

The Bible's Testimony of Itself

I. The Validity and Authority of the Old Testament

A. The testimony of various modalities of revelation

1. in divine speech: "and God said" (to Adam – Genesis 1:26-28; 2-3; to Noah – Genesis 6-9; to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 12-46; to Moses (Exodus through Deuteronomy)
2. in dreams (to Jacob – Genesis 28:10-17; to Joseph – Genesis 37:5-9)
3. in visible manifestations (to Abraham – Genesis 18:1-5)
4. in signs and wonders (in Egypt – Genesis 7-10)
5. all-inclusive from Joshua to Samuel to David, Solomon and the prophets)

B. The link between the Old Testament and Jesus Christ

1. Pentateuch, Historical books, Wisdom and Poetry and the Prophets
2. the Old Testament equal to the Father's revelation through Jesus and vis versa.
3. The Law confirmed by Jesus Christ

Mathew 5:17-18

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Luke 16:16-17

"The Law and the Prophets [were proclaimed] until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail."

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4. Many factual accounts confirmed by Jesus Christ
 - a. Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5)
 - b. Cain and Abel (Luke 11:51)
 - c. Noah and the Flood (Matthew 24:37-39)
5. prophetic authority confirmed by Jesus Christ (Luke 24:44)
6. the authority of the Old Testament confirmed by Jesus Christ: “It is written” (Matthew 4:4; Mark 1:2; Luke 19:46)

II. Validity and Authority of the New Testament

A. Testimony in the Gospels (dreams, visions, theophanies)

1. Angelic appearance to Zechariah (Luke 1:11-20)
2. Angelic appearance to Mary (Luke 1:26-28)
3. Dream to Joseph (Matthew 1:20-24)
4. Audible message from the Father (Matthew 3:16-17 – “This is My Beloved Son.”)
5. Through the miracles of Jesus
 - a. Historical account (Luke 1:1)
 - b. Calming the storm (Mark 4:37- 41)
 - c. Healing diseases and afflictions (Mark 5:22-29, 8:22-25)
 - d. Resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10 and in all other gospel accounts)
6. Through direct revelation
 - a. to Simeon (Luke 2:26)
 - b. to Peter (Matthew 16:17)
 - c. teachings of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19; John 8:38; 14:24)

B. Testimony in Acts

1. To Cornelius in a vision (Acts 10:3-8)

2. To Peter in a vision (Acts 10:9-20)
 3. To Stephen in a vision (Acts 7:55-56)
 4. Miracles by the Apostles (Acts 5:12)
 5. Outpouring of the Sprit at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- C. Testimony of the Apostle Paul
1. His divine revelation from Jesus (I Corinthians 9:1- “have I not seen Jesus our Lord?”)
 2. Revelation of the gospel (Galatians 1:12)
 3. Paul’s preaching identified as the “Word of God” (II Corinthians 2:17, 4:2; I Thessalonians 2:13)
 4. Paul’s mission as a direct fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 13:46-48)
- III. Validity and Authority of the Bible (II Timothy 3:16)
- A. Because it is self-authenticating
1. It is self-consistent
 2. It is self-interpreting
 3. It is non-contradictory
- B. When it is allowed to speak for itself
1. By diligently applying time-tested rules of interpretation
 - a. The Bible must be interpreted in its context
 - b. The Bible can interpret itself
 2. By seeking original intent
 - a. Who is the author?
 - b. Who is the audience?
 - c. What is the historical setting?
 - d. What is the meaning of words?
 - e. How does grammar apply?
 - f. And so forth

What We Believe Regarding the Bible

We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God in its entirety. We affirm without reservation that it is God-breathed and without error in the original manuscripts and therefore, our supreme authority and trustworthy in all matters of faith and practice in the church and for the individual members of the church. We affirm the unity and internal consistency of the Bible which can be substantially understood in various translations by the faithful application employing grammatico-historical and time-tested principles of interpretation. By this ongoing process, we seek to discover the original intent and meaning of its authors.