

The Divine Inspiration of the Bible

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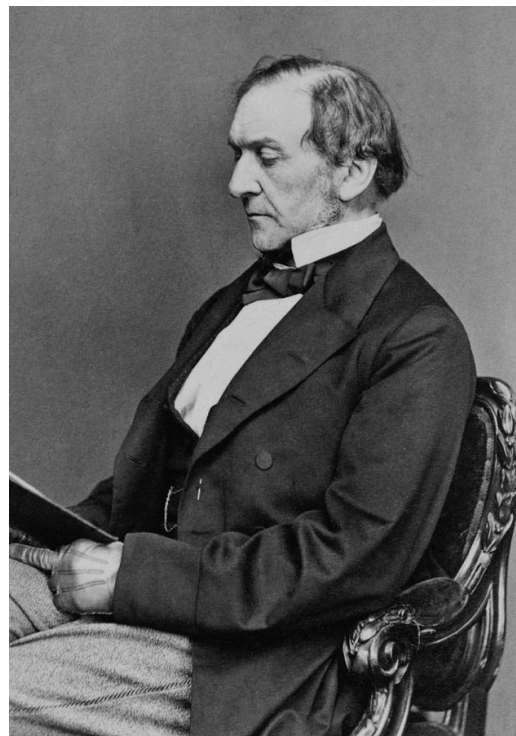
Nowadays we are generally informed that the Bible is untrustworthy, was written so long ago, that so much of its claimed recorded history is now shrouded in the mists of time, that it can't be relied upon, but that it does contain some moral guidelines for us to follow.

Moreover, we need a priest, vicar, parson or pastor to explain it to us, and interpret the chapters and verses, to fit in with preconceived notions, and beliefs, which in turn cause utter confusion, and disbelief, as the Word of God is turned on its head. It is small wonder that people can't be bothered to pick up the Bible, and read it like they would a normal book. They have been brainwashed that it is out of their reach. The Bible is undermined as being out of date and inaccurate. However, it wasn't so long ago where the Bible was held up and revered, and not doubted.

There was a time still classed as modern history that the Prime Minister of this country said this:

the Bible though long assailed by camp, battery and mine, stands upon a Rock impregnable and that the weapon has yet to be forged that can interfere with its position.

Moreover Mr Gladstone added that he thought that the Bible



...it is like to wear out the storms and sunshine and all the wayward aberrations of humanity.

We would certainly agree with that, the main reason being that the Bible itself claims to be the Word of God. Of all the claims and statements in this book, this is the most important.

What is at stake...

For the implications of this claim if accepted mean

- 1) that God exists,
- 2) that this book is the true communication of God
- 3) that this book can be trusted
- 4) that this book must be elevated above all others, and
- 5) its message must be carefully listened to and acted upon.

Let us look at this claim.

2 Timothy 3:14-17. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

This is a hugely important statement.

We must understand what this means. It puts the writings of the Bible on a totally different level to anything that man has written. It means the Bible has an authority higher than man, that we must by default, defer to. It's answers to life's big questions take on a lot more significance.

Bible undermined?

However, the whole trustworthiness of the Bible has been undermined by many higher critics claiming it is not the work of God at all, but just a motley collection of writings from priestly authors who based their ideas on ancient superstitious myths and legends. This view has long entered the psyche of society, who find the contents of the Bible somewhat inconvenient and restricting their lifestyle. Still, anyone who has taken the time to read the Bible will realize that this astonishing claim that the Bible makes, being the Word of God - being divinely inspired holds true.

The evidence is within the book itself.

- Its' reliability at foretelling historical events cannot be replicated by any other book written by any other author anywhere any time.
- Archeological discoveries are regularly being made, continually adding to the mountain of evidence that the events described took place in the Bible in the location described, at the time quoted, by the people listed.
- Above all, in the midst of society, is proof of the truth of God's word. Perhaps because they are a prick to the conscience of the world, or because they inspire envy, they are despised and hated. The eternal Jew.

As for the question of the authorship. Do these eminent professors of higher criticism really know what they are talking about? They have nothing to compare the Bible with. There is no other collection of books extant, which are anywhere as old or complete as the Biblical manuscripts. Where are the precedents that the skeptics can compare the Bible with? There are none.

In fact any rational thinking man will reject their criticism of the Bible out of hand. (In 1864, 137,000 laity, and 11,000 clergy signed in favour of biblical inspiration, and against the Higher Criticism published in *Essays and Reviews*, undermining the Bible as the Word of God, see Desmond & Moore 1991, pp. 523–524)

The Bible, a Library of books

The Bible we know is comprised of 66 books.

Authors were kings, shepherd boys, fig collectors, tax collectors, soldiers, prophets, herdsmen, and even one written by a man who has come back from the dead. A huge variety of backgrounds, and an even wider discrepancy of time between the dates of the writing of the books. We see completely different backgrounds, different eras. Men and women from every situation in life, scattered over the centuries. This library one would expect would be an assorted haphazard random

Surely in any collection of books, all written by different authors, even if written on the same subject, one would not expect to see a uniform character. But with the Bible the opposite is true. We find a library of books, written by forty authors, living in different ages, without any possibility of collusion, or collaboration, producing a book which reveals a continuous uniform theme, a uniform focus, the same doctrine throughout, and what's more all claiming the same authority. This last being it's unique characteristic, which is the focus of this article. It is a miracle of literature.

The claim of the writers of the books of the Bible to have been influenced by the Holy Spirit of God, is no mere empty bluster. These writers, more often than not, sealed their witness with their own blood, being persecuted, and suffering disadvantage for their

testimony:- Hebrews 11:35 -38 (NIV) *There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.*

Would they do this, go through all this, if they did not believe in the words that they were writing, in the Words which had been delivered to them? Every book, every author bar one, claims the inspiration of God such as:

- *Thus saith the Word of the Lord,*
- *And God said,*
- *the Word of the Lord came unto me saying...*

A consistent claim

the claim for Divine authorship is seen throughout the Bible. Not one writer claims originality of ideas, or seeks to force through his own opinion.

The consistent claim to be God's Word, to be Divinely inspired is the stamp of approval, the hallmark of quality, the watermark of the genuine. The Bible is no counterfeit. The Bible is then the voice of indisputable authority.

It tells man the purpose of his life, why death overcomes all, and why God's ultimate intention is to reward the faithful believers with life eternal and to fill the earth with his glory. One passage that shows the effect that God desires His Word should have on those who read the Bible, can be seen through the pen of the prophet Isaiah who

wrote in 66:1-2 *Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.* Trembles at My Word? Yes, those who allow the Word to have an effect upon them, and are as modest and humble as the inspired writers.

Yet such is the way of man, that it is not good enough for him. He doesn't like a higher authority. He wants to be in control of his own destiny yet can never escape the grave. So instead he undermines the Bible.

For example it is claimed that "God didn't mean he made the heavens and the earth in six days. No that's ridiculous, science tells us that life evolved over millions of years". So, the days of creation described in Genesis aren't days at all, they are just symbolic days, and life evolved in stages. This they term 'theistic evolution'. Yet macro evolution cannot be observed, it is just a human theory.

The whole colossal industry of evidence invention is based purely on assumptions and guesswork, yet is accepted as fact.

Not possible to compromise

Compromising this interpretation of the origins of life with the Bible is not acceptable for true Christians. Changing the words of the first few chapters of the Bible, undermines the history as outlined in the first 11 chapters of the Bible, and the whole Bible is undermined.

If the accuracy of the Creation week is doubted, then doubt is placed on the resurrection of Christ. If it is doubted that God can create a new man at all, then of what worth is the Bible at all? it means you

can't trust God, you can't trust the Bible, it has no authority at all, therefore there is no higher authority, and the whole basis of ethics and morality based on the Bible is destroyed.

If the foundation of the Bible is removed, then there is nothing else left. Why would God say something, but mean something completely different? Why would He allow ambiguity? Why would he instil uncertainty right from the outset? He is not the author of confusion. God means what he says. (Unlike mankind, a distinct characteristic of which is double mindedness, and who is unstable in all his ways.)

Some do not go as far as to deny the Creation but suggest that the entire Bible is not Divinely inspired even though the Apostle Paul stated that *All scripture is given by inspiration of God*. People forget this, and when they come to an apparent contradiction in the Bible, or to a part that is rather unpalatable they say, well the Bible is only partly inspired, and it sorts out the problem. But it doesn't, - it yet again undermines the whole basis of the Scriptures. If you can't trust one part, why trust any? For example, some have asserted that the historical events outlined in the Bible, and details such as the number of horses that Solomon had, didn't need Divine inspiration. But this idea has no evidence and runs counter to the Bible's own claims.

As it happens, there was a division within the One Body back in 1884 over this very issue. Those who considered that God only inspired parts of the Bible failed to understand that their arguments destroyed the authority of the Bible, and its power as infallible guide would be finished. In these days those who cast doubts upon the integrity of the Bible and upon its divine authorship are an offence to God. They undermine the trust people should have in His Word:

"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" Jeremiah 23:29



Jeremiah 23:29 *'Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words everyone from his neighbour'. His words still condemn those who seek to undermine and destroy his message for mankind, who seek to prevent others from obtaining salvation just because

they themselves cannot. The last chapter in the Bible solemnly warns against any man adding to, or taking away from, the sacred text.

Such action is a grave affront to its divine author. Any guilty will, by such action, exclude themselves from all hope of salvation. *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18)*

What about all these different translations?

Hasn't man added and changed the Word of God over the years? It is true that there have been many translations of the Scriptures over time: .

Septuagint, Vulgate, Lindisfarne, Wycliff, Tyndale, Erasmus, Coverdale,



Geneva, Douai Rheims to name but a few. It is true also that there are small discrepancies between them, a few are significant.

The act of translating a document though is not the same as the original authorship.

No one is denying that errors can creep in in the act of translation and copying. This is not inspired, but the scriptures as they were given to man originally were, as that is what the scriptures themselves claim. Incidentally all of the errors and omissions which occur in translation can be cross-checked with the original documents, and compared with other translation to get the original anyway.



Discoveries of the Dead Sea scrolls for example have blown the critics away, when comparing the King James version of 1611 to manuscripts from the caves of Qumran, with an amazing

correlation between the two, even though there nearly 2000 years between the two sets of documents.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God. 'ALL' means exactly what the word says. Every word of the original manuscripts was written under direct divine guidance. The Apostle Peter stressed this fact; 2 Peter 1:19-21: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the

will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

So how did this happen then?

How were the authors moved by the Holy Spirit? We recall that the Apostle Paul said that *All scripture is given by inspiration of God.* If we look in a Concordance, a reference book showing the original Hebrew and Greek words, the word ‘inspiration’ in Greek is actually ***theopneustos***.

ΘΕÓΠΝΕΥΣΤΟΣ

- This is a word made up of two words:
- **theo** God, and **pneustos**, breathed.
- Inspiration means God- breathed
- That is His very Spirit. (Greek for spirit is pneuma)
- When God channels His Spirit into a specific purpose, it is Holy. Holy means separated.

The Holy Spirit, has been caused to be given to selected believers causing them to record His words. Proof of this is found for example in 2 Peter 1:20-21. *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

King David explained how he experienced this: 1Ch 28:19: *‘All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me’*, David was the instrument holding the pen, God



was the author who directed the writer's thoughts. This gives a clear picture of how the books of the Bible were produced. Another example is in 2 Samuel 23:2 *The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue*. David here was claiming that what he wrote for posterity was the words imparted to him from God.

What of other authors?

Numbers 33:2: *And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the Lord: and these are their journeys according to their goings out.*

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. In his own words he describes how God revealed to him all the words of the law in the mount, and commanded him to relay them to the nation

Deuteronomy 22:5 *These words the Lord spoke unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.*

If Moses was telling lies and making it up, then surely generations of Jews would not accept this as their history, would they?

Many times, Moses described how what he was relating, was that which had been revealed to him by God. For example the intricate and detailed description, and plans for the building and assembling of the tabernacle and offerings, Moses wrote the words of God: *And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount.* (Exodus 25:40) Moses didn't once claim to be the inventor or designer of the law, even though it became known as the Law of Moses. Never did Moses claim the words which he spoke to the nation were his own words, but words which were revealed to

him or commanded him. Moses over and again ensured that he recorded statements such as:

- *Then the Lord said unto Moses;*
- *That the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying;*
- *And God spoke all these words, saying.*

Towards the end of Deuteronomy, the last of the five books, he records *Deuteronomy 29:29: The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

...those things which are revealed, - that is the law , which he had delivered to them. Clearly, we can see then, how the author, the scribe of the first five books of the Bible gives the credit for the script to the Almighty God. Furthermore, as far as Jesus was concerned, the words as recorded by Moses, were the words of God. For example:

compare

Mark 7:10: For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

with

Matthew 15:4 Jesus said For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

This is because Jesus regarded the words of Moses to have been inspired, to have been God-breathed words.

To Jesus the law of Moses had an authority, the authority of God, thus he said in Luke 16:31. *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one*

rose from the dead. Jesus set the words of the law of Moses, as an higher authority than even his own testimony, saying that if people do not believe in the infallible words of Moses, and the prophets, then why would they even believe in someone who came back from the dead, that is, himself.

Again in Mark 12:26-27: *And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spoke unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?. He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.*

So highly did he esteem the authority of the law and prophets, that to Jesus, the very words themselves were cast iron proof of resurrection.

Infallible

Jesus based His whole life on the infallibility of the Old Testament. Infallible .

- This is from two Latin words,
- *in*, meaning not, and
- *fallere* to deceive.

Man is fallible, he is flawed and deceitful.. He is the source of all the trouble which besets this world.

God is the opposite. His Word is Truth. His word is In fallible. Straight, honest, Trustworthy.

Jesus was born the Son of God. He also was given the Holy Spirit, God's Power of discernment, and the ability to be quick of understanding.

How did Jesus treat the Scripture?

He saw the flawlessness of the Word of God, the Old Testament, the law and the prophets. He believed that the law and prophets were written through men that were divinely inspired by the same Holy Spirit he had been given. For example: Matthew 22:43 *He saith unto them, How then doth David **in spirit** call him Lord, saying,* and again in Mark 12:36 *For David himself said **by the Holy Spirit**, The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Jesus believed and taught clearly that holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. He not only based his teaching solely on them, but based his life, framed his life on their very words.

Example of Paul the Apostle

So convinced was Paul the Apostle of the accuracy of the Old Testament Scripture which he had in his possession, that he was prepared to argue his case based on just one word!

For example he argued on the basis of one word Galatians 3:16 *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.* The difference being the letter s.

The difference between singular and plural - Paul used this as a cornerstone in his teaching to prove the promise of a promised Messiah, so reliable did he regard the accuracy of the text of the Torah as being the Word of God.

How dangerous then is it to say that the Bible is not inspired or only partly inspired. You are calling Jesus an imposter, and Paul a fool who didn't know what he was talking about. That is exactly what the atheist does say. They will have their reward.

But to those who do accept the Word, you must appreciate it is a Rock. It does not, has not changed. It is not the designs or ideas of man. It is the pure Spirit - the Holy Spirit of God, which has moved through an individual to record words for posterity.

Every word...

Words which map out God's purpose through types and shadows, through psalm and prophecy. Proverbs 30:5-6 *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

Thus the Lord Jesus exclaimed to his disciples Matthew 5:17-18 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

In this way the Lord Jesus endorses all the Words of the Old Testament. In another place Jesus said Luke 24:44. *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me., ...O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*

Never once did Jesus say don't worry about reading all the lists of names, and the numbers of Solomon's horses are not important. In some way however obscure, every jot and tittle Jesus said is there for a reason. He didn't say "Oh its alright to ignore the words of Elihu in the book of Job or the words of Balaam the son of Beor, because they were wrong anyway". No, No! That is allowing the mere judgement of man to interfere.

Jesus was emphatic when he for example quoted the psalms John 10:35 *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*

The Scripture cannot be broken.

The scribes and Pharisees changed the Law of Moses to suit themselves as they saw fit. They discarded the words of God, and elevated their own. Men have been doing it ever since. But Jesus, we can read, *taught with authority*, and not as the scribes, as he based his life and teaching purely on the Word.

- He became that Word
- He is described as *the Word made flesh* (John 1:14)
- Just as Jesus Christ was the manifestation of the Spirit, so was the Word which he lived and breathed Inspired, the Spirit of God.
- The two go hand in hand.

Deny the inspiration of the Scriptures. You deny Christ.

Was the New Testament Divinely inspired?

The Apostles and writers of the letters and gospel records, all attest to the truth and veracity of the Old Testament - by hundreds of references. They, when they wrote were also under the Inspiration, and power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised his disciples that after his ascent to the Father he would not leave them alone, but would fortify them with the Holy Spirit, as a means to assist them in fulfilling his command for them to go into all the world, preaching the gospel and baptizing.

The Holy Spirit would be their authority to Jew and Gentile alike.

As Jesus promised in John 14: 16. *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 26. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

The disciples and Apostles were promised the Holy Spirit would teach and bring all things to their remembrance. At the feast of Pentecost, sure enough, Jesus words were fulfilled, (they would be because he was inspired of course!) Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, **as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

They did not make the words up, they did not invent them - *the Spirit gave them utterance.* The Apostles went forth preaching the gospel under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They were Divinely Inspired.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:13. *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, **but as it is in truth, the word of God,** which effectually worketh also in you that believe. and again:*
- 1 Corinthians 14:37. *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you **are the commandments of the Lord.***
- 1 Corinthians 2:13. *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.. **Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but***

which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

That is quite a claim, but no different to that of the Old Testament writers. It shows the modesty and humility of Paul for one, but also means that his writings can be trusted. Why did he not take the credit for himself? Because if he did, it would undermine the very words he was speaking. And it would have been dishonest, because they were not his words. Paul had quite an influence in those days. If he claimed his preaching was his own ideas, he would have been able to craft a real following, he would have become famous and even rich. But he didn't. He gave credit where it was due, he shrank back from any suspicion of self-elevation, describing himself as less than the least of the saints. (Ephesians 3:8) His words were accepted with authority. Again in the letter he writes *1 Corinthians 14:37. If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

This claim then elevates Paul's writings to that of the Law, psalms and prophets, **as the commandments of the Lord**. Paul in writing to the ecclesia in Thessalonica, on the west coast of Turkey specifically said that he wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit *1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.*

Just to show the evidence is conclusive, just to show the claims of the Scriptures are consistent, Let's look at the very first words of the letter to the Hebrews: *Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and*

*in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken **unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;* Again it is quite clear, the writer shows that what he writes is by revelation.

Revelation

As one last reference, to show the provenance of the New Testament, Revelation 1:1: *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:* The author of this book is none other than Jesus Christ himself.

This last book draws on hundreds of references from the Old Testament, binding the Scriptures together as a whole. This book is full of prophecies which have come true, proving the inspired Truth of the Word of God, proving the very existence of God, proving the purpose he has with man is on track, as he has planned. The book being authored by Jesus, proves also the resurrection of the dead. If the Bible is a literary miracle, this last book is the jewel in the crown, the conclusion of the whole matter: But in this last book there is a solemn warning: 22:18. *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

What next?

Having established that the Word of God, must be accepted for exactly that- it leaves the reader with a sense of responsibility like no other book. **It must be acted upon.**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable

- *for doctrine,*
- *for reproof,*
- *for correction,*
- *for instruction in righteousness:*

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

This what the Word of God can do to us, if we allow it, to join the ranks of the faithful who made the Word of God part of them, and live it, just as Christ did. To be called men and women of God, and be perfect in God's eyes, their sins forgiven, because they believe in the Word, and allow it to have an effect upon their lives.



Paul the Apostle described the Word graphically *Hebrews 4:12*
For the word of God is quick,
and powerful, and sharper
than any two edged sword,
piercing even to the dividing

asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a
discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It is vital that we do not become distracted by the attempts of wilful ignorance to undermine the scriptures.

Jesus has words for the unbeliever: John 12:47-48. *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to*

judge the world, but to save the world.. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

The Psalmist regarded the Word of God, as his most precious possession: *Psalms 19:7-11 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*