

IS THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD?

INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains 66 books written by more than 40 writers.

It has 2 major sections:

- ◆ The Old Testament, (OT) is the **Old Covenant** between God and Man. It consists of **39 books**.
- ◆ The New Testament, (NT) is the **New Covenant** between God and Man. It consists of **27 books**.

OT section of the Bible is incomplete without the NT section, because the fulfilment of many of the Old Testament predictions is found in the New Testament. The first book Genesis in the OT was written by Moses around 1500 BC. The last book, Revelation in the NT, was written by John around 100 AD.

- ◆ Therefore, the **time taken to write the whole Bible from beginning to end was about 1600 years.** (See diagram opposite.)

The Bible begins by telling us how God created the world and everything in it.

- ◆ It was **impossible for Moses to write down** in such detail about creation without the help of someone with superior knowledge **because he was not living when God created the world.**

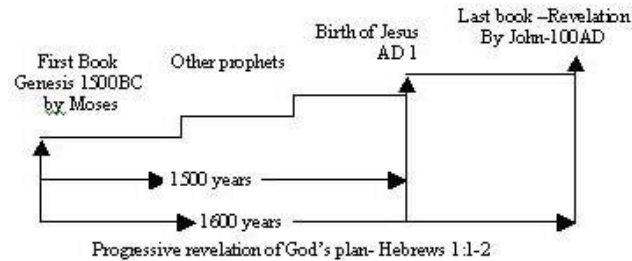
Therefore, if the account were true, it could have come by supernatural inspiration.

The Bible ends with the book of Revelation, which tells us how God will judge the world, eliminate sin, and set up His eternal righteous kingdom.

- ◆ Again, it was **impossible for John to write about future events** in such detail without the help of someone with supernatural knowledge of the past, present and future.

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “**Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets (in visions, dreams, and even face to face), telling them little by little about His plans. But now in these days He has spoken to us through His Son (Jesus) to whom he has given every thing, and through whom He made the world and everything there is.**”

Just to illustrate:



It is **A UNIQUE BOOK**.

Therefore, the Bible is not an ordinary book. It has no contradictions.

1. HOW TO KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD?

Let me share with you an illustration to clarify this.

Suppose a Manager of a company dictated 66 letters to 40 secretaries over a period of 10 years to send to a particular client. We could file all 66 letters into one folder, because the **author of all these letters is the Manager who dictated them and not the secretaries who wrote them.**

- ◆ **Similarly, the Bible contains 66 books written by more than 40 writers over a period of 1600 years.**

This only means that the Author of all the 66 books is the same person. As the whole Bible took 1600 years to write from beginning to the end, the **only person who could live 1600 years or more is God.**



Therefore, we can conclude that God is the Author of the Bible.

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ITS OWN AUTHORITY?

- “**For no prophecy recorded in the Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God**” (2Peter 1:20-21).
- “**..It is these (Holy Scriptures) that make you wise to accept God's salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well**

equipped to do good to everyone” (2Timothy 3:15-17).

- “**Salvation was something the prophets did not fully understand. Though they wrote about it, they had many questions as to what it could all mean. They wondered what the Spirit of God within them was talking about, for he told them to write down the events, which since then have happened to Christ: His suffering and His great glory afterwards. And they wondered when and to whom all this would happen**” (1 Peter 1:10-11).
- “**No one can really know what anyone else is thinking, or what he is like, except that person himself. And no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And God has actually given us His Spirit to tell us about the wonderful free gifts of grace and blessing that God has given us. In telling you about these gifts we have even used the very words given to us by the Holy Spirit, not words that we as men might choose. So we use the Holy Spirit's words to explain the Holy Spirit's facts**” (1Corinthians 2:11-13).

3. FULFILLED PROPHECIES REVEAL THAT GOD EXISTS AND THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

For example let us **consider just two prophecies about the birth of Jesus:**

Prophecy	Date	Ref.	Fulfilled Ref.	Date
Virgin birth	750BC	Isaiah 7:14	Mat1:18-23	AD1
Birth place	700BC	Micah 5:2	Matt.2:1-6	AD1

- ◆ In both cases, the prophets who wrote them and all their contemporaries died within 100 years. Thereafter, millions of people were born and died during the following 750 years between the date of prophecy and its fulfilment. Yet what they wrote was fulfilled to the very word hundreds of years later.
 - ◆ As dead people cannot keep their promises, we can conclude that these words were not of the prophets' themselves, but of God who inspired them to write. **We can see the INVISIBLE HAND of GOD working to fulfil these prophecies hundreds of years later.** Space will not permit me to list all the various prophecies and their fulfilment here. Thus it **proves that the Bible is God's inspired word.** It also proves that **God exists, He is almighty, present everywhere, knowing everything, faithful and trustworthy.**

Romans 3:4, “.... God's words will always prove true and right no matter who questions them.”

- ◆ **ALMIGHTY:** There is **nothing impossible with God**. The virgin birth is humanly impossible, but for God nothing is impossible.
- ◆ **EVERYWHERE PRESENT:** He was present when He inspired his prophets to write, He was present at the time when it was fulfilled and He is alive even today to fulfil some more prophecies that need to be fulfilled in the future. He is the **eternal God**.
- ◆ **ALL KNOWING or Omniscient:** He **knows everything about the past, present and the future**. That is why He could prophesy through the prophets what happened and also what is going to happen in the future. That is why He could inspire Moses to write down how He created the world (**the book of Genesis**) even though Moses was not present at the time. For the same reason, He inspired John to write what is going to happen far into the future (**the Book of Revelation**), and all other books of the Bible through the rest of the writers.
- ◆ **FAITHFUL:** for He has kept all His promises and predictions of the future no matter how many there are.
- ◆ **TRUSTWORTHY:** As He has proved faithful in the past, we can TRUST Him to fulfil all the future promises too.

In summary we **KNOW** that:

- **GOD EXISTS**, He is **ALIVE** and He is **ACTIVE**.
- **The Holy Bible is not an ordinary book**. It is **God's inspired Word with special messages to meet man's present and future needs**.
- **JESUS is the promised MESSIAH**, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.

4. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE?

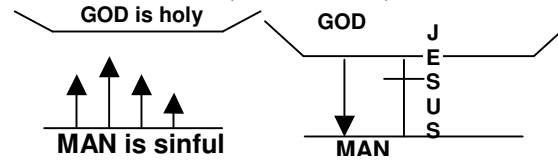
- **"To make us wise to accept His salvation"** (*deliverance from eternal death*) by trusting in Christ Jesus, and
- **"To equip (*strengthen*) us to do good to everyone"** (2 Timothy 3:15).

If the Bible is meant for us to accept God's salvation through Jesus Christ, then it is only logical that we receive Him as our Saviour and Lord. Probably you may be asking, **"How can I receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life?"**

- **We must agree with God that We have sinned, because He says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23).

He says, **"God's laws are written within them; their own conscience accuses them, or sometimes excuses them"** (Romans 2:15). When we disobey God's laws we sin.

"The wages of sin is death (Spiritual separation from God), but, **the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 6:23).



Man's best effort to find

God's best effort to find man

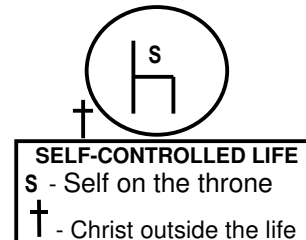
Think of it! Meditate for a moment how much He suffered and died on the cross for your sins. Jesus said, **"And here is how to measure genuine love – the greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends. And you are my friends if you obey Me"** (John 15:13-14). And He did just that for you and for me. **"God so loved the world that gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him (JESUS) should not perish but have eternal life"** (John 3:16).

- **We must believe that Jesus is the only way to God.** He said, **"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me"** (John 14:6).
- **Then we must receive Him into our lives.** He said, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into him"** (Revelation 3:20).

This circle represents **self-controlled life:**

Jesus is waiting outside the life seeking permission to come into your life as shown in this circle. "The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. **My purpose is to give life in all its fullness"** (John 10:10).

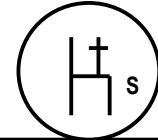
- **You can open the door of your life by inviting Jesus to come into your life by faith through a simple prayer.** God is not concerned about the words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Here is a suggested prayer:



"Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer in faith many things happened including the following:

- ◆ **Jesus came into your life** as shown in this circle (Rev. 3:20).
- ◆ **Your sins were forgiven** (Colossians 1:14).
- ◆ **You became a child of God** (John 1:12).
- ◆ **You received eternal life** (1 John 5:11-13).



CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE
S – Yielded to Christ
† -- Christ on the throne

You invite Jesus to come into your life only once, because He said, **"I will never leave you nor forsake you"** (Hebrews 13:5).

"And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God in His mighty power will make sure that you get there safely to receive it, because you are trusting him. It will be yours in that last day for all to see. So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here" (1 Peter 1:4-6).

Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? Here is a thanksgiving prayer:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you for forgiving all my sins, giving me eternal life and making me a child of God. Thank you for coming into my life and for promising that you will never leave me nor forsake me. In Your name I pray. Amen."

The very act of thanking God demonstrates faith. If this makes sense to you share it with your loved ones and friends.

For more information on **"IS THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD?"** get a copy of **"Evidence that Demands a Verdict"** by Josh McDowell, or visit <http://www.hightruth.com/faq/04bible.html>

For more information please call Mr. N. Sankaran Tel: **67544763** or visit: <http://sank.sccc.org.sg>

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