

WHY WE BELIEVE: The Bible 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21; 1 Pet 1:23-25

Pt. 1: Inspiration—The word of God lives and abides forever

1. **The Bible is the most unique book in human history**
 - a. “The Bible is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its words. In no other book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality, and hope.” - Dwight Eisenhower
 - b. It is the most loved, most read, most printed book—and best selling book in history.
 - c. Over 10 billion copies of the Bible have been printed since 1455, —9 billion since WW2.
 - d. The NY Times got tired of the Bible as the #1 book on their list so they put an asterisk in it’s place to make it a footnote. Eventually they just dropped the asterisk all together.
 2. **The French Skeptic Voltaire boldly predicted the Bible would fade from history**
 - a. within a generation of his life—but after he died, the Geneva Bible Society purchased Voltaire’s house and printing press to print the bible for all the world!
 - b. The Bible has often been pronounced dead and the funeral announcement given—
 - c. Even when banned, burned and banished—the Bible keeps rising from the grave!
 3. **So what is it about the Bible that makes it the most loved, cherished and read book in history—but also the most banned, burned and hated book in history?**
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I. THE BIBLE: *From God to You*

A. FROM GOD TO YOU

1. The Bible is the word of God from the mind of God given to you
2. It is not just a book—it is a library of 66 books
3. 40 Different Writers, Written over 40 generations across 1600 yrs of history

B. WRITERS FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Moses a leader trained in Egypt | 6. Daniel, a chief administrator |
| 2. Peter, a fisherman | 7. Luke, a physician |
| 3. Amos, a herdsman | 8. Solomon, a king |
| 4. Joshua, a military general | 9. Matthew, a tax collector |
| 5. Nehemiah, cup bearer to a king | 10. Paul, a tentmaker and rabbi |

C. WRITTEN FROM DIFFERENT PLACES

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Moses in the Sinai desert | 4. Paul from a prison |
| 2. Jeremiah in a dungeon | 5. Luke while traveling |
| 3. Daniel from a palace in Babylon | 6. John in exile on isle of Patmos |

D. WRITTEN FROM DIFFERENT TIMES AND CULTURES

1. David in times of war, Solomon in times of peace
2. Some writing from heights of joy, others from depths of sorrow & despair
3. Written From 3 Different Continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe.
4. Written in 3 Different Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

E. YET THERE IS A UNITY, HARMONY & CONTINUITY THROUGH IT ALL

1. Even though it addresses the deepest questions of life...
2. as well as hundreds of controversial subjects! *[Try that on social media!]*

- Like the origin of man & the universe • The nature of God • The nature of sin & redemption
- From Genesis to Revelation — 66 books, 2 Testaments, 1 Divine Author, 1 Message of Hope: —God’s Eternal Plan to save man.

II. INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE: *God's Word in His own Words*

A. INSPIRED: God Breathed (2 Tim 3:16-17)

1. **The Word INSPIRATION literally means 'God Breathed'** (as translated by NIV)
 - a) The Power of God's Word to Create (**Psalm 33:6**)
 - b) The Power of God's Word to Give Life (**Genesis 2:7**)
2. **What Inspiration is NOT:**
 - a) Not a General inspiration of a genius or prodigy "inspired" [Michelangelo, Beethoven]
 - b) Not a Partial inspiration: As if only main parts of the Bible were inspired, but not details
3. **This is Divine Inspiration: Word for Word, Verbal inspiration:**
 - a) **The Bible is God's word, in His Own Words, By God's own miraculous power.**
 - b) In (**Jeremiah 1:4-9**), God put His words in Jeremiah's mouth.
 - c) Notice that God did not say "I will put my thoughts in your mind"!
4. **There were times when the inspired men of God didn't even understand what they were writing, but were still required to deliver God's message, word for word, without adding to, or taking from any part of the message.**
 - a) Job said, "**I have uttered things I understood not; things too wonderful for me which I knew not**". (Job 42:3)
 - b) The prophet Daniel didn't understand—and asked for the meaning—but was told the meaning was sealed and would not be revealed until Christ. (12:8-9)
 - c) (1 Peter 1:10-12) The Old Testament prophets longed to know and understand.

B. MANY WRITERS—BUT ONE DIVINE AUTHOR

1. **One common objection is that the Bible was written by man and therefore contains errors and contradictions.**
 - a) They Disregard it and say "If God had written the Bible, then I'd consider it"
—But history Shows the Opposite to be true.
2. **There are 2 times when God literally wrote His words Himself...**
 - a) And in both cases, man quickly destroyed those writings to where there is utterly no trace of them left today.
 - b) One was in the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai when God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger on two tables of stone;
 - c) The other was in an act of grace when Jesus stooped down and wrote with His finger on the ground of the temple mount.
3. **What was the Result? in both cases, these writings were quickly destroyed**
 - a) the two tables of stone were dashed to pieces at the feet of idolatrous Israel...
 - b) Jesus writing on the temple mount was trampled under foot by scribes & Pharisees.

C. SO GOD CHOSE TO INSPIRE MEN (2 Peter 1:20-21)

1. **And These Inspired Men of God were persecuted and killed for the Faith**
 - a) and Jesus knew it! (**Matthew 23:29-39**) <—
2. **Even translators over the centuries paid w/ their lives to bring you the Bible**
 - a) William Tyndale of the Bow Lane Church of Christ in London studied Hebrew & Greek
 - b) He was the 1st to translate from original Hebrew & Greek to English.
 - c) But he was captured and burned at the stake for translating God's word into English.

III. MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE: *Message of Hope from the Mind of God*

A. THE BIBLE GIVES US ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS

1. How did the universe begin?
2. Where did we come from?
3. Why are we here?
4. Does God exist and what is He like?
5. Why does evil and suffering exist in the world?
6. Is there any meaning to life?
7. Is there Life After Death? Is there Hope beyond the grave?
8. Will the problem of evil be resolved? Will there be final justice?

B. THE BIBLE GIVES US FACTS TO BELIEVE

1. God does exist.
2. You are not an accident—you are created by God in the image of God.
3. Your worth is from God—not from Society or the State.
4. But Sin has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2)
5. The Wrath of God is His Holy revulsion against all sin & unrighteousness
6. But God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (Jn 3:16)
7. Jesus paid your debt in full by His blood on the cross (Romans 5:6–9)
8. And He rose from the dead so we can have eternal life (Romans 6:3–4)
9. And Now Jesus is our Savior and King (Revelation 1:5–6)

C. THE BIBLE GIVES US COMMANDS TO OBEY

1. Jesus said: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)
2. Jesus commanded Repentance and Baptism to be Born Again...
 - a) “He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
He who believes and is baptized will be saved; (Mk 16:16)
3. To live by faith—trusting and obeying God (Titus 2:11–13)

D. THE BIBLE GIVES US PROMISES TO RECEIVE

1. The Promise of Peace
 - a) "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." — John 14:27
2. The Promise of Eternal Life
 - a) "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." — 1 John 2:25
3. The Promise of God's Presence
 - a) “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Heb 13:5)
 - b) Jesus said: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:20)
4. The Promise of Rest
 - a) "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt 11:28
5. The Promise of Providence
 - a) "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." — Romans 8:28

IV. UNITY OF THE BIBLE: *God's Word is Truth*

A. UNITY IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLE

"The Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed—The New Testament is the OT Revealed."

1. OLD TESTAMENT

• **HISTORY:** Genesis to Esther • **WISDOM:** Job – Song of Solomon • **PROPHECY:** Isaiah – Malachi

2. NEW TESTAMENT

• **HISTORY:** Matthew to Acts • **LETTERS:** Romans – Jude • **PROPHECY:** Revelation

B. UNITY IN THE MESSAGE OF BIBLE: From Genesis to Revelation

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Creation of Heavens & Earth | —A New Heavens & New Earth |
| 2. Paradise Lost | —Paradise is Found |
| 3. Appearance of Satan, Sin & Death | —Defeat of Satan, Sin & Death |
| 4. Rise of Babylon | —Fall of Babylon |
| 5. Man is Separated from God | —Man is Reunited with God |
| 6. Earthly Paradise | —Heavenly Paradise |
| 7. Tree of Life Blocked | —Tree of Life Offered |

C. UNITY IN THE THEME OF THE BIBLE

1. Genesis begins w/ creation: God places man & woman in paradise garden.
2. Then we see the sin and fall of man — being expelled from the garden.
3. Then we see the unfolding plan of God to save the lost world...
4. The Promise of a Savior for all the world — Jesus (**Jn 5:39, 46**)
5. Jesus is the heart and theme of the Bible (**Luke 24:25-27, v.44**)

V. POWER OF THE BIBLE: *The Truth Will Set You Free*

A. THE POWER OF THE WORD (**Hebrews 4:12–13**)

1. **God's Plan to Save Man** (Acts 2:38; Mk 16:16; Heb 11:6; Rev 2:10)
2. **PEACE** in Time of Anxiety (Phil. 4:6-7; John 14:1-3)
3. **COURAGE** in Time of Fear (Psalm 46; Hebrews 13:5–6)
4. **GUIDANCE** in Time of Decision (Prov 3:5-7; Heb. 4:14–16)
5. **REST** in Time of Weariness (Psalm 23; James 1:5-6)
6. **COMFORT** in Time of Sorrow (Psalm 43; Romans 8:26-39)
7. **JOY** in time of Forgiveness (Psalm 51; Ps. 32; 1 John 1:5-10)
8. **STRENGTH** for Temptation (Psalm 1; James 1:12-16)
9. **WISDOM** for the Storms of Life (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)

B. THE TRUTH THAT WILL SET YOU FREE!

1. The Bible is like a lighthouse in a storm...
2. It is A Lamp unto our feet and light for our way
3. It is like a map to heaven...
4. But you have to open it—and open your heart to it—and Follow it.

5. Anyone Can Ignore the Bible—and many do—but they are missing out on the most valuable writings known to man.

H.W. Beecher said, “Sink the Bible to the bottom of the ocean, and still man’s obligations to God would be unchanged: he would have the same path to tread, only his lamp and his guide would be gone; he would have the same voyage to make, but his chart and compass would be overboard.”

6. Jesus gives a warning about ignoring God’s Word. (Luke 16:19–23)

a) The pharisees believed God blesses good people and curses bad people...

Like a Health and Wealth Prosperity Gospel Today...

b) This is the “Good Person” gospel—I’m blessed because I’m a good person

Why would I need the Bible? Why Would I Need the Gospel?

7. Notice the reasoning of the Rich Man... (Luke 16:24–31)

a) Don’t Give them the Scriptures! —send someone back from the dead...
then they will believe — then they will repent!

b) “Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’” (Lk 16:29–31)

8. God chose the gospel contained in His Holy Word for Salvation (Rom 1:16)

a) Not a spirit from the dead... or a Psychic vision... or a Para-Normal Sighting...
or a Near Death Experience...

C. THE WORD OF GOD IS ETERNAL (1 Peter 1:23–25)

**1. Entire Generations live and die.... Nations of men Rise and Fall,
but Word of God Lives and Endures Forever!**

2. God’s Word is sealed with a Warning (Revelation 22:18–19)

3. But God’s Word Also given with a Blessing (Revelation 22:12–15)

CONCLUSION:

4. The Bible reveals how the world began—and how the world will end.

5. It reveals God’s Eternal Plan and Your Place in it.

6. It is the Truth that Will Set You Free

7. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Mt 24:35)

“The Bible is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its words. In no other book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality, and hope.”

Dwight Eisenhower

–Bill Turner 6/2026

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