

Internal Harmony and Prophecy

The conviction of Christians that the Bible is the very Word of God is also supported by the *internal harmony* of the Scriptures. Although the Bible was written over a span of approximately 1600 years by some 40 different authors living in diverse cultures with different backgrounds, the Bible contains one central message presented in harmony by those writers. This is a tremendous testimony to the inspiration of Scripture. The reason that the Bible speaks with a unified message can only be explained by the fact that it really has only *one* author. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible.

Furthermore, not only is the Bible united around one central message (the work of God in history providing redemption for mankind) it is also free from contradiction in facts or truth. There is no way to explain this apart from the reality God is the author of Scripture.

The next fact that supports the conviction that the Bible is the very Word of God is what we might refer to as *predictive prophecy*. The Bible is unique, in that, it contains hundreds of prophecies about the future. Of course, only God could reveal the future with 100% accuracy hundreds of years before the fact. The fulfilled prophecies of Scripture are a witness to the entire world of the veracity of the Bible. Only a fool would ignore the many prophecies fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. Those fulfilled prophecies identify him as the only true Messiah. It should be noted this is an *external* testimony to the inspiration of the Bible. Actual historical events that occurred in fulfillment of prophecy obviously verify the Bible's *internal* claim to be the very Word of God.

Review Activities

How many authors did the Lord use to give us his written word?

Over how many years did they write?

How is it possible that they did not contradict themselves in any way?

Give an example of a prophecy contained in the Bible.

Why is prophecy an important testimony to the inspiration of Scripture?
