

# Inspiration of the Bible - Demonstrated

## Introduction:

The doctrine of Inspiration does not rest upon one or two proof-texts (although that would be sufficient,) but is to be found throughout the pages of Scripture either as direct statements, taken for granted by the writers, or evidenced from the narrative.

The proofs for Bible inspiration may be classified as follows:

1. Direct Claims for inspiration
2. Internal Evidence for inspiration
3. External Evidence for inspiration

## I. Direct Claims for Old Testament Inspiration

Over and over, the Old Testament directly claims to be the Word of God. We may categorize these claims as follows:

### A. Old Testament Writers Were Prophets

A prophet was a “mouthpiece” for God, regardless of his occupation in life. The Messianic prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18-22 shows that true prophets could only speak as God gave them His words.

See also: Exodus 7:1-2; Numbers 22:18; I Kings 14:18c; Ezekiel 3:17; Amos 3:8. The writers of the Old Testament Books were prophets, as shown below, thus indicating the nature of their writings:

1. Moses — Hosea 12:13; Deuteronomy 34:10
2. Samuel, Nathan, Gad — I Chronicles 29:29
3. David — Acts 2:30
4. Solomon — I Kings 11:9 with Numbers 12:6
5. Daniel — Matthew 24:15
6. Ahijah, Iddo — II Chronicles 9:29

Add to these the writers of all the prophetic Books, and we have covered many of the writers God used.

### B. Old Testament Writers Cited Other Old Testament Books.

1. Joshua — acknowledged the Law of Moses. Joshua 1:8
2. Ezra — refers to Jeremiah as “the Word of the Lord.” Ezra 1:1
3. Ezra — also recognizes the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah. Ezra 5:1
4. Daniel — accepted the Book of Jeremiah and the Law of Moses as the Word of God. Daniel 9:2, 11-13. Note also a mention of the Book of Judges.
5. Zechariah — alludes to the “former prophets” (the historical Books) in Zechariah 7:12

### C. Old Testament Books Were Reverenced By Israel

1. The tables of the Law were kept in the ark. Deuteronomy 10:2
2. The Books of Moses were commanded to be read. Joshua 1:8
3. Samuel’s writings were kept in the tabernacle. I Samuel 10:25
4. Israel stood at the reading of the Law. Nehemiah 8:5

### D. Direct Claims For the Inspiration Of The Law (Torah).

1. Exodus 20:1 — “God spake all these words...” (also: Exodus 32:16; 35:1)

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2. Leviticus 1:1 — “The Lord spake...”
3. Leviticus 8:9 — “The Lord commanded...”
4. Numbers 1:1 — “The Lord spake...”
5. Numbers 2:1 — “The Lord spake...”
6. Numbers 4:1 — “The Lord spake...”
7. Deuteronomy 1:3 — “...the Lord had given him in commandment.” (also: 4:2)

See also: Judges 3:4; I Kings 8:53; II Kings 14:6; II Chronicles 34:14; 35:6; Daniel 9:12; Ezra 6:18; Nehemiah 13:1

### E. Direct Claims For The Inspiration Of The Prophets (Nebhiim).

1. The Former Prophets
  - a) Joshua 24:26, 27; I Kings 16:34
  - b) Judges 1:2 — “The Lord said...”
  - c) I Chronicles 29:29
2. The Latter Prophets  
The phrase “Thus saith the Lord” or its equivalent occurs over 3,800 times. e.g. Isaiah 1:2, 10; 8:1; 45:1; 50:1; Jeremiah 1:6-9; 2:1-2; 10:1-2; 11:1; Ezekiel 1:3; 2:7.

### F. Direct Claims For The Inspiration Of The Writings (Kethubhim).

1. David — II Samuel 23:2
2. Solomon — I Kings 3:9-10 (fulfilled in the Proverbs); Ecclesiastes 12:10
3. Job — Job 42:7

### G. New Testament Testimony For Old Testament Inspiration.

Perhaps the greatest testimony to Old Testament inspiration is found in the New Testament. On numerous occasions the New Testament quotes from the Old Testament, exalts the Old Testament as the Word of God, or accepts the Old Testament as authoritative.

There are 332 direct quotations and references to the Old Testament in the New Testament, and a total of over 1,000 quotes, references, and alludings.

This testimony covers:

1. The Old Testament As A Whole
  - a) In their primary application, verses such as II Timothy 3:16; John 10:35; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 4:12, refer to the Old Testament. See also: Mark 7:13. Romans 15:4 — “...whatsoever things were written [i.e. all the Old Testament]...the scriptures...”
  - b) Phrases such as “The Scriptures” (52 times), “it is written” (133 times), “that it might be fulfilled” (over 30 times), and “the Oracles of God” (4 times) all indicate the accepted authority of the Old Testament.
2. Particular Sections Of The Old Testament.
  - a) The Law  
See: Matthew 5:17-18; 7:12; Acts 13:39; 24:14; I Corinthians 14:21; II Corinthians 3:15; Galatians 3:10; Hebrews 10:28.
  - b) The Prophets

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See: Matthew 26:56; Luke 1:70; 18:31; John 1:45; Acts 3:21; 7:42; 28:25; Hebrews 10:15-17 with Jeremiah 31:33-34; Romans 1:2; I Peter 1:11.

## c) The Writings

See: Luke 24:44; Acts 1:16; 4:25; Matthew 22:43, 44. Note the context of John 10:35 is a reference to the Psalms (82:6).

## 3. Particular Books Of The Old Testament

20 of the 24 Books in the Hebrew Old Testament (the same Books as our 39 Books) are cited authoritatively in the New Testament.

Of the other 4 Books (Judges-Ruth, Chronicles, Esther, and Song of Solomon), events in 2 of them (Hebrews 11:32; Matthew 23:35) and alludings to the other 2 (John 5:1; 4:10) are found in the New Testament.

## H. The Testimony Of Christ To The Inspiration Of The Old Testament.

The Lord Jesus Christ accepted all the Old Testament as the Word of God.

See: Luke 24:25, 27, 44, 45.

1. Jesus quoted Old Testament verses — Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3
2. Jesus verified the Genesis account of Creation — Matthew 19:4-6
3. Jesus accepted the Genesis account of the Flood — Matthew 24:37-39
4. Jesus believed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah — Luke 17:28-29
5. Jesus verified the story of Jonah — Matthew 12:40-41
6. Jesus often quoted from Isaiah — Matthew 13:14-15
7. Jesus acknowledged Daniel as a prophet — Matthew 24:15
8. Jesus taught and believed in the divine inspiration and infallibility of the Old Testament. — Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; Matthew 24:35

Christ and Christianity stand or fall with the Bible. This is one reason the Bible is constantly attacked by Satan's crowd — discredit the Bible and Jesus Christ is made a liar.

Each one of the above mentioned points have been attacked by "Higher Critics."

See also: Matthew 6:29; 8:4; 12:3, 4, 42; 19:5-7; 22:31-32; Mark 2:24-28; 7:10; 12:19, 26; Luke 4:25-27; 11:51; 20:37; John 3:14; 6:32, 49.

Christ began (Matthew 4:4) and ended (Luke 24:46) His earthly ministry with "It is written."

## II. The Inspiration Of The New Testament

The inspiration of the New Testament rests upon 3 factors:

### A. The Promise of Christ

John 14:26 and 16:13 give Christ's pre-authentication of the New Testament. See: I Corinthians 2:13; Acts 21:11.

### B. The Direct Statements of the New Testament

1. II Peter 3:15, 16 refers to Paul's writings as Scripture.

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2. I Timothy 5:18 quotes Luke 10:7 as Scripture.

### C. The Claims of the New Testament

1. Luke 1:1-4 "...perfect understanding..."
2. Romans 16:26; Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 2:20; 3:3, 5; I Thessalonians 4:11 with 13
3. I Timothy 4:11 with 13
4. Revelation 1:1

### III. Internal Evidences For Inspiration

By "internal evidence" we mean evidence from within the Bible itself which bears testimony to the inspiration and authority of the Book.

Such evidences include:

#### A. Details of Events Beyond Human Knowledge.

The Bible gives details of things such as Creation, the words of Satan, and what was in the heart of certain people, which no human could possibly know about. Only God could give these things.

#### B. The Remarkable Unity of the Book.

The Bible is a Book compiled over 1,600 years by over 40 human writers — yet it has a unique doctrinal and structural unity. There is one them; there is no conflict!

#### C. The Supernatural Doctrines In The Book.

Many of the doctrines in the Bible are contrary to human nature, and most certainly would not have been written if the Bible were just a man's book.

##### 1. The Doctrine of God.

Compare the Bible's presentation of God as an infinite, sovereign, triune, holy, and loving Person with the various "deities" concocted by men. The God of the Bible altogether transcends our finite intellect — we could not have invented Him.

##### 2. The Doctrine of Man.

The Bible's portrayal of man as base, vile, sinful, corrupt, and depraved would never be so written by natural man. Even the hideous sins of a "hero" like David are mentioned.

##### 3. The Doctrine of Sin.

Natural man minimizes sin and exalts the world. The Bible does the opposite. The fact that hell is denied by natural man shows we have a Bible which man would not write.

##### 4. The Doctrine of Salvation.

Man seeks salvation through works. If the Bible were a human book, the plan of salvation would be by works. The Bible teaches salvation through the shed blood of the Son of God!

#### D. Fulfilled Prophecy

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Over two-thirds of the Bible was prophetic at the time of its writing. Much of this prophecy has already been fulfilled to the letter. This is one of the strongest internal proofs of inspiration.

Messianic prophecy alone is remarkable. Over 300 prophecies of the birth, ministry, passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ have already been fulfilled. In one 24 hour period, the crucifixion, approximately 21 different prophecies were fulfilled — the odds of this being a mere chance are staggering.

### IV. External Evidences for Inspiration.

By “external proofs” we mean the things outside of the Bible which bear evidence to its inspiration and authority.

There are many proofs, among which we cite:

#### A. The Bible’s Credibility.

#### B. The Bible’s Transforming Results.

Through the unaided reading of the Bible, men and women have been born again and become new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). Drunks have been made sober, harlots made chaste, lives ruined by sin have been made whole again. The Bible has changed the course of nations.

#### C. The Bible’s Inexhaustible Treasures.

Unlike any other book, the more the Bible is read, the more it reveals. Each week, thousands of sermons are preached, scores of books come off the presses — all proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Psalm 19:10; 119:162)

#### D. The Bible’s Honored Promises.

Anyone who follows what the Bible says, gets what the Bible promises. e.g. Joshua 1:8

#### E. The Bible’s Mystery to Unregenerate Minds.

II Corinthians 4:3; I Corinthians 2:14. Much of the Bible can only be understood by the child of God.

#### F. The Bible’s Unique Adaptability for Translation.

Unlike many human books, the Bible loses nothing when it is properly translated into other languages. Its message is still the “power of God unto salvation.”

#### G. The Bible’s Standards — Holy, But Workable.

The Ten Commandments were once the basis of British and United States Law. (They still are, technically speaking.) Whenever man seeks to make laws contrary to the Bible, problems arise.