

The Four Characteristics of Scripture Authority (Part One)

Question: Does the Bible claim to be God's Word?

Answer: Yes – see the following...

Deuteronomy 18:17-22 *The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. 19 If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." 21 You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" 22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.*

Jeremiah 1:9 *Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth.*

Jeremiah 29:30-31 *0 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 31 "Send this message to all the exiles: 'This is what the LORD says about Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, even though I did not send him, and has led you to believe a lie...*

Ezekiel 2:7 *You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.*

2 Kings 9:36 *They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite:*

Haggai 1:12 *Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.*

Key Idea: The Lord spoke through these Prophets. The people were to obey the Lord by obeying the words of these Prophets.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

"graphe" used 51 times to refer to all of scripture = "God-breathed"

"Inspiration is a quality of person and not of the writings" = WRONG

The "God-breathed" character of these scriptures has to do with the words, not the authors.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Note: The Holy Spirit didn't over-ride the personality of the writers, but He guided them in what they should write – to put down what God wanted to communicate.

Matthew 1:22-23 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us."*

Matthew 19:4-5 *"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"*

Genesis 2:23-24 *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Mark 7:9-10 And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

Acts 1:16 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David

2 Peter 3:16 *He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand,*

which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."*

Luke 10:7 *Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.*

Key thought: By quoting each other, and referring to each other as "spokesmen of God", each writer supports and verifies the veracity of the entire Bible.

Question: Didn't the Apostle Paul say that he gave his own opinion?

Answer: Paul is saying that this is a situation that Jesus didn't address. If he had Jesus' words, he would pass those along, if not, he would say what the Holy Spirit told him to say. It didn't have any less authority.

1 Corinthians 7:10-12 *To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. 12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.*

1 Corinthians 7:25 *Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.*

Imagine you are not a Christian: This book claims to be the very words of God. Do you believe it?

Question: How do people become convinced of this claim?

Answer: It is hard to convince them by showing them scholarly studies on the truthfulness of the Bible. We are convinced that the Bible is true as we read the Bible. (Interesting use of John 10)

John 10:1-16 *"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in*

fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Key Point: Arguments and proofs are important and helpful but our confidence comes from the inward testimony of the Spirit that these are the words of God. The words of God are "self-attesting".

Key Question: What is your highest authority?

Answer: Somehow, and somehow, it has to be the Bible. If it isn't, then our reason / mind is our highest authority.

Question: Is this a circular argument?

Answer: All arguments concerning ultimate authority must appeal to that ultimate authority at some point. The important thing is that it is internally and externally consistent so that it doesn't violate reason.

Question: How did these words get into the bible?

Answer #1: Direct dictation (Revelation)

Answer #2: In many times and in many ways (Hebrews 1:1,2)

Face to face, a dream, a vision, sometimes it was the result of meditation, sometimes it was observation, sometimes it is the observation of nature, and other. The result was that the Holy Spirit guided.