

## Question: What evidence do we have that the Bible is from God? (Part 2)

Last week we considered the matter of *inspiration*. We pointed out that Biblical inspiration differs from the inspiration one might have to do a good or notable deed. The Bible is “*inspired*” of God, meaning, “God-breathed” (2Ti 3:16). Its contents are not the product of men’s pious imaginations, but of the one and only “*living and true God*” (1Th 1:9). The God of truth “breathed out” eternal infallible “truth” (Ro 3:4). He revealed His mind to man in human language.

The apostles proclaimed that Old and New Testament writings did not originate with mere fallible men, but special men were employed by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God. Peter states, “*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*” He further reminds his readers, “*that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation (origin), but Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (2Pe 1:16, 21).

Concerning the gospel Paul said, “*For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Ga 1:12; Jn 15:26). Paul commended the perceptive believers at Thessalonica by saying, “*when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe*” (1Th 2:13).

The Holy Spirit of God actively cooperated with the writers of the Bible. He put the wind in their sails so-to-speak to write what they did. They wrote the word of God, the Scripture. In the Old Testament alone, there are over 3,500 times where the writer states God is directly speaking through him: “*Thus says the Lord...*” (Isa 66:1), for example. Old Testament prophets, claiming to speak for God, were evaluated by their words. Moses instructed the children of Israel, “*when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him...that prophet shall die*” (Deu 18:20-22). All the Old Testament prophets were put to the same test (cf. Deu 13:1-5; Jer 28:15; Eze 13:1-17).

We now come to a startling choice. If the Bible is not the objective revelation of God’s will, then it is a sinister, human conspiracy. The question then arises, how would a conspiracy be possible? Men from different time periods with nothing personally to gain, writing uniformly about the God of Heaven and His promise of a Savior, agreeing to fabricate a cruel hoax, a malicious lie and sell it to the human race? What purpose would it serve? What blind faith it must take for a skeptic to believe the origin of the Bible was a mass delusion kept up for over a thousand years. More on this topic next week, see you then!

C. Boyd Jennings