

THE PROOF OF THE BIBLE BEING THE WORD OF GOD

We believe not because of outward proof but because of a living touch with God the Spirit by praying in our spirit with the Word. Although we do not need any outward proof to believe, it is still good to know a few crucial facts. It is good for us and for our friends. But never forget that people believe by the spirit, not by the mind. Doubt is in the mind; faith is in the spirit (see note 2 of 2 Cor. 4:13).

I. THE PROOF BY LOGIC

Since there is a God in this universe, and since He created man, He must want to reveal Himself to man. He is very great and man is very small. What is the best way for Him to reveal Himself to man? He must use the way man communicates—speaking and writing. Thus, there must exist on this earth a book through which God can communicate with man. There are so many books on the face of the earth; which one is God's book to man? How do we know? We can expect God's book to meet the following suppositions:

- A. It should say that the author is God.
- B. It should have the highest standard of morality.
- C. It should talk about God, His purpose, His reason for creation, man, man's problem, solutions to man's problem, and the destiny of creation and man.
- D. It should be available to all men, of all races and tongues, whether they be rich or poor, well-born or low-born, educated or uneducated.

A. Authorship

Let us consider all the books in this world. There are only three books that claim divine authorship—the Bible, the Koran, and the Book of Mormon. The Bible states more than two thousand times that it is spoken by the Lord God. Immediately, we eliminate all the other books.

B. Moral Tone

What about the moral tone of these three books? The moral tone of the Koran is too low. Its heaven is full of lusts and flesh. God could never write a book with such licentiousness and immorality. The Book of Mormon is also substandard in moral tone. It tells men that they will have many wives when they go to heaven, and it promotes bigamy on the earth. Only the Bible has the highest standard of morality. It disallows divorce. Marriages of divorced people are considered adultery (Matt. 19:3-9). The Bible further states that even lusting in the heart is equivalent to committing adultery (Matt. 5:28). This standard exceeds that of any other book on earth. It also teaches people not only to forgive from their heart (Matt. 18:35) but also to love their enemies (Matt. 5:44). It condemns hatred as murder (Matt. 5:22; 1 John 3:15). All books on ethics deal with outward behavior; only the Bible deals with the heart to produce a moral living.

C. Content

Only the Bible tells us about God, His purpose, His reason for creation, man, man's problem, solutions to man's problem, and the destiny of creation and man.

D. Availability

The Bible is readily available to man. It has been translated into approximately two thousand languages. In 1989, six hundred million Bibles were sent out to a world population of 5.5 billion. Within

ten years, the number of Bibles sent out will surpass the population of the world. This means that most of the people on the face of this earth will have an opportunity to read a Bible.

As you can see, there is only one book that is qualified to be God's book to man, and that is the Bible. All other books on earth do not pass the test because they are not written by God to reveal Himself to man. How we praise Him for giving us the Bible and letting us find the Bible. How much we need to treasure the Bible and see God revealed in the Bible!...

IV. THE PROOF BY ITS POWER

There is no other book on earth that can positively change people as dramatically as the Bible can. Scientific books cannot improve a person's disposition; on the contrary, some scientific advancements, such as the manufacture of modern weaponry, make it easier to destroy rather than improve humanity. Language books, instead of uplifting the readers' character, may just make them proud. Only the Bible dispositionally changes people in a positive way.

A. In Gospel Preaching

The Bible exhorts Christians to disciple all nations. The gospel needs to be preached to the uttermost parts of the earth. Many Christians defy all odds to fulfill this commission. Christians have brought the gospel from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, to Asia Minor, to Europe, to Africa, to America, to Asia, and to remote islands. Wherever the gospel went, the broken-hearted were healed, drunkards became sober, prodigal sons and daughters returned home, and evil people turned to God. Some did not regard their lives and were martyred for the Lord. What other book has such power to affect the lives of men?

B. In Changing Behavior

One time, an American merchant in Africa saw a native reading a Bible under a tree. He said to the native, "This book is not popular in America. It is not worth anything." The native pointed to his stomach and said, "If it were not because of this book, you would be in here by now." The native had been a cannibal.

C. In Sensitizing the Conscience

Another time, a person believed in the Lord after hearing the gospel. Later in the day, he stole a bun and ate it. That night, he felt so bad that he could not sleep. The next day, he came back to the brother who had preached to him and said, "I did not get saved yesterday, because I stole something." The brother said, "Before you received the Lord, did you feel bad when you stole?" The new believer said, "Before I received the Lord, the more I stole, the better I could sleep." Then the brother said, "You are really saved, because the Lord in you bothered you when you stole. You need to repent to the Lord and to the store owner."

These are only a few of the millions of stories of people who have been changed by the gospel in the Bible. The Bible has the power to change people's lives.

Lesson Book, Level Six, The Bible – The Word of God (Nee & Lee/LSM), Lessons #5 and #6, pp. 70-72; 78-79)

Discussion questions from Lessons 5 and 6:

1. There are some books in the world that deal with ethics and morality, in the way of improving man's outward behavior. Does a change in outward behavior affect man's inward condition? Give some examples based on your experience. How does the Bible deal with the heart to produce a moral living?

2. Discuss how the number of manuscripts, lectionaries, writings of early believers, and early translations of the New Testament writings proves that the Bible we have in our hands today is pretty much the same as the original writings, even though we do not have any of the original writings.