

# WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE (PART 1)

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Whereas the first and most important belief that we must have is in the existence of God, the next question is related to it, and also bears eternal significance for us all. Do we believe that our Creator has revealed His will to mankind, and how can we know where to find it? Specifically, do we believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that there is no other divine revelation aside from it? We should, because God has given us strong proof of this truth.

## God's own testimony

Speaking of the New Testament, Hebrews 2:3-4 asks, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was *confirmed unto us* by them that heard him; *God also bearing them witness*, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" God has given His own testimony to those He inspired to speak His word to man. Only God has the power to cause a miracle to occur, and He gave that power to the apostles and prophets (and to Christ), to prove they were speaking His word and not their own. Jesus promised the apostles that he would send them the Holy Spirit to complete his revelation through them (John 16:12-15). After Christ's resurrection, these apostles "went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and *confirming the word with signs following*" (Mark 16:20).

## God's testimony in the Old Testament

When God called Moses to speak His word to the people of Israel (Exod 3:16-17), Moses said, "But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee" (Exod 4:1). God then gave Moses three miraculous signs that would cause the Israelites to "believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee" (Exod 4:2-9). When Moses performed those three signs, "*the people believed*" (Exod 4:30-31). So how do we know that the Genesis account of the creation in six literal 24-hour days, the events in the Garden of Eden, the genealogies, Noah and Flood, and everything about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are one-hundred percent accurate revelations to man from the Creator Himself? And the same for everything found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy? These books were all written by Moses. And God bore witness to Moses with many miracles, from the plagues of Egypt, to the parting of the Red Sea, to bringing water from rocks in the wilderness. God also bore witness by miracles to Joshua (Josh 4:23-24), Elijah (1 Kgs 17:17-24; 18:17-40), Elisha (2 Kgs 2:9-25), Isaiah (Isa 38:4-8), and His other prophets in the Old Testament, giving us assurance that every word of those 39 books came from God. What the widow from Zarephath said about the prophet Elijah's miracle applies to all God's

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prophets, “*Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth*” (2 Kgs 17:24).

## **God’s testimony in the New Testament**

In the New Testament, God gave tremendous testimony to His Son. As Christ said, “*The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me*” (John 5:36-37; see also John 8:17-18; 10:24-25,37-38). The result of his very first miracle in Galilee was that “*his disciples believed on him*” (John 2:11). In Jerusalem, “*many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did*” (John 2:23). Nicodemus acknowledged, “*Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him*” (John 3:2). Nicodemus was not alone in this. John 7:31 says, “*And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?*” Multitudes believed on him when he raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-48; 12:10-11,17-19). We are only told a small portion of this great witness that God bore His Son. John 21:25 says, “*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.*” What has been written of the miracles performed by Christ, God’s testimony to him, serves as the basis of our faith in him. John 20:30-31 says, “*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* God also gave strong testimony to the apostles of Christ and the other New Testament prophets (Acts 3:1-12,16; 4:4,14-16; 5:12-16; 8:5-6; 9:32-42; 15:32). In a courtroom, when a jury hears a witness who accuses a man, and then renders a verdict of not guilty, what are they saying about that witness? As God is giving His testimony to those who wrote the words of the Bible, what are we saying about Him if we do not believe those words? This point is made in 1 John 5:9-10: “*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*” We believe in the Bible because God has given witness to its writers by signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we do not find God a liar. We believe “*for the very works’ sake*” (John 14:11)!