

THE BIBLE IS FROM GOD

Presented by

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In Blake's lesson he discussed some of the reasons why people choose not to believe in God. But the truth is that there are many good reasons **to** believe in God. Consider, for example, the incredible size and complexity of the Universe. As the psalmist observed thousands of years ago, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). How true that is!

Or, reflect on the amazing genetic code that is found within every living creature. All of us know that it is impossible to get a poem without a poet, a painting without a painter, **or design without a designer!** The apostle Paul was correct when he said in Acts 14:17 that "God did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." The complex Universe and its intricately designed inhabitants were not conceived by "Father Chance" and then birthed by "Mother Nature." Rather, they were "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God Himself (Psalm 139:14).

But if God exists, wouldn't it make sense that He would want to communicate with the people He had created so that we would know something about Him and what He expects of us? Of course it would.

But how might such a communication from God take place? Perhaps the best medium for God's words would be one that would withstand the test of time so that it could be passed faithfully from generation to generation. One possible way to accomplish that would be for God to give us His words **in a written form** that then could be duplicated and distributed as needed, thereby benefiting the whole of humankind across the ages.

The question thus becomes: Is there any evidence that mankind possesses such a communication from God? The answer is: Yes, evidence **does** exist to establish the claim that God has communicated with mankind—in the written form we today know as **the Bible**.

In fact, **the Bible claims to be from God!** The books of most other religions do not make such a claim, but the Bible does. The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." The word "inspired" comes from a Greek word that means "God breathed," which indicates that the words of the Bible did not come from mere men but from God Himself.

But how can we **know** that the Bible is from God? One of the things which shows us that the Bible is from God is the fact that there is no other book like it in the world. The Bible was written over a period of 1,600 years by more than 40 different men to whom God gave His words. Most of these men never even knew each other, yet they produced a book that has a single, unified theme. The message of the Old Tes-

tament is, “Someone is coming,” while the message of the New Testament is, “Someone has come.” That “someone,” of course, was Jesus Christ. Every book in the Bible fits together perfectly—just like a key fits into a lock. Could all of this have happened by accident? Of course not! The Bible’s unity proves that it came from God.

There are many other things within the Bible that prove it is from God. But the one thing that the Bible has that no other book in the world has is **fulfilled prophecy**. A prophecy is something that predicts the future. However, no one can accurately predict the future except God. So God—in order to prove that the Bible came from Him—gave numerous prophecies to the men who wrote down His words. The apostle Peter discussed this when he said, “The prophets did not think up these things on their own, but were guided by the Spirit of God” (2 Peter 1:21). In the Bible we find prophecies about individuals, nations, cities, countries, and even world events. But many of the Bible’s prophecies also are about God’s Son, Jesus Christ. Consider the following few examples:

1. In Genesis 49:10 Moses prophesied that Christ would be of the tribe of Judah. Hebrews 7:14 tells us that He was.
2. In Micah 5:2 the Bible predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1 tells us that He was.
3. Isaiah 40:3 predicted that someone would come before Christ in order to announce His arrival. Matthew 3:1-3 tells us that John the Baptist was that person.
4. Psalm 41:9 predicted that Jesus would be betrayed by a friend, and Zechariah 11:12 tells us that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. John 13:18 and Matthew 26:15 tell us that Christ’s friend Judas **did** betray him—for 30 pieces of silver.
5. Isaiah 53:9 predicted that Christ would be buried in a rich man’s tomb. We learn from Matthew 27:57 that He was.

There are over 300 such prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. And every one of them came true! *The Book of Mormon* does not contain such prophecies. Neither does the *Koran*. **Only the Bible** contains such prophecy. How could the men who penned such prophecies have predicted the future? Since no human can know the future, **God** must have told them about it!

As I close, I would like to ask you a question: What does God expect us to **do** with the Bible? Jesus gave us the answer to that question when He said in John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” God wants us to obey His Word as found in the Bible. If we do, the Bible will lead us home to heaven so that we can live with God and Christ forever. What a wonderful incentive that is for us to cherish and obey God’s Word.