

## THE GREAT CLAIM

The Bible claims to be the **exclusive** revelation of the true and living God. Old Testament prophets urged, "Hear the word of the Lord," or like expressions, hundreds of times. Jesus promised the apostles that, upon His ascension, He would send the Holy Spirit Who would guide them "into all the truth" (John 16: 13)—the doctrine of "inspiration." Paul stated that God **revealed** the long-hidden "mysteries" of redemption to the apostles through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:6–10, 13; cf. 2 Pet. 1:21). To preach any other message than that of the apostles brings God's anathema (Gal. 1:6–9; 2 Tim. 4:2–4; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18–19).

The Bible's claim of inspiration is not merely that to which one might attribute great literary talent. Rather, the Bible claims that God especially and specifically endowed its human writers to produce His will in His words (1 Cor. 2:13).

If the Bible is not thus inspired, how does one account for its amazing unity of theme—mankind's redemption from sin—introduced in its early pages (Gen. 3: 1–15)? This theme flows through the ink-stream of forty men who wrote its sixty-six books over a span of sixteen centuries. The theme is so pervasive that we may accurately describe John 3:16 as "the Bible summarized." Only a Mastermind, far beyond the ability of human genius, could have produced this effect.

How does one account for Biblical prophecy and fulfillment apart from God? Psychics and astrologers may make lucky guesses in general terms about events a few months or a year in the future—amazing the gullible. Bible prophets never consulted stars, tea leaves, goat entrails, crystals, or cards, yet they consistently foretold times, people, places, and events specifically, which no man could know unless He Who knows all told them (e.g., Isa. 2:2–3; 7:14; 39:5–7; Jer. 25:8–11; Joel 2:28–32; et al.).

How does one account for the Bible's scientific foreknowledge apart from God (e.g., the rotundity of the earth, the law of gravity, the channels of the sea, et al.)? These were unknowable by men until comparatively recent times, but were mentioned centuries before in the Bible (Isa. 40:22; Job 26:7; Psa. 8:8).

Jesus attributed Scripture to His Father and thus expressed His absolute confidence in its trustworthiness (John 17:17). Those who are wise will do likewise.

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