

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

PROOFS OF BIBLE INSPIRATION

WILLIAM
MACDONALD



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

God's Word Is Truth

William MacDonald

Published by:

Emmaus Correspondence School
(A division of ECS Ministries)
PO Box 1028
Dubuque, IA 52004-1028
phone: (563) 585-2070
email: ecsorders@ecsministries.org
website: www.ecsministries.org

First Printed 1958 (AK '58), 1 UNIT

Revised 1972 (AK '72), 1 UNIT

Revised 1991 (AK '91), 1 UNIT

Revised 2004 (AK '04), 1 UNIT

Revised 2009 (AK '09), 2 UNITS

Reprinted 2012 (AK '09), 2 UNITS

ISBN 978-1-940293-01-4

Code: GWT

Text Copyright © 1958, 1972, 1991, 2004, 2009 William MacDonald

Course Copyright © 1958, 1972, 1991, 2004, 2009 ECS Ministries

Previous Title: Thy Word Is Truth

All rights in this course are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any manner, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system including the Internet without written permission from the publisher. Permission is not needed for brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New American Standard Bible. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, and 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Printed in the United States of America

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

The fact of divine inspiration of the Word of God is the basis of all teaching from its holy pages. As a result, this has been attacked severely in the past 200 years by rationalism, modernism, and other forms of skepticism.

Today the assault continues undiminished and is found in places and circles long noted for their adherence to the verbal inspiration of the inerrant Word of God.

To help the student meet this latest and most insidious challenge, this course of study has been prepared. In it several lines of evidence are set forth giving ample support to the statement of our Lord, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

In speaking about the Bible, C. H. Mackintosh asserts: “A book that exposes me to myself—that tells me all that is in my heart—that lays bare the very deepest springs of my moral nature—that judges me thoroughly, and at the same time reveals to me One who meets my every need—such a Book carries it’s own credentials with it.”

Lessons You Will Study

1. The Bible — God’s Word	5
2. Other Witnesses to the Bible	11
3. Some Fulfilled Prophecies	17
4. More Fulfilled Prophecies	23
5. The Bible and Science	29
6. More About the Bible and Science	35
7. History Repeats Itself	41
8. Alleged Bible Difficulties	45
9. The Life of the Lord Jesus Christ	51
10. The Genealogy of Jesus	59
11. The Gospel Plan of Salvation	63
12. The Bible Stands	67

Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

1

THE BIBLE — GOD’S WORD

Each true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ should accept the fact that the Bible is the Divinely inspired, infallible and therefore absolutely authoritative Word of God. It was through this Book that he came to a realization of his need as a guilty, lost sinner, and to a knowledge of the way of salvation through faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of the Son of God, acceptance of Him as his personal Savior and confession of Him as the Lord of his life (Romans 10:1-17).

He will also realize that he is living in a world characterized by unbelief. Sooner or later, he will be challenged, in classroom, office, workshop or barracks, as to the reasonableness of his belief in the integrity of the holy Scriptures. He must therefore be prepared, not only to witness for Christ, but to give to everyone that asks him “a reason of the hope that is in him,” that the Bible is indeed what it claims to be—the very Word of God (1 Peter 3:15).

It has been well said that “faith, though *unreasoning*, is never *unreasonable*.” This is to say, though faith never questions what God has revealed in His Word, yet it will be discovered that all God has revealed is perfectly reasonable, seeing that God is possessed of all knowledge and all power. Someone has summed up the situation thus: “An atheist has a *reason*, but no *hope* for his reason. A hypocrite has a *hope*, but no *reason* for his hope. A Christian has both a *reason* for his *hope* and a *hope* for his *reason!*”

————— ❧ —————

**The Bible is the
Divinely inspired,
infallible and
therefore absolutely
authoritative
Word of God.**

————— ❧ —————

The Definition of Inspiration

It is always good to define the term one uses, so that there shall be no misunderstanding as to what is really meant by the term. What, then, is meant by the expression, “The Divine inspiration of the Scriptures?” One of the passages which sets forth this great truth, and which should be memorized by each Christian, is found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and reads, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The words “inspiration of God” are one word in the Greek, “*theopneustos*,” which means “God breathed.” As God, in the creation of man “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”; so God has breathed into the holy Scriptures and caused them to become a living book (Genesis 2:7; compare Hebrews 4:12).

————— ❧ —————
**“All Scripture
is given by
inspiration of God.”**
————— ❧ —————

By “inspiration” we therefore mean that the Holy Spirit so possessed and energized those men upon whom He came (though not depriving them of their individual personalities) that what they wrote, under His Divine control, were *the very words of God Himself*. (Read carefully: 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Samuel 23:2; Hebrews 3:7; Acts 28:25.)

It is reasonable to assume that the God who gave to man the ability to communicate his thoughts to others by means of words, can also communicate His thoughts, by means of words, to His creatures. The communication of God’s thoughts to man is found in the Bible. This book abounds with such expressions as: “And God said”; “Thus says the Lord”; “God spoke all these words,” etc.

The Proof of Its Inspiration

It is one thing for a Christian to believe firmly and boldly to affirm the Divine inspiration of the Bible. It is another thing to *prove* this fact to another. This course is designed to furnish the believer with material for such definite proof, both for his own assurance, and for the convincing of those who challenge the reasonableness of his belief.

A Christian may say to a critic, “I believe the Bible to be the Divinely inspired Word of God,” and receive the reply, “But the fact that *you* say so

doesn't prove it to be so!" To assert that many great men have believed the Bible to be the Word of God may only evoke the answer, "They may have been mistaken, for 'to err is human.'" To describe the worldwide translation and distribution of the Word of God as a proof of its truthfulness may be answered by the objection, "But that doesn't prove its Divine inspiration. I want definite and unanswerable proof before I will accept it as the Word of God." How is a believer to supply this proof?

Three questions face us regarding this matter. (1) Is such a revelation from God *possible*? In other words: Can the God Who created man communicate with him? The answer is an obvious "Yes." (2) Is such a revelation *probable*? is it reasonable to assume that the Creator would desire to communicate His mind and will to the creature He had brought into being? Again the answer is in the affirmative. (3) Is such a revelation *actual*? The Bible itself leaves us in no doubt as to this, for it definitely claims to be the Word of God.

But it will be objected that the Bible's claim to be inspired does not prove it to be so. How can you prove it to be true? The answer is very simple: *The Bible is its own best proof.* When an eminent servant of Christ was asked how he could be sure that the Bible was God's Book, he replied,

————— ❧ —————

**The Bible is its
own best proof.**

————— ❧ —————

"Because I have read it." In other words, he found in the Book itself sufficient proof of its genuineness.

A moment's reflection will prove that this must be so. If the Bible is God's Word, then it must be the most authoritative revelation in the universe. It must be supreme in its reliability. It could not depend on something outside itself to prove its truthfulness; otherwise that outside source would be more reliable than God's own Word. And clearly this is an impossibility.

God is the greatest Person in the universe. His word is absolute, final and unimpeachable. The primary proof of what He says must be found in the words themselves. This fact is demonstrated in Hebrews 6:13 where we read: "Because He (God) could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself." In other words, God can find no greater authority outside Himself to confirm His utterances. What He says is true because He is God. When He speaks, the truthfulness of what He says must basically be found in the words themselves.

This does not mean that there are not other proofs that the Bible is God's Word. There are many such in history, prophecy, and science, rightly understood. We call them external proofs of inspiration. It is only reasonable that the truth of God's Word should be confirmed in God's creation and in His providence. But these proofs are incidental and secondary. The great proof of the Bible is the Bible itself.

In the pages to follow, we propose to show how the Bible carries its own credentials and how it is confirmed by external evidences. Some of these credentials and evidences are: the description of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilled prophecies and the gospel plan of salvation. Before going on to a consideration of these proofs, there is a problem which must be faced at the outset, and this has to do with the original manuscripts of the Bible.

Where Are the Original Manuscripts?

When we say that the Bible is verbally inspired (or inspired as to its actual words), we refer to the first time it was written down. We believe that it is infallible in its original manuscripts. Our critics are not slow to ask us, "Where are the original manuscripts today?" and we must confess that we do not know. For some reason, God has not seen fit to preserve them for man, probably to prevent him from worshipping them.

But does that mean that we cannot have confidence in our various Bible versions today? It does not at all. Although we do not have the original manuscripts, we have very many copies that have been preserved down through the centuries. While there are minor differences among these manuscript copies, the important thing is that *they are all in perfect agreement concerning the major doctrines of the faith*. Granted that there are variations among the copies, yet not one major doctrine of Christianity depends on a disputed verse.

For instance, the original document of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America was found by accident in a storeroom of the Capitol in Washington many years after it had been drafted; but apart from its romantic value, there was no necessity for it, for hundreds of copies were in circulation which proved the existence of an original manuscript from which the copies had been made. So it is with the original manuscripts of the Bible. The multitude of copies proves the existence of an original manuscript.

When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He used a *version* of the Old Testament since the *original manuscripts* were no longer available, He certainly used a Hebrew version when He was in the synagogue (Luke 4:16-17), and may even have had access at times to the Septuagint, a translation from Hebrew to Greek. But whenever He quoted the Old Testament, whatever version He used, He quoted it as the Word of God (Matt. 22:31-32). Similarly we may accept reputable versions of the Bible which we have today, and use them with utmost confidence that they are the Word of God.

The late Dr. Handley Moule is quoted as saying:

“When my Lord Christ first became a living and unutterable reality to me, I remember that one of my first sensations of profound relief was this: *he absolutely trusted the Bible*; and though there are things in it inexplicable that have puzzled me so much, I am going, not in a blind sense, but reverently, to trust the Book because of Him.”¹

————— ❧ —————

**We may accept
reputable versions of
the Bible which we
have today, and use
them with utmost
confidence that they
are the Word of God.**

————— ❧ —————

Dinsdale T. Young expresses hearty accord with this view:

“The authentication of the Bible by our Lord Jesus Christ is, to the believer, proof positive that it is invincible. Whatever *He* says must be true. There is no court of appeals from His decisions. Nothing is more impressive than Christ’s constant authentication of the Bible. He cites or refers to the Old Testament probably more than four hundred times. What need have we of further witnesses? To us Christ is God. Whatever He says concerning the Bible is, to us, an end of all controversy.”²

¹ Quoted by Pollock, A. J., *Is the Bible Inspired of God?* (London: Central Bible Truth Depot), p. 13.

² *The Unveiled Evangel* (London: Epworth Press, no date given), pp. 151, 152.

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

EXAM BOOKLET AK '09 (2 UNITS) GWT

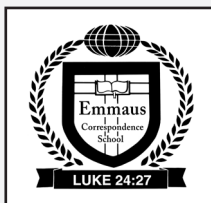
STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue C. yellow
B. green D. orange

 B

TRUE / FALSE

For these questions, circle the correct answer.

T F

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES

First Printed 1958 (AK '58), 1 UNIT

Revised 2004 (AK '04), 1 UNIT

Revised 2009 (AK '09), 2 UNITS

Reprinted 2012 (AK '09), 2 UNITS

ISBN 978-1-940293-01-4

Code: GWT

Copyright © 1958, 1972, 1991, 2004, 2009 ECS Ministries

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical.

Printed in the United States of America

CHAPTER 1 EXAM

THE BIBLE — GOD'S WORD

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.

Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. The fact that the Bible is inspired, infallible and authoritative is _____
 - A. accepted without question by all intelligent people
 - B. open to debate and challenge even in the thinking of the most devout believer
 - C. absolute truth so far as the true believer is concerned
 - D. rejected by all scholarly people today except the most convinced fundamentalist

2. When Paul reminded Timothy that the Scriptures were the “inspiration of God” he used a single Greek word literally meaning that they are _____

A. God-centered	C. God-ordained
B. God-breathed	D. God-given

3. Who said that holy men of God spoke as they were “moved by the Holy Spirit”? _____

A. Peter	C. Luke
B. Paul	D. John

4. David laid direct claim to Divine inspiration in _____
 - A. the twenty third psalm
 - B. all his psalms
 - C. his last words
 - D. his inaugural speech when all Israel anointed him king

5. The best proof of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures is _____
 - A. the testimony of learned men
 - B. the translatability of the Bible
 - C. the fact that for centuries the Bible has been the world's best seller
 - D. the evidence found within the Bible itself

6. The Christian believes that the infallibility of the Bible applies
- A. only to the original manuscripts
 - B. to all manuscripts of the Bible extant in the original Hebrew and Greek languages
 - C. to all translations of the Bible so long as they are based on the original manuscripts of Scripture
 - D. only to the King James version of the Bible
- _____
7. There are numerous variations to be found in the many copies of ancient Bible manuscripts. This
- A. means that it is impossible for us to really know what was originally written
 - B. in no way affects any major doctrine since no doctrine of consequence rests on a disputed text
 - C. makes it imperative that the original documents be found so that we can finally decide exactly what God has said
 - D. explodes the concept of inspiration since God would obviously have preserved the original manuscripts had He authored them
- _____
8. The version of the Scriptures used by the Lord Jesus was
- A. a Hebrew version of the Bible
 - B. a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek
 - C. both A and B
 - D. neither A or B
- _____
9. When Jesus quoted the Old Testament
- A. He did not trust it
 - B. He quoted it as the Word of God
 - C. He only used the Greek version
 - D. He only did it in public
- _____
10. Jesus quoted or referred to the Old Testament
- A. less than 100 times
 - B. about 200 times
 - C. nearly 300 times
 - D. over 400 times
- _____

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What is your opinion of the Bible at this point?
