

THE INSPIRED BOOK

By Winston Atkinson

LESSON ONE

1. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY FILMS (Omit when showing)
2. THE INSPIRED BOOK (Lesson one)

This series of studies is concerned with "The Inspired Book." This statement does not, within itself, tell us which book will be under consideration; because all books are inspired. There is no such thing as an uninspired book. To say that such exists, is to say that it's existence is an accident; or, that it just happened, and books don't just happen. They exist as a result of someone's having been inspired by persons, objects, conditions, ideas, emotions, etc.

3. THE BOOK OF BOOKS

This one statement is sufficient to describe the book whose inspiration we shall examine in our studies. Truly, this book is, second to none, the leader of them all, the greatest on earth, the book of all books.

4. OPEN BIBLE

Yes, we are talking about the Bible, the book which is the foundation of the faith of millions. Have you ever thought what would happen if that foundation were to give way? Have you ever pondered over the terrible condition the world would soon be in, if that foundation were to crumble? "Deliver us from such a thought," you say. It isn't that easy. We must face the facts. The supreme being, called God. If it is the product of man, then we, who believe it, are of all men most miserable. On the other hand, if it is God's book, we are of all men most blessed; because, it contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Much is at stake; our happiness in this life, our destiny in the hereafter, and even the hereafter itself. Since so much is at stake, we should be deeply concerned about the foundation of our faith.

5. HOW INSPIRATION CONCERNS US

Our study will be divided into four lessons. The subject of the first lesson is, "How Inspiration Concerns Us." During this lesson, we will learn what inspiration is, how the Bible was inspired, and something about the importance of inspiration. In other words, we will learn why we should be concerned about the inspiration of the Bible.

6. INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INSPIRATION

The second lesson in our study will deal with "Internal Evidence of Inspiration." In this study we will begin to prove the Bible to be the inspired Word of God.

7. ARCHAEOLOGY AND INSPIRATION

Next, we shall discuss "Archaeology and Inspiration." This study will deal with many of the recent discoveries made by archaeologists, which have helped to prove the inspiration of the Bible.

8. SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION

The last part of the study deals with science, "Scientific Foreknowledge and Inspiration." In other words, modern scientific facts, known and practiced before modern times, all of which helps to prove the Bible to be God's book.

9. HOW INSPIRATION CONCERNS US

We are now prepared to consider the first portion of our study, "How Inspiration Concerns Us."

10. PLAN FOR STUDY

There are four steps in our plan, for covering the subject. (1) What is inspiration?; (2) Theories of inspiration; (3) How the Bible was inspired; (4) The importance of inspiration. Now let us take the first step.

11. BREATHES IN

The word inspiration literally means "breathes in," as to breathe into the lungs. As we continue our study we will better understand this.

12. WEBSTER'S DEFINITION

Webster gives us this definition: "A supernatural influence which qualifies men to receive and communicate divine truth." Note: "A supernatural influence," that's God's part; "which qualifies men," to do two things; "receive and communicate," that's man's part; "divine truth," that's the Bible.

13. DID GOD WRITE THE BIBLE?

Question: Did God actually write the Bible? Think about it for a moment. We believe it to be God's book. We believe Him to be it's author. But, did He actually write it?

14. PICTORIAL: BIBLE GIVEN TO THE WORLD

Did God, with His own hands write the Bible and then give it to man, as is here pictured? Is this how we got the Bible?

15. NO

Of course, the answer is obvious. No one is foolish enough to take such a position.

16. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Who wrote the Bible? To be sure, someone did. We possess it today. We believe it is God's book; and yet, we don't believe God wrote it. Well, who did?

17. ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES

The matter is really very simple. There are only two possibilities, either God or man. Since God did not write the Bible, there is only one other alternative--man.

18. WEBSTER'S DEFINITION

Let's look at Webster's definition again. He says inspiration is a "supernatural influence." This power or influence is exerted by God. To influence is to exercise control over the actions of another. Thus, God, the supernatural one, exercised control over man. This influence "qualifies" or enables man to receive divine truth and to communicate the same.

19. INSPIRATION IS:

Therefore, inspiration is the process which God employed to keep His record to man free from error. In the process, God exercised control or power over man. Man was therefore not free to act on his own, but rather, he was moved to action by this supernatural influence. Under the influence of God, man did but two things, (1) receive divine truth; (2) communicate these truths to others. Therefore, the Bible, God's record to man, must be free from human error.

20. PLAN FOR STUDY

We have taken the first step of our plan, "What is inspiration." We are now ready to take the second. Down through the ages men have introduced many ideas as to how the Bible was inspired. Let us consider some of these various theories of inspiration.

21. THREE THEORIES

These theories of inspiration are many; however, we shall consider only three: (1) natural; (2) thought; (3) verbal.

22. PICTORIAL: NATURAL

Those who hold to the natural theory of inspiration believe the writers of the Bible were inspired only in a natural way, much like other great men of literature; such as, Shakespeare, Poe, Tennyson, Browning and Milton. The result of this theory is such that it would make the books of the Bible merely literary productions, with all of the errors that belong to human productions. In reality, those who advance this theory mean that the Bible is not the infallible Word of God; but rather, only a good inspiring book, even though it has its mistakes as any other human production would have.

23. PICTORIAL: THOUGHT

The thought theory holds that God, through the Holy Spirit, merely gave the thought to man and left him free to clothe that thought in his own words and in his own way. Of course, this theory would also leave room for a few slight errors, since the writer would necessarily have something to do with the selection of words in which to clothe the God-given thoughts.

24. PICTORIAL: VERBAL

The verbal theory advocates hold that God, through the Holy Spirit, put the words into the mouth of the speakers and guided the very pen of the writers, so that every thought and word was just as he wanted it. In other words, the writers and speakers were mere passive instruments. Perhaps a better name for this

theory would be, "Word-for-Word" inspirations. It is comforting to know that the greatest Bible scholars, preachers, and soul winners of all time, have believed the Bible to be the infallible, verbally inspired Word of God.

25. PLAN FOR STUDY

Now that we have learned of the various theories of inspiration, we need to know which theory is fact. Let us then turn to the Bible, consider a few passages and see how the Bible was inspired.

26. II PETER 1:21

In II Peter 1:21 we read, "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." From this passage it is evident the Bible was not written by men of their own choice nor from their own sources of information. This is the way it happened, "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This verse certainly claims divine, verbal inspiration for everything in the Bible. Notice particularly that the claim for supernatural revelation in II Peter 1:21, is made primarily for the Old Testament, which is usually attacked by modernists and unbelievers! Literally hundreds of times in the Old Testament, these holy men of God say that, "The word of the Lord came to Moses and to Aaron, saying...", or "Thus saith the Lord" or "Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying...", or "For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me," etc.

27. EXODUS 24:3,4

Read with us next from Exodus 24:3,4, "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord." The writings of Moses are attacked more often than any other part of the Bible as being not accurate, not scientifically true, or not historically correct. Those who with unbelieving, rebellious hearts, criticize the first five books in the Bible, claim that it is not perfectly inspired; that it is made up of legends; that it contains many "survivals of primitive religious thinking." But we are not left in the dark about the method of inspiration of these books of Moses. The passages just read from Exodus clearly tell us how Moses wrote the books ascribed to him.

28. EXODUS 24:7,8

We continue our reading from Exodus 24, "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, all that the Lord hath said will we do,.....behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." It could not be more clearly stated that Moses told the people "ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD," that the people agreed to follow "ALL THE WORDS WHICH THE LORD HATH SAID," and that when Moses wrote the book he wrote "ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD." Thus, we see the Holy Spirit gave His revelation to Moses by verbal, or word-for-word inspiration.

29. ISAIAH 51:16

In Isaiah 51:16 we read, "And I have put my words in thy mouth...." God says to Isaiah, "I have put my words in thy mouth." The words are GOD'S WORDS. That is certainly verbal inspiration.

30. JEREMIAH 26:2

God also dictated the very words to Jeremiah 36:2 we read, "take thee a roll of a book, and write therein ALL THE WORDS that I have spoken unto thee against Israel....." The rest of the chapter tells us the very details of the word-for-word dictation and the way they were written down. Just another case of verbal inspiration.

31. EZEKIEL 2:7

Ezekiel was also called of God to be a prophet. God said to him, "And thou shalt speak MY WORDS unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear." Ezekiel 2:7. In Ezekiel 3:27 God said, "But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God."

32. ACTS 1:16

We note the Holy Ghost spoke by mouth of David. "Men and Brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus."

33. 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." Acts 2:4. Luke, the author of this book, has just described the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. He says the result was, "They began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance." Note: It wasn't the thought but the very words which were given. Therefore, the apostles also spake and wrote by word-for-word inspiration.

34. I CORINTHIANS 2:12, 13

We are now reading from I Corinthians 2:12, 13, "...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 teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." Here, Paul affirms that God, through the Holy Ghost, had freely made known unto them certain things. He then adds that these things were spoken; but, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth." This certainly denies, in the strongest language possible, the thought theory and upholds the verbal theory of inspiration.

35. PLAN FOR STUDY

The first three steps of our plan have now been taken; "What is inspiration," "Theories of Inspiration," and "How the Bible was inspired." Last, we shall consider "The importance of inspiration." This is really a very important step. If we fail to understand the importance of inspiration, we will never be able to truly appreciate this series of studies.

36. INSPIRATION PLUS REVELATION

Someone has said, "Inspiration plus revelation equals the Bible." In other words, the two, revelation and inspiration, added together, give us the Bible. The author of this statement has, perhaps, long since been forgotten, but the

statement will stand as a very descriptive one. It describes perfectly how we got our Bible and more especially, the important part inspiration played. However, we must understand what is meant by it. Let us take a closer look.

37. WE KNOW WHAT INSPIRATION IS

Now, of course, we know what inspiration is. We learned in the first part of this lesson that inspiration is "the process which God employed to keep His record to man free from error." In the process the writers, being influenced by God, wrote word-for-word what God dictated. So we know what inspiration is.

38. WHAT IS REVELATION?

But, what is revelation? We must also understand this term before we can realize the importance of inspiration.

39. WEBSTER'S DEFINITION

Webster gives us this definition: "To divulge; to disclose; to open up to view."

40. PICTORIAL: VEILED STATUTE

A thing which is not seen or not opened up to view, or a thing undisclosed is unrevealed. In this picture, the object is still hidden. When a revelation is made, the object will be brought into view of all.

41. PICTORIAL: UNVEILED STATUTE

When the cover is taken off, a revelation is made. The object which was unknown is now disclosed. A revelation has been made.

42. REVELATION IS:

Revelation is, "The process by which God made known unto man, things beyond humanity's ability to discover." There were many things which humanity was unable to know; how the world came to exist as it does, the origin of man, the need of a Saviour, the hereafter, etc. In his book, God has made a revelation about these matters and others. So, revelation is the way God let man know the things which man could not have known otherwise.

43. GOD MAKING KNOWN TO MAN

Or, God making known to man the unknown. Think of the many things which would still be unknown to man, were it not for the Bible. These compose, "the unknown," which God has made known.

44. LOOK AGAIN

Now that we know what the terms revelation and inspiration mean, let us take a second look at the statement, "inspiration plus revelation equals the Bible." The statement says, two things added together equal one. Inspiration, added to revelation, equals the Bible. That's a perfect equation. If something were taken from one side, of necessity something also must be taken from the other side. If inspiration were taken away, the left side would no longer equal the right side, the Bible. From this it is plain to see the important role inspira-

tion plays. Revelation, minus inspiration, would equal nothing but a human production. If God had revealed, unto the writers of the Bible, the truths contained therein; then left them on their own to express these truths as they saw fit, the result would have been much different. We rejoice in know that He not only made a revelation, but also guarded that revelation by the process of inspiration. Thus, we have the Bible.

45. MUST BE INSPIRED

The Bible, the book of books, must be inspired.

46. OUR FAITH IS VAIN

If the Bible is not the verbally inspired Word of God but only another human production, our faith is in vain. All that we now believe is for naught if the foundation of our faith, which is the Bible, fails.

47. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IN?

What do we believe in? It would take days or perhaps even months to tell of all we believe in; because, we believe in every story, every sentence and even in every word in the Bible. Let us recall but a few of these things.

48. PICTORIAL: CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of the creation and how man came into existence. No other account is even logical.

49. PICTORIAL: EDEN

The beautiful story of a sublime garden called Eden, with its paradise of blessings, thrills the souls of young and old alike.

50. PICTORIAL: CAIN AND ABEL

We believe the story of the first boys and how one, "by faith offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice" than the other; how the other became angry because his sacrifice was rejected, and slew the righteous one.

51. PICTORIAL: FLOOD

Today, we become more mindful of God when we remember the time His wrath was poured out on a wicked world. The story of the destruction of the wicked and the salvation of eight righteous souls, reminds us of the willingness and power of God to save, even today.

52. PICTORIAL: ABRAHAM

The unshakeable faith of Abraham in his maker, even to the extent of offering his own son as a sacrifice at the command of God, has stood for centuries as an example of the kind of faith all men should have in God.

53. PICTORIAL: ISAAC

The story of Jacob, the father of the Twelve Tribes and how he deceived his father, has been read and remembered by millions.

54. PICTORIAL: JACOB

The dream of Jacob has thrilled both children and their parents.

55. PICTORIAL: JOSEPH

We thrill to recall the story of just Joseph. We are sad with him when he is sold by his wicked brothers, and are glad to rejoice with him when he rises to power in far away Egypt.

56. PICTORIAL: MOSES

The story of baby Moses is believed by all who hold the Bible as true. We believe the stories about this great man of God, who became the leader of a mighty nation.

57. PICTORIAL: RED SEA

The Exodus account of the crossing of the Red Sea is the story of a great miracle; but, we who believe the Bible have placed faith in it.

58. PICTORIAL: SAMSON

The stories of Samson, the strong man, have stood for ages as evidence of what God can do through a man.

59. PICTORIAL: DAVID

David was just a lad; but, he killed the giant, God being his helper. Thousands have been led to do what seemed to be the impossible after reading this inspiring story.

60. PICTORIAL: SAVIOUR'S BIRTH

A Saviour was born, and there is hope. We believe the Bible story of His life, including each and every detail.

61. PICTORIAL: CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

The Son of God was crucified on the cross. We not only believe this, but understand why it had to be.

62. PICTORIAL: RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

"He is not here, but is risen," was good news to those who came to the open tomb in the long ago; and still, even today, causes us to rejoice with hope.

63. PICTORIAL: THE BIBLE AMONG OTHER BOOKS

What do we believe in? We believe in all of this and much more. We believe in the Bible. We believe it is God's revealed, inspired Word. Thus, we are willing to be led by its light. Note: The first part of this series does not deal with and proofs of inspiration. We have learned "How inspiration concerns us." The next three lessons will offer many proofs for our faith in the "INSPIRED BOOK."

THE INSPIRED BOOK

Lesson Four

181. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY FILMS (Omit when showing)

182. THE INSPIRED BOOK (Lesson four)

This is the last of our series of four lessons dealing with the inspiration of the greatest and grandest book on earth.

183. SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION

We are living in an age that prides itself with being scientific. The present age is sometimes styled, "the age of Science." Literally thousands of new scientific facts are unveiled each year. As a result the comforts of life have so multiplied, in the last few years, we can hardly imagine what lies ahead. The Bible was obviously not intended to be a textbook on science, but it does deal with many scientific truths. One of the best evidences of the Bible's inspiration is the vast number of scientific truths which were hidden in its pages for centuries, only to be discovered by man in recent times.

184. MODERN SCIENCE IN AN ANCIENT BOOK

In this lesson we will consider a few of the unquestioned scientific truths recently discovered, pointing out that the Bible mentioned these same facts long years before. First, we need to be warned of two things. (1) It is certainly possible to go overboard with this type of reasoning. Just because something round is referred to in the scriptures, doesn't mean that it was a prediction of the modern car with its steering wheel. With a wild stretch of the imagination, men have found motor cars, airplanes, television, radio, submarines, atomic bombs, and even flying saucers, in the scriptures. (2) We should be mindful of the fact that the writer did not necessarily understand the thing whereof he wrote. The purpose of his written material was not to teach scientific facts. In telling the Bible story, however, God, through the writer, sometimes made reference to scientific truths, which were later discovered by man.

185. THE BIBLE

In this lesson we will take into consideration some of the modern scientific facts, which were revealed in an ancient book. Of course, the ancient book is the Bible. Let us now proceed.

186. FIVE MANIFESTATIONS

Herbert Spencer was the first to announce to the world what he called, "five manifestations of the unknown."

187. (1) TIME; (2) FORCE, ETC.

The announcement said that everything else is based on these five fundamentals, which are time, force, action, space, and matter. Today, this is accepted in the realm of science as an unquestionable fact.

188. GENESIS 1:1

Amazing as it may seem, when God had Moses to write the story of the creation, he had all five of the manifestations of the unknown put into the first verse.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

189. (1) IN THE BEGINNING (2) GOD, ETC.

Now note carefully what Moses said, "In the beginning," time, "God," force, "created," action, "the heavens," space, "and the earth," matter. Thus, all of the five scientific fundamentals were stated by Moses in the very first verse of the Bible. The only logical answer is that God told him what to write. Bear in mind, Moses was not making a declaration of scientific truths, but rather giving an account of the creation. In so doing, it became necessary to make use of the five scientific fundamentals. He, Himself, probably did not understand them as such, yet he wrote with complete accuracy.

190. THREE KINGDOMS

The second argument deals with those three well known kingdoms---mineral, vegetable, and animal. Today we realize that everything not manufactured may be properly classified into one of these three kingdoms. Records of antiquity reveal that the ancients knew nothing of such divisions. This scientific division is comparatively new, having been made about 1735 A.D.

191. PICTORIAL: MINERAL KINGDOM

Since the announcement was made, man has striven to classify everything either as mineral.....

192. PICTORIAL: VEGETABLE KINGDOM

Or vegetable.....

193. PICTORIAL: ANIMAL KINGDOM

Or animal.

194. GENESIS ONE

Probably not realizing himself, what he was doing, as he was being directed by God, yet as a fact, we present the same divisions which Moses made in the first chapter of Genesis. The first ten verses were used by Moses to describe the creation of the mineral kingdom, the next nine verses were spent discussing the vegetable kingdom. He used the rest of the chapter to tell the story of the animal kingdom. How did Moses come to make such a division? The question cannot be answered without taking God into consideration.

195. ONE BED AND MANY SEAS

The next thought along the line of scientific foreknowledge is with reference to the one common bed, which all of our many bodies of water have.

196. PICTORIAL: BOTH SIDES OF THE GLOBE

Today, we accept without question, the story told in this picture. We know that all the oceans and the great gulfs, and seas of the world are joined together in one common bed. Men no longer entertain thoughts of "but one small ocean," knowing of the existence of many.

197. GENESIS 1:9-10

The perplexing question is, how did Moses know about these things, for he had said, "And God said, let waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place,.....and the gathering together of the waters, call the seas." The question is not so difficult when we realize God was his source of information.

198. ALL RIVERS RUN INTO THE SEA

Next, we present an argument relative to a fact well known to all. That is, that all rivers run into the sea, or oceans, and yet the seas never overflow because of an influx of water.

199. PICTORIAL: WATER CYCLE

Knowledge of the "water cycle" has come to be common place in the minds of modern men. Water is precipitated as rain or snow, then drained off by the river systems into the oceans, from whence it is resurrected by evaporation back into the skies, and the process started again.

200. ECCLESIASTES 1:7

No wonder we refer to Solomon as, "the wise man." For centuries before these facts were known to man, he said, "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from when the rivers come, thither they return again." Whether this verse teaches the cycle of water from clouds to rain to rivers to ocean to evaporation to clouds, or seepage of the ocean water back to the springs again, is of little importance. The point is, Solomon said, "Rivers run into the sea, and the seas are not full."

201. HOW DID THE WRITER KNOW THIS?

How did the writer of Ecclesiastes know this? Surely he had not traveled around the globe, making observations to base his statement upon. Obviously, the answer is, as Peter said, "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

202. THE EMPTY SPACE IN THE NORTH

Astronomy is undoubtedly one of the sublimest of all the natural sciences. In recent decades, hundreds of remarkable discoveries have been made in the realm of the beyond. Among the phenomenal, was the discovery of a vast empty space in the north. It contains no revolving planets or twinkling stars.

203. PICTORIAL: EARTH AND THE EMPTY SPACE IN THE NORTH

When the giant telescope is beamed to the South, the East, and the West, millions of objects are brought into view. However, when the eye of the telescope is turned exactly to the North, there appears a blank space, for which astronomers cannot account.

204. JOB 26:7

The invention of the telescope was only recent; therefore, man could not have known of this strange wonder, until a few years ago. Yet, over 3,000 years ago Job said, "He stretched out the north over the empty space, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Again we emphasize, a knowledge of what the empty place stands for, is of little importance. The point is, it does exist. Job may not have understood; nevertheless, he wrote accurately of this scientific fact.

205. WHAT HOLDS THE EARTH IN PLACE?

This is a good question, one no doubt every child has entertained.

206. PICTORIAL: EARTH ON ATLAS' SHOULDERS

There was a time however when intelligent grown men were also quite perplexed about this matter. The ancient Greeks and Romans were the more advanced races of their day; yet, they believed the earth was held in place by poles, or even more farfetched, held in place by Atlas. Some of the more intelligent of the day said no, the earth was on the shoulders of Atlas not his neck.

207. PICTORIAL: EARTH ON THE ELEPHANTS AND THE TURTLE

Another weird idea was that the earth was on the back of elephants, and the elephants on the back of the turtle.

208. JOB 26:7

Of course, today we know how foolish and incorrect all this was. We know the earth actually hangs on nothing. Evidencing the inspiration of the Bible, Job had said, centuries before, "He stretcheth out the North over the empty place, and hangeth the earth on nothing." It is unthinkable that Job only made a good guess about this matter. Yes, he wrote in that dim and dark day of fantastic imaginations and weird superstitions; yet, none of this nonsense crept into his writings.

209. HEBREWS 1:3

Verifying Job's statement, Paul with reference to God said, "And upholding all things by the word of his power."

210. THE ROTUNDITY OF THE EARTH

Discussions concerning the shape of the earth have long ago ceased. All men everywhere recognize, without a doubt, that the earth, upon which we live is round.

211. PICTORIAL: SQUARE EARTH

Long since forgotten; nevertheless, there was a time when it was universally believed that the earth was flat. Learned men thought, should one go too far toward the edge, he would fall off. The Bible was written in this day of ignorance and superstition.

212. ISAIAH 40:22

The writer of the book of Isaiah was not influenced by the opinions of men of his day, nor was he in ignorance about the true shape of the earth. From his pen we read, "It is he that sitteth on the circle of the earth." The writers of the Bible often used language which unmistakably referred to the shape of the earth. Their information must have come from God. No one else could have known, in that day, of such facts.

213. MODERN SCIENTISTS BELIEVE

The great Sir Isaac Newton, along with others, held that light comes from the sun and other illuminous bodies. However, in recent years, it has been established as a scientific fact that light actually existed before the creation of the sun, the moon, and the stars. Men now know that the sun and the moon were only governors to determine the days and years; months and seasons. The amazing thing is these same facts were already on record in the oldest of books.

214. GENESIS 1:3

Moses, in the first chapter of the Bible said, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

215. PICTORIAL: LET THERE BE LIGHT

According to the Genesis account, on the very first day of the creation, light was brought into existence, yet there was no sun, moon, or stars, as we know them today.

216. GENESIS 1:14, 15

On the fourth day of the creation week, God said, "let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven, to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth." Moses then added, "and God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."

217. PICTORIAL: GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS

So we see, just as man recently discovered, light was created on the first day, then, three days later, the sundry lights of the universe were given their tasks. How did Moses know this important scientific fact? God told him all about it. Perhaps he didn't understand it, but still he wrote with amazing accuracy.

218. FOUR KINDS OF FLESH

Man has not always known of the existence of only four kinds of flesh. Only in recent years was such a classification discovered.

219. PICTORIAL: BIRD (FOWL)

Today we classify all flesh as either fowl.....

220. PICTORIAL: FISH

Or fish.....

221. PICTORIAL: BEAST

Or beast.....

222. PICTORIAL: MAN

Or man. There is no other kind of flesh in existence.

223. I CORINTHIANS 15:39

Long before this discovery was made, Paul had said, "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds." Where did he learn this truth? No doubt from God, since he once said, "The Gospel, which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of men, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Galatians 1:11, 12)

224. PATHS OF THE SEA

The founder of the science of oceanography was a man named, Matthew Maury. There was no sailing lanes, for the ships to follow or charts for the captains to study, before his day.

225. PSALMS 8:8

It is said that one day while he was sick, his son read to him from the Bible. The place he was reading was the 8th chapter of Psalms. He read that God had put under man, "...the fowls of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas."

226. PICTORIAL: MODERN OCEAN LINER

Upon hearing that passage, Mr. Maury requested, "read that again." After a second reading he proclaimed, "if the word of God says there are paths in the sea, they must be there. I will find them." And he did. Today, the ships of many nations follow the very paths which he later chartered. David was not a scientist but when scientific facts were mentioned, they were in perfect harmony with what is accepted today as unquestionable.

227. THE GREAT BOAT BUILDER

The next argument, to point out the scientific accuracy of the Bible, relates to Noah, the most famous of all boat builders.

228. PICTORIAL: NOAH AND SONS BUILDING THE ARK

God had warned, "The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence." (Genesis 6:13). In keeping with God's command, Noah and his sons proceeded in building the famous ark.

229. THE DIMENSIONS

Among the many specifications to be followed in building the ark, the dimensions were given as, "the length of the ark shall be 300 cubits, the breadth of it 50 cubits, and the height of it 30 cubits," (Genesis 6:15).

230. SAME PROPORTIONS STILL USED TODAY

One of the most amazing things about the building of the ark is that it was built according to the same dimensions which are still used in ship building, in this day of enlightening and learning. The utmost question in our minds should be, who taught Noah how to build ships? How did he know what proportions were best to use? The answer, he was following the directions of God.

231. LIGHTNING WITH RAIN

Everyone accepts this as a simple truth, believed and understood by all.

232. PICTORIAL: LIGHTNING WITH RAIN

There was a time however when men were left to their imaginations as to the cause of lightning. In modern times, scientists have supplied the solution. Static electricity may be formed by condensing water, thus, rain is accompanied with lightning.

233. JEREMIAH 10:31

Men of the dim, dark, and distant past could have learned the solution long before the day of modern science; for Jeremiah, the prophet had said, "..... he maketh lightnings with rain." Again, let us be reminded, Jeremiah was not a scientist, nor was he writing a thesis on lightning and rain, but when such facts were necessary in his writing, he made a correct use of them. He could have done this only with God's help.

234. GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE

Geography is accepted as a science - a new one, but just the same, it is classified as a science. The Bible was written long before man became interested in this science. While the Bible is filled with hundreds of geographic references, not one single error has ever been found. Unlike modern maps and geography books, the Bible never has to be revised. It is always up-to-date, because it perfect in the beginning. For an example, we read a couple of the geographic references in the Bible.

235. LUKE 10:30

Jesus said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among Thieves." If one were traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho today, he would find this to be accurate.

236. LUKE 2:42

Another similar case is found in Luke 2:42. "And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast." Yes, when leaving from Nazareth, headed for Jerusalem, you would actually go uphill.

237. HOW MANY STARS?

To ask this question is like asking how many grains of sand are along the Atlantic Coast. The answer to both questions is quite obvious. Only God knows, yet for thousands of years, men wearied themselves with counting the stars. The number has been set many times, only to be changed and a new figure given.

238. PICTORIAL: STARS WITHOUT NUMBER

In this, the age of science, we know how foolish it was to attempt to number the stars, for they are without number. There are well over 100 billions of stars in our own galaxies like our own.

239. GENESIS 15:5

While men were shooting in the dark, trying to number the stars, the Bible plainly said, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be."

240. JEREMIAH 33:22

And again, "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant." Truly, the stars are without number. They continue to twinkle as shining evidence to the scriptures.

241. THE IRISHMAN'S FENCE

In bringing our studies to a close, I would like to quote a few lines from the pen of Brother George W. DeHoff, "Every few years somebody demolished the Bible, proves it 'false' and completely 'explodes it.' Yet, the pieces come together and are stronger than ever. The Bible is like the Irishman's fence. He had put up the fence many times only to see it torn down. Finally he built a fence of cement and stone, three feet high and four feet wide. When asked the reason for this strange fence, he said, 'I built it three feet high and four feet wide so it will be higher when it is turned over.' Let the skeptics attack the blessed old Book. It will be higher when they finish! Aye, let them criticize. Christians are indebted to the attacks of skeptics for these attacks have called forth an ever-increasing number of arguments in favor of the Bible. Yes, indeed, 'the more the truth is rubbed, the brighter it will shine.'"

T H E I N S P I R E D B O O K

Lesson Three

126. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY FILMS (Omit when showing)

127. THE INSPIRED BOOK (Lesson three)

128. ARCHAEOLOGY AND INSPIRATION

129. TWO CLAIMS OF PROOF

Evidences of inspiration may be divided into two catagories, internal and external.

130. OPENED AND CLOSED BIBLES

In other words, while some evidences are found between the covers of the book itself, others are found outside of the book.

131. PICTORIAL: TWO KIND OF EVIDENCES

Here, the artist has pictured the two kinds of evidences for us. We see some, who, like Sherlock Holmes, are searching the pages, looking in every corner for clues of its inspiration. On the other hand, we see the stargazers, archaeologists and such like considering those things outside the Bible truths, thus verifying them as accurate.

132. GOD'S BOOK DOES NOT STAND SOLELY ON EXTERNAL PROOF

Quite often when discussing evidences of an external nature, the student of the Bible is made to question, "how can I believe in the Bible, I am not a scientist or an archaeologist, and I have neither the time nor the money to spend roaming the earth in search of proof for my faith in the inspiration of the Bible." The answer is simple. God never intended that his book should stand solely on external proof.

133. THE BOOK DESIGNED TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF

When the Bible was designed, it was designed in such a way so as to speak for itself. The Bible, as we learned in lesson two, vindicates itself. It can stand on its own two feet.

134. HOWEVER

It is good for us to consider these evidences of an external nature. They are not essential, but certainly are helpful and encouraging and sometimes give our faith that extra boost, thus eliminating all doubt.

135. WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Since in this lesson we are concerned with, "Archaeology and Inspiration," this question becomes a first in our study.

136. WEBSTER'S DEFINITION

Webster gives us this definition, "The scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activity." Archaeology is here defined as the science or study of the material remains of past humanity. We know a lot about the almost forgotten races, which lived centuries ago, as a result of the many findings of archaeologists. Their contributions have begun to reach into almost every branch of study, but to no group have their findings been more valuable than to students of the Bible. When discoveries of ancient records are made, written on parchment, clay, stone, and other materials, it carries us back to the very time when the Bible was written.

137. PICTORIAL: ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT WORK

Here we see the artist's painting of a workman excavating in the ruins of ancient Babylon. A study of just such findings as this is almost like bringing men of Bible days into our present age and letting them speak on such matters as how, when, where, and under what conditions they lived. The critic cannot deny that all the recent discoveries made in Bible lands, speak with one voice, testifying to the complete accuracy of many of the statements and events in the Bible.

138. WHAT HAVE ARCHAEOLOGISTS PROVEN

In this lesson we want to know what have archaeologists proven. We will examine a few of their discoveries with the purpose of seeing how they relate to the scriptures, thus building our faith in the Bible, as God's inspired book.

139. BRICK OF STRAW OR STUBBLE

Our first investigation will deal with brick, which the Bible says was made of both straw and stubble.

140. EXODUS 1:10-11

Israel was in bondage in Egypt. In these verses, Moses described some of Egypt's problems and their first attempt at a solution. The king said to his people, "Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of land." As a result, we read, "therefore, they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they build for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithon and Raameses." Notice, a part of the burden placed upon Israel's back was that of brick making.

141. EXODUS 5:7

The task of making brick was not sufficient to suppress the growth of the Israelites; therefore, a change in plans was made, "ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves." Up to this time the Egyptians had furnished the straw, but now the Israelites must gather the straw for themselves, and at the same time make as many bricks as before.

142. EXODUS 5:12

This reading is taken from the same chapter, "So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw." As far as I know, the Bible does not say why the Israelites began to use stubble instead of straw; nevertheless, they did.

143. PICTORIAL: STOREHOUSE AT PITHON

It appears logical to conclude that if a change was made in the making of brick by the people, such a change would also have appeared in the brick used in the construction of storehouses. In recent years, much has been learned from archaeologists about Egyptian brick making, and it corresponds accurately to the description of it given in these verses in Exodus. In 1883, Professor E. Naville, excavating for the EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND, identified the site of Pithon, the great Egyptian treasure city. The actual storehouses, built by the Hebrews, were found, some portions made of brick with straw, and some of brick without straw, in perfect harmony with the Exodus account of these events.

144. SILVER---300 OR 800 TALENTS

Our next study deals with a tribute, which was paid by Hezekiah, King of Judah, to the king of Assyria; for years, there seemed to be a discrepancy. Was the tribute of silver, 300 or 800?

145. II KINGS 18:14

The Bible account of this transaction is given in these verses, "And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah, King of Judah 300 talents of silver and 300 talents of gold."

146. BIBLE RECORD

The Bible Record is plainly stated, Hezekiah paid a tribute of 300 talents of silver.

147. ASSYRIAN RECORD

However, there appeared what seemed to be a great discrepancy when the Assyrian record of this transaction was found. Archaeologists found a six sided clay prism, which contained the Assyrian King's own account of his invasion of Judah and the subjection of Hezekiah to his rule. In this account, the tribute was said to be 30 talents of gold and 800 talents of silver. Note the difference between the two accounts. The Bible account set the number of talents of silver at 300, while the Assyrian said 800. For a space of time there seemed no solution. The critics claimed the Bible was in error.

148. RECENT DISCOVERIES

Once again archaeologists came to the rescue. Recent discoveries show that the standard for calculating talents of silver was not the same in these two nations.

149. 300 TALENTS IN JUDEA EQUALED 800 IN ASSYRIA

The remarkable thing is that when all the information was in, it was found that it took exactly 800 Assyrian talents of silver to equal 300 talents in Judea. Thus, instead of this being a weakness, it became one of the strongest of testimonies to the accuracy of both accounts.

150. WHO WAS KING?

The next point to be considered concerns a question, which for many years was difficult, if not impossible to answer, "Who was king, Nabonidus or Belshazzar?"

151. DANIEL 5:1

The book of Daniel often mentions Belshazzar as being the king of Babylon. For an example, we read from the 5th chapter, "Belshazzar, the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand." Now there was just one thing wrong with this. For many years the Belshazzar had never appeared in any secular history. There was, in existence, what appeared to be a complete list of all the Babylonian kings, with no vacancies, or gaps for a missing king. To add to the complication, the list contained the name of Nabonidus, who was supposed to be ruling at the very time the Bible claims Belshazzar was king. Of course, the skeptic said the Bible was in error.

152. THE TESTIMONY OF THE SPADE

However, all that was needed was a little patience, for again, "the testimony of the spade" came to the rescue with astounding discoveries, proving at least three things, which would clarify this apparent difference between Biblical and secular history.

153. THERE WAS A MAN NAMED BELSHAZZAR

In the year 1854 Sir Henry Rawlinson made an amazing discovery in Ur of the Chaldeas. The cylinders he discovered contained an inscription by King Nabonidus himself. The inscription mentioned a man by the name of Belshazzar, proving at least one thing, there had been such a man in existence.

154. 2. BELSHAZZAR WAS THE ELDEST SON OF NABONIDUS

The inscription by King Nabonidus also mentioned Belshazzar as being his oldest son. This discovery brought to light two facts: (1) The existence of a personality known as Belshazzar, (2) His existence during the time ascribed by Daniel. However, there was yet one other discrepancy to be cleared up. Daniel said Belshazzar was king of Babylon, while other records insisted that his father, Nabonidus, was king.

155. 3. BELSHAZZAR WAS KING IN HIS FATHER'S ABSENCE

In the year 1876, Sir Henry Rawlinson made another enlightening discovery, this time in ancient Babylon. A group of tablets, more than 2,000 in number were discovered. One of the tablets was found to be an official account by King Cyrus of Persia, of his invasion of Babylon. Students of history know this was the battle which let to the crushing of the Babylonian empire, thus establishing the Medes and Persians as world leaders. The account mentions also the

taking of King Nabonidus as a prisoner and adds, that on a certain night, the king died. Since Nabonidus was a prisoner, and lived for some time after the fall of Babylon, this king must have been his son, Belshazzar, who was reigning in his father's absence. The language of the inscription reads almost identical to what is in Daniel 5:30, "In that night was Belshazzar, King of the Chaldeans, slain." Other bits of information have since been found, proving beyond a doubt that Belshazzar was king for a while, while his father was a prisoner in Persia.

156. DANIEL 5:16

Speaking to Daniel, Belshazzar said, "And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlett, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom." Since archaeologists have brought to light the fact that both Nabonidus and Belshazzar were reigning at the same time, this passage seems a bit easier to comprehend. When bestowing an honor upon an individual such as this, it was customary for the king to offer half the kingdom, or to make one the second ruler, such as was the case with Pharaoh and Joseph. The reason for the difference here is now quite evident. There were already two rulers. Daniel would have to settle for a third.

157. COULD MOSES HAVE WRITTEN THE PENTATEUCH?

Next in our study of archaeology and inspiration, we give attention to this question.

158. WRITING DID NOT EXIST IN THE DAYS OF MOSES

For many years, the skeptics of the Bible answered in the negative, because, as they stoutly claimed, writing did not exist in the days of Moses.

159. PICTORIAL: THE CODE OF HAMMURABI

In the year 1902, a great discovery was made in the ruins of Persia. A French archaeologist, named Morgan, uncovered a huge black stone, measuring eight feet high and from five to six feet in circumference. There were about 4,000 lines of inscriptions upon this monument, listing some 248 laws, which had been formulated by Hammurabi.

160. GENESIS 14:1

According to secular history, this Hammurabi was the same individual as the Amraphel of Genesis 14:1. This chapter lists Amraphel as one of the ones who helped to capture Sodom, and with whom Abraham fought to release Lot, who had been taken prisoner. Since Hammurabi and Amraphel are the same, it is quite evident that the Hammurabi of secular records, was a contemporary with Abraham, who lived many years before Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible.

161. PROVES

The discovery of the Code of Hammurabi proves one outstanding thing. A high state of civilization existed long before the era of Moses, thus writing was known in his day. Moses, not only could have, but did write the Pentateuch.

162. HITTITES-NO SUCH NATION

Before the discovery of the once existing Hittite nation, those who ridiculed the Bible selected this as one of their better reasons for skepticism. For some time, in all records, save the Bible, there was no mention whatsoever of a Hittite nation ever being in existence on the earth. Since the Bible no less than forty-eight times makes reference to that race, there certainly appeared to be an unanswerable difficulty. Before investigating the solution to this difficulty let's read a couple of passages which make reference to the Hittite people.

163. NUMBERS 13:29

"The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south; and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains."

164. GENESIS 26:34

"And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith, the daughter of Beeri, the Hittite." These are just a few examples of the many times in the Bible when this nation is mentioned in connection with God's people, the Israelites.

165. ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE PROVEN

We now have proof other than the Bible that there was such a nation once in existence. Their history almost paralleled, in time, that of the Hebrews. Archaeologists through discoveries, of records in both Egypt and Assyria have proven at least three things about this nation. (1) They were at one time one of the greatest of nations; (2) They existed in Northern Syria for about 700 years; (3) They had a code of law. A study of their laws indicates they were well organized and by no means a backward nation.

166. PICTORIAL: HITTITE GATE AT BOGHAZ KOI

Yes, it does seem almost inconceivable that a nation, such as the Hittites, who once ruled over a wide stretch of the earth, could suddenly fade from the memory of man and leave no noticeable evidence of their existence. Yet they did. In all of the secular records of antiquity, there was not to be found a singular word of reference to this mighty race. The Biblical testimony stood alone; however, in the 19th century her resurrection was begun through archaeology. Today, there is sufficient evidence to back the Bible account of her existence. Here is an artist's painting of the gate of Boghaz Koi, the "Hittite City." This was one of the greatest and most powerful cities of this warlike people. This evidence is undeniable.

167. MAP--SHOWING THE HEART OF THE HITTITE NATION

This map shows where the very heart and center of the Hittite race was located. Though Syria was the center of her dominion, yet it is evident, from recent findings that she at one time ruled over a large empire, stretching from the Aegean Sea, to the Euphrates River.

168. ALTAR TO UNKNOWN GOD

The next "testimony of the spade," is with reference to the altar to the unknown gods.

169. ACTS 17:23

Speaking from Mars Hill in Athens, Paul mentioned an altar he saw among the Athenians, which bore this inscription, "to the unknown God."

170. PICTORIAL: ALTAR TO UNKNOWN GODS

In the year 1909, an altar was discovered at Pergamos in Asia Minor, which bore a mutilated inscription, restored as, "to unknown gods."

171. PROVES

Of course, this may not be the very altar Paul saw, but at least it does prove that such altars did exist.

172. THE BLACK OBELISK

Today, there is on display, in the British Museum, a famous monument known as the black obelisk. This stone of black marble was cut during the reign of Shalmaneser, the III, King of Assyria, from B.C. 860 to 825.

173. PICTORIAL: BLACK OBELISK

The black obelisk was found in the palace of King Shalmaneser just as digging in that spot was about to be abandoned. It is a four-sided pillar of black marble, six feet five inches in height, tapering toward the top. The stone records the campaigns of Shalmaneser, the III, and pictures the conquered kings, bringing their tribute to him; among these, in the second row is, "Jehu, son of Omir."

174. II KINGS 10:36

As proof that there was such a king, we read from II Kings, "And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria, was 28 years." Reading from the black obelisk is almost like reading from the books of the Kings and Chronicles.

175. THE MOABITE STONE

In 1868, another great discovery was made. The famous Moabite stone was found by a German missionary in the possession of some Arabs, east of the Dead Sea. After much difficulty, the stone was finally obtained and placed on display in Paris, where it is today.

176. PICTORIAL: MOABITE STONE

The stone was cut in the reign of Mesha, King of Moab, near 850 B.C. It bears an inscription by the King of Moab, describing the oppression to which his land was subjected by Omri, of Israel. The stone also tells of the Moabites winning back their independence at a later date.

177. I KINGS 16:16

Just as the Moabite stone recorded, Omri, was an Israelite king, and at the very time, mentioned in the inscriptions, "Wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp." Time and time again, on just such stones as this, the relations between Israel and other nations, are accurately pictured.

178. THE TEL EL-AMARNA TABLETS

Among the most useful of all discoveries is one made by an Egyptian peasant woman in 1887 at the village of Tel El-Amarna, located some 200 miles south of Cairo on the east bank of the Nile. These clay tablets, three to four hundred in number, were actually found by accident. It is said that the woman sold the rights to her valuable discovery, for only fifty cents.

179. TEL EL-AMARNA TABLETS

The tablets are actually series of letters written some 3500 years ago. These letters, which involve such nations as Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Palestine, Syria, Phoenicia, Philista, made many references to Bible events. They speak as a voice from the distant past, testifying to the inspiration of the scriptures.

180. PICTORIAL: FAITH BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER

Yes, the more the archaeologist digs, the stronger our faith becomes in the Bible, as the verbally inspired word of God.

THE INSPIRED BOOK

Lesson Two

64. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY FILMS (Omit when showing)

65. THE INSPIRED BOOK (Lesson two)

This is the second lesson in our series of studies, dealing with the inspiration of the Bible.

66. INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INSPIRATION

When people are asked to believe something, they generally demand proof. Usually, the greater the value of the thing proposed, the greater the demand for proof. Of course, this is as it ought to be. Men should not be gullible; but rather cautious about the things in which they place their faith. To this rule the Bible is no exception. When men are asked to accept the Bible as the inspired word of God, they demand proof for its inspiration. They have a right to make this demand, because a lot is at stake. A great deal depends upon whether or not the Bible is really God's book. Therefore, the Bible, like anything else, ought not to be believed unless the proof is sufficient to convince us that it merits our faith in it. When searching for this proof, we should remember the Bible contains its own proof of inspiration. It isn't necessary to consult with archaeologists, scientists, and etc. Between its covers lies abundant proof of its inspiration; therefore, in this lesson, we dedicate ourselves to the task of studying this "internal evidence of inspiration."

67. EVIDENCE FROM WITHIN

This is just another way of saying the same thing. It's good and proper to take into consideration the external evidences of the Bible's inspiration; but, in this lesson, we shall examine only those evidences found within the Bible itself.

68. OPEN BIBLE

Our task is simply to open the Bible and let it speak for itself.

69. THE BIBLE VINDICATING ITSELF

Perhaps this is the best way of describing this lesson; for truly we believe the Bible can stand on its own feet, the Bible can vindicate itself. If it can't, it isn't worthy of our faith in it.

70. IS SUCH ACCEPTABLE?

However, some will object. They ask, "Is such acceptable?" Is it logical, is it reasonable to take into account what the Bible itself has to offer, since it is the thing under consideration? Yes, it is logical, sensible, reasonable, and even just that the Bible be allowed to testify in its own behalf.

71. SOME SAY

No doubt some will continue to object by saying, "You can't prove a thing by the thing itself." Every skeptic who has fought the Bible, has cried aloud this same sentence. Let's see if the statement itself is reasonable. Would we apply it in other matters?

72. PICTORIAL: MAN BUYING A CAR

Suppose a young man went with his bride to buy a new automobile. The salesman will spare no efforts to describe in detail the fine features of the car, perhaps emphasizing the more outstanding ones. After a while, the young man would ask for a chance to prove it.

73. PICTORIAL: BUGGY RIDE

Imagine, if you can, the young man's surprise if the salesman were to say, "All right, there is a buggy just outside. Let's go for a ride." Of course the young man would object, but the salesman would answer, "You can't prove a thing by the thing itself." This may be exaggerated just a bit; but nevertheless, it gets the point over. The Bible can speak for itself. In fact, it would be foolish, if not dishonest, not to consider what the Bible has to offer for its divine origin.

74. PLAN FOR STUDY

You will note the plan we have chosen for study has four parts. (1) the unity of the Bible; (2) prophecy and fulfillment; (3) the testimony of Christ; (4) the testimony of others. First, let's focus our attention on the unity of the Bible.

75. MANY YEARS, AUTHORS, SUBJECTS, AND BOOKS

The Bible is an exceedingly complex book. We might say that it is a book of many years, a book of many authors, a book of many subjects, and a book of many books. But, let's take a closer look and see what we mean by this.

76. PICTORIAL: MANY BOOKS

The Bible is said to be, "a book of books." This statement is generally made with reference to the fact that it is the most outstanding of all books; however for another reason, that statement is apt with reference to the Bible. It is composed of sixty-six books. The Bible is actually a collection of many books, written by different men, of different nationalities, in different languages, and in different centuries. The scriptures are the only collection of many books that can be, and are fittingly called, "a book," or "the book." What a marvelous proof of its amazing unity. Who can deny this to be one of the outstanding internal evidences of the inspiration of the scriptures. Another thought we should keep in mind is that the books that make up the Bible are not inspired because they are in the Bible; but rather, they are in the Bible because they are inspired. In other words, each book, in the sacred volume, must furnish its own proof of inspiration, before it can be rightfully considered as a part of God's word. Each book is a part of this volume because it could not be kept out.

77. PICTORIAL: MANY SUBJECTS

Not only is the Bible a book of many books, but these books touch on many subjects, such as: Law, history, poetry, romance, adventure, biography, and prophecy. Some of the books may be properly classified as law, or history, or poetry, etc.; while others may include a little of all of these subjects; however,

through all sixty-six books, and in all of its subjects, there is one grand theme. The Bible begins with the introduction of sin and closes with the destruction of sin. Between the beginning and the end, the Bible's one theme is the development of a plan for overcoming sin. Someone has said, "The theme of the entire Bible can be understood only in the light of its single theme, 'Someone'". Someone is coming, someone has come, and someone is coming again. And, of course, the SOMEONE is Christ. As the planets of our universe revolve around the glorious sun, so the many truths of the Bible, revolve around the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though many subjects are discussed in the sixty-six books, not one time does the Bible depart from its grand theme. Of the Bible, it has been said:

It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging sea,
'Mid mist and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to thee!

78. PICTORIAL: MANY AUTHORS

As best as can be determined, about forty different men were involved in writing the Bible. These men did not all occupy the same station in life. Among them were: shepherds, kings, farmers, tentmakers, tax collectors, soldiers, fishermen, some of them were highly educated, while others were unlettered. A few of them wrote in such places as shepherds tents and prison cells, while others wrote in king's palaces. Since these men were not all of the same nationality; naturally, their books were not all written in the same language.

79. MANY YEARS

Also, many years were involved in the writing of the Bible. In round numbers it has been just about sixty centuries since the day of Adam. From the time of Adam to the time of Moses, about 2500 years; from Moses to Christ, about 1500 years, and since Christ, almost 2,000 years, or a total of about 6,000 years. Of this, nearly 6,000 years of history, about 4100 years is actually covered in the Bible; or, the history of God's dealings with man from the creation to the end of the life of the John who penned Revelation. To add to the complication, relative to the many years, we might mention another fact. These sixty-six books were written over a period of 1600 years. The first book was probably written by Moses, about the 15th century, B.C. The last was written by John, near the end of the first century A.D. This is a total of 16 centuries, during which time the Bible was written. Thus, even if the writers of the Bible had desired to compare notes, it would have been impossible for them to do so, being separated by so many centuries.

80. LOOK AGAIN

Now let's look again. The Bible is a book which covers forty-one centuries of history. It was written by about forty different men, who, in some cases, not only lived miles apart, but were separated by many centuries of time as well. These men, writing on many and varied subjects, composed sixty-six distinct books.

81. YET NOT ONE CONTRADICTION

Even though all these complications were involved, not one single contradiction can be found in the Bible. Not only is it a collection of books, without discord and contradictions; but, when all of its parts are brought together, they blend

perfectly into one whole, or one unit. It is one story; beginning with the beginning and ending with the end. It begins with man's origin and ends with his destiny.

82. PICTORIAL: AUTO CRASH

If the Bible were of human origin, certainly, man today, with all of his improved skills and abilities, ought to be able to reproduce it, or even improve upon its wonderful unity. Yet, we know if three men, having been eye witnesses of an auto accident, and privileged to make and compare notes, were asked to write the story, they could not do so with perfect harmony. For this same reason, man cannot reproduce the Bible. It is not of human origin.

83. ONLY INSPIRATION COULD PRODUCE THE BIBLE

What caused the Bible to be as it is? The answer is inspiration. Nothing else could have. There had to be one mind, one designer, one designer, one architect in guiding the men who wrote the Bible.

84. PLAN FOR STUDY

We have now considered the first part of our plan. Next we shall study prophecy and fulfillment. In the Bible, we read of many amazing prophecies which were made many years before the event described, occurred. The accuracy and minute fulfillment of these prophecies stand as unquestionable proof of the inspiration of the Bible.

85. PROPHECY OF NOAH

The first prophecy to be considered is that of Noah. You recall that after the flood, Noah became the father of the human race. Actually, he became the second father of the human race.

86. PICTORIAL: THE ARK COMES TO REST

From him through his three sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth, have come all the peoples of the world. When the deluge was over, Noah and his sons came forth from the ark. Noah's sons, and their children scattered over the earth, thus producing the races of man as we know of them today.

87. MAP--LANDS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF NOAH

Here is a map showing how and where the sons of Noah scattered and settled. Shem and his children seemed to settle in one section, while Ham was content to move on to another. In these sons and their descendants lies the beginning of all history. In Genesis 9:25-27, Noah uttered a prophecy which concerned the future of his three sons and their descendants. In this prophecy, there is a brief, but clear outline of the history of the human races. But, let's read the prophecy for ourselves.

88. GENESIS 9:25-27

"And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant." Having now read the prophecy from the Bible, let us consider its three parts.

89. HAM

First, the part which concerns Ham. His father prophesied, "Cursed be Canaan (Ham); a servant of servants shall he be." A close study of the descendants of Ham seem to indicate that a curse has always rested upon the nations with a Hametic origin. The continent of Africa, the countries of Egypt, Phoenicia, and Palestine, the cities of Tyre and Sidon and Sodom and Gomorrah are only a few of the more familiar names of countries and cities with a Hametic origin. The history of these peoples is black with ruin and destruction. Most of the world slaves have come from Ham's descendants.

90. SHEM

Noah prophesied concerning Shem, "Blessed be the Lord God of Shem." The descendants of Shem were blessed in that God providentially cared for them, placed the Old Testament scriptures in their hands, and finally sent the Christ, the Saviour of the world, from their race. Also, the church was started among his descendants.

91. JAPHETH

"God shall enlarge," was the prophecy Noah made with reference to the third son. This simple statement of the future of Japheth's descendants was, and still is being accurately fulfilled. Japheth had more sons than either of the other two. The nations which have come from Japheth have not only been the largest in number, but have always ruled the largest territory. These nations have always been the leaders of such things as art, science, commerce, etc.

92. CHART: NOAH'S PROPHECY CONCERNING HIS THREE SONS

Surely the fulfillment of the prophecy of Noah concerning the destinies of his three sons, stands among the strongest of proofs of the divine authorship of the Bible. How did Noah know that a curse would rest upon Ham; that Shem would be blessed; that Japheth would be enlarged? The answer is, revelation plus inspiration.

93. THE FUTURE OF THE JEWS

The next prophecy to be considered is that of Moses concerning the future of the Jews. This is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable of all prophecies. In the first part of the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses informed Israel of the many good things God would do for them, if, as he said, "thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments." In verse 15 of the same chapter Moses warns, "If thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord, thy God.....all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Most of us are well aware of the sad story of Israel. They proved unfaithful and disobedient to God, thus these curses, according to Moses' prophecy, were to come upon them. In the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, the present dispersion on the face of the earth is foretold for the children of Israel. In the same chapter, their servitude to Babylon and Rome are both prophesied in terms that cannot be misconstrued. Of course, in this lesson, we don't have the time to consider all of these prophecies; however, we do want to examine some of them.

94. DEUTERONOMY 28:29,30

Moses said to Israel, if you will not hearken to the voice of God, this sad condition will come upon you, "Thou shalt grope at noon-day, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee. Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof."

95. DEUTERONOMY 28:36, 37

Moses continues to tell of the future of the Jews, "The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other Gods, wood and stone, and thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations, whither the Lord shall lead thee." Those who are familiar with Jewish history are well aware of the accuracy of the fulfillment of these words of prophecy. Parts of this prophecy were fulfilled when Israel was carried away into Babylonian captivity.

96. DEUTERONOMY 28:49-51

Beginning with verse 49, Moses prophesies of another nation which God would bring against the Jews, and the untold horrors that would result. Let's read some of these predictions, "The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; a nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed:"

97. DEUTERONOMY 28:52, 53

Continuing from the same chapter we read, "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down,..... and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land,..... And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters."

98. DEUTERONOMY 28:56, 57

Still reading from the same chapter, "The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, and toward the young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, where-with thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates." The fulfillment of this prophecy is well known. The Romans, a nation from afar, speaking a strange language, came against Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D. The soldiers of Rome had little regard for neither old nor young. Josephus, gives us some startling facts of the destruction of Jerusalem: Mothers did actually eat the flesh of their own children; 1,240,490 Jews were slain; 99,200 were taken as prisoners.

99. DEUTERONOMY 28:64-65

Moses continues to predict the future of the Jews, "And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other....and among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest:....and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee." In fulfillment, we now find Jews in every nation on the earth; oppressed on every hand. Truly it might be said, the Jews are today, living monuments of the inspiration of the Bible.

100. PROPHECY ABOUT EGYPT

Egypt was a great power, the writer of Ezekiel prophesied concerning her future.

101. EZEKIEL 29:9-10

Egypt was a thriving, prosperous nation, but God through the prophet said, "The land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord....Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate."

102. EZEKIEL 29:14, 15

Again God, through the prophet, said concerning Egypt, "And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt.....and they shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basis of the kingdoms: neither shall it exalt itself anymore above the nations." The nation of Egypt stands today as living testimony of the inspiration of the scriptures. This country has literally become desolate. The land of the Nile is actually filled with monuments of departed glory. The existence of the silent pyramids, the crumbled temples, and the deserted cities of modern Egypt, stand as undeniable evidence of the inspiration of the scriptures.

103. PROPHECY CONCERNING ISHMAEL

Abraham was the father of many nations. He was the father of the Jewish nation, but was also the father of the Ishmaelites. Earlier in this lesson, we considered some prophecies concerning the Jews. Now we want to study the prophecies concerning Ishmael.

104. PICTORIAL: ANGEL SPEAKS TO HAGAR

Abraham and Sarah did not have any children; therefore, to this end, Hagar, Sarah's handmaiden, was given to Abraham for a wife. However, this was not a good arrangement. Sarah became jealous when she saw that Hagar had conceived. Hagar was mistreated by Sarah and therefore had to leave. An angel found Hagar in the wilderness and made this announcement, "Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son."

105. GENESIS 16:10-12

Concerning Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar, a prophecy was uttered, "I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude--- thou art with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael.... and he will be called a wild man: his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall swell in the presence of all his brethren."

Notice especially verse 12, "he will be a wild man." What a wonderful description this is of the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael.

106. GENESIS 17:20

Not only did God tell Hagar of Ishmael's future, but here the voice of God also informs Abraham of Ishmael's destiny, "Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall be begat and I will make him a great nation." These princes are listed by Moses in the 25th chapter of Genesis; and from other writings, we learn of the existence of twelve Arabian princes. As proof of the inspiration of the scriptures, the descendants of Ishmael did multiply exceedingly, and from his seed, great nations were born.

107. CONCERNING CHRIST

To complete the argument for inspiration, derived from prophecy and its fulfillment, we next offer the indisputable prophecies concerning Christ. From Moses to Malachi, every prophet of the Old Testament points the index finger forward to the coming of the Messiah, who should redeem the human race. Actually, a complete history of the life of Christ was written several hundred years before he was born. When we gather together the details of all the prophecies, concerning the Christ, we can actually construct an outline of his life, with many of the details accurately filled in. In this brief study all of these prophecies cannot be investigated, but we do want to examine a few.

108. ISAIAH 7:14

More than seven centuries B.C., the prophet Isaiah made a clear cut, unquestionable statement concerning the miracle, by which the Christ would be born, "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." In Matthew's account of the Saviour's birth, it is specifically stated that these things were done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah, the Prophet, that a virgin should conceive and bear a son and his name would be, "God with us." The fulfilling of this prophecy, 700 years after it was made, ranks high among the internal evidences of inspiration.

109. ISAIAH 9:6

Isaiah also prophesied, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Of all of the personalities ever to grace God's earth, Christ is the only one to whom these titles could properly be applied. How did the prophet know that such an individual would someday be born? The answer is evident; he was a prophet, thus God inspired.

110. PSALMS 22:16-18

Prophecies concerning Christ are almost without number in the book of Psalms. Each one, accurately and minutely fulfilled in the New Testament. The 22nd Psalm has been called, the PSALM OF CRUCIFIXION. Some have said, there are at least thirty-two predictions made in this psalm, which were fulfilled on Golgotha's Hill. We call your attention to three verses, "For dogs have compassed me:

the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." The fulfillment is found in John 19:23, 24. where it is actually said, that the soldiers gambled for part of the Lord's garments.

111. ISAIAH 53:3-5

Probably some of the most famous and best remembered prophecies concerning Christ are those from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Time and space permits us to read only a few verses, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

112. ISAIAH 53:6-8

We continue with Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of all us. He was appressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken." One cannot read these verses without seeing the sad, but graphic picture which the prophet painted of the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, and the final triumph of the Saviour. Surely by now we can see that one of the mightiest links in the great chain of evidence, which holds up the inspiration of the Bible, is that of prophecy and its fulfillment.

113. PLAN FOR STUDY

As a third step of our plan, we next give attention to the testimony of Christ, concerning the inspiration of the scriptures. It should be considered as very remarkable that the Lord spent most of his earthly ministry expounding the Old Testament scriptures, and never once warned of the existence of any uninspired writings. Instead, we find his testimony to be exactly the opposite. Let us observe a few examples.

114. MATTHEW 5:18

In that famous sermon on the mount, Jesus had something to say about the Old Testament scriptures, "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." The very fact that the fulfillment of the Old Testament was more certain than the continuance of things as we know them, places those writings so much higher than human productions that they can only be considered as divine in origin.

115. LUKE 24:44

Again, the Lord Jesus said, "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." The expression, "the law, the prophets, and the psalms" was used by the Jews to represent the whole of the Old Testament. This being true, how could the Lord use such words if any part of those scriptures were uninspired or incorrect in any way?

116. MARK 7:8-10

This is an example of one of the many times Jesus condemned the Pharisees because of their actions. In verse 8 he accuses them of "laying aside the commandment of God." In verse 9 he said, "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." The Lord then immediately quoted the words of Moses as they are found in the 20th and 21st chapters of Exodus. Note, when speaking of the commandment of God, he said, "For Moses said."

117. MARK 12:36

In this passage Jesus quotes from Psalms 110, "The Lord said to my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies, thy footstool." This statement is ascribed to David. How did he speak? "By the Holy Ghost." Jesus is certainly testifying to the inspiration of the Psalms.

118. MATTHEW 12:39, 40

The scribes and Pharisees wanted to see a sign from Jesus. "But he answered and said unto them, 'An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'" Here the Saviour takes the story of Jonah as a prefigure of his own death and resurrection. From this use of the Old Testament in his teaching, we can certainly see how Jesus felt concerning the inspiration and value of those scriptures.

119. PLAN FOR STUDY

Having considered the testimony of Christ, we turn next, as our last step, to the testimony of others.

120. II TIMOTHY 3:16

Paul instructed Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." What a glorious testimony of the inspiration of the scriptures. They are all inspired of God, thus completely sufficient to equip man for every good work.

121. II PETER 1:21

Next we read from II Peter 1:21, "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. How enlightening is this one verse! We are informed how the Bible did not come. It came not by the will of man as critics say. Again we are told how it did come. Men spake as they were MOVED by the Holy Ghost; hence, the hand of God in the giving of his word.

122. ISAIAH 1:2

The Old Testament especially is full of such phrases as, "Thus saith the Lord," "The word of the Lord came unto the prophet," "God spake these words," etc. Statistically viewed, the book of Exodus contains forty chapters. In these forty chapters it is stated 161 times, "God spake these words." As an example of the use of such phrases in the Old Testament scriptures, we refer you to this reading, "Hear, O Heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken...."

123. II SAMUEL 23:2

According to verse one, "These are the last words of David." He says as he breathes his last breath, "The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue." What can be more definite and conclusive? David said, "God spake by me, he used my tongue as he saw fit, I spoke and wrote as he directed."

124. JEREMIAH 1:7-9

As a last witness to the inspiration of the scriptures, we call on Jeremiah, "But the Lord said unto me, say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I send thee, and whatsoever I command thee, thou shalt speak...then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." Note, God said, "I have put my words," not my thoughts, "in thy mouth."

125. INTERNAL EVIDENCE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT

Yes, internal evidence should be sufficient to convince us of its divine origin. For these reasons, we have faith in the present form of the book that men call the Bible. We believe it to be the infallible, inspired Word of God, therefore a safe guide for our conduct in this life, and a sure road to a life of happiness in the realm that lies beyond the grave.