

## The Unity and Inspiration of The Bible

Some reasons why we believe the Bible is the Word of God

## Introduction

- What if someone asked you, “Why do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?”
- What would your response be?
- We often respond by asserting we have always believed the Bible is the Word of God
- Or, we say, the Bible often claims to be the Word of God

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## Introduction

- But what if the person asking us insists on evidence for why we believe the Bible is the Word of God, evidence they need to convince them the Bible is from God
- Christianity is not based on blind faith, faith without evidence
- Our faith is based on evidence that the Bible is the Word of God and Jesus is the Son of God

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## Introduction

- Although we should be able to provide evidence for believing the Bible is the Word of God, we should never forget our faith is based on what the Word of God reveals
- In this part of our lesson, we look at four areas of unity of the Bible
- These give reasonable evidence for us to believe what the Bible claims, it is the inspired Word of God, part two ahead

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## Our Faith Based On What The Word of God Reveals

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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## Unity In Theme

- The Bible has one main idea, theme, God will save humanity through a Savior, Jesus
- In spite of our sins, willful violation of His law, God chose to save us through Jesus

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## The Bible's One Theme – Salvation Through Jesus

1. Books of Law – Gen.-Deut. – Jesus will come from God's chosen nation Israel, the family of Abraham
2. Historical Books – Joshua-Esther – God's chosen nation Israel living under God's law receive and then lose the promised land of Canaan with God bringing a remnant back from captivity

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## The Bible's One Theme – Salvation Through Jesus

3. Wisdom Books – Job-Song of Solomon – God's wisdom given in psalms, poems, proverbs and songs containing also some Messianic prophecies
4. Prophetic Books – Isaiah-Malachi – foretelling of God's judgments against Israel for their sins, their captivity, return and coming of the Messiah, Jesus

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## The Bible's One Theme – Salvation Through Jesus

5. The Gospels – Matthew-John – Jesus, the Messiah (God's chosen one), lived perfectly before God, dies for our sins on the cross and is raised from the dead on the third day, ascending back to heaven where He now rules over all
6. The Book of Acts – history of the spread of the gospel, plan of salvation through Jesus, to both Jews and Gentiles

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## The Bible's One Theme – Salvation Through Jesus

7. Apostolic Letters – instructions on how Christians must worship, work together in local churches and live daily

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## Unity In Diversity

- That there is one common theme in the Bible is more amazing when we look at its unity in diversity in various ways
- The Bible is 66 different books written at different times by about 40 different men over a period of 1500 years

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## Unity In Diversity

- It was written in three different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Koine (common) Greek
- These 40 authors lived at different time, indifferent places and circumstances holding various positions and occupations

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## Diversity of Authors

1. David – 1,000 BC – King of Israel
2. Amos – 750 BC – Herdsman from Judah
3. Daniel – 600 BC Jewish captive who became Babylonian statesman
4. Luke – 62 AD – Physician
5. Matthew – 65 AD – Tax collector
6. Peter – 67 AD - Fisherman

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## Their Enemies Were Amazed At Their Lack of Education

Act 4:7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"

Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people,

Act 4:9 if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,

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## Their Enemies Were Amazed At Their Lack of Education

Act 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

Act 4:11 "He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone**.

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## Their Enemies Were Amazed At Their Lack of Education

Act 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Act 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

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## Only Reasonable Explanation – They Were Guided By The Holy Spirit

2Pe 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

2Pe 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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## Unity In Structure

- Each part of the Bible fits together to make a complete book
- Displayed by
  - Necessity of reading different books to get complete account
  - Types and antitypes
  - Fulfilled prophecies

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus \*arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.

Mat 3:14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Mat 3:15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he \*permitted Him.

Mat 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Luk 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, Luk 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Joh 1:29 The next day he \*saw Jesus coming to him and \*said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Joh 1:30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'

Joh 1:31 "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

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## Necessity of Reading Different Books To Get Complete Account

Joh 1:32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

Joh 1:33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

Joh 1:34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

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## The Unity of The Bible

1. Unity in theme
2. Unity in diversity
3. Unity in structure

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## Unity In Structure

1. Necessity of reading different books to get complete account
2. Types and antitypes
3. Fulfilled prophecies

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## Types and Antitypes

- Old Testament persons and events (types) that give faint or shadowed pictures of events and people to come (antitypes) revealed in the New Testament
- For example, the ark built by Noah to save his family from the flood was the type of baptism, the antitype

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## The Fiery Serpent and The Cross of Christ

Num 21:4 Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey.

Num 21:5 The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food."

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## The Fiery Serpent and The Cross of Christ

Num 21:6 The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

Num 21:7 So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people.

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## The Fiery Serpent and The Cross of Christ

Num 21:8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."

Num 21:9 And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

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## The Fiery Serpent and The Cross of Christ

Joh 3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

Joh 3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

Joh 3:15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

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## The Fiery Serpent and The Cross of Christ

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

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## The Ark and Baptism

1Pe 3:20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

1Pe 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

- Precise details about the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection ascension and exaltation of Christ and establishing of His kingdom foretold by Old Testament writers writing at different times in different places not realizing the meaning of their prophecies
- Many of which were fulfilled by Jesus' enemies and not understood by His apostles when they were fulfilled

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

Luk 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

1Pe 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

1Pe 1:11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

1Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

Joh 20:6 And so Simon Peter also \*came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he \*saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
Joh 20:7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

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## Fulfilled Prophecies

Joh 20:8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

Joh 20:9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

Joh 20:10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Foretold 700 Years Before

Mic 5:1 "Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.

Mic 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Fulfilled

Mat 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Fulfilled

Mat 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Mat 2:5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Fulfilled

Mat 2:6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Fulfilled

Luk 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

Luk 2:2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Luk 2:3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

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## Jesus' Birth and Birthplace Fulfilled

Luk 2:4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

Luk 2:5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

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## Unity In Style

1. Their brevity
2. Their restraint
3. Their impartiality

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## Their Brevity

- Recording the greatest events in history, the writers are extremely brief in their accounts
- Creation- Gen. 1-2
- Birth of Jesus – Matt. 2 and Luke 2
- The death of James the apostle Acts 12:1-2

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## Their Brevity

Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them.

Act 12:2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

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## Their Restraint

- They restrained themselves limiting themselves from revealing all the evidence they had about the identity of Jesus as the Son of God
- Although John records 7 miracles, they are enough to lead the honest reader to believe Jesus is the Son of God, equally Divine with the Father and the Holy Spirit

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## Their Restraint

Joh 21:24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

Joh 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they \*were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself \*would not contain the books that \*would be written.

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## Their Restraint But Still Enough Evidence To Produce Faith In Jesus

Joh 20:30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

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## Their Impartiality

- They impartially revealed both righteous and sinful acts of themselves and others without apology
- Examples include David, Peter and Paul

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## Their Impartiality

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## Their Impartiality

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## Their Impartiality

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

Gal 2:12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

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## Their Impartiality

Gal 2:13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

Gal 2:14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

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## The Unity of The Bible

1. Unity in theme
2. Unity in diversity
3. Unity in structure
4. Unity in style

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## How Do We Reasonably Explain The Unity of The Bible?

- How can there be a book that has been written by about 40 different men in different times and places over around 1500 years which tells of one theme and each part fits together completing and confirming the one message it is declaring?
- Is it reasonable to believe it came about by accident or coincidence?

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## How Do We Reasonably Explain The Unity of The Bible?

- Or, is it more reasonable to believe that a man or a small group of men wrote the Bible at one time creating such unity?
- Or, as the Bible claims, is it more reasonable to believe that the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, were given to men from the mind of God who by the Holy Spirit guided their speaking and writing so that what they wrote and spoke was only what God wanted revealed?

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## Bible Writers Claim The Scriptures Originated From God, God Breathed

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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## Bible Writers Claim The Scriptures Originated From God, God Breathed

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;  
2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

1Ti 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Deu 25:4 "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.

Luk 10:7 "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Luk 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Joh 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Joh 10:31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

Joh 10:32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

Joh 10:33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"

Psa 82:6 I said, "You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.

Joh 10:35 "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Joh 10:36 do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

Joh 10:37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

Joh 10:38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

Mat 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

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## Both The Old And New Testaments Are Called Scripture

Mat 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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## Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

2Pe 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2Pe 1:17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"--

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## Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

2Pe 1:18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

2Pe 1:19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

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## Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

2Pe 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

2Pe 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

Zec 7:12 "They made their hearts *like* flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

1Co 2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;  
1Co 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

1Co 2:8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

1Co 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

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Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote  
God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--

Eph 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

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## Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

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## Bible Writers Claim They Spoke And Wrote God's Word Guided By The Holy Spirit

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Eph 3:7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

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## Bible Writers Claim The Miracles They Did Were From God Confirming His Word

Heb 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

Heb 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

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## Bible Writers Claim The Miracles They Did Were From God Confirming His Word

Heb 2:3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

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## The Unity of The Bible

1. Unity in theme
2. Unity in diversity
3. Unity in structure
4. Unity in style
5. How can we explain such unity?

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## The Inspiration of The Bible

1. Bible writers claim the scriptures originated from God, God breathed
2. Both the Old and New Testaments are called scripture
3. Bible writers claim they spoke and wrote God's Word guided by the Holy Spirit
4. Bible writers claim the miracles they did were from God confirming His Word

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