**2 – Claims the Bible Makes About Itself**

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[1] Claims the Bible Makes About Itself

[2] The Bible is unique in many ways, and many claims have been made about this extraordinary book.

[3] But what does the Bible say about itself? In this presentation, we will look at three claims that the Bible makes: / The Bible claims to be a revelation from the one and only true God who speaks and acts in human history. / It states that all Scripture is the Word of God and is true, reliable, and enduring / and that the Bible writers spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

[4] To begin with, the Bible writers never attempt to prove the existence of God.

[5] They assume it.

[6] Then they insist that God makes himself and his acts known.

[7] It is only because God takes the initiative, that we are able to know his words and works.

[8] The Bible says that God reveals secret things to us.

[9] These are not just “divine encounters” without any content, but revelations of actual information.

[10] Though infinite, God can and does communicate with human beings, in human language / which is apparently capable of conveying divine communication.

[11] There are about 1600 occurrences in the Old Testament of four phrases that explicitly indicate that God has spoken:

[12] In the very first chapter of Genesis, God repeatedly speaks to create our world.

[13] He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.

[14] Revelation occurred *throughout* the OT era, it was recognized as such, and it frequently involved communication by word. “The experience of the prophet Samuel recognizes that revelation occurs through the words of the Lord, and at a time of God’s choosing.”

[15] That revelation occurs at a time of God’s choosing is illustrated by a story about Jeremiah./ When military leaders asked him to intercede with the Lord for them, he agreed, but had to wait 10 days. / Jeremiah could not determine when God would answer.

[16] David claimed that he had been the recipient of divine revelation.

[17] And centuries later, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel’s God was a “revealer of mysteries.”

[18] The Bible declares that the Lord does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

[19] Again and again throughout the Old Testament, God sent his prophets with messages for his people.

[20] Finally, he revealed himself in the person of his son, Jesus.

[21] In the gospels, Jesus words “I say unto you…” carry the same authority as the Old Testament declaration “Thus says the Lord.

[22] Jesus describes how the secrets of the kingdom had been given to the disciples, indicating that revelation imparts understanding.

[23] In response to Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ, he said to Peter “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father, who is in heaven.” / He also said I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

[24] Paul, describing his own experiences, says…For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

[25] God commanded that his words be recorded and heeded.

[26] And what he has revealed to us, we and our children are accountable for.

[27] In addition to claiming to be a revelation from the God who speaks and acts in human history, the Bible claims that ALL Scripture is the Word of God and, as such, is true, reliable, and enduring.

[28] 2 Timothy 3:16 says that All Scripture is breathed out by God.

[29] This explains the insistence of the Bible writers that the Bible is fully trustworthy and reliable…because its message ultimately comes from God Himself.

[30] Scripture states that God’s words true and his rules are true.

[31] It states that his laws are true and that the sum of your words is truth.

[32] The primary Hebrew words for truth imply the specific nuance of reliability

[33] The Bible states that the word of the Lord endures forever.

[34] Jesus accepted the Old Testament in its entirety, even the historical parts.

[35] He refers to events in Creation week as historical / and refers to Old Testament people as historical

[36] To Jesus, the words of the Old Testament prophets were the same as God’s own words. We can see this when Jesus quotes from Isaiah and says that the Lord had spoken by the prophet.

[37] Jesus repeatedly pointed people back to the Old Testament Scriptures, asking “have you not read?” and “what is written in the law?”

[38] Like Jesus, the New Testament writers considered the Old Testament to be an authoritative revelation, referring to it often and quoting it extensively.

[39] When Paul quotes God’s speech from Exodus 9:16, he says “the Scripture says to Pharaoh…indicating that God’s words and Scripture are one and the same.

[40] In another place, Paul indicates that the words of the prophet Isaiah were actually the words of the Holy Spirit to the people of Israel.

[41] Because all Scripture is inspired by God, it is useful for many things. It can teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

[42] The word of God is described as a two-edged sword that can discern the thoughts and intents of our heart. The Bible also says that God’s word can sanctify us.

[43] Jesus unhesitatingly affirmed the reliability of Scripture when he said “Your word is truth” and “Scripture cannot be broken…” (RD 14)

[44] And he used Old Testament prophecy as the pattern for his life.

[45] When responding to Satan’s temptations, Jesus quoted Scripture: / It is written… / Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

[46] According to Scripture, the true, reliable, and enduring word of God is the standard by which all doctrine and experience must be tested. / Isaiah says: “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

[47] The final claim we will look at that the Bible makes about itself is that the Bible writers spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

[48] It is the activity of the Spirit in the process of communicating God’s Word that gives that Word the full authority of divinity.

[49] This diagram illustrates what the Bible teaches about the process of Revelation.

[50] Revelation can be described as the vertical process by which God reveals divine truth. We don’t know exactly what it means to be “moved by the Holy Spirit,” but we do know that the Bible does not claim that it was verbally dictated.

[51] Inspiration can be described as the horizontal process by which the prophets were enabled to communicate the content of revelation in a trustworthy and reliable way. The two are not easily separated because there is a unity and oneness between them.

[52] Distinct from revelation-inspiration is a process which has been called illumination. During this process God enables any person in a right relationship with Him to come to a correct understanding of what has been revealed.

[53] At every step in the process, it is the Holy Spirit who makes this process possible.

[54] The New Testament describes the role of the Holy Spirit in several places. / John says that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things / and guide us into all truth. / Paul prays that, through the Holly Spirit, Christians will be able to comprehend and to know the love of God. / He also says that the Holy Spirit brings conviction.

[55] We have looked three claims that the Bible makes about itself: / That it is a revelation from the one and only true God who speaks and acts in human history. / That all Scripture is the Word of God and is true, reliable, and enduring / and that the Bible writers spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit is available to help us correctly understand Scripture now.

[56] Our next presentation will focus on whether or not the Bible we have now accurately reflects what the original Biblical manuscripts claimed.

[57] Three main sources were used for this presentation:

[58] This model for describing revelation, inspiration, and illumination is taken from the book Ellen White Under Fire by Jud Lake