

ARISE BIBLE STUDY DOCTRINES

Study: The Word of God (WG)

Purpose: The purpose of this Bible study is to show that the Bible is trustworthy . . .

Center It: What can we learn about God from this study? God is a God of love who longs to communicate, as all lovers do. It's God's love letter to us.

Know It / Mark It:

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| 1. II Timothy 3:15-17 | 4. John 14:29 |
| 2. II Peter 1:19-21 | 5. Isaiah 46:9, 10 |
| 3. I John 4:8 | 6. Daniel 2 |

Share it:

1. **II Timothy 3:15-17:** The Bible is inspired by none other than God. Here's an example: Imagine that we go to the library and decide to sort out all of the books into either of two categories. The books in the library could be organized by the gender of the author or by whether the content of is in the fiction or nonfiction genres. In our case, we will separate the books into two categories: Books that claim that they are of God and books that do not make the latter extraordinary claim. The pile of books that assert their divinity will be shorter than the pile of books that do not go as far as to claim their divine heritage. The claim that the Bible is inspired by God is a very unusual claim – a claim that most books dare not mention.
2. **II Peter 1:19-21:** The Bible is written by people who were inspired – or moved – by God. The latter are extraordinary, unusual claims – and extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.
3. **I John 4:8:** God is love. If this claim is true, it's the best news imaginable
4. **John 14:29:** God tells us before it happens, so that we can believe when it happens. Circle or underline the words "present" and "believe".
5. **Isaiah 46: 9, 10:** Let me share with you one of the Bible's most amazing prophecies . . .
6. **Daniel 2:** You can face earthly kings with confidence if you face your real King with humility. Daniel didn't know the dream, but he knew the One who knew the dream. When God gives you an answer, it's always the right one. This prophecy was given in 600 B.C., and about 2600 years of human history were predicted in one chapter!
 - a. **Seven predictive elements:**
 - i. Medo-Persia would come after Babylon
 - ii. Greece would come after Persia
 - iii. Rome would conquer Greece
 - iv. Rome would collapse (476 A.D.) and be divided
 - v. A fragmented Europe tried to unite
 - vi. Europe would fail in its attempt to unite
 - vii. God would establish a kingdom that would never end

- b. **CITE:** Please allow me to cite four areas that clearly indicate that the Bible is a coherent, consistent book. These key words can be summed up in one acronym: CITE . . .
- i. **C: Cultural.** The Bible is trans-culturally popular in a way no book has ever been. Most books, with few exceptions, are only popular in their own language. Contrariwise, everyone loves the Bible! Why would anyone want to read a book written in the Hebrew language by a nomadic tribe in the Middle East? The answer is that there's something in the Bible that transcends culture.
 - ii. **I: Internal.** The Bible is not merely 66 individuals – it is a compilation of 66 books written by a wide plethora of authors. All 66 books, written over a period of thousands of years, comprise a cohesive volume!
 - iii. **T: Transmissional.** The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. They gave us access to 2100-year old versions of the O.T. that were essentially the same as our current translations of the Bible. In the intervening 2000 years or so, this Bible was consistently preserved. Interestingly, the Bible we have today is the very same one that Jesus would have had, albeit in Aramaic. There is a term called "attestation", which is simply defined as evidence for a claim or a persona in history. We have better attestation of Jesus than we have of Alexander the Great or William Shakespeare!
 - iv. **E: Experiential.** I have found the Bible to be the voice of God to my soul. (*Two-minute testimony of my own life story and how God has impacted my life. Don't hard-sell!*)

Appeal: Would you like to continue to learn more about the Bible? [®]

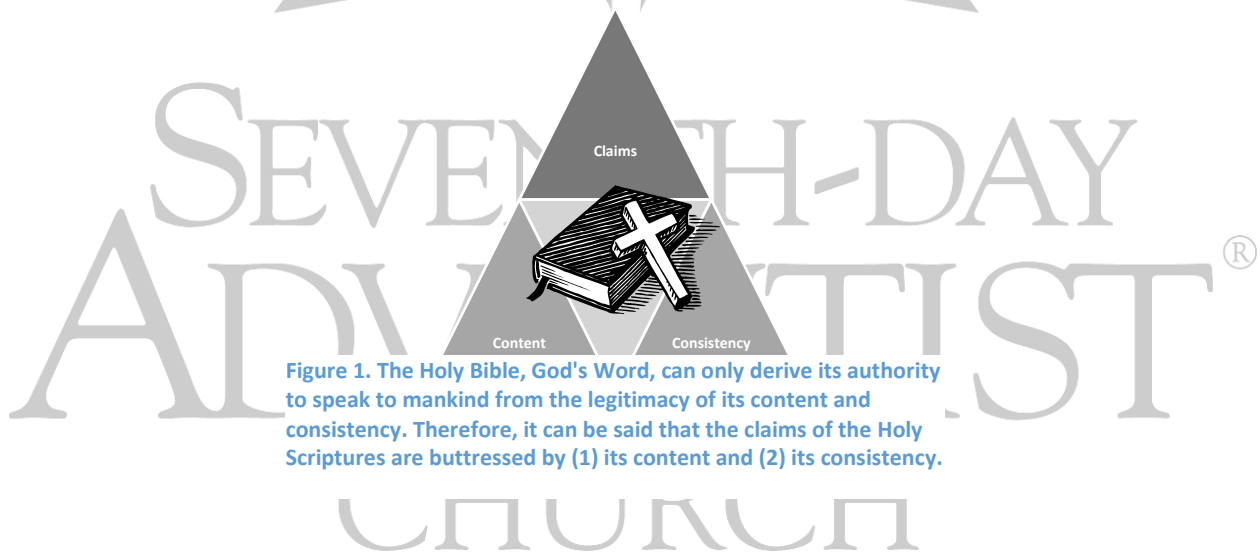


Figure 1. The Holy Bible, God's Word, can only derive its authority to speak to mankind from the legitimacy of its content and consistency. Therefore, it can be said that the claims of the Holy Scriptures are buttressed by (1) its content and (2) its consistency.

Defend It:

Objection: How do you know the Bible wasn't written when it claimed to have been written?

Answer 1: 1947. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. 100-200 B.C. What book was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls? Daniel – and there were few, if any changes!

Answer 2: Matthew 24:15. Jesus is quoting Daniel as an earlier authority.



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