

Authority Of The Bible

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In order for us to fully appreciate our personal Bible studies, we must accept the fact that the Bible is a sufficient guide for moral living and truth. We must believe that the Bible will supply our spiritual needs with all things that are necessary for godly living. And in a world of religious confusion, we must accept the fact that the Bible is the final authority on all matters of faith. Because of these personal conclusions, we must approach the Bible with the expectation of finding solutions for a better life in this world where deception and lies have become the medium of communication. Discovering the Bible as our final authority in matters of faith is the secret to the abundant life. This is what our Teacher taught us in John 10:10: *“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”* (Jn 10:10).

When we approach a study of the Bible with this promise in our thinking, we must believe that truth and moral principles for living will be discovered that will enable us to live a more fulfilling life. By making these discoveries, we have a testimony in our own lives concerning what God has done for us. We must study in order that we might be able to better teach these principles to others in order that they also might experience the abundant life. Bible study is not only for our own benefit. We must study in order to reach out to others.

The Abundant Life
Can Only Come
Through Bible
Knowledge.

The following are two major points that will greatly affect our approach to Bible study. If these central principles are not believed, then certainly our approach to Bible study will be greatly hindered. These

are the two great principles that move us to correctly interpret the Bible.

1. **T or F:** The abundant life that Jesus promised can only come through a knowledge of the word of God.
2. **T or F:** Eternal life moral principles that will go beyond the existence of this world can be worked solely by the performance of people with one another.

> The Bible Is The Word Of God <

Before anyone can profit from Bible study as God wants him to profit, he must first believe that the Bible is actually the word of God. Bible students must believe that it is not just another book. It is God's book. It is God's revelation to His creation. Therefore, the Bible was given to us by God for our direction to live in this world. When we firmly believe that the Bible is the revelation from a Higher Being than ourselves, then we will be motivated to investigate this revelation.

There Is Little Benefit From Bible Study If One Does Not Believe That The Bible Is From God.

A. The Inspired Book Of God.

The Bible, itself, claims to be the inspired revelation of God. There are actually two areas of study we need to understand concerning this claim. The first has to deal with the concept of **revelation**. The second deals with the function of **inspiration**. In a strict definition of these two words, **all the Bible is inspired, but not all the Bible is revelation.**

1. Revelation: Revelation is God "uncovering" or revealing His will directly to people which we by no human means could have ever known. This is what is commonly referred to as **special revelation**. Throughout history, God has revealed Himself in different ways. This is explained in **Hebrews 1:1,2**. *"God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son."*

God has revealed His will through the following:

1. Dreams and visions (See Gn 20:3; Is 29:10,11; Ez 1:3,4; 11:24; Dn 2:19).
2. By speaking mouth to mouth with special people and under special circumstances (See Nm 12:8).
3. By putting the exact words into the mouth of a prophet (See Dt 18:18; Jr 1:9; Ez 3:4)
4. Through angels (See Gn 18:1 – 19:1ff; At 7:38).
5. Through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (See Jn 14:9; Cl 2:9; Hb 1:1,2).

Another form of revelation refers to the **indirect** revelation of God by means of the created world. This is called **natural revelation** and is affirmed in statements as Psalm 19:1: *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”* Paul stated that the created world is a witness to the existence of God. He wrote, *“Nevertheless He [God] did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness”* (At 14:17). Paul reaffirmed this revelation of God in **Romans 1:20**. *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.”*

In Natural Revelation
God Reveals Himself
Through That Which
Has Been Created.

Revelation is also God revealing **certain historical events that refer to our salvation**. This work of revelation was illustrated by **the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross**. During the ministry of Jesus, the disciples hoped that Jesus would be the Messiah who would deliver Israel from the oppression of Roman occupation. He talked to them concerning salvational matters. However, they did not understand the true nature of His messiahship, neither the significance of the cross when it all happened.

Immediately after the crucifixion, the disciples were very disillusioned. Their disillusionment was expressed by the two men on the road to Emmaus who unknowingly talked to the resurrected Jesus

who was walking with them. They said of Jesus, **“We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel”** (Lk 24:21). Their statement to Jesus revealed that they had no idea what the cross meant. At the time, none of the disciples understood the significance of the cross. They knew the historical event. They saw Jesus

die on the cross. They saw Him buried in a tomb. They even experienced His resurrection.

The Salvational Meaning Of The Cross Had To Be Specifically Revealed.

However, **they did not understand that this was the gospel of the death of Jesus for our sins and His resurrection for our hope** (See 1 Co 15:1-4). It was only by revelation of God that they understood that the crucifixion and resurrection was for the eternal salvation of all those who obeyed the gospel. And this truth was not revealed until the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost in A. D. 30.

During his persecution of the church, Saul (Paul) knew of the death of Jesus on the cross. However, he did not accept such as the death of Jesus for the salvation of mankind until it was revealed to him. When Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road, all this changed. On that occasion, Jesus personally revealed to Paul the salvational significance of the cross. Paul later wrote, **“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ”** (Gl 1:11,12). By revelation, God made known to Paul that the death of Jesus on the cross was not the execution of the Romans of just another Jew. It was the death of the Son of God for the sins of the world.

3. **T or F:** All the Bible is revelation, but not all the Bible is inspiration.
4. **T or F:** Revelation is God revealing to man that which man could otherwise never know.
5. Who walked with two disciples on their return to Emmaus?
(A) Matthew, (B) John, (C) Peter, (D) Jesus
6. **T or F:** It was only by revelation directly from Jesus that Paul knew that the death of Jesus on the cross was for our salvation.

2. Inspiration: The word “inspiration” comes from a Greek word, *theopneustos*, that literally means “God breathed.” It is used in **2 Timothy 3:16** where it refers to God’s Scriptures, the Bible. Paul wrote, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof”*

In **2 Peter 1:20,21** Peter explained how God inspired chosen people to write Holy Scripture. At the same time, Peter gives us a brief definition of the function of inspiration:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

In the process of inspiration, special people were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Greek word that is used in 2 Peter 1:20,21, *pheromenoi*, means “to carry along.” Therefore, in inspiration, **holy men of God were carried along by the Holy Spirit in order to record God’s word in a manner that would be without error or contradiction.** This is exactly what Paul explained in **1 Corinthians 2:4-13**. Holy men of God were inspired by the Spirit in order *“that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God”* (1 Co 2:12). Paul continued, *“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual”* (1 Co 2:13).

It Was The Work Of
The Holy Spirit
In Inspiration To Make
Sure The Bible Was
Written Without Error.

The Holy Spirit allowed Bible writers to use their own vocabularies and grammatical styles of writing when they were “carried along” in their writings. However, He guarded them from making any errors. His work of inspiration was to carry the writers along in a manner that they would write without making any errors in the production of the original autographs, that is, the original writings.

The difference between revelation and inspira-

tion is apparent. All the Bible is inspired, but not all the Bible is revelation. For example, in **Acts 17:28** and **Titus 1:12** Paul quoted from two ancient writers whose writings he personally knew. His quotations were not revelation from God. Paul already knew of the writers and their statements. **However, it was by inspiration that Paul was directed to record these statements of ancient writers.** But it was not by revelation that he knew of the existence of these statements.

The Authority Of The Bible Rests In The Fact That The Contents Of The Bible Are There Because Of Inspiration.

The times, places, people and personal histories with which the Bible writers were acquainted were not revelations from God. However, when the Bible writers wrote the Bible, the Holy Spirit guided them in order to accurately inscribe historical places, events and other writings without error. The Holy Spirit determined what historical events and other teachings that should be included in the Scriptures. Therefore, all the Bible is inspired, but not all the Bible is the revelation from God.

7. **T or F:** The English word “inspiration” comes from a Greek word that means “God breathed.”
8. **T or F:** The Holy Spirit had to use the words of men in order to communicate the will of God to humanity.
9. **T or F:** All the historical events and places are in the Bible because of the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

B. Evidences for inspiration:

In addition to its claim to be the word of God, there are many evidences that prove the Bible to be from God and not man. Bible students need to thoroughly understand these evidences in order to separate the Bible from all other books. Understanding these evidences is also necessary in order to establish the authority of the Bible in this world. The following list of evidences uphold the inspiration of the Bible, and thus, should be consider to be the word of God:

1. Unity of the Bible:

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books and let-

ters. They were written over a period from about 1,400 B.C. to 70 or 96 A.D. This is about 1,500 years. Approximately forty men were involved in the writing of all the books of the Bible.

Throughout the years, many Bible writers referred to one another's writings. It must be understood, therefore, that the writers did their writing at **different times in history**. They lived in **different locations**. They came from **different cultural backgrounds**. Regardless of these differences in reference to the writers, however, the Bible simply could not have been the product of man. The one theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the one gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This connecting theme permeates the entire Bible.

There are actually two areas of unity that prove that the Bible had to be produced by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

a. Organic unity of theme:

The Bible is organically united in the following three ways:

1. All parts of the Bible are necessary to complete its entire gospel theme. Each book adds information to this theme.
2. All the books of the Bible complete one another. For example, the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all give different views of the life and ministry of Jesus.
3. All books of the Bible center around one life principle. That principle is God's revelation of the gospel for the salvation of man (See Ep 3:3-5; 1 Pt 1:10-12).

b. Unity of teaching:

From Genesis to Revelation, the theme of the Bible is God's plan through Jesus Christ to save humanity from sin. All teachings to guide us to have a right relationship with God, and our fellow citizens of the world, are harmoniously recorded throughout the Bible. There are no contradictions in these instructions. There are

The Authority Of The Bible In Our Lives Is Based On The Fact That It Was Written In A Unified Manner Over Several Centuries.

no inconsistencies.

Those who have little knowledge of the Bible claim that it contradicts itself. However, when one studies the Bible throughout, this accusation quickly disappears. People of faith could never have produced alone a unified document as the Bible over such a great period of time. If the Bible were the product of our own ingenuity, then certainly we would expect some contradictions. But there are none.

- 10. T or F:** Since it must be concluded that the Bible is the word of God, then we must conclude that it must have authority in our lives.
- 11. T or F:** The common gospel theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation proves that the Bible was written by the inspiration of God.
- 12. T or F:** The unity of the Bible proves that the Bible is the product of men alone who were great religious leaders.

2. Indestructibility of the Bible:

In Matthew 24:35 Jesus promised, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.”* Peter added, *“The word of the Lord endures forever”* (1 Pt 1:25). The complete text of the Bible (all sixty-six books) have been in the hands of mankind for about 2,000 years. The Old Testament Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) have been in existence for approximately 3,500 years. It is true that the word of God abides forever, at least while the world exists. Because the Bible comes to us through the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, then we can understand that it will not pass away, even when this world passes away.

There are other books of men that have been in existence for centuries. However, not one of these books has been the foundation for religious belief as the Bible. None have been cherished by people of faith for thousands of years as the Bible. Therefore, how could any book of human origin compare in any way with the indestructible nature of the written revelation of God that

Since People Of Faith Have Cherish The Bible Throughout History, Then We Conclude That The Bible Is From God.

has come forth from an eternal God? Because the Bible has come down through history to us as it has, we must affirm that it is more than a book of mere men.

3. Social impact of the Bible:

No work of literature in history has ever influenced societies for so long as the Bible. Literally billions of people in history have been touched by the Scriptures. If the Bible were the invention of men alone, then it would have had no such impact on history. However, because it is the inspired word of God, people of faith have accepted it as such for millennia. The reason for this is that people of faith have believed it to be the word of God, and thus must have authority in our lives.

13. T or F: We would correctly conclude that the written word of God would exist throughout human history.

14. T or F: No uninspired document of man has had the impact on the societies of the world for millennia as the Bible.

4. Historical accuracy of the Bible:

No ancient discovery has ever been found that contradicts historical statements that are made in the Bible. This does not prove the Bible to be inspired. Other books can be historically accurate. However, **we would expect an inspired book to be historically accurate in every detail.** This is what we expect of the Bible. Nevertheless, because the Bible is perfectly accurate in historical events over so many thousands of years, we must admit that mere records of history by men would not have produced such accuracy. Because of this fact, we could use this as an evidence for inspiration, and thus, consider the Bible to have authority in our lives.

Historical Accuracy Does Not Prove Inspiration, But Inspiration Could Not Be Affirmed With A Document That Was Not Historically Accurate.

5. Prophecy in the Bible:

This is the greatest proof for the inspiration of the

Bible. **A prophecy is actually a miracle in words.** Prophecy is not prediction. Prediction is the forecast of future events that are **based upon present occurring events, or circumstances.** True biblical

True Prophecy
Has No Present
Hints Concerning
What Was Prophesied.

prophecy, on the other hand, **is the foretelling of future events without the aid of any present hints.** In fact, biblical prophecy often included the foretelling of events that were completely contrary to the consensus of existing circumstances.

Some of the great prophecies of the Bible include the prophecy of the three world empires that would exist after the Babylonian Empire. This prophecy is recorded in Daniel 2 and 7. The prophecy of the destruction of cities as ancient Tyre (See Ez 26) and Nineveh (See Zp 2:13; Nh 3:7) are also in the Bible. The greatest of all prophecies was made concerning the Messiah. Over three hundred specific prophecies were made concerning the coming of the Messiah of Israel to be the Savior of the world. The fulfillment of all these prophecies by chance and accident would be highly improbable. In fact, **the improbability of one individual accidentally fulfilling the approximately three hundred prophecies concerning His life and teaching would be considered impossible.**

15. T or F: The greatest proof for the inspiration of the Bible is its unity of theme from Genesis to Revelation.

16. T or F: The improbability of any one person fulfilling all prophecies concerning the Messiah would mean that it would be impossible for any one person to do so.

An example of probability illustrates the impact of prophecy in proving the inspiration of the Bible. The following are some examples of the prophecies concerning the One who would come.

PROPHECY OF THE CHRIST

1. He would be a descendant of Abraham through Isaac (See Gn 12:3; 22:12,18).
2. He would be born during the days of Roman rule (See Dn 2:44; 7:13,14).

3. He would be born of the tribe of Judah (See Gn 49:10; 1 Ch 5:2; Mc 5:2).
 4. He would be of the seedline of David (See 2 Sm 7:12-17; Is 11:1).
 5. He would be born in Bethlehem (See Mc 5:2).
 6. There would be a slaughter of babies surrounding His birth (See Jr 31:15).
 7. He would be a sojourner in Egypt (See Hs 11:1).
 8. He would live in Galilee (See Is 9:1,2).
 9. He would have a forerunner (See Ml 3:1; 4:5,6).
 10. He would teach by parables (See Ps 78:2) and perform miracles (See Is 35:5,6).
 11. He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (See Zc 9:9; Ps 118:26; Is 62:11).
 12. He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (See Zc 11:12,13).
 13. He would be mocked (See Ps 22:6,7), whipped (See Is 50:6), crucified with malefactors (See Is 53:9-12), pierced (See Ps 22:16) and given gall to drink (See Ps 69:20,21).
17. Into what city would Jesus triumphally enter?
(A) Jerusalem, (B) Rome, (C) Babylon, (D) Nazareth
18. Into what country would Jesus be a sojourner?
(A) Egypt, (B) Italy, (C) Palestine, (D) Babylonia

We could list other specifics concerning the One who would come into the world in reference to the existence of Israel. The Jews called Him the Messiah, that is, the “Anointed One.” We must affirm the improbability of one man fulfilling all these Old Testament prophecies by accident. We must not forget that the Old Testament was written before the actual fulfillment of these prophecies. Therefore, the Old Testament Scriptures are not a history of what happened. **They are a prophecy of what would happen.** The probability of one individual accidentally fulfilling these prophecies is so improbable that we would say **it would have been impossible for them to have been fulfilled by accident.**

We must consider the fact that millions of people have been born into history who came from the seedline of Abraham through Isaac. This would be the Jewish nation. However, according to prophecy number 2 in the preceding list, how many Jews were born of Abraham through Isaac during the days of

the Roman Empire? How many of these were of the tribe of Judah and of the seedline of David? Now we are down to a few thousand candidates. How many of these few thousand, who were born of Abraham through Isaac and of the tribe of Judah, came through David's seedline in the days of the Roman Empire and were born in the city of Bethlehem? Of these, which ones experienced a slaughter of babies during the year or two after his birth? Now we are down to a handful of probable candidates. Of these, therefore, how many fled to Egypt and later returned to Nazareth of Galilee? The probability is that only one did. That One would have a forerunner. That One would teach in parables and perform miracles. That One would triumphantly enter Jerusalem, be betrayed, and crucified. And according to prophecy, that One would do what we would expect Him to do, that is, He would be resurrected from the dead. **This One is Jesus.**

If we carried the above fulfillment of prophecy throughout the approximately three hundred prophecies concerning the Messiah and His ministry that are recorded in the Old Testament, then we would have overwhelming evidence of the Sonship of Jesus and the inspiration of the Bible. It is because of this reasoning that we consider the Bible to be the authority of our lives, and the foundation of our faith.

We must remember that our study of the Bible would be greatly hindered if we did not accept the Bible as the inspired word of God. Therefore, we must firmly believe that the Bible is God's book for mankind. It is God's direction for our lives. Once we accept this fact, **we will come to our study of the Bible with great conviction and commitment.** We will be motivated to search the Scriptures because we believe that the Scriptures have come to us by the God of heaven.

19. T or F: The many prophecies to Israel were so numerous that it would be probably that one person of history could fulfill all of them by accident.

> Final Authority In Matters Of Faith <

As a Bible student, it is necessary to accept the word of God as His message to mankind. One must understand and believe this point very firmly. But this is not all. It is extremely important to understand that when we are discussing matters of faith, **the Bible must be our only authority**. By this we mean that the Bible must be the source of all our answers in matters of faith, and the foundation upon which we base all our moral values. When it comes to discussions concerning our faith, the Bible must be considered the **final** authority. The Bible student must approach the text of the Bible with this firmly in mind.

If The Bible Is God's Final Authority For Our Faith, Then it is His Only Authority For Our Faith.

A. The final revelation.

It is imperative that we first believe that the Bible is the actual word of God, and that it is God's final revelation to mankind. It has proven itself to be the only safe and consistent moral rule by which we should guide our lives. And for this reason, God intended that the Bible be a complete guide for godly living. Peter affirmed this when he wrote that *"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"* (2 Pt 1:3). Jude said that the faith, the fullness of our belief, has been *"once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jd 3). Because God has finalized His revelation to the world, we must conclude that this revelation is complete for our spiritual direction in life. Paul revealed this truth in 2 Timothy 3:16,17:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Therefore, in order for us to do what God requires,

we must accept the Bible as the only source of guidance in understanding what God would have us do to serve Him.

20. T or F: The fact that the Bible is God's final authority for our faith, then we are correct to assume that there will be no more revelation from God until Jesus comes again.

21. T or F: Though the Bible is God's final authority, this does not mean that those who believe cannot establish their own religious authority in leaders that they designate.

B. Final Direction through revelation:

The Holy Spirit directs through God's final revelation, the Bible. The Holy Spirit directs us through the revelation of inspired words. He does not direct through our inner feelings, because we can easily be led astray by our emotions. He does not lead through dreams and supposed visions in the night. He sends no angels. Jesus promised the apostles that *"when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you [apostles] into all truth"* (Jn 16:13). By inspiration, the apostles received and recorded all this truth (See 2 Tm 3:16,17). They were *"moved by the Holy Spirit"* in order to deliver to all people of faith the will of God (See 2 Pt 1:20,21).

The Holy Spirit never directly worked upon the hearts of people in a subjective manner, that is, He never worked against the will of the individual in order to change one's moral character. If He had, then this would cancel our free-moral ability to choose. Also, it would accuse God of being an unjust God if anyone disciple of Jesus was condemned to hell.

The Holy Spirit has always worked through revelation of truth in order to direct the steps of those who seek to serve God. For example, God could have revealed truth directly to the Ethiopian eunuch to understand the book of Isaiah from which he was reading. However, the preacher, Philip, was told to *"go toward the south"* in order to meet the eunuch (At 8:26). The same is true in the case of Cornelius. The Holy Spirit could have directly revealed the truth of the gospel to Cornelius in Acts 10. However, Cornelius was instructed to *"send men to*

Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved” (At 11:13,14). The Holy Spirit did not directly save the eunuch or Cornelius. He expected these devout men to respond to the gospel that was taught by the disciples of Jesus. The same “system” of changing lives and reveal the word of God, stands true today. **God works today through His inspired word, the Bible.** And for this reason the word of God must retain the authority of God, and not the opinions or traditions of men.

In order to be directed by God to know what to do to be saved and to worship God in spirit and truth, we have only the Bible. The Holy Spirit has revealed in the Bible all truth that God would have us to possess concerning a faith that is pleasing to Him (See Hb 11:6). We must be confident that when we come to a study of the Bible, therefore, God will direct our lives, but it will be through the words of instruction that are revealed in His word. The Bible will provide the us with all that is necessary for godly living (See 2 Tm 3:16,17).

- 22. T or F:** If the Holy Spirit worked in a way where He directly affected our moral behavior, then we could not be held accountable for our actions at the final judgment.
- 23. T or F:** Through diligent Bible study we assume that the eunuch could eventually understand the gospel that was revealed through Isaiah.

The Bible contains God’s special revelation to humanity. All of the Bible is inspired, but not all of the Bible is revelation from God. God specifically revealed Himself to us through various means throughout the Bible times. Special men were chosen to record by inspiration these special revelations. We consider the Bible inspired, therefore, because of its impact on mankind and because of the fulfillment of prophecies that are contained in the Bible. Other than the Bible, no other book has had such moral influence for millennia. For this reason, if one would come to God, he or she must believe that the Bible is God’s word for mankind today.

Therefore, we conclude that the Bible is the authoritative word of God. This means that God expects it to be the rule of our lives. And in matters of faith, it is to be our only rule of faith. In other words, human religious traditions must never be placed above the Bible, or replace the Bible. Our faith must be firmly based upon the word of God.

The Holy Spirit will direct us by means of His revelation. If human religious traditions are considered to be authoritative in matters of faith, then we would not have a common or unchanging standard of belief. This is true because there are no human religious traditions that could be held in common among all cultures of the world. Also, human religious traditions are constantly changing. Therefore, discipleship of Jesus has been and must be based on the authority of the word of God. This is why we must restore a primitive faith that is not cluttered with the shackles of human religious traditions. This is why every Bible student must continually sift through his or her beliefs in order to discover what is actually Bible based and what is tradition or matters of opinion.



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

1. In reference to its authority in our lives, why must we believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God to humanity?
2. What is the difference between revelation and inspiration?
3. Why does the inspiration of the Bible assume that it should have all authority in reference to our faith?
4. Why could the eunuch not understand the prophecy of Isaiah in reference to the gospel of Jesus Christ?
5. How does the unity of the Bible confirm its inspiration?
6. What is organic unity?
7. Why does the existence of the Bible throughout the millennia prove that it is the word of God?
8. Why would we expect the Bible to be historically accurate if it is indeed inspired?
9. What is the difference between prophecy and prediction?
10. Why would it be impossible for one person to fulfill all the prophecy in reference to the Messiah?
11. Why does the Bible as the final word from God prove that it must be the final authority in all matters of faith?

ABREVIATIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

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