

## BIBLE PROOFS OF DIVINE INSPIRATION

By Dr. Peter Wiseman

"Divine inspiration," according to Daniel Webster, "is that supernatural divine influence on the prophets, apostles, or sacred writers, by which they were qualified to communicate truth without error; a supernatural influence which qualifies men to receive and communicate divine truth." Divine revelation means an unfolding, divine inspiration, a divine inbreathing. "The most feasible distinction between revelation and inspiration," says Dr. Banks, in his *Manual of Doctrine*, "is the one which applies the former to the divine communication to select agents, and the latter the special divine influence in securing the accurate record of the communication in writing."

In Bible proofs for divine inspiration, we cannot do better than to quote a statement on verbal inspiration from the pen of the late Dr. A. T. Pierson. "There are," he says, "with regard to verbal inspiration, or the oversight of the very words of Scripture, five important, significant passages in the word of God: Hebrews 12:27; Galatians 4:9; John 8:58; 10:34-36; Galatians 3:16.

"If these passages are examined, it will be seen that in the first instance the argument turns on one phrase, 'yet once more.' In the second, on the passive voice rather than the active voice of the verb. In the third, on the present rather than on the past tense. In the fourth, on the violability of a single word; and in the fifth, on the retention of the singular number of a noun, rather than the plural. Taking the five passages together, they teach us that, to alter or omit a phrase, change the voice or mood or tense of a verb, change a single word or even the number of a noun, is to break the Scriptures; and if this does not come close to verbal inspiration, then I am no judge."

### Direct Proof

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For 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." (II Tim. 3:6; 11; Ps. 1:21).

"Thus saith the Lord" occurred over two thousand times in the Bible, also the expression, "It is written" frequently occurs, as in Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:10, and other places.

The manner in which the Old Testament quotations are introduced into the New Testament is another startling proof. Matt. 1:21-23, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us." Also, Acts 2:16, 17. "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall

prophesy." And Heb. 3:7-11. "As the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, they do alway err in their hearts; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest." There are many other quotations.

The way the Lord Jesus Christ and the New Testament writers treated the Old Testament indicate the fact that they really and sincerely believed God had spoken. Matt. 8:16, 17 reads, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esias the prophet, saying, himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. And again, John 10:34, 35. "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken."

The supernatural character of the Bible and of its Christ.

The unity of the Bible is unique in that it was written by so many with so many years between.

The wonderful knowledge of the Bible as revealed in the following:

1. Light before sun. Gen. 1:7, "And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."

2. Firmament expanse, same passage as the afore mentioned.

3. Music of the spheres, Job 38:7; Psalm 65:8, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice."

4. Gravitation. Job 26:7, "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."

5. Numbers of the stars. Jer. 33: 22, "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me."

6. Circulation of the blood. Eccl. 12:6, "Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern."

7. Order of creation in accord with modern science, true science, Gen. 1.

8. Revolution of the earth on its axis, Job 38:13, 14, "That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment."

9. Weight of atmosphere, Job 28:25, "To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure." (Pierson, in "Many Infallible Proofs.")

10. The fact that the Bible has survived the rage of devils and wicked men, and we still have the Bible. Could any other book thus survive?

Bishop Foster did an excellent job when he proved that "prophecy" and "miracles" of the Bible were sufficient to prove its supernaturalness.

There are four grand arguments for the

divine inspiration of the Bible:

1. The miracles it records.
2. The prophecies it contains.
3. The goodness of the doctrine.
4. The moral character of the penmen.

The miracles flow from Divine power, the prophecies from Divine understanding, the excellency of the doctrine from Divine goodness, the moral character of the penmen from Divine purity. Thus the Christian's Bible, which reveals the religion of Christianity, is built upon four immovable pillars—the power, the understanding, the goodness and the purity of God.

This Miracle Book must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing, saying, "Thus saith the Lord" when it was their own invention. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemn their soul to all eternity. It is therefore concluded that the Miracle Book must have been given by Divine inspiration. ("Bible Explainer" by W. Nicholson, Pub. by Nicholson and Sons, London).

How simple and yet how true.

## THE LEAKAGE OF LOVE

Love is the very substance and marrow of moral perfection. Faith is the condition of forgiveness and cleansing; and the removal of actual and indwelling sin is the condition of the fulness of love. Many seek only for partial holiness; they seek it merely as a cure for some besetting sin; others seek it as a boon for some sorrow; others seek it in a mere negative form of cleansing; but the true idea is, that the whole being shall be made complete in God's love.

There is a danger of the leakage of love out of the heart that many are not aware of. Love is like a flame or a volatile fluid; it is not like a rigid, fixed substance. It is ever in a fine, subtle motion, and needs constant feeding. A piece of wood is solid and stationary in its form, remaining the same year after year; but the soft, quivering flame is very different. So you may have the clear, specific doctrine of sanctification fixed as an unchanging truth in your mind, and yet the quivering flame of love in your heart is another thing; and persons who were once truly sanctified may go on holding the well-defined doctrine and testimony of holiness, while, unconsciously, the fragrance and warmth of holy love have leaked out of the heart. It is much easier to retain certain truths fixed in the reason than to retain a fixedness in the affections. Our emotions glide away imperceptibly; our affections leak out of the soul unawares. It requires much diligence and the adding of heart fuel to keep a lowly, loving flame in the soul.

Occasionally you will find a person who has been sanctified, still holding the profession, and grasping the clear doctrine, but who has, from various causes, allowed the warm, loving spirit to leak out; and he is restive, impatient, and harsh under neglect, persecution and opposition.

Those things which are the sweetest are susceptible of being turned into the most sour; and perfect love, losing itself in the fermentation of spirit and turning into sour, is one of the harshest, bitterest things on earth.

As there is a physical law by which sweet juices can be kept from fermenting into sour,