

Is the Bible from God?

by Dennis Lange

The Bible begins with these words, "In the beginning, God..." (Gen.1:1). Appearing for the first time in verse 3, is the phrase "Then God said..." Similar phrases are found about 2500 times throughout the Bible - "thus says the Lord", "the word of the Lord came to _____", and "_____ spoke by the Holy Spirit".

Those words alone grab our attention, immediately putting the Bible in a category with only a few other books out of all the books in the world. It claims to be words from God, the inspired word of God (II Tim.3:16,17), God's message to the world.

However, Christians do not believe the Bible is from God just because it claims to be from God. The circular argument below is not valid and does not represent our viewpoint:

"How do you know the Bible is from God?" asks the seeker.

"Because it SAYS it is from God," replies the Christian.

"But how do you know that's true?" the seeker persists.

"Because God's word IS true," says the Christian.

"But how do you know it's God's word?" the seeker asks again, and the circle repeats.

Instead, Christians believe the Bible's claim that it is from God because of the evidence the Bible contains, because of its contents. Whoa! says the skeptic, who immediately thinks that type of proof is faulty, a type of circular reasoning. No, this method of examination to discover the identity of an object is an accepted scientific practice.

When I was in college, I once found a bottle at the back of the top shelf of the kitchen cabinets. There was a small amount of liquid inside the bottle, perhaps an inch in depth, and the label of the bottle said, "GIN". I didn't drink and so I knew nothing about gin.

How would a person find out if it was gin or not? If he knew about gin, he'd look at the color and see if it was the color of gin. He'd smell it to see if it smelled like gin (my recollection is that it smelled like aftershave!). He might taste it to see if it tasted like gin. If a person was a chemist, he could test it to see if it was gin. In other words, that which was labeled GIN would be inspected to see if it WAS gin.

In the same way, it is valid to test the book that is "labeled" THE WORD OF GOD to see if it IS the word of God.

God is omniscient (knows everything – Isa.46:10) and does not lie (Nu.23:19). His word is truth (John 17:17). We would thus expect His message to be unique, accurate, and timeless. The following is an overview of the evidence that the Bible is from God:

- The Bible is accurate in historical matters.
- It is in agreement with science.
- It is accurate in geographical matters.
- “Un-designed coincidences” prove the Bible is a factual account.
- The Bible’s prophecies in the Old, separated from the New by about 500 years are fulfilled in specific and accurate ways, proving God’s guidance.
- The Bible is unique in its composition, with 40 different writers, yet telling a single story.
- The wisdom, morality, and truths of the Bible are timeless, showing its divine origin.
- The conversion of Saul of Tarsus is unexplainable except that the Bible is true.
- The gospel message was spread by eyewitnesses in the first century.
- The lack of Egyptian errors by Moses in the first 5 books of the Old Testament shows their inspiration.
- The history and existence of Israel as a nation is evidence of the Bible’s authenticity.
- The change from the Sabbath to Sunday in the first century proves the claims of the Bible.
- The monotheism of Israel in the midst of polytheistic idolaters demonstrates the Bible’s validity.
- Archaeology constantly confirms the Bible.
- The resurrection of Jesus shows the Bible to be true. There is no other valid explanation for what happened.
- The miracles of Jesus and those done by the apostles and other early Christians confirmed the message.
- God's plan for redeeming man in the death of His Son upon the cross is a remarkable proof of God's inspired word. No other plan would work.
- Many types and shadows of the OT are fulfilled in the NT, unifying the book.

These and other evidences for the Bible and its story will be explored in individual articles and will eventually be placed on this website. Many are available at present.