

LESSON FIVE

Is the Bible Inspired

I. Two Types of Revelation

- A. General, Natural revelation, Psalms 19:1-4; Romans 1:20
- B. Supernatural revelation, first given to apostles then to us when we read what they wrote, Ephesians 3:3-5

II. New Testament contains Eyewitness Accounts

- A. No hint of Mythical characters. The writers saw, heard and touched Jesus. 1 John 1:1-2; Acts 1:1-3; I Corinthians 15:6-8
- B. Even unbelievers could not deny the things done, John 11:47; 12:9-11; Acts 4:13-16. There is more evidence that Jesus lived than there is that Americans landed on the moon

III. Verbal Inspiration

- A. “*Inspiration*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) THEOPNEUSTOS “*God-breathed*”. Old Testament claims inspiration 2600 times.
- B. 1 Corinthians 2:6-13 Revealed verbally, man could not learn it by his senses
- C. 2 Peter 1:16-21 The Word is confirmed by the seeing and hearing of the apostles. It was not of any private disclosure.
- D. John 10:34-36 The scripture cannot be broken
- E. Matthew 22:29-33 Jesus believed in every word of scripture being inspired.

IV. The Bible Shows Evidence of Divine Authorship

- A. It’s continuity: 1600 years; 60 generations; 40 writers from every walk of life. Written on three continents in three languages; covering 100’s of controversial subjects; yet a unity without contradiction binding the whole together. Try that with just 10 writers today.
- B. The only book ever that contains a large body of prophecies relating to individual nations, cities, peoples, and a Messiah. In all of Greek and Latin literature there is not one specific prophecy of a great historic event to come or of a savior to come.

V. Our Bible is Reliable

- A. Many claim that the manuscript copies were polluted by Catholicism or by miscopying. However, our earliest New Testament Manuscript was 130 A.D., a complete manuscript, 325 A. D. Besides, the entire New Testament can be reproduced from the quotes of Christian writers between 100A.D. and 200 A. D.
- B. Compare Bible manuscripts to other classical manuscripts and we cannot doubt Bible accuracy. (*chart*)
- C. Concerning the copying done, of 14,000 manuscripts, there are 150,000 variant readings. However, these represent only 10,000 places in the New Testament (the same word misspelled in 3,000 manuscripts is 3,000 variants). Of these, all but 400 are questions of spelling in accord with accepted usage, grammatical construction, or order of words. Of the 400 only 50 are of any great significance. And of the 50, not one alters even one article of faith which cannot be abundantly sustained by other undoubted passages.
- D. The Dead Sea Scrolls prove the accuracy of the copying done. Dated 300-100 B.C., they are nearly identical to the 900 A.D. manuscript used to translate the King James version of the Old Testament.

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