

The Bible Inspired?

Sadly, from time to time I have received suggestions that we cannot rely on the Bible, that maybe only specific parts, which plainly state, ‘God said’, ‘God spoke’, ‘Thus says the Lord...’ etc, can actually be relied upon, and that the rest may simply be the uninspired words of men.

Logic though, immediately suggests that if we cannot rely upon the Bible, why should we be able to rely on those parts where the Bible says, ‘God said’, or ‘Thus says the Lord’? If the Bible is not special, provided for mankind by God (apart from the insertions which are plainly known to be spurious verses) neither can we rely upon those parts – we might as well throw the whole book away.

Another great error sometimes suggested, is that Jesus Christ was only a prophet, and not God in the flesh. These two suggestions I examined again recently in emails from which I here quote:

Christ is God

‘We, as mortals, find it hard to grasp the elements of divinity, so, as you rightly say we must put all of the scriptures together - so what about these verses?’

John 1:1-4, 14, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him**, and without him was not anything made that was madeAnd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.'*

Matthew 1:23, *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”* [**God with us**]

Colossians 1:16-18, *For by him **all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.'*

John 1:10. *He was in the world, **and the world was made through him**, yet the world did not know him.'*

John 20:28,29 *Thomas answered him, “**My Lord and my God!**” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

John 17:4-5,24 *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence **with the glory that I had with you before the world existed**.Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you **loved me before the foundation of the world.**'*

Exodus 3:14, *God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” Cf. John 8:58, 'Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**”*

This last scripture, which reveals Christ’s existence before Abraham, is confirmed in Revelation 22:12-13, where Christ speaks, *Behold, I am coming soon, **bringing my recompense with me**, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'*

Compare that with Isaiah 40:10, *Behold, the **Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him,*** where it is significant that it is *‘the Lord God’* that is to come: *‘His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him’*, which Christ illustrated with His parables of the Ten Virgins, the Talents and the Pounds.

The refusal to believe the abundant evidence that Jesus Christ existed along with the one we call the Father from eternity, and I have only quoted a small fraction, defies the biblical evidence. If you reject the evidence of the Apostle Paul's writing in the New Testament, which clearly backs up the existence of two Divine Beings known as Elohim (The reason for 'us' and 'our' in Genesis 1:26), where 'God', Hebrew 'Elohim', is a plural noun, you also reject the fact that we cannot fully understand the Old Testament without the help of the New.

The evidence that there are two Jehovahs can be studied in 'The Two Jehovahs of the Pentateuch' and 'The Two Jehovahs of the Psalms', written by Carl Franklin at www.cbcbg.org, where it is stated that the most accurate translation of the Hebrew, Deuteronomy 6:4 is : **'Our one God [Elohim] is the Lord [Yhwh], the Lord [Yhwh]** ie Two 'Lords'.

Similarly, in Mark 12:29 (*And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord' KJV.*) we see, in the Greek, an almost identical Kurios, Kurios (Lord, Lord). Remember Jesus said in John 10:30, *'I and My Father are one'*, again revealing two separate individuals who are both Lord and Jehovah. So, we see the unity between the OT Hebrew and the NT Greek, in Mark 12:29, which should be translated, *'Then Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel. 'Our one God is the Lord the Lord.'* ie. Two 'Lords'. (See, 'The Holy Bible in its Original order'- A new English translation by Fred Coulter, York Publishing Company).

Even just reading through the first few chapters of Hebrews, as I was yesterday, there can be no doubt that Christ existed as God, with God, before the world was, and was the 'hands on' Creator, lived as Melchisedec and later became our High Priest and God once again, at the right hand of His Father.

Yes, grasping Divinity, for mortals, is like trying to picture a piece of string of infinite length. Until God grants us understanding all we can do is believe the above scriptures.

2Timothy 3:16

So, we see that the Bible claims to be the word of God and His revelation to man, just as Christ showed by His many quotations from the scriptures, Moses, and the Prophets.

With regard to the Bible and 2Timothy 3:16, [*All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*], the Bible describes the prophets and apostles as having been moved or driven by the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote were also the literal words of God.

In 2 Timothy 3:16, the word 'scripture' (referring to the original autographs) comes from Greek, 'grapho' which means to write. It is then, *the written text* that is referred to here as God breathed. 2 Timothy 3:16, *'All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.'* Without the insertions of the two words 'is', this verse would completely lack a verb and would make no sense whatsoever, so their insertion is both logical and necessary.

2 Peter 3:1-2, *'This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles,'*

Hebrews 4:12, *'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*

The Bible is the word of God.

Mark 7:13, '*...thus making void the **word of God** by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.*'

Romans 15:4, '*For **whatever was written** in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*' – The Apostle Paul.

Isaiah 34:16, '*Seek and read from **the book of the Lord**: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the Lord has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them.*'

Deuteronomy 17:19, '*And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping **all the words** of this law and these statutes, and doing them – Deuteronomy is God's word.*

Deuteronomy 4:2, '*You shall not add to the word that I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.*'

Revelation 22:19, '*... **and if anyone takes away** from the words of the **book of this prophecy**, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*'

Prophecy – Greek *propheteia*, Theyers Greek Lexicon: '*προφητεία, προφητείας, ἡ (προφητεύω, which see), Hebrew פְּרוֹפְיָה, prophecy, i. e. discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; especially by foretelling future events. Used in the N. T. — of the utterances of the O. T. prophets: Matthew 13:14; 2 Peter 1:20, 21 (on this passage see γίνομαι, 5 e. α.); — of the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining thereto: Revelation 11:6; Revelation 22:19; τό πνεῦμα τῆς προφητείας, the spirit of prophecy, the divine mind, to which the prophetic faculty is due, Revelation 19:10; οἱ λόγοι τῆς προφητείας, Revelation 1:3; Revelation 22:7, 10, 18; — of the endowment and speech of the Christian teachers called προφήται (see προφήτης, II. 1 f.): Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Corinthians 13:2; 1 Corinthians 14:6, 22; plural the gifts and utterances of these prophets, 1 Corinthians 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; — specifically, of the prognostication of those achievements which one set apart to teach the gospel will accomplish for the kingdom of Christ, 1 Timothy 4:14; plural (see προάγω, 2 a. and compare the commentaries). ((The Sept., Josephus); among native Greek writers used only by Lucian, Alex. 40, 60; (to which add inscriptions (see Liddell and Scott, under the word, I)).)' Thus 'prophecy' here is not referring to the Book of Revelation only.*

2 Chronicles 34:14, '*While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the **Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses.***'

Acts 7:38, '*This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received **living oracles** to give to us.*'

Romans 3:2, '*Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with **the oracles of God***' [God breathed but written words]

Ephesians 3:2-5, '*assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was **made known to me by revelation**, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been **revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.***'

2 Corinthians 3:14-15, *'But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that **same veil remains unlifted**, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.'*

2 Peter 1:21, *'holy men of God spoke [and wrote] as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.'*

It is commonly agreed that the NT was largely written in Greek, not the Aramaic, to which it was, I believe, until evidence is provided to the contrary, in all probability later translated. Even you admit that the parts of the New Testament you believe were originally written in Aramaic, contain corruptions similar to those which you believe are to be found in the Greek texts, which you therefore condemn. However, scholars estimate that the Greek manuscripts agree on 90% of the original autograph. Another 8-9% of the text can be recovered by comparison and what remains are matters of spelling, word order, absence of a pronoun or change in verb tense that does not alter the point. The Textus Receptus (1550 Stephens Text) is 98% or more in agreement with the Byzantine text, the dominant form of the Greek text in the age of manual copying and was used and preserved by the Greek Church from the time of the Apostles, and still today by the Greek orthodox Church.

Christ speaks for God.

John 3:34, *'For he whom God has sent **utters the words of God**, for he gives the Spirit without measure.'*

John 17:8, *'For I have given them **the words that you gave me**, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.'*

John 8:47, *'**Whoever is of God** hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you **are not of God**.'*

Deuteronomy 18:18 ... *'will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. **And I will put my words in his mouth**, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.'*

John 12:48, *'The one who rejects me and **does not receive my words** has a judge; **the word that I have spoken** will judge him on the last day.'*

Matthew 24:35, *'Heaven and earth will pass away, but **my words will not pass away**.'*

1 Peter 1:25, *'But the word of the Lord remains forever.' **And this word is the good news that was preached to you.***

Holy Spirit speaks for God.

Ephesians 6:17, *'... and take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**,*

The word is here called the sword of the spirit, for Paul is here speaking **the words inspired by God**.

John 15:26, *'But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness** about me.'*

1 Timothy 4:1, *'Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.'*

2 Peter 1:21, *'For no **prophecy** was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.'* This is evidenced by the following example-

Psalms 41:9, *'Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.'* and

Acts 1:16, *Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.*

John 14:26, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name **he [it] will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.***

John 16:13, *When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

The Prophets spoke for God.

Jeremiah 1:17, *But you, dress yourself for work; arise, **and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.***

Jeremiah 36:2, *Take a scroll and **write on it all the words that I have spoken** to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.*

Ezekiel 1:3, ***the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel** the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.*

Ezekiel 2:7, *And you shall **speak my words to them**, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.*

Ezekiel 3:17, *Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a **word from my mouth**, you shall give them warning from me.*

2 Peter 1:21, *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, **but men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Zechariah 7:12, *They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and **the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets**. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts.*

The Apostles spoke for God

Acts 5:19-20, *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and **speak to the people all the words of this Life.**"*

Acts 11:14, *... **he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved.***

Ephesians 3:2-5, *assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery **was made known to me by revelation**, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been **revealed to his Holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.***

The Gospel speaks for God.

Romans 10:15-18, *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says,*

*“Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for **“Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”***

Romans 1:16, *‘For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.’*

Mark 12:24, *‘Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you **know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?**”’*

The Scriptures speak for God.

James 2:8, *‘If you really fulfil the royal law **according to the Scripture**, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing well.’*

John 5:39, *‘**search the Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,’*

Acts 17:11, *‘Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**’*

Matthew 22:29, *‘But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because **you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.**”’*

Luke 24:32, *‘They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while **he opened to us the Scriptures?**”’*

Romans 16:26, *‘but has now been disclosed and through **the prophetic writings** has been made known to all nations, **according to the command of the eternal God**, to bring about the obedience of faith.’*

Proverbs 23:23, *‘**Buy truth**, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.’*

Ephesians 1:13, *‘In him you also, when you heard **the word of truth, the gospel** of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,’*

James 1:18, *‘Of his own will he brought us forth by **the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures’*

It is hard to understand why some do not recognise the overall unity of the Old and New Testaments, despite the few well-known and admitted insertions of copyists with their own agenda. After all, over one third of the NT consists of quotations from the OT. Not only that, but the Lord Himself said, in Isaiah 8:16, *‘Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples.’* The Hebrew word ‘bind’ here means ‘close and seal, to cap off, enclose’. So the OT indicates that the apostles were to be responsible for canonising the NT. The NT was written by just 8 men, apostles, 2 brothers of Christ, Mark who was the secretary of the Apostle Peter, who would have been well aware of what Mark wrote, and Luke who was under the similar relationship and supervision of the Apostle Paul.

In Isaiah 8:16, he was of course referring to Himself and those who follow Him, verse 18, who honour His words, verse 20. These men were mostly eye witnesses specially chosen by Christ for their suitability.

They understood that the OT is not complete without the New, Colossians 1:25, ESV and NET. *‘of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God **fully known.**’ and ‘I became a servant of the church according to the stewardship from God--given to me for you--in order to **complete the word of God.**’*

The New upholds the Old.

It was only a short time after Christ's death that these men, realising the need, devoted themselves to the 'ministry of the Word', writing down what they had witnessed, Acts 6:4, though Matthew had recorded a great deal before that.

Peter wrote – (2Peter 1:16) *'For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths as our authority, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eye witnesses** of His magnificent glory, verses 19-21, 'We also possess the **confirmed prophetic word** to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts, knowing this first that no prophecy of Scripture originated as anyone's own private interpretation; because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.'*

The apostle John said, in John 14:26 and 15:26-27, *'But when the Comforter comes even the Holy Spirit which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things and shall **bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you**.....That one shall bear witness of me. Then you shall also bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning,'*

By the time John wrote down the Book of Revelation, all of the books of the NT were well known, but three of Christ's disciples had been chosen to be special witnesses, with special responsibilities – those at His transfiguration. When James was martyred, Paul, who had received even more visions, was brought in to be the third eye-witness. Significantly all of these men were renamed by Jesus Christ.

Paul and Peter canonised their Epistles, and John, the last living Apostle, completed the canonisation of the entire NT before he died in 99AD, as is witnessed by Revelation 22:19, *'And if anyone takes away from the **words of the book of this prophecy**, God shall take away his part from the book of life, and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book,'* which when read in context with verse 6 & 14 refers to the *whole book*, which we have seen, was referred to earlier by Peter as *'the prophetic word.'*

In that light, is it not presumptuous to overrule Jesus Christ's **special selection** of these men and declare that their words and actions are uninspired?

Of course Christ quoted copiously from the OT, so, putting it altogether, this means that although there are obvious exceptions, of which those who closely study the scriptures become aware, **the Bible largely stands or falls** on its God breathed inspiration. God has miraculously preserved **the Bible** over the centuries, **not just parts** of it, which He could have done if He wished. Consequently, to tear it apart according to what mere man believes, is to risk replacing truth with the mere doctrines of men.

As we study its words, we must be aware that all scripture must agree, and if we find disagreement, there may indeed be mistranslation of the original text, needing our diligent investigation to obtain the truth. This apart, the New Testament is seen to fully uphold the laws and commandments of God.

Finally of course, probably the main proof of the Divine inspiration of the Bible is fulfilled prophecy. Almost 2/3rds of the Bible is prophecy about the future, and most of it is *still* future. By examining those parts which have already occurred, and those taking place before our eyes in the daily news, we can recognise that only God has the authority to tell us in advance what is to occur and **He has told us through the men of the Bible**, where it is evident that He makes no mistakes. Prophecy has come true, *is* coming true, and *will* come true, thereby validating and confirming, once again, the Divine authority of the Bible.

When we consider all the many translations into so many different languages, I hope that you can see that despite its introduced man made imperfections, it is still the whole Bible that is being used by God to further His Plan, and bring people into His family.'