

GOD'S WORD

Adapted from Clarence Larkin:

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GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL

A. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH TIME...

- 1. Though written on material that perishes...**
 - a. ...having to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years by hand**
 - b. ...its style, correctness, or existence did not diminish**

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL

A. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH TIME...

- 2. Compared with other ancient writings, the manuscript evidence of the Bible:**
 - a. Is greater than any 10 pieces of classical literature combined!**
 - b. Is sufficient to ensure that we are reading the words of the original**

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL
B. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH PERSECUTION...

- 1. Many have tried to burn it, ban it, and otherwise outlaw it**
 - a. From the days of Roman emperors**
 - b. To the present “anti-Christian” dominated countries**

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL
B. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH PERSECUTION...

- 2. Two illustrations of its survival through persecution:**
 - a. In 303 A.D., the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to stop Christians from worshipping, and to destroy their scriptures. Only 25 years later the Roman emperor Constantine called for 50 copies of the Bible to be prepared at the expense of the government!**

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL
B. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH PERSECUTION...

- b. Voltaire, French atheist who died in 1778, predicted that Christianity would be swept from existence and pass into history within 100 years of his time. 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his printing press and house to produce stacks of Bibles!**

**GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL
B. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH PERSECUTION...**

-- How true is the statement:

"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever." (1 Peter 1:24-25)

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL
C. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH CRITICISM...

- 1. "Men for 1800 years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Men, with all their assault, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer on the pyramids of Egypt."**

- H. L. Hastings

GOD'S WORD: UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL

C. ITS SURVIVAL THROUGH CRITICISM...

- 2. "No other book has been so chopped, knifed, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology...has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? With such venom and skepticism? With such thoroughness and erudition? Upon every chapter, line and tenet? And yet, the Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions." - Bernard Ramm**

GOD'S WORD

The Bible is not a systematic treatise on Theology, or
Morals, or History, or Science, or any other topic.

It is a REVELATION of God, of the Fall of Man, the Way of
Salvation, and of God's "Plan and Purpose in the Ages."

GOD'S WORD

The Bible treats of:

- **FOUR PERSONS:** God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and Satan.
- **Three Places:** Heaven, Earth, and Hell
- **Three Classes of People:** The Jew, The Gentile, and the Church of God.

GOD'S WORD

The Scriptures were given to us piece-meal, “at sundry times and in divers manners.” Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, during a period of 1,600 years, extending from 1492 BC to 100 AD.

GOD'S WORD

It is not an Asiatic book, though it was written in that part of the world.

Its pages were penned in the Wilderness of Sinai, the cliffs of Arabia, the hills and towns of Palestine, the courts of the Temple, the schools of the prophets at Bethel and Jericho, in the palace of Shushan in Persia, on the banks of the river Chebar in Babylonia, in the dungeons of Rome, and on the lonely island of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea.

GOD'S WORD

Imagine another book compiled in a similar manner.

Suppose, for example, that we take 66 medical books written by 40 different physicians and surgeons during a period of 1600 years, of various schools of medicine, as Allopathy, Homeopathy, Hydropathy, Osteopathy, etc., and bend them altogether, and then undertake to doctor a man according to that book, what success would we expect to have, and what accord would there be in such a medical work.

GOD'S WORD

While the Bible has been compiled in the manner described, it is not a “heterogeneous jumble” of ancient history, myths, legends, religious speculations and superstitions. There is a progress of revelation & doctrine in it.

GOD'S WORD

The Judges knew more than the Patriarchs, the Prophets than the Judges, the Apostles than the Prophets.

The OT and NT are not separate and distinct books, the NT taking the place of the OT, they are two halves of a whole.

GOD'S WORD

- The NT is “enfolded” in the Old.
- The OT is “unfolded” in the New.
- You cannot understand:
 - Leviticus without Hebrews
 - Daniel without Revelation
 - The Passover or Isaiah 53 without Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John.

GOD'S WORD

While the Bible is a revelation from God, it is not written in superhuman or celestial language. If it were we could not understand it.

The Bible's supernatural origin however is seen in the fact that it can be translated into any language and not lose its virility or spiritual life giving power, and when translated into any language it fixes that language in its purest form.

GOD'S WORD

The language however of the Bible is of three kinds. FIGURATIVE, SYMBOLICAL AND LITERAL.

Such expressions as “Harden not your heart” and “Let the dead bury their dead,” are figurative, and their meaning is made clear by the context.

GOD'S WORD

Symbolic language, like the description of Nebuchadnezzar's "Colossus," Daniel's "Four Wild Beasts," or Christ in the midst of "Seven Candlesticks," is explained, either in the same chapter, or somewhere else in the Bible.

GOD'S WORD

The rest of the language of the Bible is to be interpreted according to the customary rules of grammar and rhetoric.

That is, we are to read the Bible as we would any other book, letting it say what it wants to say, and not allegorize or spiritualize its meaning.

GOD'S WORD

It is “allegorizing” and “spiritualizing” Scripture falsely that has led to the origin of so many religious sects and denominations. There are three things that we must avoid in the handling of God’s Word:

- The Misinterpretation of Scripture
- The Misapplication of Scripture
- The Dislocation of Scripture

GOD'S WORD

The trouble is men are not willing to let the Scriptures say what they want to say. This is largely due to their training, environment, prejudice, or desire to make the Scriptures teach some favorite doctrine.

GOD'S WORD

Did God write the Bible, or is it simply a collection of writings of men?

If it is simply a collection of the writings of men, without any divine guidance, then it is no more reliable than are the writings of men; but if God wrote it, then it must be true, and we can depend upon its statements.

GOD'S WORD

It is clear from the character of the Bible that it is not the work of man, for man could not have written it if he would, and would not have written it if he could.

GOD'S WORD

It details with scathing and unsparing severity the sins of its greatest men, as Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David and Solomon, charging them with falsehood, treachery, pride, adultery, cowardice, murder and gross licentiousness.

GOD'S WORD

The Bible presents the history of the Children of Israel as a humiliating record of ingratitude, idolatry, unbelief and rebellion, and it is safe to say, that the Jews, unguided and undirected by the Holy Spirit, would never have chronicled the sinful history of their nation.

How Was the Bible Written?

The Bible itself gives the answer.

- **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”**
(1 Timothy 3:16)

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

- We are to understand that God directed men, chosen by Himself, to put into writing such messages, laws, doctrines, historical facts, and revelations, as He wished men to know.
- All Scripture (the Graphe writing), is given by inspiration (Theop-neu-stos), that is, it is:

GOD BREATHED.

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

That is God Himself or through the Holy Spirit told holy men of old just what to write.

The Bible, then IS the Word of God, & does not simply here and there contain it.

God is a Person and can both Write and Speak.

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

God wrote the two “Tables of Testimony” on stone (Ex. 31:18; 32:16),
and on the wall of Belshazzar’s Palace (Dan.5:5,24-28).

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

God talked with Moses on the Mount when He gave him the specifications for the Tabernacle and its furnishings, and all the Levitical Law and order of service.

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

God spoke at the Baptism of Jesus (Matt.3:17), and on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt.17:5), and one day when Jesus was talking with the multitude (John 12:27-30).

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

But God not only spoke directly to men, He spoke to them in the person of Jesus, for Jesus was **GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH. (John 1:1-5,14; 1 Timothy 3:16).**

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

Matthew and John’s Gospels contain 49 chapters, 1950 verses, 1140 of which, almost three-fifths, were spoken by Jesus.

Jesus claimed that what He spoke, He spoke not of Himself, but only what the Father told Him to speak (John 12:49-50).

How Was the Bible Written?

1. What are we to understand by the “Inspiration” of the Scriptures?

We see then that God can both write and speak, and therefore can tell others what to write and speak.

How Was the Bible Written?

2. Does the Inspiration of the Bible Extend to Every Part?

- Yes. From the dry lists in Chronicles to the very words of God speaking in Exodus, and through Christ.
- And more, it extends to every sentence, word, mark, point, jot, and tittle in the original parchments.

How Was the Bible Written?

2. Does the Inspiration of the Bible Extend to Every Part?

- When Jesus said in Matt.5:17,18 “That not one “jot” or “tittle” should pass from the Law until all be fulfilled, he referred to the smallest letter (jot) and the smallest mark (tittle), of the Hebrew language.
- He was indicating that even they were inspired, and were necessary for a complete understanding of God’s meaning in His Word.

How Was the Bible Written?

2. Does the Inspiration of the Bible Extend to Every Part?

- But how about the words of Satan, and wicked and uninspired men, the genealogical tables, and the account of the Fall of Man, the Flood and other historical portions of the Bible. They were inspired of Record.
- That is, the inspired penman or historian, was told what historical facts to record and what to omit.

How Was the Bible Written?

2. Does the Inspiration of the Bible Extend to Every Part?

- To one who has read the OT, and also profane history covering the same period, with its legends and traditions, and detailed descriptions, it is very clear that the writers of the OT were divinely inspired to record only those things that would throw light on God's Plan and Purpose in the Ages.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- Were they simply thrown into a kind of “spell” or “ecstasy” or “trance” and wrote under its influence whatever came into their mind, or did God through the Holy Spirit, dictate to them the exact words to use?

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- We know that thought can only be expressed in words and those words must express the exact thought of the speaker or writer, otherwise his exact thought is not expressed.
- We see then that inerrancy demands that the sacred writer be simply an amanuensis.
- This we see is what the Scriptures claim for themselves.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- **In 2 Peter 1:20-21, we read that – “No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.” That is, no man has a right to say what the Scriptures, according to his opinion, means. Why? Because—**
- **“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.”**

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- And this is confirmed by the fact that much that the OT Prophets wrote they did not themselves understand.
- 1 Peter 1:10-11, They must then have been mere amanuenses, recording words that needed an interpreter.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- That they were mere instruments is shown by the fact that not all of them were good or holy men, as Balaam (Num.22:38; 23:26), King Saul (1 Sam.10:10-12; 19:20-24), the Prophet of Bethel (1 Kings 13:7-10; 20:22;26), and Caiaphas (John 11:49-52).

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- That the OT writers spoke and wrote the exact words that God gave to them is clear from their own statements.
- **Moses declares that the Lord said to him – “Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you should say.” (Ex.4:10-12).**

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- **The Prophet Jeremiah says, "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. (Jeremiah 1:6-9)**

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- Ezekiel, Daniel, and all the prophets make the same claim.
- The expressions – “The Lord Said,” “The Lord Spoke Saying”, “Thus Saith the Lord”, etc. etc. occurs 560 times in the Pentateuch, 300 times in the Historical and Prophetical books, 1200 times in the Prophets (24 times in Malachi alone), in all over 2000 times in the OT, thus proving the statement of Peter, that Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- But you say – “If this be true how do you account for the differences of style of the writers; for Isaiah’s style is different from Ezekiel’s or Daniel’s and Peter’s from that of John or Paul?”
- That is easily explained. On the principle that when we wish a legal document written we choose a lawyer, or a poetical article a poet, etc. so God when He wanted to speak in symbols chose an Ezekiel, a Daniel, a John, or in poetry, a David.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- How are we to explain the fact that sometimes a NT writer in quoting from the OT, instead of quoting literally paraphrases the quotation? (Amos 9:11 vs. Acts 15:16)

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- Why the change in the change in the wording? Simply because the author of both passages was not Amos or James, but the Holy Spirit, and an author has a perfect right to change the phraseology of a statement he may make in the first chapter of his book, in the tenth chapter, if by so doing, without contradicting himself, he can make his meaning clearer.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- That is an illuminating statement in 1 Peter 1:11, where the Apostle tells us that it was the “Spirit of Christ” that testified through the Prophets of His “Sufferings”.
- That is, the “Spirit of Christ” took possession of the Prophets and through them forecast or prophecied His “Sufferings” on the Cross, as in Isaiah 53:1-12.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- The question is often asked, “is there any difference between Bible Inspiration and the so-called “inspiration” of Poets, Orators, Preachers, and Writers of today?”
- In answering the question, we must distinguish between “Inspiration”, “Revelation”, and “Illumination”.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- As we have seen “Bible Inspiration” is something totally different and unique from the inspiration of the Poets, Writers and Public Speakers.
- It is an inspiration in which the Exact Words of God Are Imparted to the Speaker or Writer by the Holy Spirit.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- **“Bible Revelation” is the disclosure of things that they otherwise could never know.**
- **Things hidden in the mind of God, such as His “Plan and Purpose in the Ages.”**

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- “Bible Revelation” ceased with the Book of Revelation. There has been no new revelation from God since then.
- When men today claim that they have received some new revelation they must be classed as imposters.

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- **“Spiritual Illumination” is different from either Bible Inspiration or Revelation.**
- **It is the Work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer, by which he has his “Spiritual Understanding” opened to understand the Scriptures. (John 16:12-15).**

How Was the Bible Written?

3. How Were These Men Inspired to Write the Scriptures?

- **The “Natural Man” cannot receive the things of the “Spirit of God” neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor.2:11-14).**

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **The work then of the Holy Spirit in these days is not to impart new revelation to men, or to inspire them to write or speak as the Prophets and Apostles of old, but to illuminate men's minds and open up their understanding of the Scriptures.**

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **That work of the Holy Spirit to illuminate men's minds and open up their understanding of the Scriptures will cause men's hearts to burn within them as they compare Scripture with Scripture, and have revealed to them God's Plan and Purpose in the Ages as disclosed in His Holy Word.**

**The following work was adapted from Clarence Larkin's book :
"God's Plan and Purpose for the Ages"
or "Dispensational Truth".**

**Check out Mr. Larkin's books, charts, and booklets at
www.larkinstate.com**

**As an ex-architect Mr. Larkin put together amazing drawings
that "Rightly Divide the Word".**

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