

Defending the KJV Study 1: Inspiration and Preservation – Letting the Bible Speak for Itself

Written by Josh Winslett

Saturday, 22 October 2016 20:37 - Last Updated Friday, 15 December 2017 16:51

Introductory Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Introduction: Before we can consider manuscripts and translations, we must first understand what the Bible claims for itself. Does the Bible claim inspiration? Does it claim preservation? In the text above, as well as many others, we find the answers to our questions.

Inspiration: Does the Bible claim inspiration?

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The Bible Claims Inspiration – Yes, the Bible claims to be a product of the direct inspiration of God. This is seen in Timothy 3:16.

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Inspired means *God breathed*.

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The Bible Claims Dual Authorship – The Bible claims that God inspired his word through the instrumentality of men. This is called dual authorship. Consider Hebrews 1:2.

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Dual Authorship is defined as *God writing the Holy Scriptures through humans*.

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Dual authorship does not mean that God uses men as stoic robots. God not only used people to pen his word, but he also used their personality.

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Illustration: If a man writes a letter, who is writing? The pen or the man? Both are writing. God used the writers of the Old and New Testament as pens in his hand. Consider their personality to be the ink in the pen. God dictates the words being written, but the ink on the paper, whether black or blue, is the personality of the individual.

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The Bible claims that the scriptures are the very words of God – God didn't just inspire the theme that is presented on the pages of our Bibles, he inspired every word that was spoke/written. Consider 2 Peter 1:19-21.

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2 Peter 1:19-21, properly understood, states that the men of Old Testament did not change or deviate from what God had told them to write. They did not give their private interpretation. Instead, they acted not on their own will but were moved by the Holy Ghost.

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We believe in the doctrine of Verbal Plenary: Verbal = Spoken, Plenary = Every word

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Consider Proverbs 30:5 – God's words are pure, not just the general message.

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The Bible claims to be inspired over 3,800 times.

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Consider the following verses: 2Sa 23:2; Ac 4:23; Ac 1:16; Ac 28:25; Heb 4:7; Re 2:7; Finally consider the words of Christ in Mr 12:36.

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The scriptures are “the word of the Lord,” as the prophets declared it to be over 1,200 times.

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The Bible claims proof? We do believe in literal inspiration by faith. Yet reason and faith are not adverse to each other. Consider these statistics. **Note:** *Some of these statistics vary depending on the source.*

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Struck by lightning in a year is 1 in 700,000

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Killed by lightning in a year is 1 in 2,000,000

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Becoming President in a year is 1 in 10,000,000

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Meteorite landing on your house is 1 in 180,000,000,000,000

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You will eventually die is 1 in 1

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Jesus fulfilling just 8 prophecies is 10 to the 17th power.

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Now consider that 7 whole prophecies fulfilled in Psalms 22 alone.

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V. 1 - Mt 27:46, Mk 15:34 – My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

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V. 7 - Mt 27:39, Mk 15:29 – Mocker's actions.

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V. 8 - Mt 27:43 – Mocker's words.

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V. 16 - Mt 27:35, Mk 15:24, Lk 23:33, Jhn 19:23,37, 20:25 – Pierced hands and feet.

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V. 18 - Mt. 27:35, Lk 23:34, Jn 19:24 – Garments sold.

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V. 22 - Hebrews 2:12 – Name declared.

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V. 31 - Jn 19:30 – It is Finished!

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The likelihood of this happening (7 prophecies being fulfilled) is 10 to the 16th.

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Jesus fulfilled over **300** OT Prophecies and there are over **2,000** predictive prophecies in the OT.

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A skeptic could make the case that the NT writers fabricated their accounts of the gospel to reflect OT prophecy. That is a fair argument. Let's then look at other passages.

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Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks: The above prophecy gives us 70 weeks to be fulfilled. In each week, one day represents one year. 70 weeks have 490 days (7x70=490). Therefore, 70 weeks represent a total of 490 years. The starting point of the prophecy was the decree given by Artaxerxes I in Ezra 7. This Decree was made in 458BC. 49 years (7 prophetic weeks) after the decree was made, a 434 year period of prophetic silence was brought upon Israel. This

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434 year period (62 prophetic weeks) ended 26AD with the ministry of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified only 3.5 years later (in the middle of the 70th prophetic week). The Prophecy ends with the Jews' full rejection of the Messiah and the effectual call and conversion of the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul would then take the gospel to the Gentiles. Though not apart of the 70 weeks, the Jews' final destruction for the rejection of the Messiah is predicted in verses 26b and 27b.

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Daniel 7 and the 4 beast/kingdoms: The lion is Babylon (V.4). The Bear raising up on one side is the Media-Persia Empire (V.5). The bear raising up is prophetic of Persia overtaking the Medes. The Leopard is representative of Greece, who quickly conquered the known world (V.6). The fourth dreadful beast is Rome (V.7). All these prophecies were given hundreds of years before they were fulfilled.

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Also consider Daniel 8:20-21 and Isaiah 44:28, 45:1. Both Daniel and Isaiah give explicit names attached to their prophecies that would be fulfilled hundreds of years later.

Preservation

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Is the word of God inspired AND preserved? Are only the originals considered to be the inspired word of God? Consider 2 Timothy 3:15:

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Paul called what Timothy was taught from as a child the Holy Scriptures. Did Timothy have an original manuscript? Probably not. Can we then consider non-original manuscripts the inspired, Holy scripture? Paul sure did and so can we!

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The Bible claims preservation – Psalms 12:7-8 clearly states that God will preserve his word.

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Some may argue with the context of Psalm 12. So let's consider Mt 24:35. Jesus states that his words shall not pass away. Does that not sound like the definition of preserved!

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The Bible assumes preservation – What I mean by this is that people in the NT spoke of the OT scriptures under the assumption that they were preserved. In Matthew 22:23, Jesus used a specific verb tense to prove a doctrinal tenet. Paul used the singularity of a word to do likewise in Galatians 3:16.

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Are non-original language translations inspired? Yes, some NT authors quoted the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the OT.

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The modern version called the Septuagint is probably not the the actual text of the translation quoted by some NT writers. The modern Septuagint is the last in a long line of editions and has its origin in the writings of a 3rd century Christian named Origen. (See: <http://www.tbsbibles.org/articles/the-septuagint-the-blessing-of-God-on-translation>)

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I would add that I do not consider the actual translators of the Bible into non-original languages to be inspired. I consider translators to be the ordained means by which God's already inspired word is preserved for future generations in their common tongue.

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The Bible warns – God gives warning to not change any of his word. See Deut. 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:18-19. Why else would God say that if his word was not going to be preserved?

Conclusion

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God sets his word above his name – See Psalms 138:2. A name represents a person's reputation and character. God sets his word above his own reputation. Would God then allow that which he puts above his name to not be preserved?

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Voltaire, a philosopher, reportedly said the Bible would be extinct by 1850. Very few books survive fifty years. Even fewer books survive one hundred years. An even smaller percentage of books survive one thousand years. The Bible, the preserved word of God, has been providentially kept and outlived them all.