

**#2 “HOLDING FAST OUR CONFIDENCE...”**  
**IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (Heb 3:6, 14 10:35)**

Now that we have addressed the first question, “Why does man need a standard of authority for his conduct?”

The second question is, “How do the Scriptures meet the criteria for that standard?”

## **I. EVIDENCES FOR BIBLE INSPIRATION**

[What proof do we have that the Bible is authoritative in design as the inspired revelation of God’s word & will to man.]

A. **The Old Testament** presents itself as God’s Word.

1. In a court of law, a person swears to tell the truth..., & it is assumed that he is telling the truth unless it can be shown that there is a sound reason to doubt the testimony.
  - a. Sadly, many do not give the Scripture the same respect as they would someone giving testimony in a court of law.
  
2. There are 886 passages in the Bible in which the writer uses the words “says the” in connection with God’s declaration to man (Over 3800 passages connect the words written to the revealed Word of God).
  - a. Example: Law & Prophets (**Exo 4:12; Jer 1:9**).

### **Exo 4:10-12**

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” 11 So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

### **Jer 1:9**

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.

## **B. Jesus & the apostles corroborate the Old Testament record.**

### **1. God made & joined Adam & Eve in the beginning (Matt 19:4-8)**

#### **Matt 19:4, 8**

4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ ... 8 He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

### **2. Noah & Lot saw the wrath of God (Luke 17:26-30).**

#### **Luke 17:25-27**

26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

### **3. Jonah was in the belly of the fish (Matt 12:39-40).**

#### **Matt 12:38-41**

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

4. Paul quoted from 25 of 39 OT books (cf. **Rom 15:4**).

5. In the book of Revelation there are 505 references to the OT.

C. **The New Testament** writers claim inspiration from God.

1. Holy Spirit, given to the apostles, is the Spirit of Truth (**John 14:26**).

### **John 14:25-27**

25 These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

2. Thessalonians received Paul's gospel as God's word (**1 Thess 2:13**).

### **1 Thess 2:13**

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

3. Paul said the gospel was not from him or taught to him (**Gal 1:11-12**).

### **Gal 1:11-12**

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. In **1 Timothy 5:18**, Paul quoted from **Deuteronomy 25:4** & **Luke 10:7** & refers to both as "Scripture."

### **1 Tim 5:17-18**

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

5. In **2 Peter 3:15-16**, Peter confirmed that Paul’s writings reflect the “wisdom given to him” as compared to “the rest of the Scriptures.”

### **2 Peter 3:14-16**

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

[Are these claims of inspiration proven or provable?

Yes! God has left us a great deal of evidence to substantiate the Bible’s claim for its own inspiration.

There is *external* evidence, which includes such things as historical documentation of biblical people, places & events, or archaeological artifacts that corroborate biblical statements or circumstances.

This field of study is referred to as *apologetics*; the field of study that aims to present a rational (meaning extra-biblical) basis for the faith.

There is *internal* evidence, which bear testimony to the fact that the very existence of the Holy Scriptures cannot be explained in any other way except to acknowledge that they are the result of an overriding, superintending, guiding Mind, the Mind of God.]

## **II. HISTORICAL EVIDENCES FOR BIBLE INSPIRATION**

A. **As critics** of the Bible & its accuracy have multiply, many good men have stepped forward to disprove the false claims.

1. Sir William Ramsey (In 1885 Ramsay became the first Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology at Oxford. The following year he was appointed Regius Professor of Humanity, as the Latin professorship is called, at his alma mater, the University of Aberdeen. There he remained until his retirement in 1911): One of the most famous

archaeologists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century disputed the accuracy of events recorded by Luke in the book of Acts. Ramsay believed those events to be little more than second-century, fictitious accounts. Yet after years of literally digging through the evidence in Asia Minor, Ramsay concluded that Luke was an exemplary historian.

2. Josh McDowell: “Evidence That Demands A Verdict” (several volumes).

B. **Many examples** could be cited, but I will only state a few as proof of the historical & factual accuracy of the Bible.

Bible critics used to suggest that Moses did not write the Pentateuch because the art of writing was not developed until after his death (c. 1451 B.C.); this despite the fact that he was adopted by the royal family of Egypt, and he would have had access to the finest schools, best tutors, and greatest libraries which that country had to offer (see Acts 7:22).

Evidence that Moses wrote the Pentateuch is both **internal** (**Neh 13:1; Exo 17:14; Josh 1:7; John 5:46; Mark 12:26**) and **external (historical)**: there is an abundance of archaeological discoveries to prove this Biblical fact.

1. The Code of Hammurabi, (c. 2000-1700 B.C.) was discovered by a French archaeological expedition under the direction of Jacques de Morgan in 1901-1902 at the ancient site of Susa in what is now Iran.
  - a. It was written on a piece of black diorite nearly eight feet high, and contained 282 sections, containing 242 laws.
  - b. The Code of Hammurabi (Amraphel in Gen 14:1) was written several hundred years before the time of Moses (c. 1500-1400 B.C.).
  - c. This discovery established beyond doubt that writing was known hundreds of years before Moses.
  - d. Jewish historian, Josephus, confirmed that Moses authored the Pentateuch (Against Apion, 1,8).

- e. Various non-Christian writers (Hecataeus, Manetha, Lysimachus, Eupolemus, Tacitus, Juvenal, and Longinus, to name only a few), credited Moses as having authored the first five books of the English Bible (Rawlinson, 1877, pp. 254ff.).
2. **Exodus** – The Israelites were forced to build the treasure cities of Pithom and Raamses for the Egyptian ruler. Exodus 5 records that, initially, the slaves made bricks containing straw, but later were forced to use stubble because Pharaoh ordered his taskmasters not to provide any more straw.
- a. Excavations at Pithom in 1883 by Naville, and in 1908 by Kyle, discovered that the lower layers of the structures were made of bricks filled with good, chopped straw. The middle layers had less straw with some stubble. The upper layers contained bricks that were made of pure clay, with no straw whatsoever (see Pfeiffer, 1966, p. 459).
3. **Luke 2:2** – Critics doubted that there ever was a governor of Syria by the name of Quirinius. But records have now been discovered that prove that he did exist, and in fact served two separate terms, the first being around the time of the census before Jesus birth.
4. **Acts 13:7** – Critics have suggested that Luke misspoke when he designated Sergius Paulus as the Proconsul of Cyprus. Their claim was that Cyprus was governed by a proprator (consular legate), not a proconsul. But as we turn to the writers of history for that period, Dio Cassius (*Roman History*) and Strabo (*The Geography of Strabo*), we learn that there were two periods of Cyprus' history: first, it was an imperial province governed by a proprator, and later in 22 B.C. it was made a senatorial province governed by a proconsul.

[**The historical accuracy** of the Bible does not prove the inspiration of the Bible, but it does serve to confirm it by showing what the writers wrote was accurate.]