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a resource in:

Spiritual Growth

The Inspired And Infallible Word Of God

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

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The Inspired and Infallible Word of God

What we have in our homes and in our churches is the Holy Bible. Holy means it is sacred. It means it is entitled to reverence and respect. Therefore, it is a sacred Bible. The word “bible” means book or in the Greek “biblios,” which is plural for bibles, or books. The Holy Bible is a book of books.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3:16

All scripture means *every* scripture. It means from Genesis to Revelation, not a part or a portion. It is not just the Old Testament or the New Testament, but whatever we read from beginning to the end is all inspired by God. Every passage, every portion, every verse, every word. The whole Bible is inspired by God.

Given By Inspiration of God

All scripture is given by inspiration. Inspiration means God breathed, or filled with the breath of God. Inspiration is a special influence of the Holy Spirit, a divine origin that is of God. The word “inspiration” means that the writing is divinely inspired. This is the Bible we have in our churches, what we hold in our hands, and what we believe in.

Infallible Word of God

If the Bible was a best seller that was written of men instead of inspired by God, it would be a fable or a myth, but nothing more. However, God’s word was given to men by the Holy Spirit, so that their writings are without error. Infallible means not capable of being wrong or making mistakes; unerring, not going to mislead or deceive. Infallible also means dependable, unfailing, reliable, sound, trustworthy, steady, solid, sure, certain. These words all describe what our Bible is.

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Pet. 1:20-21

It did not originate from the prophets themselves. The ideas they wrote down came from God. The prophets, the Apostles, did not speak from themselves, but what they received of the Lord they delivered then to us. Thus, the Bible is a sacred Holy book, written by men who were inspired by God. It is inconceivable that God would give a book to people, from the past, present, and future, that we could not trust.

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” Tit. 1:2

If we trust that God cannot lie, than this book and what is in it is accurate and trustworthy. The hallmarks of the Holy Bible are its truths, purity, and endurance.

“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” Ps. 19:9

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

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God is saying this. The Word is truth, because the Word is inspired, infallible, trustworthy, and pure. The Scriptures are profitable for doctrine, valuable for teaching and instruction; profitable for reproof, conviction of sin; profitable for correction, correcting us when we are wrong and setting us on the right course with improvement. The Word is also for instruction in righteousness, or guiding God's people that they can practice and live holy lives.

Evidence the Bible is the Inspired Word of God

1. God's Word

God said it was inspired. Since God cannot lie, it's truth. What He says, we believe to be true.

2. Unity and Harmony

Over 40 authors from all walks of life wrote 66 books in different lands over a period of 1600-2000 years. Many of the authors of the Bible never saw the writings of the others, yet there is no contradiction between any two. There is a continuous thread, or message, throughout the Bible that proves there is one Author and one message. That one message can be summarized as *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) The unity and harmony of the scriptures is not by chance or luck; it is by divine guidance.

3. Only Book that Describes the Sinfulness of Mankind

The Bible is the only book that presents God's solutions for man's sin, in which Jesus Christ is presented and brought forth as the Savior for sinners. *"Neither is their salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12) A sign once read: "Life is short, death is sure, sin the cause, Christ the cure." We can be worried about deadly diseases in the world that appear to have no vaccines and high death rates. But, what the world should really worry about is the disease called sin, which has a 100% death rate spiritually. Sin does have a cure, and that cure is in Jesus Christ. *John 14:6* says *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

4. Fulfilled Prophecies

Hundreds of prophecies and future events were recorded in the Bible concerning cities, nations and the world, including the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. The stories in the Old Testament tell about the birth of Christ, and the New Testament records how they came true. No one but God could reveal the future in such detail over hundreds of years before the events occurred and with 100% accuracy.

5. Preservation Through the Ages

It's been said the Bible is the world's most widely distributed book. The Bible has been translated into more than 2000 languages, more than any other book. The writings of Shakespeare have only been translated 50 times. The writings of Mao, the man who used to lead the great country of China, were translated into 68 languages. This is no comparison to the Bible. Kings, kingdoms, and religions have sought in vain to destroy God's word, and yet it remains victorious and indestructible even today. Gamaliel, doctor of the law, was standing before the Sanhedrin and he stated about the preaching of Peter and the Apostles: *"But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."* (Acts 5:39) This Bible has withstood assault over many years and stands against assault today, including people trying to wipe it out, burn it or destroy it.

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6. Adaptability

The word of God is always up to date on any subject. It fits into the lives of all people of all ages and all lands. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”* (Heb. 4:12a) This promise has no expiration. The Bible is relevant to every person, every culture, and every age, because the Bible comes from a living God and is a living message.

7. Ability to Change Lives

Other evidence that the Bible is inspired is its influence in the world and on individuals through changed lives. Look at the change that has taken place in your life and the lives of others in your family where you can see God has worked a change. There is change, because of God’s powerful Word. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* (2 Cor. 5:17) Millions of individuals, as well as nations, have changed for the better when they have trusted in the Bible and the Word of God. Individuals and whole societies have been transformed wherever the Bible is believed and obeyed.

8. Archeological Evidence

The more we learn from history, the more the Bible is validated. The more archaeologists find from the past, the more the Bible is shown to be accurate historically. A caution that should be heeded here, that archeology should not be used to prove the biblical story or the biblical narrative. Just because archeologists have not discovered something does not mean it did not exist or did not happen. However, as archeology discovers things from the past, it does show the truths of the Scripture, thus supporting and reassuring what we already believe. One example of a recent development is that archeologists believe they have now discovered the ancient city of Sodom in the Old Testament, which God destroyed by fire and brimstone for its wickedness. *“Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”* (Gen. 19:24-25) In other words, God utterly destroyed the cities, flattening them, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. The account continues, *“And he [Abraham] looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the plain, and beheld, and lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.”* (Gen. 19:28) Archeologists have been digging just north of the Dead Sea and to the east and believe what they have found is Sodom. Below the surface as they dug down into the strata they came upon a huge area that is buried in three feet of ash over hundreds of acres, like nothing they have ever seen before. Within that ash is human bones scattered, burned, and charred. The city that was there shows remnants of mud bricks that were hard fired under extreme heat and infused with sulfur, which is brimstone. Pottery fragments excavated from the site have a glazed look to them, indicating surfaces were melted into glass. They tell us the temperatures that would have caused that had to be at least 14,000 degrees Fahrenheit. *“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;”* (2 Pet. 2:6) If this is truly Sodom, then it will strengthen the story of the Bible. If for some reason it is not, then they may have been wrong. But these men who have spent years excavating the site believe what they have found to be true.

Conclusion

In our hands and hearts we have the inspired and infallible word of God, and in this book is the mind of God. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, and its histories are true. Therefore, let us read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.