

IS THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD?

INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains 66 books written by more than 40 writers.

It has 2 major sections:

- ◆ The Old Testament, (OT) is the **Old Covenant** between God and Man. It consists of **39 books**.
- ◆ The New Testament, (NT) is the **New Covenant** between God and Man. It consists of **27 books**.

OT section of the Bible is incomplete without the NT section, because the fulfilment of many of the Old Testament predictions is found in the New Testament. The first book Genesis in the OT was written by Moses around 1500 BC. The last book, Revelation in the NT, was written by John around 100 AD.

- ◆ Therefore, the **time taken** to write the whole Bible **from beginning to end was about 1600 years**. (See diagram opposite.)

The Bible begins by telling us how God created the world and everything in it.

- ◆ It was **impossible for Moses to write down** in such detail about creation without the help of someone with superior knowledge **because he was not living when God created the world**.

Therefore, if the account were true, it could have come by supernatural inspiration.

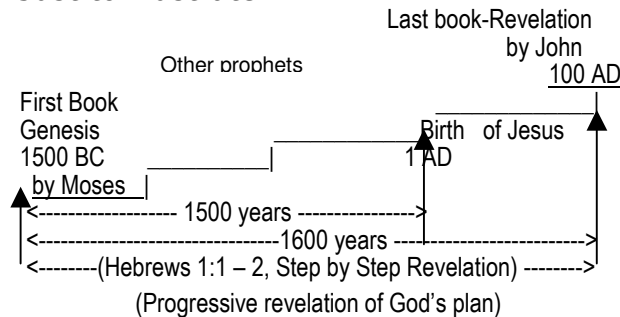
The Bible ends with the book of Revelation, which tells us how God will judge the world, eliminate sin, and set up His eternal righteous kingdom.

- ◆ Again, it was **impossible for John to write about future** events in such detail without the help of someone

with supernatural knowledge of the past, present and future.

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, **“Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets (in visions, dreams, and even face to face), telling them little by little about His plans. But now in these days He has spoken to us through His Son (Jesus) to whom he has given every thing, and through whom He made the world and everything there is.”**

Just to illustrate:



- **It is A UNIQUE BOOK.**

Therefore, the Bible is not an ordinary book. It has no contradictions.

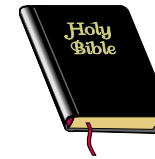
1. HOW TO KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD?

Let me share with you an illustration to clarify this.

Suppose a Manager of a company **dictated 66 letters** to 40 secretaries over a period of 10 years to send to a particular client. We could file all 66 letters into one folder, because the **author of all these letters is the Manager who dictated them and not the secretaries who wrote them**.

- ◆ **Similarly, the Bible** contains 66 books written by more than 40 writers over a period of 1600 years.

This only means that the Author of all the 66 books is the same person. As the whole Bible took 1600 years to write from beginning to the end, the **only person who could live 1600 years or more is God.**



Therefore, we can conclude that God is the Author of the Bible.

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ITS OWN AUTHORITY?

- **“For no prophecy recorded in the Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God”** (2Peter 1:20-21).
- **“...It is these (Holy Scriptures) that make you wise to accept God’s salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well equipped to do good to everyone”** (2Timothy 3:15-17).
- **“Salvation was something the prophets did not fully understand. Though they wrote about it, they had many questions as to what it could all mean. They wondered what the Spirit of God within them was talking about, for he told them to write down the events, which since then have happened to Christ: His suffering and His great glory afterwards. And they wondered when and to whom all this would happen”** (1 Peter 1:10-11).

- “No one can really know what anyone else is thinking, or what he is like, except that person himself. And no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And God has actually given us His Spirit to tell us about the wonderful free gifts of grace and blessing that God has given us. In telling you about these gifts we have even used the very words given to us by the Holy Spirit, not words that we as men might choose. So we use the Holy Spirit’s words to explain the Holy Spirit’s facts” (1Corinthians 2:11-13).

3. FULFILLED PROPHECIES REVEAL THAT GOD EXISTS AND THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD

For example let us consider just two prophecies about the birth of Jesus:

Prophecy	Date	Ref.	Fulfilled Ref.	&Date
Virgin birth	750B C	Isaiah 7:14	Mat1:18-23	AD1
Birth place	700B C	Micah 5:2	Matt.2:1-6	AD1

- ◆ In both cases, the prophets who wrote them and all their contemporaries died within 100 years. Thereafter, millions of people were born and died during the following 750 years between the date of prophecy and its fulfilment. Yet what they wrote was fulfilled to the very word hundreds of years later.
 - ◆ As dead people cannot keep their promises, we can conclude that these words were not of the prophets’ themselves, but of God who inspired them to write. **We can see the INVISIBLE HAND of GOD working to fulfil these prophecies hundreds of years later.** Space will not permit me to list all the various prophecies and their fulfilment here. Thus it

proves that the **Bible is God’s inspired word**. It also proves that **God exists, He is almighty, present everywhere, knowing everything, faithful and trustworthy.**

- ◆ **ALMIGHTY:** There is **nothing impossible with God**. The virgin birth is humanly impossible, but for God nothing is impossible.
- ◆ **EVERYWHERE PRESENT:** He was present when He inspired his prophets to write, He was present at the time when it was fulfilled and He is alive even today to fulfil some more prophecies that need to be fulfilled in the future. He is the **eternal God**.
- ◆ **ALL KNOWING or Omniscient:** He **knows everything about the past, present and the future**. That is why He could prophesy through the prophets what happened and also what is going to happen in the future. That is why He could inspire Moses to write down how He created the world (**the book of Genesis**) even though Moses was not present at the time. For the same reason, He inspired John to write what is going to happen far into the future (**the Book of Revelation**), and *all other books of the Bible through the rest of the writers.*
- ◆ **FAITHFUL:** for **He has kept all His promises and predictions of the future no matter how many there are.**
- ◆ **TRUSTWORTHY:** As **He has proved faithful in the past**, we can **TRUST Him to fulfil all the future promises too.**

In summary we **KNOW** that:

- **GOD EXISTS**, He is **ALIVE** and He is **ACTIVE**.
- **The Holy Bible is not an ordinary book. It is God’s inspired Word with special messages to meet**

man’s present and future needs.

- **JESUS is the promised MESSIAH, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.**

4. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE?

- **“To make us wise to accept His salvation”** (*deliverance from eternal death*) by trusting in Christ Jesus, and
- **“To equip (strengthen) us to do good to everyone”** (2 Timothy 3:15).

If the Bible is meant for us to accept God’s salvation through Jesus Christ, then it is only logical that we receive Him as our Saviour and Lord. Probably you may be asking, **“How can I receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life?”**

For more information on **“IS THE BIBLE GOD’S WORD?”** get a copy of **“Evidence that Demands a Verdict”** by Josh

McDowell

or visit

<http://www.hightruth.com/faq/04bible.html>

For more information please call Mr. N. Sankaran Tel: **67544763**.

Or e-mail: nedungat@gmail.com or visit: **www.amazingdiscovery.net**

For continued spiritual growth please attend regularly a nearby church where Jesus is honoured and the Bible is taught.