

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1)

We have emphasized in our previous two articles that the Bible claims to be divinely inspired of God. Everyone claims some sort of philosophical basis on which he thinks or acts. For the Christian, this basis of life is faith in the Bible as God’s sole expression of all that is true. Truth, that is, to instruct the mind and guide the affairs of life.

Is this a “blind faith”? No, since faith rests on “*evidence*” (Greek, *elenchos*), which is a court of law term? It means evidence strong enough to a reasonable, fair-minded person, as he honestly weighs the preponderance of evidence, to produce a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt. God wants us to properly use our minds in knowing the Bible is true. “*“Come now and let us **reason** together,’ says the Lord”* was the plea to His people through the prophet Isaiah (*Isa 1:18; cf. 41:21*). In a synagogue of the Jews in Thessalonica, “*Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ’*” (*Ac 17:1-3*). God has given sufficient support for a reasonable faith.

The unity of the Bible is an amazing line of evidence supporting the Bible’s uniquely divine origin. The Bible consists of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. About 40 different men wrote it over a span of 1600 years on at least 2 different continents (Asia and Europe), consisting of parts in 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek and some Aramaic).

Despite these various authors being separated by time and distance, as well as writing on the highly controversial topic of religion, their writings fit together perfectly. They are unified in content and harmonious in purpose as they reasonably and accurately set forth God’s truth. The Bible is not a disjointed collection of ancient writings. When fairly studied in context, they do not contradict each other. In fact, James stated that the words of Scripture “*agree*” (Greek, *symphoneo*, lit. “speaks with one voice”) in *Acts 15:15*. The Bible, then, is a “symphony,” and all symphonies require a conductor and a major theme. The various writers of the Bible were guided by one Conductor, God the Spirit (*2Pe 1:20*). The theme is the desire on the part of a loving God to redeem humanity from sin, spiritual death and eternal separation from Him. No other book can consistently make this claim.

The unifying theme of the Bible, from paradise lost in Genesis to paradise regained in Revelation, is God’s gracious plan of salvation for erring man (*Gen 3:15; Ac 2:16-39; Re 21:1-7; 22:1-6*). The centerpiece of this plan is the person and work of the Messiah (the Christ) as man’s Savior and Ruler, seen in the advent and action of Jesus, the Son of God (*Deu 18:15, 18, 19; Gen 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; compare to, Ac 3:13-26*). The unified and unfolding theme of the Bible is: first, Someone is coming!; next, Someone has come !; finally, Someone will return!

For the past several weeks, these articles have been designed to establish some common ground between us. As we go on from here, let us search the infallible, inspired word of God for answers to our questions, direction in our lives, and solutions to the problems that divide religious people. Study your Bible and search for Truth. If we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

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