

# WHY WE ONLY BELIEVE THE BIBLE

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The irrefutable evidence that undergirds our belief that the Bible truly contains “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4), also enables us to reject every other man or book that claims inspiration from God. First, those who lack the power to perform miracles are shown to be false prophets. Second, those who lack the ability to foretell the future are also exposed to be false prophets. These are two major tests that we can and should apply to all men who claim to be speaking and writing the word of God. These two tests provide the basis of our belief in the Bible as God’s inspired word and our rejection of any other book or person making such a claim.

## **Who has God’s witness?**

It is interesting to see how many showdowns occurred in both the Old and Testaments between God’s true prophets and those who taught false doctrine. Time and again, we see that God proved who was speaking His word by some kind of miraculous sign (Heb 2:3-4). Those who lacked this witness of God were shown to be liars. For example, in 1 Kings 18, God answered the prophet Elijah by fire, while 850 false prophets of Baal received no witness from their non-existent idol. The people of Israel then knew that Jehovah is God and that Elijah was his true prophet because God bore witness to Elijah by a great miracle. In the same manner, the miracles that Moses did demonstrated he was speaking the word of God, while Pharaoh’s men were only doing a few magic tricks (Exod 7-9). Even the magicians knew the difference between “magic” and a miracle, acknowledging that what was performed by Moses was “*the finger of God*” (Exod 8:19). When Korah and his company claimed equal authority with Moses and Aaron, a miracle settled the matter. God made “a new thing,” opening the earth to swallow the rebels to prove to Israel that the Lord had sent Moses but not the others (Num 16). In the New Testament, the scribes and Pharisees said it was blasphemy for Jesus to say he could forgive sins. Christ then healed a man who was unable to walk, saying, “*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins*” (Matt 9:2-8). The same people said it was a sin to heal the sick on the Sabbath. God bore witness to Christ, as he miraculously healed a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath, proving that he was teaching the truth, unlike his opponents (Matt 12:10-14). If Christ had been speaking his own words, his efforts to do miracles would have failed. God would not give such power to someone teaching false doctrine (John 3:1-2). On Cyprus, Elymas the sorcerer contradicted what Paul and Barnabas taught the Roman deputy of the island (Acts 13:6-8). How would Sergius Paulus know which of the opposite doctrines he was hearing was the truth? God bore witness to Paul by miraculously blinding Elymas (Acts 13:9-11). “*Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord*” (Acts 13:12). Elymas, being the *victim* of a miracle, not a performer of one, was shown to be a “child of the devil” and an “enemy of all righteousness.”

## **Dueling prophecies**

Those who foretold the future accurately are proven to be true prophets of the Lord while those whose prophecies failed are proven to be liars (Deut 18:21-22). For example, in 1 Kings 22, wicked king Ahab had 400 false prophets who told him the Lord would give him victory in battle against the Syrians at Ramoth in Gilead. Micaiah, true prophet of God, foretold that Ahab would die in the battle, which is exactly what happened. Hananiah prophesied that Israel would have peace within two years while Jeremiah foretold a long captivity in Babylon for the remnant of Judah (Jer 28:1-5,10-14). Jeremiah said to Hananiah, “*The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known.*”

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*that the Lord hath truly sent him*" (Jer 28:9). Of course, Hananiah's prophecy failed, but he did not live to see its failure. He became a victim of Jeremiah's true prophecy that he would die within that year (Jer 28:15-17). Other prophets among the captives already in Babylon were also revealed to be false when their prophecies failed while Jeremiah's again came to pass (Jer 29).

## **No continuing revelation**

Is God continuing to inspire men to speak His word today? That is a crucial question to answer. Since the completion of the New Testament, many people have claimed to be speaking God's word, including multitudes among various denominations today. But God has not borne witness to any of these people, and all who have attempted to foretell the future have had their prophecies fail. Jesus promised that "*all truth*," the remainder of what he had to reveal in the New Testament, would be given to his apostles (John 16:12-15). The New Testament contains "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (2 Pet 1:3), and everything that the man of God needs to be "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim 3:17). It is referred to as "the faith which was *once delivered* unto the saints" (Jude 3). The New Testament closes with a stern warning not to add to or take away from it (Rev 22:18-19). In keeping with this, God stated that He would no longer bear witness to men after the New Testament was completed. The miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were part of the witness that God bore to those who spoke the words of the New Testament in order to confirm the word (Heb 2:3-4). Nine of these gifts are described in 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, and 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 says they would "cease" and "vanish away" when the New Testament was finished (i.e. "when that which is perfect is come"). At the same time, the *means* by which those miraculous gifts were given, by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Acts 8:14-20; 19:7; 2 Tim 1:6), would also end. We can see that the completion of the New Testament, the cessation of miracles, and the means of giving those gifts to others, all coincided with the lifetime of Christ's apostles. Therefore, there is no continuing revelation from God today. Finally, the original miracles that confirmed that the Bible is from God remain sufficient for our faith today. In other words, there is no need for us to personally see miracles today to believe the Bible was inspired of God. It does not need to be *reconfirmed*. The formerly rich man in Luke 16:19-31 begged Abraham to have Lazarus raised from the dead so his five brothers would believe God's word and repent. Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." The dead had already been raised, and other miracles had been done to cause men to believe God and repent! If a man does not believe that God has already done, they will not believe if God were to do the same thing again (John 12:37-41; 1 John 5:9-10). John 20:29-31 says, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 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." What is written in the Bible is sufficient for our faith. Therefore, no man or book after the New Testament can rightly claim inspiration from God.