



## Lesson 8: Evidence for the Inspiration of the Bible

### Unity of the Bible Narrative & Miracles

#### UNITY OF THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Although it was written over a period of 1,500 years with God using about 40 different authors, the Bible tells just one main story – the story of God’s plan for man’s redemption. Of course, in telling that story many topics are addressed along the way. But even though the inspired men who wrote the Bible lived at different times and came from different walks of life, they do not contradict one another on any subject. And, unlike the writings of uninspired men on important topics, the Bible maintains a Divine conciseness which leaves out embellishment.

1. If the Bible writers were not inspired, what are some of the problems they would have had to deal with due to the fact that their lives were interspersed over a 1,500 year period of history?
2. From the following Scriptures, list the different backgrounds or occupations of some of the inspired men who wrote the Bible?
  - Matthew 4:18
  - Matthew 9:9
  - Acts 18:3; 22:3
  - Nehemiah 1:11
  - Amos 1:1
  - Ezra 7:11
3. Who is the central character of the Bible story? (Genesis 3:15; 12:3; Galatians 3:16; 4:4; John 3:16)
4. The Bible deals with many subjects that people find controversial such as homosexuality, divorce, the origin of life, what happens when we die, and the nature of God. Without God’s help, what are the chances that any 40 individuals would be in perfect harmony on all these topics?

#### MIRACLES CONFIRM INSPIRATION

God does not expect us to believe that a man is speaking for Him just because the man claims to be. The Lord enabled His prophets and inspired spokesmen to perform miracles in order to prove that they were truly speaking God’s words. This method of authenticating God’s spokesmen began with Moses (Exodus 4, 4-11), continued through the Old Testament prophets (1 Kings 13:1-6; 17:1ff; 18:36-38; 2 Kings 20:9-11; Daniel 2:47), and persisted into the New Testament age with the miracles of Jesus Christ and His apostles and prophets (Acts 2:22; Hebrews 2:2-4; Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 15:18-19).

The supernatural deeds that God worked through His spokesman were much more than just magic tricks. They are called *signs, wonders, and miracles!* Their power as evidence rests on the following characteristics:

- They were undeniable even by those who were prejudiced and skeptical (Acts 4:16; 2:22; John 9:15-21)
- They exhibited the power and character of God (Matt. 9:8; Luke 4:36; Acts 3:11-16)
- There is an immediate purpose for them. They are not done just to “show off” (Matthew 9:1-8; Acts 13:6-12)
- They are established by the testimony of reliable eye-witnesses. (John 20:30-31; Acts 10:38-39; 2 Peter 1:16-18)

Miracles are strong evidence for the inspiration of the Bible. But since miracles ceased with the completed revelation of God’s word (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), those of us who are living today have not seen the miracles that confirm God’s word. We must rely on the testimony of others. And while this is still very strong evidence, it is not as strong as fulfilled prophecy, which we will study in the next lesson.

#### QUESTIONS OVER MIRACLES AS EVIDENCE OF INSPIRATION

1. What signs did God empower Moses to perform to prove to the Israelites that he was sent by God? (Exodus 4)
2. What miracle occurred in 1 Kings 18:36-39 which proved that Elijah was God’s servant?
3. Read each of the following passages and quote what each one says about what God did to confirm that the words spoken by inspired men were from Him.
  - Hebrews 2:2-4
  - Mark 16:20
  - Acts 14:3
  - 2 Corinthians 12:12
  - Romans 15:18-19
4. Give at least one passage to support each of the following statements:
  - Bible miracles were typically undeniable.
  - Bible miracles exhibited the power and character of God.
  - Bible miracles had an immediate purpose.
  - The truth of Bible miracles rests on the testimony of witnesses.