

STUDY NUMBER FIVE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS - INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: This study is for new Christians, but it is good for the entire Church family to study as well. How the Bible came to be should be a concern of every Christian. The sole basis of Christianity is the Bible, composed of 66 books called the Old and the New Testaments. Christians believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures, therefore, speak with the full authority of God while reflecting the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of those God used to write the Bible. Christians hold the Bible (Scriptures) to be infallible and inerrant (without error). The Bible has full and final and supreme authority on all matters of faith and conduct and there are no other writings similarly inspired of God! That's what the Church, what followers of Jesus Christ believe.

I. THE BIBLE CLAIMS WITHIN ITS PAGES TO BE INSPIRED BY GOD

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 - *"...All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*
2. What exactly is "inspiration?"
 - The Greek word is "theopneustos"
 - "theos" is God
 - "pneustos" is breathe (breath)
 - "theopneustos" is God breathed.
 - The Bible is the breath of God!

II. WHAT ABOUT THE HUMAN WRITERS (AUTHORS)?

1. 2 Peter 1:20-21 - *"...Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost..."*
 - "moved" - Greek word "phero" meaning borne along."
 - The term suggests the effect of the wind on the sails of a boat. The boat is "borne along" by the wind.
2. What results is divine authorship. God chose the specific words, but in so doing, He respected the personality, style, vocabulary, etc., of those He chose to write His Word through.

III. GOD'S METHOD OF USING PEOPLE TO WRITE THE BIBLE

1. The concept God used in writing His Bible, His Word has been labeled by men as "Verbal, plenary inspiration."
 - Verbal - The actual, individual words of Scripture are inspired, not just the thoughts or concepts.
 - Jeremiah 30:2 - write all the WORDS
 - 1 Corinthians 2:7-13 - WORDS which the Holy Ghost teacheth.
 - Revelation 22:18-19 - warning concerning the WORDS.
 - Plenary - Meaning in it's entirety. The entire Bible is inspired, not just portions of it.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - ALL Scripture is given by inspiration.
 - Sometimes an argument is made about this passage saying it refers only to the Old Testament. This is wrong for the New Testament is equally inspired.

- 2 Peter 3:15-16 - This passage specifically ascribes the writings of Paul, the same status as Scripture, that the Old Testament holds.

2. The Bible is the inspired Word of God in its entirety - EVERY Book, EVERY verse, EVERY WORD!
 - As the inspired Word of God, the Bible is therefore without error on all topics it speaks of and carries the full weight of the authority of God.

IV. EVIDENCES OF THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

1. The continuing message throughout the entire Bible.

- 66 books
- 40 plus authors, ranging from peasants to kings.
- Three different languages.
- Spans 1500 years and more.

The Bible is in total agreement from beginning to end and the revelation progresses. With each book building upon the previous revelation and adding to the completeness of the whole. The message remains consistent throughout the entire Bible and the central theme of all the writings in the Bible is God's plan of salvation.

2. Miraculous preservation.

- Jeremiah 36:2-32 - Examples of God preserving His Word are shown in those who disbelieve in Him such as: Hitler, Stalin, Korea, Cuba, Communist Eastern Europe and everyone and anyone who try to destroy the Bible have failed and will continue to do so.
- Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is ALIVE! It cannot be destroyed!

3. Fulfilled prophecy.

- About the Messiah:

- Micah 5:2 - to be born in Bethlehem - Matthew 2:1
- Isaiah 7:14 - to be born of a virgin - Matthew 1:21-23
- Psalm 22:18 - lots to be cast for His garments - John 19:23-24
- Isaiah 53:9 - the rich to be at His death - Matthew 27:57-60
- Psalm 22:14 - poured out like water - John 19:34
- Psalm 22:1 - "My God, My God..." - Matthew 27:46

- About Tyre:

- Ezekiel 26:3-5, 7, 12, 14, 21
 - Nebuchadnezzar - 585-573 B.C.
 - Laid siege
 - Broke down gates
 - Destroyed the mainland city.
 - Majority of the population moved to an island 1/2 miles off shore.
 - Alexander the Great - 333 B.C.
 - Built a causeway to the island with debris.
 - That causeway remains to this day.
 - Antigonus - 314 B.C.
 - Laid a 15 month siege.
 - Moslems
 - Captured the city.
 - Crusaders
 - Captured the city from the Moslems

- Moslems - 1291 A.D.
 - Recaptured the city from the Crusaders.
 - Swept EVERYTHING away to remove every trace of Christian presence.
 - The site remains swept clean and is used as a place to dry nets just as prophesied.

4. Archaeology:

- Joshua 6:20 - Jericho
 - The walls have been proven to have fallen out.
- Matthew 26:57 - Caiaphas as High Priest
 - In 1994 an "ossuary" (bone box) was found inscribed "Caiaphas, the High Priest.
- Luke 2:1-3 - Census, Cyrenius Governor
 - Skeptics have denied both statements.
 - However Egyptian papyrus has been discovered indicating a census was performed every 14 years, started by Augustus, requiring everyone to return to their ancestral home.
 - Antioch Inscription" names Cyrenius as governor.

5. Scientific accuracy:

- The Bible is not a science text, however where it does touch on scientific principles, it agrees perfectly with known physical laws, often far before these were known by "scientists."
 - Isaiah 40:22 - The earth is round.
 - Job 26:7 - The earth hung on nothing.
 - Hindus' belief - On the back of an elephant, standing on back of a turtle, swimming in a cosmic sea.
 - Egyptians' belief - Stood on 5 pillars
 - Greeks' belief - On the back of the god Atlas
 - 1 Corinthians 15:39 - All flesh is not the same flesh.
 - Leviticus 17:11 - The life of flesh is in the blood.
 - Psalm 102:25-26; Hebrews 1:10-12 - The earth grows old and will wind down.

6. Changed lives - the greatest testimony of all:

- Cowards become courageous.
- Drunks and druggies become sober.
- Oppression is overthrown.

CONCLUSION:

1. Hebrews 4:12 - The Bible is ALIVE
2. Will YOU allow the Word of God to change you?
3. Will YOU allow the Word of God to make YOU what God wants YOU to be?
4. Add your own thoughts for a conclusion.