

LESSON 2: ARTICLE
“THE BIBLE: THE WORD AND VOICE OF GOD”

The Bible is the world's all-time best selling book. About 2.5 billion copies have been printed which are available in over 700 languages. Although the Bible has enjoyed such vast distribution and attention, it is read relatively little. Perhaps part of the reason the Bible is so neglected is the many doubts people have about this unique book. If the Bible came from the mouth of God, then the scriptures are believable when they speak of Jesus Christ and accurate when they touch the realm of science.

(I) IS THE BIBLE INSPIRED?:

(A) *“All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

(B) The word inspired; (theopneustos) in the original Greek language literally means ‘*God breathed*’. When the Bible claims to be inspired, we understand therefore, that it came from the mouth of God. It is God-breathed, inspired.

(C) But a skeptic will say, Everyone knows the Bible was written by men! The book of I Corinthians, for example, was written by a man named Paul. After all, the very first verse bears his name as the author. In reply to this we answer: Yes, I Corinthians was written by Paul. Notice however, what Paul said in chapter 14 verse 37: *“the things I write to you are the Lord's commandment.”*

(D) Paul knew the source of his writings and understood that he was like a pen in the hand of Almighty God. We must not view the Bible as the word of Paul, Peter, or Jeremiah but rather as the message God revealed through these men just as it is written in Jeremiah 1:9, *‘Then the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, behold. I have put my words in your mouth’.*

(E) The Bible writers were not like news reporters giving their personal interpretation of events they eye-witnessed, but were divinely guided as 2 Peter 1:20-21 says, *‘Above all, you must understand that no prophesy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.’*

(F) God and man worked together in writing the scriptures. However, in this work, God is the author who dictated the message, and man is the writing instrument. Men were guided or inspired to write the exact message God wanted recorded in the Bible. Now that we have a fundamental understanding of inspiration and the origin of the Bible, let us look at some evidence of inspiration.

(II) UNITY OF THE BIBLE

(A) Have you ever discussed some controversial subject with a small group of your friends. Chances are, not everyone agreed with your personal point of view! Do the guests of a typical television talk show ever agree? Very rarely! In contrast, 40 different men wrote the 66 books of the Bible and discuss hundreds of controversial subjects, yet they all agree. What makes this even more remarkable is that the 40 Bible writers lived as much as 1600 years apart.

(B) Imagine their cultural differences! Despite this great potential for contradiction between Bible writers, there is harmony and unity in the Bible's message. That is because the Holy Spirit was directly guiding each of the 40 men to write the Bible.

One scholar has noted that the unity found in the Bible is vastly superior to the sacred writings of all other world religions, including Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Bahai, and Islam. Anyone who has ever studied these writings must admit they are jumbles of disjointed material, without order, continuity or unity of any kind. The 66 books of the Bible on the other hand, weave a unified message from Genesis to Revelation.

Consider the high degree of unity found within the Bible. There is nothing like this, not even approaching this, in any other collection of sacred books of any world religion . The direct inspiration of God is what sets the Bible apart from all other books. The unity of the Bible is a powerful argument for divine inspiration because even a small group of men can rarely come to any degree of unity on even one topic.

(III) THE INSPIRATION PROCESS

(A) The Holy Spirit

(B) 40 Different Writers

(C) Unified Message of the Bible

(IV) DIVINE PROPHECY

(A) Prophecy is foretelling an event in such detail before it happens so as to necessarily require divine guidance. The Bible is a book containing hundreds of detailed prophecies. There are, for example, well over 60 distinct prophecies in regard to our divine Savior Jesus Christ. Here is a sample of just 10 prophecies that foretold the crucifixion of Christ. Not only were the predictions made 1000 years before Christ came from heaven to earth, but they were made over 500 years before crucifixion was first used anywhere in the world as a form of capitol punishment! Crucifixion didn't exist when the prophecies were made.

<u>PROPHECY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>FULFILLMENT</u>
Psalms 41:9	Betrayed by friend (Judas)	John 13:18-27
Zech. 11:12-13	Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:15
Psalms 22:18	Clothes gambled for	Matthew 27:35
Psalms 22:16	Hands and feet nailed to cross	Luke 23:33
Psalms 34:20	No bones broken when killed	John 19:36
Zechariah 12:10	Side pierced	John 19:37
Isaiah 53:12	Prayed for his murderers	Luke 23:34
Psalms 22:1	His forsaken cry	Matthew 27:46
Isaiah 53.9	Buried in rich man's tomb	Matt 27:57-60
Psalms 16 10	Raised before body decayed	Acts 2:31

(B) A scientist picked out 48 such prophecies and determined that the probability of one man randomly fulfilling them all is 1 in 10 to the 157th power. That is one followed by 157 zeros! Your chances of winning a typical lottery jackpot is about 1 in 10 to the 8th power . Yet, Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies!

However, if we examine the scientific data of the Bible and find it to be accurate to present day knowledge, then we have powerful evidence for divine authorship.

The scientific facts we are about to examine are not only accurate, but were revealed thousands of years before man discovered them for himself. We will look into the fields of astronomy, oceanography and biology. Unlike the sacred writings of other world religions, the Bible does not contain any errors typical of the time in which it was written. The Bible is the only book on earth inspired by God. All others are of human origin regardless of any claims they might make.

(VII) EVOLUTION VERSES BIBLICAL CREATION

(A) If a fair maiden kisses a frog which instantly changes into a handsome prince, we would call it a fairy tale. But if the change takes 40 million years, we call it evolution. We often hear that science has proved evolution. Nothing could be further from the truth. You see, people often confuse scientific fact with scientific theory. Current scientific theory does conflict with creation. But the facts of science do not! Surprised?

(B) The theory of evolution says that over millions of years simple life forms (one celled creatures) slowly evolved into complex life forms (fish), and that one kind of animal evolved into another kind (ape to man). Genesis, on the other hand, says that all life forms were created in six, 24 hour days. Genesis chapter one states 10 times that life forms can only reproduce after their own kind (ape to ape, man to man). All the observable facts of science strongly support the Bible's claim that it is impossible for one kind to reproduce a different kind. The truth is, there is absolutely no tangible evidence to support evolution from any area of science, just theory and a wild imagination!

(C) Why then do evolutionists reject creation? Quite simply, they are faithless, godless men who find it impossible to believe in a Creator as powerful as Genesis describes! Sure, they might admit to some vague higher life form, but not one so powerful as to create all things in only six days! It has never occurred to them that when God created the universe in six short days, He may have been taking His time? There are many scientists who fully accept Biblical creation.

(D) But if the Bible is wrong and man actually did evolve in small graduations over a long period of time, we should find ample fossil evidence of links in intermediate stages of transition. For decades, evolutionists have searched for fossils of these links to prove biblical creation wrong. Although millions of fossils have been unearthed, not even one missing link has ever been found. Has it ever occurred to you that this is the reason why scientists refer to them as missing links?

(VIII) CHARLES DARWIN VERSES EVOLUTION

(A) Even Charles Darwin realized the difficulty missing links gave his theory. Darwin wrote in his book, *Origin Of The Species*, "Why, if species have descended from other species by fine graduation, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion, instead of the species being, as we see them, well defined?" The reason we have never found any missing links is quite simple. Darwin's theory of evolution is wrong!

(IX) "EXPERTS TRICKED" FOR 40 YEARS!!

(A) In 1912, Arthur Woodward announced to the world that he had found the missing link between ape and man. Piltdown Man, as he called it, consisted of a jaw bone and a piece of skull which he estimated to be over 500,000 years old! However, in 1953, when the new fluoride dating process was applied to the bones, scientists were shocked to learn that the jaw bone was less than 50 years old. Only then did they notice that the bones and teeth had been treated with salts and filed to make them appear old and primitive. In other words, Piltdown Man was a complete fraud. Take note Bible student! The world's foremost scientific experts had been fooled for over 40 years! (Read I Corinthians 3:18-20.) For almost a half century, evolutionists pushed Piltdown Man in the faces of Bible believers as scientific proof we evolved from apes! Some proof!

(X) LEADING EVOLUTIONIST REJECTS LUCY

(A) Through the years several other missing links have been found, but today, every one has been discarded. Even the famous Lucy skeleton, discovered in 1974 by Donald Johanson, has now been discarded as a missing link by several of the world's leading evolutionists including Richard Leakey! He and others view Lucy as nothing more than an extinct ape. In spite of over 100 years of intensive searching, the only place you will find a missing link today is in the colorful imagination of an evolutionist. Museums certainly don't have any! In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

(XI) BIOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

(A) Darwin's theory of evolution quickly influenced every area of scientific thinking. Around 1905, biologists began to teach many new theories that are today rejected as false. For example, they taught (contrary to the Bible) that the different races of men did not have a common ancestor (i.e., Adam and Eve) but evolved from several isolated sources. You can imagine how these theories greatly fueled racial tensions. Everyone has heard how Adolf Hitler ruthlessly exterminated some 12 million people during the second World War. But few realize that Hitler's personal views of racial superiority and fascism had their foundation firmly rooted in Darwin's theory of evolution. Hitler methodically identified what he believed to be the inferior races of man. He then set out to exterminate these evolutionary misfits in the same way a pure bred dog breeder will cull unwanted puppies from a litter. After all, if man randomly evolved by chance from animals, then man is nothing more than an animal! Hitler merely took the theory of evolution to its logical end. today we face a greater genocide. 30 million babies have been aborted because women are told by evolutionist doctors that the 10 week old fetus in their womb is not yet human!

(B) Today, biologists have proved through bio-genetics that all races of men have a common ancestor. Even though many biologists still reject the Biblical creation story in Genesis, they must now admit that the Bible was right all along when it said, God made from one man, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth (Acts 17:26). The theory of evolution and Bible creation are two opposing views of man's origin. Only one is right. You cannot accept both!

(XII) ASTRONOMY AND THE BIBLE

(A) The earth is round! You may be surprised to learn that the Bible revealed that the earth is round Job 26:10, Prov. 8:27, Isaiah 40:22, Amos 9:6. Today, we chuckle at the people of the fifteenth century who learned sailing because they thought they would fall over the edge of the flat earth. Yet the Bible revealed the truth in 1000 B.C.!

(B) The earth is free floating in space! Another remarkable truth found in the Bible is that the earth is free floating in space. Job 26:7 says, God hangs the earth on nothing.

(C) Compare this to how other ancient cultures contemporary with Job believed the earth was suspended:

- (1) Held up by a man named Atlas
- (2) Held up by four elephants
- (3) On a turtle swimming in a sea of milk

(XIII) OCEANOGRAPHY AND THE BIBLE

(A) Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered the father of oceanography. He was bed ridden during a serious illness and asked his son to read a portion of the Bible to him. While listening, he noticed the expression paths of the sea in Psalms 8:8. Upon his recovery, Maury took God at his word and went looking for these paths. We are indebted to his discovery of the warm and cold continental currents. His book on oceanography is still considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities. Maury used the Bible as a guide to scientific discovery. If only more would use the Bible as a guide in their personal lives!

(XIV) THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE AND THE BIBLE (Job 36:27-28)

(A) The water cycle was not fully understood until about 30 B.C. by a Roman engineer named Marcus Vitruvius. Yet every aspect of the water cycle was fully revealed to mankind in 1600B.C.! The Bible's description is in perfect harmony with modern science. Vitruvius was 1600 years too late!

(XV) WE HAVE PUT THE BIBLE TO THE TEST IN FOUR AREAS:

- (A) Scientifically accurate facts
- (B) Historically confirmed by archaeology.
- (C) Unity of overall theme.
- (D) Genuine divine prophecy .

(E) No other book on earth can pass this fourfold test. The evidences presented here are just a tiny portion of the proof's available. Yet, they are more than sufficient to prove the inspiration of the Bible. There will always be men who scoff at the Bible. You, however, can be confident when you read your Bible that God is the author, for it is written: "We constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God' s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God (I Thessalonians 2:13).

