

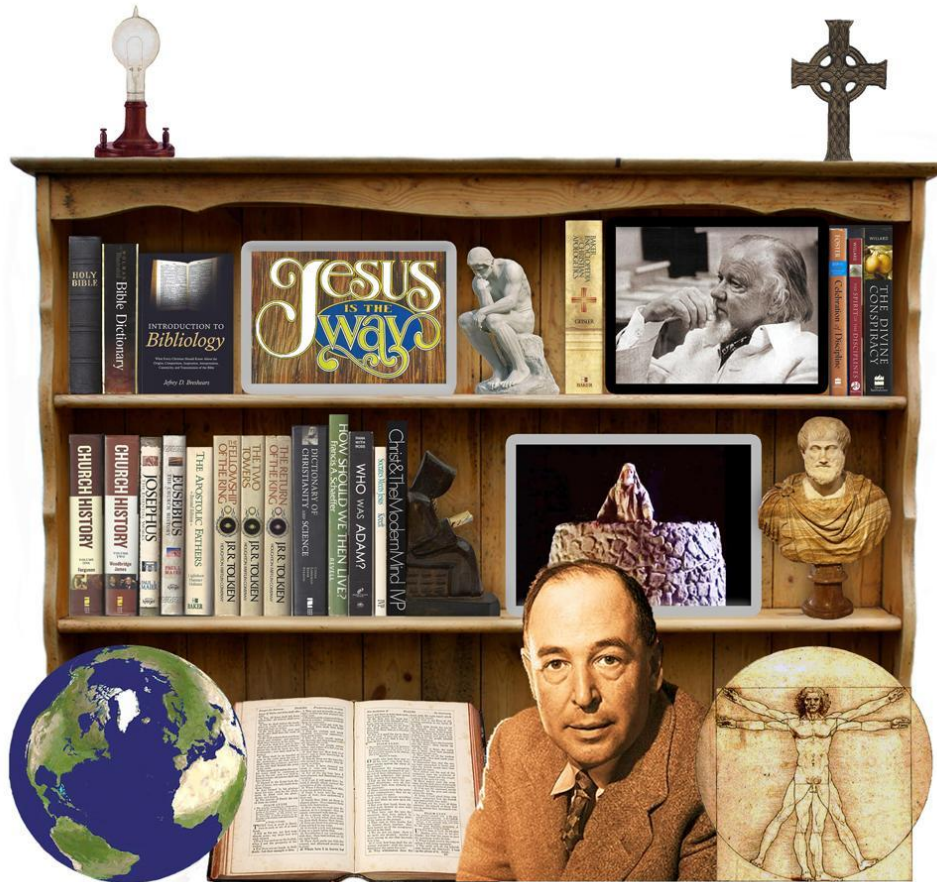
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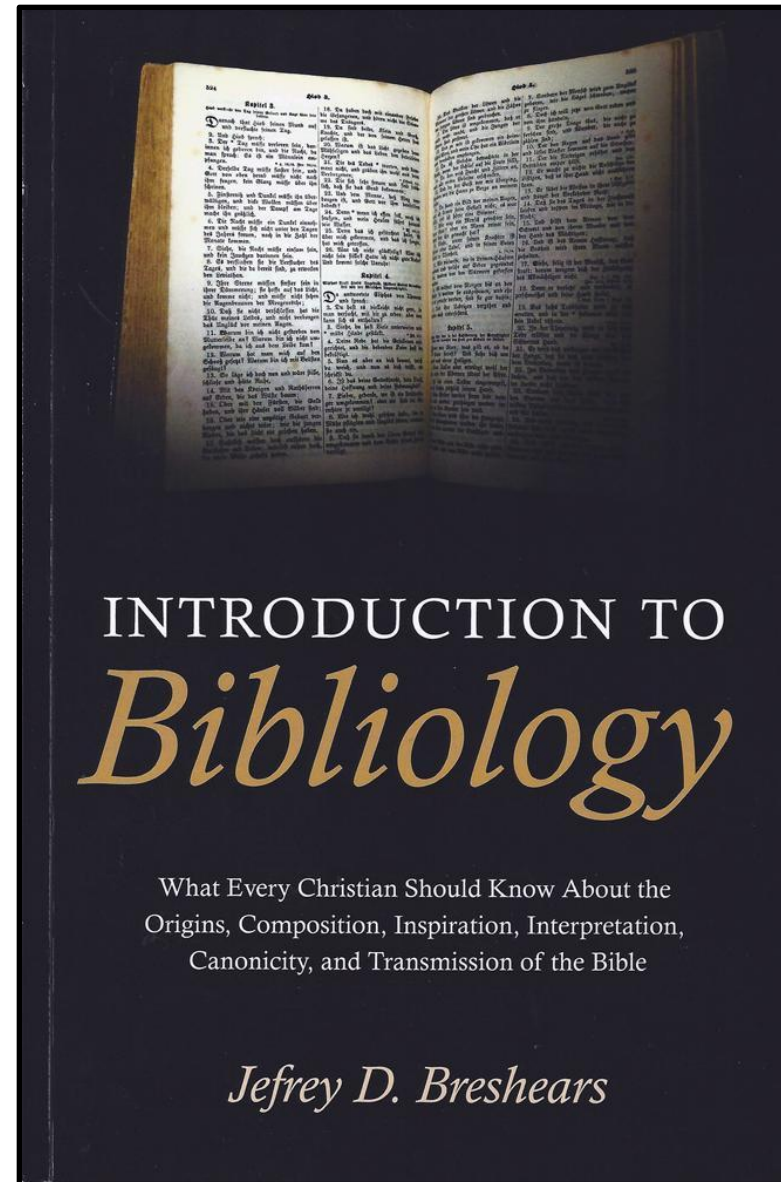
6. The Historical Quest for the Real Jesus

7. Special Topics: Other Religions, the Afterlife, etc.

8. Frontline Apologetics: Responding to Skeptics

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10. Apologetics and the Arts



INTRODUCTION TO *Bibliology*

What Every Christian Should Know About the
Origins, Composition, Inspiration, Interpretation,
Canonicity, and Transmission of the Bible

Jefrey D. Breshears

Introduction To Bibliology

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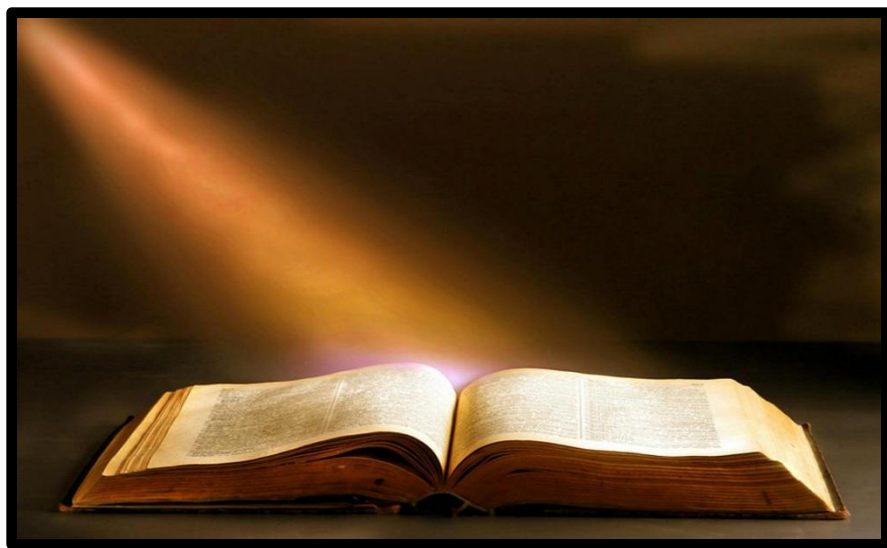
WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE WAS DIVINELY- INSPIRED?



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

The Fundamental Question

When we read the Bible or hear it referred to as “the Word of God,” how can we be confident that the Bible was actually supernaturally-inspired?



Introduction

The Bible and Christian Apologetics.

- C. S. Lewis: “Ninety-nine percent of the things
you believe are believed on authority.”
[*Mere Christianity*]

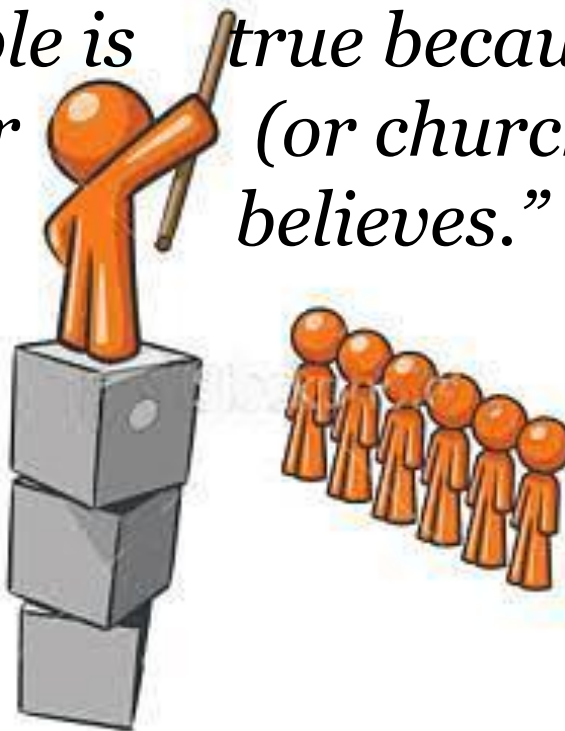


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

1. The Argument from Authority.

- “*I believe the Bible is true because that’s what my pastor (or church or denomination) believes.*”

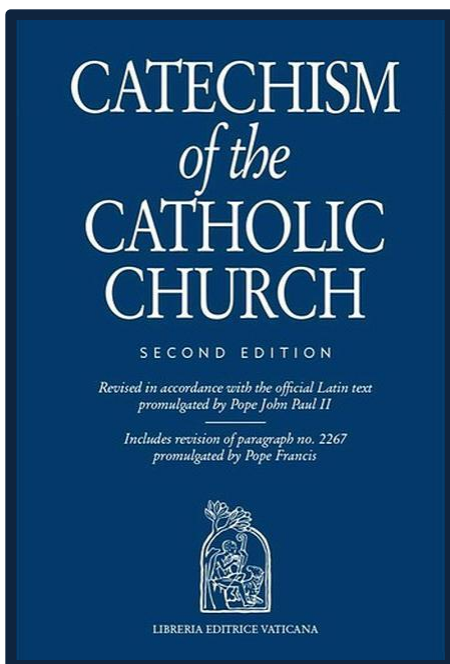


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

1. The Argument from Authority.

- The RCC’s “Catechism of the Bible”:



What proof have we that the Bible is inspired?"

The Catholic Church, which is infallible, teaches us so."

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

2. The Self-Referential Argument.



- *“I believe the Bible is ‘the Word of God’ because it says it is.”*
- II Tim. 3:16 – *“All Scripture is God-breathed (theópneustos)...”*
- John 5:39 – Jesus: *“You diligently search the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”*

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

2. The Self-Referential Argument.



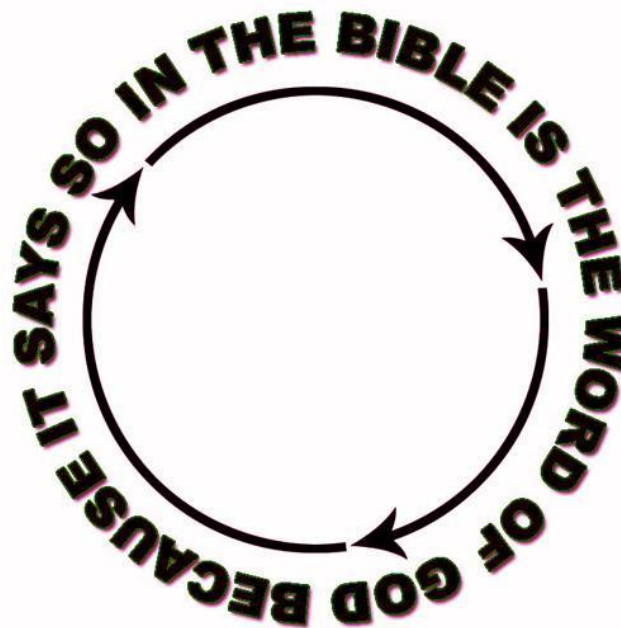
- Heb. 1:1 – *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in many way, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....”*

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

2. The Self-Referential Argument.

- The problem of “circular logic”.

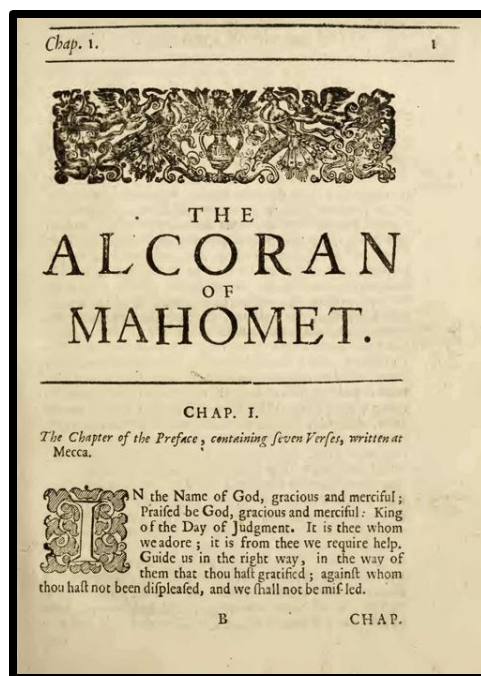


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

2. The Self-Referential Argument.

- The Qur'an: *“This book is not to be doubted.”*



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

3. The “Spiritual” Argument.

- *“I know the Bible is true because I feel it in my heart.”*



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

3. The “Spiritual” Argument.

- *“God’s Spirit bears witness with my spirit that it is true.”*



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Three “Bad” Arguments

3. The “Spiritual” Argument.

- The problem of subjectivity.
- Devotees of other religions and cults often claim:



the same thing: they get a “spiritual feeling” when they read their favorite religious

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments*

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The uniqueness of biblical history.
- The element of objective self-criticism.

* In actuality, we can “prove” very little in this life. Virtually everything we believe is based on reasonable faith – i.e., on the basis of personal experience, factual evidence, and/or reasonable assumptions and probabilities.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

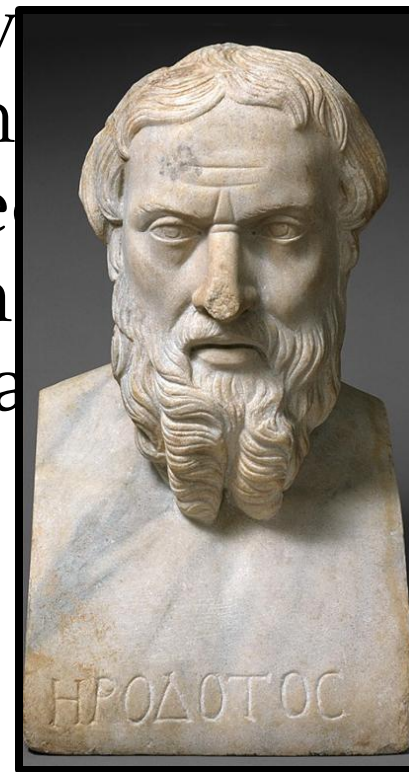
- The uniqueness of biblical history.
 - Unlike myths and legends, biblical narratives provide historical, chronological, genealogical, and geographical background information that has often been verified by extra-biblical sources and archaeological discoveries

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The uniqueness of biblical history
 - Note: By contrast, other ancient “historians” were not interested so much in relating truth as in promoting a particular agenda
- Herodotus (484-424 BC):
The purpose of history is to inform and to entertain.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The uniqueness of biblical history.
 - Louis Markos: “In order to substantiate the basic claims of Christ and the essential doctrines of Christianity, the apologist need not prove the inspiration or inerrancy of the Bible; he need only show the Bible to be reliable in its account of Jewish and

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The uniqueness of biblical history.
 - Note: Historical reliability doesn't *prove* the Bible is divinely-inspired; but *if* the Bible were divinely-inspired, we would expect it to be historically reliable.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The argument from archaeology.
 - Nelson Glueck: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- The argument from archaeology.
 - A. H. Sayce: “Time after time the assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archaeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently regarded as mythical have been shown to be historical,

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- CAUTION: History and archaeology have their limitations.
- What history and archaeology *can* demonstrate is that there are *no good reasons to doubt* the biblical narratives.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

1. Historical and Scientific Reliability.

- *Creatio ex nihilo*
- “Big Bang” cosmology
- Special and progressive creation
- Intelligent Design



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

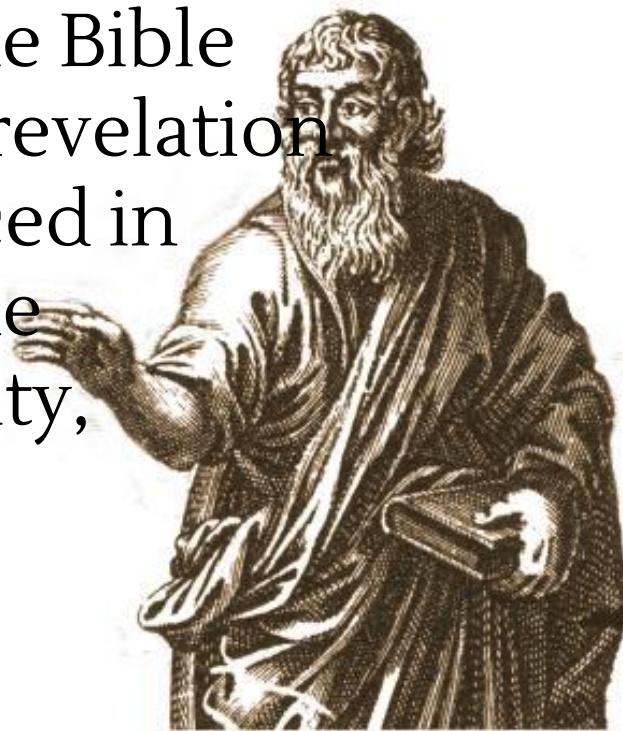
- The Christian faith is not a subjective leap of faith, and its core message can be verified on the basis of historical evidence – in particular, the evidence for the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Christianity is unique among religions in that its central truth-claims are testable historically.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Clement of Alexandria: “The Bible Bible is the narration of a revelation which has been experienced in history; it is the story of the act of God toward humanity, and of repeated divine interventions in history.”

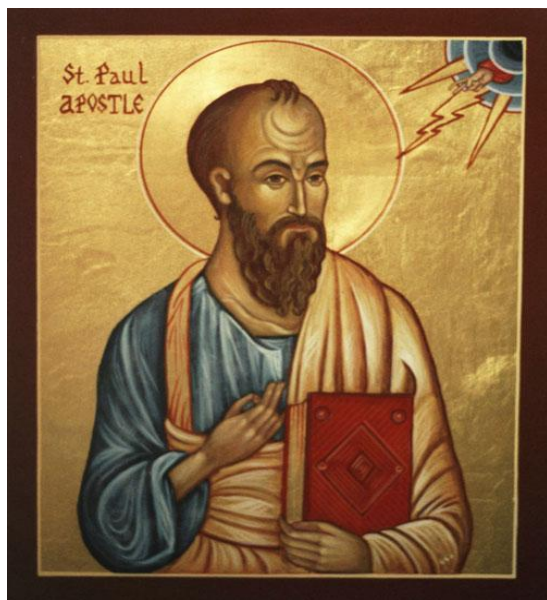


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- The linchpin of the Christian faith.



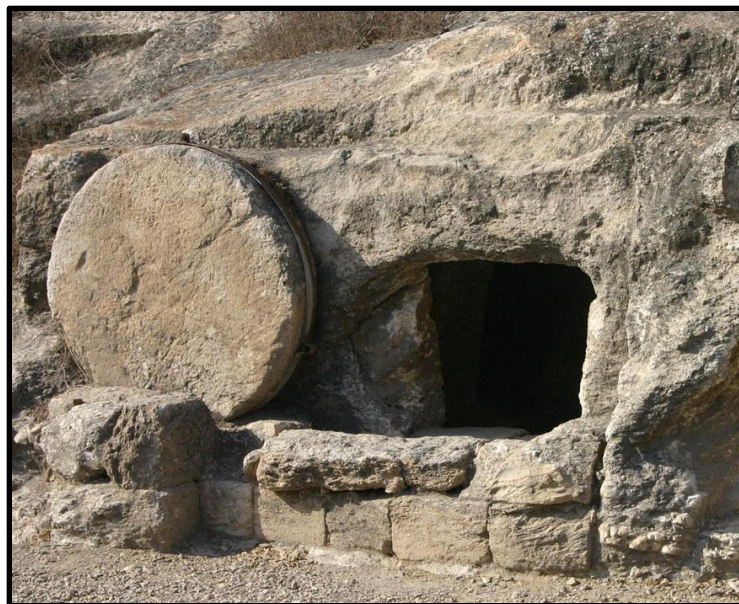
- Apostle Paul: “If Christ has not been raised [from the dead], our preaching is useless and so is your faith....

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.”
[I Cor. 15:12ff]

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



• Gary Habermas: “The fact that Christians didn’t endorse Jesus’ resurrection until they had seen the empty tomb and his resurrection. *That’s* what changed their lives and started the church.”

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



- N. T. Wright: “Without the resurrection, there is a gaping hole in first century history that nothing else can plug.”

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



- Jaroslave Pelikan:
“If Christ *has not* been raised from the dead, then nothing else matters. If Christ *has* been raised from the dead, then nothing else matters.”

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



- C. S. Lewis: “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- What accounts for this phenomenal event?
- None [of the alternative theories] explain how
and why a pseudo-resurrection or a purely symbolic resurrection could have animated the
early followers of Christ and led to an
explosion
of belief in Christ as the divine Son of God.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

3. A Unified and Progressive Theme.

- Written over 1500 years by some 40 authors.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

3. A Unified and Progressive Theme.

- Written over 1500 years by some 40 authors.
- Consistency regarding...
 - Ultimate Reality: The nature and character of God;
 - The condition of mankind; and
 - The solution \rightarrow to mankind's problem \rightarrow
 - Creation Fall Redemption
Restoration.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- Underlying biblical theology is a particular philosophy – a general explanation for reality.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- “Few Christians ever seriously ponder the Bible philosophically.... [T]he tendency is to miss the proverbial forest (the general worldview set forth in Scripture) for the trees (particular stories, principles, doctrines, and exhortations.”



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- Coherent – orderly and rational;

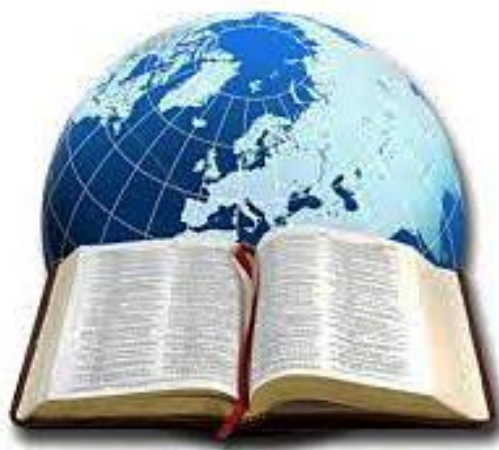


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- Coherent – orderly and rational;
- Consistent – non-contradictory; and



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- Coherent – orderly and rational;
- Consistent – non-contradictory; and
- Comprehensive – addresses the perennial issues of life.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.

- The perennial issues of life:
 - The origins of the universe.
 - The origins of life.
 - The realities of human nature.
 - The *Imago Dei*.
 - The noetic effects of the Fall.
 - The essence of morality.
 - The sense of meaning and purpose.
 - The longing for eternal life.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments:

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- Two arguments for Jesus as the Christ:
 - (1) His miraculous resurrection.
 - (2) His fulfillment of ancient messianic prophecies.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments:

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- The dual nature of prophecy.
 - (1) Forthtelling – Proclaiming God's message.
 - (2) Foretelling – Predicting future events.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments:

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- Regarding predictive prophecy:
 - Less than 5% of OT prophecies relate to the
New Covenant age; and
 - Less than 2% of OT prophecies are
messianic in nature.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments:

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- In its predictive prophecy, the Bible is unique.
 - EX: Micah 5:2-4.
 - EX: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.
 - EX: Zechariah 9:9
 - EX: Malachi 3:1-5



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments:

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- In its predictive prophecy, the Bible is unique.
 - EX: Luke 4:20-21.
 - EX: Matthew 5:17.
 - EX: John 5:39ff.
 - EX: Luke 24:27, 44.
 - EX: Matthew 26:56.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

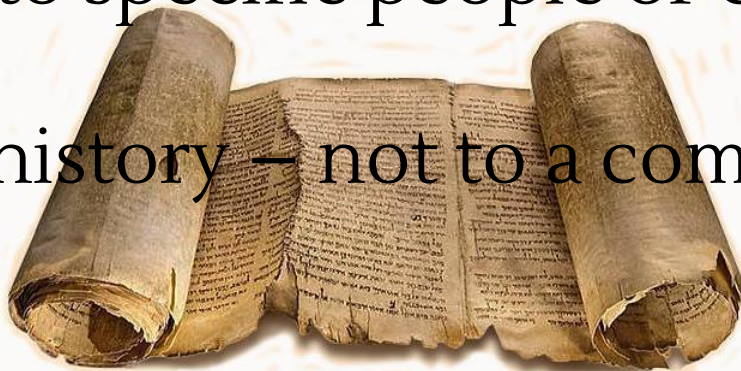
5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- However...

“If we look at the historical context for many of

these attributions, we find that they often referred to specific people or events in ancient

Hebrew history – not to a coming Messiah.”



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- However...
 - EX: Matthew 2:14-15 and Hosea 11:1.
 - EX: Matthew 1:22-23 and Isaiah 7:14 (and Isa. 8:3).
 - EX: Matthew 2:17 and Jeremiah 31:15.
 - EX: Matthew 15:7-8 and Isaiah 29:13.
 - EX: Matthew 27:47 and Psalm 22.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - The Christocentric nature of Scripture.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - Jesus fulfilled the OT typologically or analogically.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
- Jesus was the ultimate personification, completion, or perfection of many OT events, concepts, images and persons.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - “Fulfillment” usually doesn’t mean the consummation of a prediction.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - Paul Copan: “Fulfillment is part of the very fabric of the New Testament, which see Jesus and his work bringing to fruition the significance of the entire Old Testament.”



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - In the New Testament, Jesus and the apostles contend that he symbolizes, embodies, completes, or perfects certain Old Testament themes.

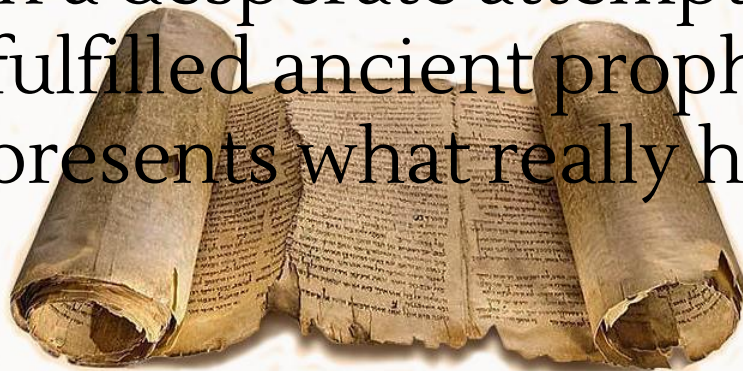


Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- How did Jesus “fulfill” the ancient prophecies?
 - The accusation that Christians mined the OT texts in a desperate attempt to argue that Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies misrepresents what really happened.



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Five Good Arguments

5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

- The element of predictive prophecy in the Bible is one of its most unique features – and a valid reason why we should regard the Bible as divinely-



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Building a Cumulative Case

Five Good Arguments:

1. The Bible Is Historically Reliable.
2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. A Consistent and Progressive Theme.
4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.
5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

Building a Cumulative Case

Five Good Arguments:

1. The Bible Is Historically Reliable.
2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. A Consistent and Progressive Theme.
4. A Rational and Plausible Worldview.
5. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy.

Three Supplemental Arguments:

1. The Argument from Authority.
2. The Self-Referential Argument.
3. The Personal/Spiritual Argument.

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

The Summa.

John Wesley: “The Bible must be the invention of either 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 could nor would make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ when it was their own invention....



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

The Summa.

“It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell for all eternity.

“Therefore, I draw this conclusion: the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.”



Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

The Summa.



Blaise Pascal: “God has willed to redeem men, and to open salvation to those who seek it.... [but] so many make themselves unworthy of his mercy. He has willed to leave them in the loss of the good which they do not want....

“He has willed to make Himself quite recognizable by those [who sincerely seek him]; and thus to appear openly to those who seek Him

Why Should We Believe the Bible Was Divinely-Inspired?

The Summa.



“... with all their heart, and to be hidden from those who flee from Him with all their heart. He so regulates the knowledge of Himself that He has given signs of Himself, visible to those who seek Him, and not to those who seek Him not.

There is enough light for those who desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition.”



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