

# Christian Evidences

Lesson 4:

Evidences for the Bible as  
God's Word (Part I)



# Review

- Apologetics - systematic argumentative discourse in defense (as of a doctrine)
- Why study apologetics?
  - Commandment
  - Conviction
  - Communication



# Two Means of Revelation

- General (natural)



- Special (communication – written word)



# Review

- Evidences for the existence of God (natural revelation)
  - Cosmological argument (cause and effect)
  - Teleological argument (argument from design)
  - Anthropological argument (the moral argument)
  - Aesthetical argument (the existence of beauty)



# The Bible – God’s Word for Mankind

- Knowing God exists, what are the implications?
- What does it mean to me?
- How does it affect the way I live my life?
- What does God expect of me?
- “Special Revelation” from God is needed
  - God has provided this
  - We have the Bible to turn to
- How do we know the Bible is from God?
- What evidence do we have that this is God’s message to mankind?



*“The Scriptures are either inspired of God, or they are not inspired of God. If the writings of the Bible are not inspired of God, then they are the mere productions of men, and as such would merit no religious respect; in fact, in view of their exalted claims, they would merit only contempt.”*

*(Bert Thompson)*



*“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise ... And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”*

*(1 Cor. 15:14 – 19)*



# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- Does the Bible claim to be from God?
  - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
  - Inspiration – “theopneustos” – “theos” – God and “pneo” – to breathe. Literally, “God-breathed”
  - The product of the creative breath of God.
    - *“It is the product of the creative breath of God. This does not mean that Scripture is breathed into by God or that it is the product of the Divine in-breathing into its human authors, but that it is breathed out by God.” (B.B. Warfield)*
  - Scripture – “graphe” – the “Oracles of God”





# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- 1 Tim. 5:18
  - *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”*
- What two passages are quoted here?
  - Deut. 25:4; Lk. 10:5-7
- What is the significance of this in regard to our discussion?
  - Paul recognized the gospel accounts as “Scripture” (the Oracles of God) just as well as the Old Testament



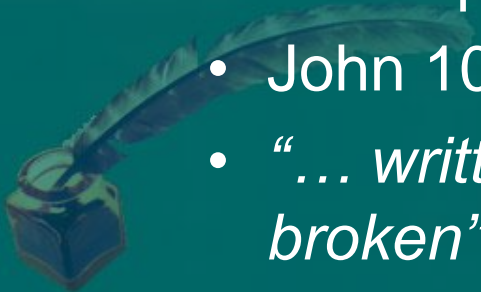
# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- What does 2 Pet. 1:20-21 say about the origin of the Scriptures?
  - “... *holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*”
  - “moved” – “phero” – bear, bring (forth), carry, lead
  - They are from the Holy Spirit – lead these men to write them



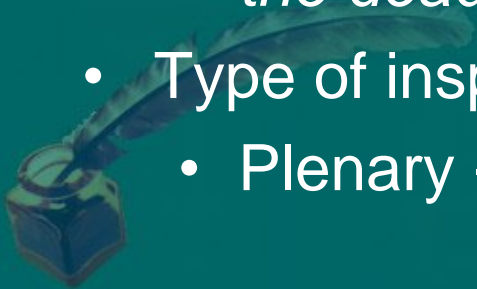
# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- More than 3800 times in the Old Testament the claim is made that the Scriptures are the word [or words] of God
  - *“Then the Lord said to Moses ...” (Ex. 17:14)*
  - *“Thus says David ... The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.” (2 Sam. 23:2)*
  - *“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.” (Jer. 1:9)*
- Jesus emphasized the authority of Scripture
  - John 10:34-35, refers to a Psalm as “law”
  - *“... written in your law ... the Scripture cannot be broken” (Psa. 82:6)*



# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- “... *one jot or one tittle will by no means pass ...*” (Mt. 5:18)
  - “Jot” – the smallest letter
  - “Tittle” – the projection of a letter
  - Claiming the Scriptures perfect to the smallest detail
- Is Jesus saying that the very words in the Old Testament were inspired by God? **Yes**
  - Jesus even argued from the tense of a verb
  - “... *I **am** the God of Abraham ... God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*” (Mt. 22:31-32)
- Type of inspiration – verbal and plenary
  - Plenary - full, complete, extending to every part



“Verbal Inspiration is the work of God through the Holy Spirit so directing men in their choice of words that their writings contain, written accurately, exactly what God desired, and all that He desired, them to contain. It is the doctrine of the superintendence, or guidance; that is, God so guided in the writing of the books of the Bible that the words are His words in the style of the writers. Verbal Inspiration is the opposite of Inspired Concepts.”

(H.S. Miller)



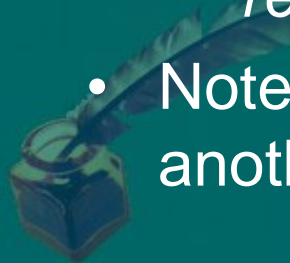
# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- What did Jesus promise His disciples in Mt. 10:19-20?
  - “ ... *For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*”
  - The Holy Spirit speaking through them.



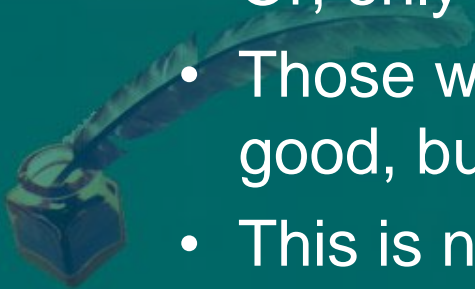
# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- New Testament writers knew they were recording the words of God
  - *“For I received from the Lord ...” (1 Cor. 11:23)*
  - *“... we say to you by the word of the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:15)*
  - *“... heard that Samaria had received the word of God” (Acts 8:14)*
  - *“... not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ...” (1 Cor. 2:11-13)*
  - *“... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you ... as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” (2 Pet. 3:15-16)*
- Note in the last reference, the writers referred to one another's letters as inspired of God



# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

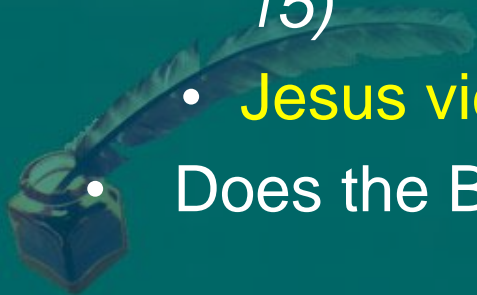
- Some have a false concept of inspiration
  - Think this means inspired in same sense as other works
  - The result of natural genius and ability
  - But, this makes the biblical writers out to be liars
    - They claimed the Holy Spirit as their source
  - Also, why has modern man been unable to produce a comparable volume?
- Others only agree certain portions are truly inspired
  - Only those portions dealing with faith and morals
  - Or, only the words of Christ are inspired
  - Those with a miraculous element – merely the product of good, but superstitious and fallible, men
  - This is not consistent with the declarations of the writers





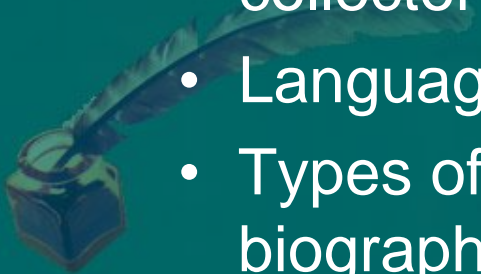
# The Inspiration of the Bible – Its Claims

- How did Jesus view Old Testament accounts of the miraculous?
  - *“... Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish ...” (Mt. 12:39-40)*
  - *“... He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female, ...” (Mt. 19:4)*
  - *“... none of them was cleansed except Naaman ...” (Lk. 4:27)*
  - *“... as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness ... whoever believes in Him should not perish ...” (Jn. 3:14-15)*
  - **Jesus viewed these as factual accounts**
- Does the Bible claim to be from God? Clearly, it does!



# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- The amazing unity of the 66 books of the Bible
  - If the Bible is not a book of harmony and consistency, then no point in going further.
- Consider these facts:
  - Written over ~ 1600 years by 40 different men
  - Law of Moses (1450-1400 B.C.) ... John (~ 90 A.D.)
  - Places: Sinai Wilderness, Babylon, Jerusalem, Rome, Ephesus
  - Occupations: shepherd, military leader, king, herdsman, statesman, priest, cupbearer, scribe, physician, tax collector, fisherman, trained in the law
  - Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Koine Greek
  - Types of writing: law, poetry, history, narrative, biography, prophecy, apocalyptic



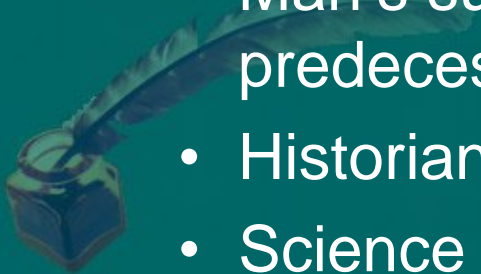
# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- Not simply an anthology
- Tremendous unity in the Bible
  - All the parts work together perfectly
- What kind of product if it were a work of man today?
  - Writers: a Truck Driver, a Brain Surgeon, a Doctor of Theology, a President, an IRS Tax Collector, a Shrimp Fisherman, a Five Star General
  - English, German, and Spanish
  - Poems, documentaries, biographies, etc.
  - Written during time of Rome, Crusades, Renaissance, birth of this country, and over the last 50 years.
- Would there be agreement in facts? Philosophies? History? ... impossible!



# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- As you look at the Scriptures, you see a **unity in doctrine or purpose**. What is this purpose? (Eph. 3:10-11)
  - *“... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”*
  - Our salvation through Christ (Col. 1:27)
- Throughout the Bible, agreement in all its teachings
  - One writer affirms, no later writer denies
- Not characteristic of the works of men
  - Man's supposed wisdom always rises above that of his predecessors (at least in his mind)
  - Historians of the same generation disagree
  - Science books constantly revised and updated



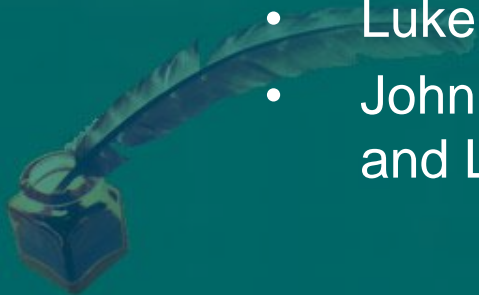
# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- In stark contrast, the Bible has stood the test of time
  - Critics point out supposed contradictions
  - But, always resolved with careful study
  - The Bible never fails to vindicate itself
- There is also an “organic unity”
  1. All parts are necessary to a complete whole
  2. All are necessary to complement each other
  3. All are pervaded by one life-principle



# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- The Bible's "organic unity"
  1. All parts are necessary to its completeness
    - Any part of the Bible can only be properly explained in reference to the whole Bible
    - e.g. What if just the crucifixion of Christ?
    - Essentially, would have no context for Christ
  2. All parts are necessary to complement each other
    - How do the Gospels illustrate this point?
    - Each a different purpose in presenting Jesus
    - Matthew – fulfillment of prophecy to the Jews
    - Mark – the humble servant, the Son of Man
    - Luke – the miraculous nature of One born of a Virgin
    - John – instilling belief in Christ and showing Him to be the Light and Life of mankind.



# Evidence for God's Word - Unity of the Bible

- The Bible's "organic unity"
  3. One life-principle pervades the whole
    - God's fingerprint is found throughout
    - His relationship to and will for mankind can be clearly seen
    - But for the scheme of redemption, we would be without hope.

The marvelous unity in the Bible is strong evidence that it is from God!

