

Inspiration and Providence (1): Claim and Evidence of Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Introduction

1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – Scripture is the irreplicable necessity for right living with God. It is from Him, and for our profitability in serving Him.
 - a. Scripture – *graphē* – “a document, i.e. holy Writ” (STRONG)
 - i. “a writing, thing written” (THAYER)
 - b. God’s chosen method of preserved communication is the written word – **Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (“epistle”); 2 Peter 3:16**
2. The writing of Scripture is the way God has chosen to reveal Himself – **Psalm 19**
 - a. **(vv. 1-6)** – revelation in creation.
 - b. **(vv. 7-14)** – revelation in written law.
3. The writing of Scripture is the way God has chosen to save man – **2 Timothy 3:15; John 20:30-31**
4. Given the importance of the written will of God, a legitimate question and investigation arises as to the reliability and integrity of what we possess and believe to be the inspired Scriptures which completely reveal the will of God.
 - a. Is the Bible (collection of books) the inspired and infallible word of God?
 - b. Is what we have in our possession what God intended for us to have?
5. Perhaps the two most fundamental topics to be considered when seeking to understand the integrity of the Bible as the final, complete revelation of God’s will are the concepts of inspiration and providence.
 - a. **Inspiration** – that God revealed His will using men through the written word with complete control over the message, and the very words used to convey that message.
 - b. **Providence** – that God, as both omnipotent and omniscient, as well as having the greatest interest in the eternal welfare of mankind, was able by His protective care to reveal and preserve His will through the written word to this day, and for the rest of time.
6. The Bible’s own claim of inspiration is impressive itself, but that it withstands the tests of inspiration is evidence of its legitimacy as the will of the Creator. (A claim without proof is insufficient.)
 - I. Claim of Inspiration
 - A. The Boldness of the Claim
 - a. The Bible’s self-claim of Divine inspiration is polarizing by nature – consistency and logic requires the acceptance of 1 of 2 opposite and irreconcilable conclusions concerning its composition and worth:
 - i. Written by insane liars if false. (Dishonest composition)
 - ii. Written by God if true. (Honest composition)
 - iii. No in-between is logical.
 - iv. If its just a “good book,” then it is full of lies written by insane men.
 1. **Exodus 20:16 – “You shall not bear false witness”**

2. **Proverbs 6:16-17** – “the LORD hates...A lying tongue”
 3. **Colossians 3:9 (Paul)** – “Do not lie to one another”
 4. **1 Corinthians 14:37 (Paul)** – “the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (A LIE?)
 5. **Revelation 21:8** – “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
- b. If it’s just a good book, then it’s not a good book, and it’s not God’s book.
- i. Many reject the inspiration of the Bible (that it is written by God), but claim it is a good book written by noble men – see its literary value, historical value, cultural value, artistic value, moral value, etc.
 1. Can Jesus just be a “good man” but not the “Son of God?”
 - ii. If the bible is just a good book, but not from God, then it is written by dishonest men, or incompetent/insane men – **how could such a work gain so much attention and respect?**
- c. If it claims inspiration it must prove to be written by an infallible God, or it is self-defeating and contains no spiritual or saving power.
- d. So, to say, “what I am writing is inspired of God” is a risky (even foolish) claim to say the least – unless it is true.
- e. Bible doubles down on exclusivity – **Galatians 1:8-9** – no later revelations.
- i. Does not claim inspiration and accept that there is other inspired writing.
 - ii. **Qu’ran** – “This Quran could not have been composed by any except Allah; but it is a confirmation of that which was revealed before it, and an explanation of the scripture (Bible); there is no doubt thereof; sent down from the Lord of all creatures.” (Sura 10:37).
 - iii. **Book of Mormon** – “For behold, this (book of Mormon) is written for the intent that ye may believe that (Gospel); and if ye believe that ye will believe this also; and if ye believe this ye will know concerning your fathers, and also the marvelous works which were wrought by the power of God among them.” (Mormon 7:9) (Whole argument is circular – illogical)
- B. The Claim – What is inspiration?
- a. Claims of inspiration (More than 2,700 references, Apologetics Press):
- i. **2 Timothy 3:16** – scripture inspired by God.
 - ii. **2 Peter 1:20-21** – not of private origin, but men moved by HS.
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 2:7** – we speak the wisdom of God.
 - iv. **1 Corinthians 14:37** – I write commandments of the Lord.
 - v. **Exodus 20:1** – God spoke these words.
 - vi. **Hebrews 3:7** – Holy Spirit wrote Psalm 95.
 - vii. **Hebrews 10:15-17** – Holy Spirit wrote Jeremiah 31.

- b. What inspiration is not:
 - i. Some accept that the Bible is inspired, as it makes the claim itself, but do not subscribe to the Biblical view of inspiration.
 - 1. **If the Bible is accepted as inspired, it must be held to its own standard of what inspiration is.**
 - 2. The Bible cannot be inspired in the way that other works of men are considered as inspired.
 - ii. **Illumination (natural genius)** – noble insights of great people of faith, or from men of unusual ability.
 - iii. **Dynamic** – thought inspiration, God inspired thought by thought, but not word by word.
 - iv. **Partial** – only some of scripture is inspired. (EX: moral principles, not miraculous events)
 - v. These are not the lofty inspiration the bible claims for itself.
- c. What inspiration is:
 - i. **2 Timothy 3:16** – inspiration – *theopneustos* – “*Theos*, ‘God,’ *pneo*, ‘to breathe’” (VINE); “divinely breathed in” (STRONG)
 - 1. **“All Scripture is breathed out by God” (ESV)**
 - 2. **Inspiration** – from late Latin *inspiratio(n-)*, from the verb *inspirare*; ‘breathe or blow into’ from *in-* ‘into’ + *spirare* ‘breathe’ (New Oxford American Dictionary)
 - 3. It proceeds from God – it is God’s words. (As breath comes out of our mouth when we speak.)
 - ii. Speaks of origin and power:
 - 1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – profitability directly dependent on inspiration.
 - 2. Breath of life – **Genesis 2:7; Acts 17:25, 28**
 - 3. Life offered through words of Jesus – **John 5:26-27; 6:63, 68**
 - a. NOTE: **“spirit”** – *pneuma* – breath
 - 4. Living and powerful – **Hebrews 4:12**
 - 5. Prophesied spiritual life-giving breath of God’s word – **Ezekiel 37:4-6, 9, 14**
 - 6. Scripture originates with God – **2 Peter 1:20-21**
- d. The system of inspiration:
 - i. **2 Peter 1:20-21** – Divine revelation, human employment.
 - 1. **(v. 20)** – Interpretation – *epilysis* – “to loose, solve, explain,” denotes “a solution, explanation,” lit., “a release” (*epi*, “up,” *luo*, “to loose”), 2 Pet. 1:20, “(of private) interpretation”; i.e., the writers of Scripture did not put their own construction upon the “Godbreathed” words they wrote. (VINE)
 - a. Scripture is God’s method of explaining/revealing His will.

For ages skeptics blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed – the hammers gone!”

- b. Supposed Contradictions
- i. “In the testimony of witnesses before a court, nothing is more common than for **apparent contradictions** to arise between credible witnesses or between different statements off the same witness. In all such cases, it is considered entirely logical and legitimate for counsel to show that on some reasonable hypothesis **the statements can be harmonized.**” (McGarvey, J.W., Short Essays in Biblical Criticism, 303)
 - ii. **What is a contradiction?** – “A mere difference does not a contradiction make!” (<https://apologeticspress.org/bible-contradictions-are-they-real-5249/>)
 1. “it never is proper to assume a contradiction exists until every possible means of harmonization has been fully exhausted.” (ibid.)
 2. EXAMPLE:
 - a. The car is white.
 - b. The car is black.
 - c. Contradiction? No – a police cruiser.
 3. **Romans 4:2** and **James 2:21** – using works in different ways in respective contexts.
 4. **Genesis 1:31** and **Genesis 6:6** – Speaking of different periods of time (hundreds of years apart), in between which sin infested the world.
 - iii. **Time of Jesus’ trial and death:**
 1. **Mark 15:25** – crucified 3rd hour.
 2. **John 19:14** – being tried at 6th hour. (3 hours after He already died?)
 3. Mark (Jewish time – first hour starting at 6AM – 3rd = 9 AM); John (Roman time – 6th = 6 AM)
 - iv. **Contradiction and supplementation aren’t the same** – one writer may add something in his account that the other doesn’t have, but that can be harmonized.
 1. **Healing of blind men** – **Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43**
 2. **Two men or one?**
 - a. 2 men – **Matthew 20:30**
 - b. 1 man – **“Bartimaeus, a blind beggar” (ESV) Mark 10:46; “a certain blind man,” Luke 18:35**
 - c. Mark and Luke do not say ONLY one man, and the addition of the name changes nothing.
 3. **Going out of Jericho or coming near?**

- a. **“went out of Jericho” – Matthew 20:29**
- b. **“came to Jericho” – Mark 10:46; “coming near Jericho” – Luke 18:35**
- c. “at the time of Christ there actually were two Jerichos. First, there was the Jericho of Old Testament history (Joshua 6:1ff.; 1 Kings 16:34) that was located at the sight of Elijah’s spring. In the first century, however, that city lay almost in ruins. About two miles south of that site was the new Jericho, built by Herod the Great. The Lord—traveling from the north toward Jerusalem—first would pass through the old Jericho, then some two miles to the southwest, would go through Herodian Jericho.” (<https://apologeticspress.org/bible-contradictionsare-they-real-5249/>)
- d. **Matthew** (Jewish perspective, Jericho of Israelite antiquity – leaving); **Mark/Luke** (Jericho – Herodian – approaching)

C. Uniformity

- a. Bible composition:
 - i. Time – 1,600 years, 40 generations, 40 different authors
 - ii. 3 continents – Asia, Africa, Europe
 - iii. 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
 - iv. Authors (40) of different occupations – shepherd, military leader, king, herdsman, statesman, priest, cupbearer, scribe, physician, tax collector, fisherman, Rabbi/theologian.
 - v. Genres – Law, poetry, history, narrative, biography, prophecy, apocalyptic, personal letters.
 - vi. YET, A SINGULAR INDIVIDUAL GUIDING THE PROCESS OF WRITING, THUS, A SINGULARITY IN SUBSTANCE/PURPOSE THROUGHOUT.
- b. Unity of Purpose – **Luke 24:27, 44** – to disciples on road to Emmaus, and then apostles – Moses, Prophets, and the Scriptures, Psalms – all focus on Jesus, and salvation through Him.
 - i. **John 5:39-40** – scriptures as a whole testify of Jesus.
- c. “For all that, the Bible is not simply an anthology. There is a unity which binds the whole together. An anthology is compiled by an anthologist, but no anthologist compiled the Bible. Somehow or other it grew in the course of these many centuries until at length it attained full stature as the Bible which we know. And it grew under the hand of him who makes all living things grow, ‘the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who spake by the prophets.’” (Bruce, F.F., *Books and the Parchments: The Original languages, Canon, Transmission, and How We Got Our English Bible*, e-book, Kingsley Books)

D. Candor

- a. Entirety is truth – **Psalm 119:160** – righteous
- b. **Psalm 19:7-9** – perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, righteous.
- c. **Galatians 5:23** – **“Against such there is no law.”** (Fruit of Spirit)
 - i. NOTE: Consistency of morals in the Bible.
- d. Yet, God the author is no respecter of persons – **Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34**
 - i. CONSISTENCY OF CRITICISM.
 - ii. David – **Acts 13:22; 2 Samuel 12:9** – does not withhold negative side of David.
 - iii. Israel – **Romans 3:9-20** – none righteous
 - iv. Peter – **1 Peter 5:1** (Elder, man of character); **Galatians 2:11-14** (played the hypocrite) (AN INSPIRED APOSTLE!)
 - v. Congregations – **1 Corinthians 5:1-2** – sexual immorality of extreme sort.
 - vi. **Only one perfect Man recorded** – **Hebrews 4:14-15** (Deity – Son of God)

E. Scientific Accuracy

- a. The author of the Bible claims to be the wisdom and power behind creation (cosmos):
 - i. **Psalm 19:1** – Glory declared in creation.
 - ii. **Romans 1:20** – eternal power and Godhead.
 - iii. **Hebrews 3:4** – built all things.
 - iv. **Acts 17:24, 28** – made world, and mankind.
 - v. Surely, the maker of all would leave evidence of such knowledge and understanding of the universe.
- b. **Law of Biogenesis** – bio (life), genesis (beginning) – life only comes from life of the same kind.
 - i. 1400-1600s – Spontaneous Generation the accepted belief.
 - 1. 1860’s – ultimately debunked by Louis Pasteur (Pasteurization)
 - ii. Seed principle – **Matthew 7:16-18**
 - iii. From the beginning – **Genesis 1:11, 24** (vegetation, animal)
- c. **Spherical Earth** – **Job 26:10** – many years world believed to be flat.
- d. **Suspended Earth** – **Job 26:7** – earth suspended from nothing, not on the back of some animal or person as in mythology.
- e. **The Water Cycle** – **Job 36:27-28; Ecclesiastes 1:7** – evaporation, condensation, precipitation.
- f. **Life is in the Blood** – **Leviticus 17:11** – blood-letting used to combat disease– self-defeating, but Bible always knew.
 - i. Blood-letting – History of at least 3,000 years.
 - ii. Only recently been discredited – late 19th century.

F. Historical Accuracy

- a. Hittite
 - i. Israel to conquer them – **Joshua 11:3-4**

- ii. Uriah the Hittite – **2 Samuel 11:3; 12:9** (Bathsheba, David)
- iii. Unknown outside the Bible until 1906.
 - 1. “For this reason, many people scorned the biblical record and insisted that the absence of information concerning the Hittites proved that the Bible was filled with incorrect material.” (<https://apologeticspress.org/hidden-hittites-888/>)
 - 2. “An archaeologist, Hugo Winckler, visited a city in Turkey named Boghaz-Köy.” (ibid.)
 - 3. “he found a huge storeroom filled with over 10,000 clay tablets.” (ibid.) – Hittite and Akkadian texts.
- b. Moabite Stone
 - i. Discovered in 1868 by a missionary named Klein.
 - ii. “Arabs who had the stone thought that it was a religious talisman of some sort, and broke it into several pieces by heating it in fire and then pouring cold water on it. The pieces were scattered, but about two-thirds of the original stone has been relocated, and currently resides at the Louvre in Paris.” (<https://apologeticspress.org/biblical-accuracy-set-in-stone-921/>)
 - iii. Mesha, king of Moab – 850 B.C. – to tell of his conquests.
 - iv. Mentions Omri as king of Israel – **1 Kings 16:21-28** – **“In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.” (v. 23)**
 - v. Mentions Omri’s son, Ahab:
 - 1. In close connection with Moab – **2 Kings 3:4-5**
- c. Sennacherib’s Prism
 - i. Found in Nineveh in 1830 by British colonel R. Taylor (also called “Taylor’s Prism”).
 - ii. Sennacherib – Assyrian king (704-681 B.C.)
 - 1. **2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32; Isaiah 36-37** – Laid siege against cities in Judah but did not take Jerusalem (thwarted by God).
 - a. **“And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.” (2 Kings 18:13)**
 - 2. On the prism – “As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke. I laid siege to 46 of his strong cities, walled forts, and to the countless small villages in their vicinity, and conquered [them]... Hezekiah himself I made prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage.” (Halley’s Bible Handbook, pg. 285).
- d. Pilate Inscription

- i. Jesus handed over to Pontius Pilate to be tried – **Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38**
 - ii. “But although the Bible mentions Pilate on several occasions, his name could not be found among the archaeological evidence...Because of this, many mocked the Bible and claimed that creative biblical writers concocted Pilate from their own fertile imaginations.” (<https://apologeticspress.org/pilatelost-and-found-889/>)
 - iii. 1961 – Italian archeological team discovered a stone tablet in Caesarea with the inscription, “Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea.” – Known as “The Pilate Inscription.”
 - e. Many other archeological discoveries have corroborated the history detailed in the Old and New Testaments.
- G. Prophetic Accuracy
- a. God’s claim in challenging idols – **Isaiah 41:21-24; 46:8-10**
 - i. If He wrote the Bible, then His prophecies will prove true.
 - ii. Prophecy is not a matter of some vague guesses, some of which coming true proving the divine nature of the utterance.
 1. Prophecy is extremely specific, and exclusive regarding its fulfillment.
 2. **Prophecy must be 100% fulfilled to prove divine authorship.**
 - iii. **God stakes His claim firmly (that of Divine foresight), and such provides a fool proof test of authenticity of divine prophetic utterance:**
 1. **Ezekiel 2:5; 33:33; Jeremiah 28:9** – when a prophet speaks, whether his word is heeded or not, when it comes to pass you will know he was truly a prophet of God.
 - a. **Isaiah 55:11** – God’s word accomplishes what He sends it forth to do.
 2. **Deuteronomy 18:21-22** – when a prophet prophesies but it does not occur then he is false.
 - a. God makes many prophecies in the Bible.
 - b. If one is not fulfilled then He is not true, and the Bible is not inspired.
 3. Prophetic perfect – speaking of future events in certainty using the perfect tense.
 - a. **Isaiah 21:9** – **“Babylon IS fallen, IS fallen!”**
 - b. Isaiah prophesied 740-700 B.C. and Babylon fell to Medo-Persia in 539 B.C.
 - b. Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:
 - i. Daniel’s time – **Daniel 1:1, 21** – Babylonian empire to Medo-Persian empire.
 1. 605-538 B.C.

- ii. Dream – **Daniel 2:31-35** – image, head (gold), chest and arms (silver), belly and thighs (bronze), legs (iron), feet (partly iron and clay), stone cut out w/out hands and struck/destroyed image became mountain that filled the earth.
- iii. Interpretation – **Daniel 2:36-45**
 - 1. **(vv. 36-40)** – head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar – king of Babylon – world empire; succeeded by another, and a third and fourth.
 - 2. **(vv. 44-45)** – in the days of **“these kings”** God sets up His kingdom that destroys them, fills the whole earth, but itself will never be destroyed.
 - 3. **NOTE: (1)** Each is a world empire. **(2)** Each succeeds the other. **(3)** In the dream, the image represents them all at once, as well as their destruction together.
 - 4. **Head of gold (Babylon); Chest and arms of silver (Medo-Persia); Belly and thighs of bronze (Greece); Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay (Rome)**
 - a. Medo-Persian take over detailed in chapter 5 – **Daniel 5:30-31 (539 B.C.)**
 - b. **Daniel 8 specifically prophesies of Greece overtaking Medo-Persia and speaks in detail of a king of Greece** – Vision of a ram fighting a goat.
 - i. Time of prophecy – **Daniel 8:1** – 3rd year of Belshazzar – approximately **550 B.C.**
 - ii. Initial vision of Daniel – **Daniel 8:3-14**
 - 1. **(vv. 3-4)** – Ram with 2 horns, one higher than the other – pushing west, north, and south.
 - 2. **(v. 5)** – male goat from west with **“notable horn”** between eyes.
 - 3. **(vv. 6-7)** – Goat attacked the ram and defeated it.
 - 4. **(vv. 8-14)** – notable horn broken, replaced by 4 notable horns, out of 1 came a little horn.
 - a. Little horn exalted himself **“as high as the Prince of the host” (v. 11a).**
 - b. Took away the daily sacrifices, and sanctuary cast down **(v. 11b).**
 - iii. Interpretation of the vision – **Daniel 8:20-26**
 - 1. **(v. 20)** – Ram w/ 2 horns – Media and Persia.

- a. **“one [horn] was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last” (v. 3).**
 - b. “Herodotus (Greek historian) wrote: ‘On the present occasion the Persians under Cyrus rose against the Medes and from then onwards were masters of Asia’ (1:130).”
(<https://apologeticspress.org/the-prophecy-of-daniel-8-4224/>)
2. **(v. 21)** – Male goat w/ notable/large horn – Greece.
 - a. **Daniel 8:7** (Goat attacking Ram) – **330 B.C.** – Battle of the Persian Gates – Medo-Persia overtaken by Greece.
 - b. Horn – **“first king”** – Alexander the Great
3. **(v. 22)** – broken horn and 4 horns that stood in its place – 4 kingdoms.
 - a. After Alexander the Great’s death, kingdom divided among his four generals.
 - b. “[T]he Macedonian Empire split into four main kingdoms—the one of Seleucus (Asia), Ptolemy (Egypt), Lysimachus (Thrace), and Antipater’s son Cassander (Macedonia, including Greece)”
(<http://www.historyofmacedonia.org/AncientMacedonia/AlexandertheGreat.html>)
4. **(vv. 9, 23-26)** – out of one of the 4 horns came a little horn – **“A king shall arise” (v. 23).**
 - a. “The little horn (v. 9), which arose out of the four, is generally agreed to mean Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.), of the Syrian

branch of the Greek Empire, who made a determined effort to stamp out the Jewish religion” (Halley’s Bible Handbook, 440).

b. “He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host” (v. 11); “He shall exalt himself in his heart” (v. 25).

i. “Bible scholar H.W. Hoehner explained that Antiochus Epiphanes IV “assumed the title of Theos Epiphanes meaning ‘the manifest God’” (1976, 1:192-193).”

<https://apologeticspress.org/the-prophecy-of-daniel-8-4224/>

ii. Coins minted during Epiphanes’ reign – “Tetradrachma of the Seleucid Empire of Antiochus IV Epiphanes...This coin portrays Zeus enthroned; the obverse bears the portrait of Antiochus IV with the inscription ‘of King Antiochus God Manifest’” (Archer, Gleason L., A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, 439)

c. “grew exceedingly great toward...the Glorious land” (v. 9); “and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away” (v. 11)

- i. **“Glorious land”** –
Judea and Jerusalem.
- ii. “And Antiochus, after he had smitten Egypt, returned in the hundred and forty and third year and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a heavy multitude and entered into the sanctuary in pride...And when he had taken all, he went away into his own land. And he made a great slaughter, and spoke with great pride.” (1 Maccabees 1:20-24; Bibliotheca, The Apocrypha, 390)
- iii. “And the king [Antiochus Epiphanes] sent letters by the hand of messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, that they should follow laws strange to the land, and should forbid whole burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offerings in the sanctuary, and should profane the sabbaths and feasts, and pollute the sanctuary and holy ones.” (1 Maccabees 1:44-46; Bibliotheca, The Apocrypha, 392)

- d. **“But he shall be broken without human means” (v. 25).**
 - i. Died because of a distemper, or fever – “he was confounded, and by the anxiety he was in fell into a distemper, which, as it lasted a great while, and as his pains increased upon him, so he at length perceived he should die in a little time; so he called his friends to him, and told them that his distemper was severe upon him; and confessed withal, that this calamity was sent upon him for the miseries he had brought upon the Jewish nation, while he plundered their temple, and contemned their God; and when he had said this, he gave up the ghost.” (Josephus, Antiquity of the Jews, 12:9:1)
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/history/flavius-josephus/antiquities-jews/book-12/chapter-9.html>)
- 5. Greece (330 B.C.) followed by Roman (146 B.C.) – 184 years in between.
- 6. The Kingdom of Christ/God established in the latter days during the Roman empire. (cf. **Daniel 2:44-45**)

- a. **Mark 9:1** – considered to be a failed prophecy by some critics – fail to realize this was not a prophecy of the end of times, but the establishment of His spiritual kingdom.
 - i. “According to The Skeptics Annotated Bible, in Mark 9:1, ‘Jesus falsely prophesies that the end of the world will come within his listeners’ lifetimes.’”
(<https://apologeticspress.org/a-failed-prophecy-of-christ-5956/>)
 - b. This is the kingdom to follow the fourth in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, breaking in pieces the others – God’s kingdom.
 - c. Fulfilled in **Acts 2 (30 A.D.)** – SPIRITUAL (**cf. John 18:36**), MESSIANIC KINGDOM – THE CHURCH.
 - i. **Mark 9:1** – power.
 - ii. **Acts 1:5-8** – not many days/Holy Spirit/Power.
- iv. Critics baselessly argue for later date of Daniel – claim history, not prophecy:**
1. If truly written by Daniel – 550 B.C. (Daniel 8 prophecy) accurately depicting events not transpiring until 164 B.C – aided by divine guidance – INSPIRED.
 2. Say Daniel was written 2nd century B.C. (Maccabean date) – “Champions of the Maccabean Date Theory allege that it was impossible for a sixth-century author to have composed such detailed predictions concerning coming events in the history of Israel as are contained in the prophetic chapters of the book of Daniel...Thus, all of the fulfilled predictions can be explained as *vaticinia ex eventu* [predictions from the event].” (Archer, Gleason L., A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, 438)
 3. “Our Lord Jesus Christ referred to the last section of the book (9:27; 11:31; 12:11) as the work of Daniel the prophet (**Matt. 24:15**). This is the very section the critics most often dispute. The Christian chooses Christ over the critics.” (Geisler, Norman L., A Popular Survey of the Old Testament, 283)
- c. Cyrus named:
- i. Isaiah – 740-700 B.C.
 - ii. Babylon prophesied to fall to the Medes – **Isaiah 13:17-19; 21:9**
 1. **Babylon’s rise – 605 B.C.**
 - a. **Fall – 539 B.C.**

- b. **Isaiah's prophecy of Babylon's fall to the Medes was at least 100 years before Babylon even rose to power.**
- iii. Specified, by name, the man who would be leading the Medes to overtake Babylon – **Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-7**
 1. **Isaiah 44:28** – Cyrus to release Jews from captivity, aid on return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
 2. Fulfilled – **2 Chronicles 36:22; Ezra 1:1**
- iv. 150 years before Cyrus was born – Documented historical figure.
- d. Messianic prophecy:
 - i. Birthplace – Bethlehem of Judea – **Micah 5:2**
 1. Micah's prophecy – 735-700 B.C.
 2. Fulfillment – **Matthew 2:3-5**
 - ii. Death – with wicked – **Isaiah 53:8-9**
 1. Isaiah's prophecy – 740-700 B.C.
 2. Fulfillment – **Luke 23:32-33** – crucified between thieves/criminals
 - iii. Death – hands and feet pierced – **Psalms 22:16**
 1. Prophecy (David) – reign as king – 1010-970 B.C.
 2. Fulfillment – **Matthew 27:35** – crucifixion involving the hands and feet being pierced.
 - a. Thomas' statement – **John 20:24-28**
 - iv. **NOTE: Things the Messiah could not have contrived because they were done to Him.**
 - v. **Over 300 specific prophecies concerning the Messiah.**
- e. Many other prophecies are detailed in the Bible, and verified to have been fulfilled by secular history.
- f. **2 Peter 1:20-21** – this did not come from man, but from God.

Conclusion

1. The Bible claim of inspiration is bold, and impressive – **2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21**
2. This claim means nothing if it cannot be proven. The reason it is such a bold claim is because it is subject to many factors which may dramatically expose it as fraudulent.
3. However, the Bible has withstood every test, and continues to be proven inspired of God.
4. Another question arises, however, as to the confidence in the collection of writings we have in our possession that we refer to as the inspired word of God.
 - a. Do we have the full inspired word of God?
 - b. How do we know these are the texts God originally revealed?
 - c. Can we have confidence that what has been preserved to this day is indeed God's will for man?
 - d. A consideration of God's claims of providence throughout the bible, as well as evidence of such providential care of His word is overwhelming.
 - e. This will be considered in following lessons.