

The Origin of the Bible

One of the best known laws of the universe is the law of cause and effect. Simply stated it is this: **every effect must have an adequate cause.**

Now let this law be applied to the Bible. The Bible is an effect. It was caused by some source. Really, there are but two possibilities:

1. The Bible originated from a purely human source.
2. Or the Bible, while employing human writers, is nevertheless ultimately of divine origin.

How can one determine which of these views is correct?

The only way is to examine the Bible itself and see whether or not it bears those marks of identification which would be expected of a book that originated with God. What would be expected of a divine volume?

Affirmed

If God gave the Bible, we would expect Him to tell us so. The fact is, the Bible claims to be the Word of God literally thousands of times (cf. Jer. 1:9; Acts 1:16), and Christ Himself endorsed this very view of Scripture (see Mt. 22: 31).

Harmonious

If God is the source of the Bible, since He is perfect (Mt. 5:48), and not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), we would expect it to be perfectly harmonious.

Though composed over sixteen centuries, the Scriptures are perfectly harmonious. While some have charged the Bible with contradictions, such an allegation will not stand.

Exalted

Since God is holy (Isa. 6: 3), we would expect the Bible to have an exalted moral tone. That is exactly what one finds. Its precepts — “love your neighbor as yourself” and “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (see Mt. 22:39; 7:12) — have amazed millions of people down through the ages. No philosophy can boast of such morals.

Irreplaceable

If the Bible is from God, we would not expect that any group of men, regardless of their genius, could produce a volume that would surpass that ancient document. Though the Scriptures have been completed more than nineteen centuries, no one has been able to author a book that would make the Bible obsolete. This is inexplicable!

Perpetual

If the Bible is from the timeless God, we would expect it to be perpetually relevant. This is the case. Other books are shortly out-dated, but the Bible is as fresh and up-to-date as when it came from the pens of the inspired writers.

Honest

If the Bible were of divine origin, we would expect it to accurately portray the character of man. This is exactly what it does do. Though man was created upright in God's own image (Gen.1:26), by sin he has progressively separated himself from his Maker (Isa. 59:1,2). He has become exceedingly corrupt (Jer. 17:9), and hence stands in dire need of help. Man could not have authored the Bible if he would, and would not have penned it if he could!

Specific

Finally, if the Bible is of God, we would not expect it to be simply a vague philosophical and abstract treatise, but rather, to give specific information of what man's purpose is and how he may achieve that purpose.

Thrillingly, the Bible reveals that man's purpose on earth is to serve God (Isa. 43:7; Eccl. 12:13). It reveals the mission of Christ to save man from his wickedness (Lk. 19:10), and urges us

to be responsive to His redeeming message of grace (Heb. 5:8,9; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Let us hear its message.

- by **Wayne Jackson**

Disguising the Bad

A nearby bakery shop has a reputation for making some absolutely incredible cinnamon rolls. These rolls are huge, and are literally packed with brown sugar, cinnamon, and butter, and are topped with thick, gooey icing. The very thought of these can make one's mouth water.

But, alas, the health food craze has surely taken its toll on the cinnamon roll business. And though we love our sweets, we've been warned about all those calories - and we shutter to think of the cholesterol! What's a baker to do when cinnamon rolls are getting so much bad press?

The answer, of course, is to offer people an option that appeals to their health conscious sensitivities. And so, the baker of those delectable cinnamon rolls is now selling an oat bran muffin. Well, everyone has heard of the great benefits of oat bran. It has been touted as the remedy to a whole host of health problems. Surely then an oat bran muffin is just what the doctor ordered. Never mind that these particular muffins are as big as a softball, have more than a fair share of sugar, butter, calories, and even contain a huge dose of cholesterol! Which simply proves that if we can hide something bad behind a name that sounds good, most folks will "swallow it".

This same trick is being used by Satan in the spiritual realm. Homosexuality is now an "alternate lifestyle" and no longer no longer called an "abomination" (Lev. 18:22). Alcoholism sounds better than drunkenness, and it is easier to "swallow" if we call it a disease rather than a sin. You get the idea. But, remember, calling something bad by a good name does not change the outcome.

- by **Greg Gwin**