

# GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE

## INTRODUCTION

1. There is a sense in which God has spoken in his natural creation (Psalm 19:1–3; cf. Rm. 1:20).
2. God, who spoke to the fathers through the prophets, has spoken to us through his son (Hebrews 1:1-2).
3. Aside from a few historical references (Josephus, Seutonius, Tacitus, Thallus) all we know of God’s son, and God’s speaking through the son, comes from one source, the Bible.
4. LEAD STATEMENT: LET US EXAMINE...

## I. THE CLAIMS OF SCRIPTURE

- A. The Inspiration of Scripture.
  1. 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”
    - a. Paul is stating here that every divinely given writing is “God-breathed.”
    - b. “graphe” – trans.: scripture; 50x; almost technical name for “divinely given writings.”
    - c. “pasa” – all or every.
    - d. “theopneustos” – translated “inspired” or “God-breathed” — divinely breathed out.
  2. His statement calls to mind the words of David, “Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89).
- B. The All-Sufficiency of Scripture.
  1. In addition to inspiration, Scripture claims for itself all-sufficiency (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9; Jude 3; Galatians 1:8–9).
  2. God’s word is the last word.

## II. THE CREDENTIALS OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Why accept the Bible’s claim for its own inspiration?
- B. Have you ever considered the amazing UNITY of the Bible?
  1. Written by some forty men over a period of 16 centuries.
  2. In most cases the writers had neither access to nor knowledge of each other’s writings.
  3. Some were educated. Some were uneducated. Some were rich. Some were poor. Some wrote in one language; some in another.
  4. Such unity is completely inexplicable — defying all satisfactory explanation — unless God inspired the Bible writers.
- C. Look at the indestructibility of Scripture.
  1. Through the ages it has weathered the unrelenting attack of skeptics and infidels.
  2. Voltaire, the French infidel, asserted that a century after his death the Bible would be found only in museums.
    - a. Ironically, Voltaire’s old printing press was later used to print copies of the Bible.
    - b. Jesus said “Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall never pass away” (Matthew 24:35; cf. 1 Peter 1:23-25).
  3. “The Anvil.”

“Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith’s door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime:  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,  
Old hammers worn out with the beating years of time.

‘How many anvils have you had,’ said I,  
‘To wear and batter all these hammers so?’  
‘Just one,’ said he, and then with twinkling eyes,  
‘The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.’

And so, I thought, the anvil of God’s Word  
For ages skeptics’ blows have beat upon,  
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unmarred, the hammers gone. John Clifford
- D. A unique approach to evidence for inspiration was taken by the late J.W. McGarvey.
  1. He called attention to the unusual stylistic features of the New Testament.
  2. His list included:
    - a. “the unexampled impartiality” of the gospel writers;
    - b. the “imperturbable calmness” with which they write, describing both the commonplace and the amazing with restrained objectivity;

- c. “the unexampled brevity” (seven words in the Greek tells the whole story of James’ martyrdom, Acts 12:2),
- d. and finally McGarvey appeals to “the inherent power of the New Testament writings to convince men of their own divine origin, and to move them to holy living.”
- E. “Never a man so spake” described Jesus and his words.

### **III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SCRIPTURE**

- A. A revealed message (1 Corinthians 2:11–13; 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:2).
- B. A redemptive message (1 Corinthians 1:18–24; Romans 1:16).
- C. A relevant message (1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 3:23).

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Early in the history of the restoration, Thomas Campbell urged, “Let us speak where the Bible speaks and let us be silent where the Bible is silent.”
2. God speaks through his word and so may we ever “preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2).
3. Appeal.