

2. The Word Is of God

“This Bible, or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the only complete guide to everlasting blessedness: men may err, but the Scripture cannot; for it is the word of God Himself, who can neither mistake, deceive, nor be deceived. . . From this word all doctrines must be derived and proved; and from it every man must learn his duty to God, to his neighbor, and to himself.”-Dr. Adam, Clarke, in “Clavis Biblica” (“The Preacher’s Manual”), page 64.

SELECTED REFERENCES

GC Intro. v-xii. 5T 698-711. Ed 169-184. [3] Pages 145-182. [4] Article, “Bible.” [5] Pages 88-101.

Memorize: 2 Peter 1:21.

A. THE DIVINELY INSPIRED WRITINGS.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

“God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language, yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.” - GC, Introduction, vi, vii.

“As several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony.” - GC, Introduction, vi.

‘The union of the divine and the human, manifest in Christ, exists also in the Bible. The truths revealed are all ‘given by inspiration of God;’ yet they are expressed in the words of men, and are adapted to human needs. Thus it may be said of the Book of God, as it was of Christ, that ‘the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.’ “ - 5T 747.

B. PROOFS THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD.

1. Testimony of internal evidence.

2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Amos 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

This claim cannot be set aside without contrary evidence.

2. Testimony of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:18; John 5:46, 47; Luke 24:27; 16:31.

If we accept the authority of Jesus Christ, we must accept the Old as well as the New Testament.

3. Testimony of its human writers.

2 Samuel 23:1,2; Jeremiah 1:4-9; Ezekiel 2:7; Luke 1:70.

These were either good men or great impostors; neither could have fathomed and revealed divine truth.

4. Testimony of its unity.

Matthew 12:25.

About forty writers, widely differing in occupation and experience, scattered far over the earth from Egypt to Babylon, from Midian to Rome, wrote at intervals during fifteen hundred years; yet, when their writings are brought together, one Author and a single theme are seen throughout the whole.

5. Testimony of science.

Psalms 89:34-37; Jeremiah 31:35-37; Job 26:7; 28:25.

The Bible was not given as a textbook on science-except the science of salvation. Nevertheless, every statement therein agrees with man’s discoveries, for the Creator is its author. Furthermore, it goes far beyond mankind’s puny mind, “for there are mysteries in the realm of natural science which still elude the research of the wisest.” “Nature, in all its length and breadth, terms with manifestations of some

incomprehensible and almighty force, which exhibits itself in every department of the- universe.”-H. L. Hastings, in “Will the Old Book Stand?” pages 129, 126.

6. Testimony of the Jews.

Acts 7:36; Jeremiah 25:11,12; Leviticus 26:32,33; Numbers 23:9.

“So long as the Jews keep the Passover, so long it will be impossible for candid persons to deny the story of Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage, or to disprove the supernatural origin of the Jewish law. And so long as the Arch of Titus stands, with the vessels of the Jewish tabernacle represented upon it; so long as every Jew in Rome shuns that arch, and avoids passing under the memorial of his nation’s overthrow; so long as the Jewish people, wherever they dwell, keep the Passover and observe Mosaic ordinances, so long we shall find ourselves linked by existing facts and historical monuments to that law given by Moses more than three thousand years ago.” - Id., page 62.

7. Testimony of fulfilled prophecy.

a. Babylon. Isaiah 13:19-22.

“Ruins composed, like those of Babylon, of heaps of rubbish impregnated with niter, cannot be cultivated.” “ ‘I saw the sun sink behind the Muj elibie,’ says Captain Migan, ‘and obeyed with infinite regret the summons of my guides,’ Arabs completely armed. He ‘could not persuade them to remain longer, from apprehension of evil spirits. It is impossible to eradicate this idea from the minds of these people.’” - Id., pages 168, 169.

b. Nineveh. Jonah 3:3; Zephaniah 2:13-15.

“Nothing then seemed more improbable than that the capital of so vast an empire, a city sixty miles in compass, with walls 100 feet high, and so thick that three chariots could go abreast on them, and with 1,500 towers, should be so totally destroyed that its site is with difficulty discovered. Yet so it is, as the prophet foretold.”-Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, Commentary, Vol. I, page 709.

c. Egypt. Ezekiel 29:14, 15; 30:13; Isaiah 19:7.

“When Egypt exulted in her long lines of royal rulers, it was written, ‘There shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt;’ and for more than two thousand years Egypt has not had a native Egyptian king.”-“Will the Old Book Stand?” page 324. March, 1922, Britain granted Egypt only a qualified or limited independence. (According to “Statesman’s Year Book,” 1922, page 265.)

d. Tyre. Ezekiel 26:15-21.

“Instead of that ancient commerce, so active and so extensive, Sour [Tyre], reduced to a miserable village, has no other trade than the exportation of a few sacks of corn and raw cotton.” The inhabitants “live obscurely on the produce of their little grounds and a trifling fishery.”-C. F. Volney, in “Travels Through Syria and Egypt,” 1787 ed., Vol. II, pages 225, 212.

Fulfilled prophecy is a fact, and a fact that every honest and intelligent and serious-minded person must face.

8. Testimony of fulfilling prophecy.

Matthew 24:14; Daniel 12:4; Luke 21:10, 11; 2 Timothy 3:13. (See Lessons 25.28.)

9. Testimony of its power to transform character.

1 Peter 1:23; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:11, 130.

The Bible and its pure truths have convicted of wrong, led to a break with sin and evil habits, inspired to the higher, nobler life of love toward God and to all men, given the deep joy and happiness of a free conscience in this life, and a well grounded hope of a life beyond, this is the unanimous testimony of every true follower of the meek and lowly Jesus.

10. Testimony of its endurance.

Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:23.25; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 12:6, 7.

For eighteen centuries the assaults upon the Bible have continued. Every means of destruction that human brain and satanic cunning could devise has been brought to bear upon it; yet it still stands secure. Prophecies of Voltaire and Thomas Paine are turned to naught; instead, the Bible is greatly increased in circulation and popularity.

KEY TEXTS

Peter 1:20,21 John 5:46, 47 Matthew 24:35
Leviticus 26:32,33 1 Peter 1: 23-25

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. How did God work in giving the Bible by inspiration?
2. Did God govern the exact diction? If not, why not?
3. Which proof of divine origin is most conclusive?
4. In what ways does the Bible differ from all other books?
5. Why is the Bible dry and uninteresting to some people?

TEST QUESTIONS

Answer With Ample Bible Proof
 How has God proved the Bible true?
 How do we know the Old Testament is still to be studied and believed?
 In what ways does advanced scientific knowledge corroborate the Bible?
 How are cities and nations called to witness to facts of His word?
 Is the entire sixty-six volume Bible library equally substantiated?

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

The Apocrypha

Definition (Webster): “Certain writings found in the Septuagint Version of the Old Testament, but not a part of the Hebrew Bible. They are accepted as canonical by the Eastern Church and the Roman Catholic Church, but rejected by Protestants.”

The Apocrypha was bound with the Testaments in English from 1536 down through to the Authorized Version of 1611. It is still found with the Douay, and in some of the older copies of the King James Version. They are sometimes found scattered among the other books, sometimes in a group. Ezra and Nehemiah are named 1 Esdras and 2 Esdras in some editions, and are not the same as those of the Apocrypha.

All the Apocryphal books were inserted between 250 BC and 500 AD. They consist of thirteen books, as follows:

NAME	CHAPTERS	TYPE
1 Esdras	9	Historical
2 Esdras	16	Historical
Tobit	14	Legendary
Judith	16	Legendary
Esther	16	Legendary
Wisdom of Solomon	19	Didactic
Ecclesiasticus	51	Didactic
Baruch	6	Prophetic
Song of the Three Holy Children	1	Legendary
History of Susanna	1	Legendary
Bel and the Dragon	1	Legendary
1 Maccabees	16	Historical
2 Maccabees	15	Historical

REASONS FOR REJECTING THE APOCRYPHA

1. The Hebrew canon does not contain them, though to the Hebrews were committed the oracles of God. (See Romans 32.)
2. The Lord and His apostles, though quoting the Old Testament so frequently, never quoted the Apocrypha. Philo never refers to it. Josephus in his historical writings rejects it. Jerome, in translating his great version, the Vulgate, refused to acknowledge it.
3. The writers themselves never claim inspiration. They confess rather their own lack of the prophetic gift, as in the age before or in that to come. (Compare 1 Mac. 4:46; 9:27; 14:41.)

4. They teach false doctrine, not conformable to the Scriptures. (See Isaiah 8:20; Galatians 1:8.) Among others, note these examples: Tobit 6:1-8 sanctions quackery. Judith 19:10, 13, and chapters 10 to 13, teach deceit. Wisdom 8:19, 20, teaches purgatory and reincarnation. Baruch 3:4 and 2 Maccabees 12:43-45 teach prayers of and for the dead.

5. “They utterly want the progressive plan and mutual interconnection of the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures. Historical errors, inaccuracies, and evidently fictitious stories and speeches occur!” -Bible Cyclopedia, Fausset, art. “Apocrypha.” For examples, compare Baruch 6:2 with Jeremiah 25:12; Bel and the Dragon, especially verse 27, with Daniel 6, verse 10.

However the historical books. 1st and 2d Esdras, 1st and 2d Maccabees, -though, as the others, of no doctrinal value or spiritual aid, give us an idea of the state of affairs in Judea during the 392 years between Malachi and Matthew. A single instance is referred to in PK 453, par. 2, which may be compared to 2 Maccabees 2:5-7. (Also see “The Cross and Its Shadow“, Haskell, page 48.)