

The Attackers: Scripture Is More Reliable than Eyewitness Testimonies, 2 Pet 1:19–21; Biblical Inspiration: 7 Categories; Exhortations for Incultation: Isa 55:8; Rom 12:2; 10:7; Matt 22:29; Lk 6:46; Matt 7:21–23

13. Peter reveals the system by which the Bible was transmitted from God to its human writers and contends it is more reliable than his eye-witness account in Matthew 17:1–9. Note the parenthesis in the middle of verse 19:

**2 Peter 1:19** - We keep on having a more reliable word of prophecy; regarding which you do well to keep on paying attention (as to a lamp shining in a dark place, [Matthew 24:29], until the day dawns [2d Advent ] and the morning star arises [light from the Shekinah Glory's arrival] in your hearts."

**v. 20** - Knowing this first: no prophecy of Scripture originates from one's own explanation,

**v. 21** - for prophecy was not carried along by an act of human purpose and design, but men of God communicated as they were carried along under the authority of the Holy Spirit.

14. The extent of biblical inspiration may be observed in seven categories:
- 1) The Bible contains information in the unknown past that includes details not otherwise obtainable and therefore unconfirmable from human historical records (Genesis 1–11).
  - 2) The Bible covers subjects in ancient history. Although not a textbook on history, it contains many historical citations that are related to doctrine. These records are accurate and form the background for the development and communication of doctrines.
  - 3) Objective law is a major subject discussed in the Bible. It presents laws of divine establishment as well as laws for both national and individual application. These laws are immutable and therefore the laws of men must conform to them or be found wanting. They express God's will for the human race which must recognize law and order to survive. These laws when applied provide protection for the human race and their inclusion in Scripture indicates they are applicable in every generation.
  - 4) Dictation: There are portions of Scripture which are direct dictations from God. The doctrine of inspiration guarantees that such commands and quotations are accurately recorded in the exact way God willed them to be.
  - 5) Devotional literature: God uses the trials, problems, pressures, prosperity, successes, and failures of certain believers to reveal principles of grace and provision in life. These are found in the Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes.
  - 6) Lies and falsehoods: Both human and satanic lies are recorded in Scripture. This does not mean these things are true but it guarantees the accuracy of the lie but at the same time does not sanctify it.

- 7) Prophecy: Inspiration involves both the selection of prophetic materials and their complete accuracy. Prophecy includes both forthtelling and foretelling. Inspiration guarantees the accuracy of both categories. Forthtelling refers to the writer's exhortations: to encourage, incite, warn, or advise by urgent appeals or arguments.<sup>1</sup> Foretelling refers to events that are future to the time of writing. The human writer sometimes did not understand the prophecy but the accuracy of all prophecies is insured by divine inspiration.
15. In as much as God provided the Bible as a revelation to men, we must conclude its contents are so precisely structured that His message can be accurately interpreted and translated by the laws of grammar.
16. And with regard to the method of hermeneutics one must use, especially in the field of prophecy, no prophecy which has been fulfilled was fulfilled in any way other than literal.
17. The immutability of Scripture becomes a doctrinal rationale for the believer. He can approach the Word with confidence knowing that God has provided a means and a method for him to grow in grace and to acquire the wisdom to serve as a good soldier for Christ.
18. It is impossible to love, serve, and worship Jesus Christ while ignoring His Word.
19. God does not desire that we imitate the Lord's works during the Incarnation. We cannot accomplish these things. We have a sin nature; He doesn't. We cannot perform miracles; He can. Also, we are not deity; He is.
20. What God does expect of us is that we transform our thoughts into His thoughts by inculcating the content of Scripture.
21. Several passages exhort this admonition:
- Isaiah 55:8** - "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.
- Romans 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Romans 10:17** - Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Matthew 22:29** - Jesus answered and said to them [ **the Sadducees** ], "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God."
- Luke 6:46** - "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
- Matthew 7:21** - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v.: "forthtell."

**v. 22** - "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

**v. 23** - "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"