



# AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

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# Didn't Just Men Write the Bible?

by Daryl E. Witmer

**Why should I believe that the Bible is the word of God? As far as I can tell it was just men who wrote the Bible.**

Well it certainly was men who held the pens that inked those original manuscripts. But one of those men — Peter, who was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus — explained that everyone who had recorded Scripture up to that time had actually *not* been writing on their own. They had written what God wanted them to write. Peter said, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

**"Carried along" by the Holy Spirit? What does that mean?**

Some translations render that phrase as "moved." In 2 Timothy 3:16 the Apostle Paul wrote that "All Scripture is *inspired* by God." That is to say, God *breathed out* the words that these men wrote.

**So are you saying that these guys were like secretaries, taking dictation from God?**

No, inspiration wasn't the same as dictation. It didn't always necessarily involve hearing God audibly. Yet the sense of what God wanted written was just as real and specific. David,

whom God inspired to author many of the psalms, including the famous 23rd Psalm, described it this way: 'The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.' (2 Samuel 23:2) The prophet Ezekiel, like many other prophets of God, repeatedly wrote: "The word of the Lord came to me, saying . . ."



Dr. Norm Geisler, in *When Skeptics Ask*, ©1990-1996 Baker Books, says: "Scripture comes from God. In this process, the human writer is seen as one who has received a revelation and actively participates in its writing, while God gives the revelation and oversees the writing. Hence, the message is wholly from God, but the humanity of the writer is included to enhance the message. Both the divine and human concur in the same words (1 Corinthians 2:13). The net result is that we have the Word of God written by men of God, inspired not only in its concepts, but in the very words used to express those concepts. The human writers are . . . active agents who express their own experiences, thoughts, and feelings in what they have written. It is not simply a record of revelation, but a revelation itself. It is God's message in written form (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:21)."

Wayne Grudem, a highly respected evangelical Bible scholar, summarizes all of this in eight simple words in his *Systematic Theology*, ©1994 IVP: "...the words of Scripture are God's very words."

**But a lot of authors would say that they were inspired to write.**

Probably not so many would claim to have been inspired in the sense of the word as we've just defined it.

**But what about those who would? Muslims say that the *Koran* was verbally revealed by God to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel. Mormons believe that *The Book of Mormon* was supernaturally revealed to Joseph Smith. Helen Schucman claims that *A Course in Miracles* came to her from Jesus. And on and on.**

The scriptures of many religions are undoubtedly the result of supernatural revelation. But all that is supernatural is not of God.

**Are you suggesting that the holy books of all religions except Christianity are false and therefore from the devil?**

The Bible says that "many false prophets have gone out into the world." Contradictory revelations can't both be true because truth is exclusive, by definition. And besides, isn't that essentially the same charge that other religions level against Christianity?

**Is there any objective evidence that more was involved than mere men in writing the Bible?**

Yes. Here are four *unique* lines of evidence showing the Bible to be more than the work of mere men:

- 1) Archaeological validation.
- 2) Many authors, unified theme.
- 3) Endorsement of Jesus Christ.
- 4) Fulfilled prophecy.

**More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith**