

January 10, 2024

As Christians, we believe that the Bible is inspired: it is literally God's words in written form. We also acknowledge that the Bible was written by dozens of different authors over a period of about a thousand years. Unlike every other book that has ever been written, the Bible is both a divine book and a human book. We also believe that the Bible is authoritative: when the Scripture speaks, God speaks, and thus those written words carry His divine authority.

Sometimes the words and writings of men are called God's word. This is true of both Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles.

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For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages" (1 Tim. 5:18; citing both Deut. 25:4 and Luke 10:7).

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures (2 Pet. 3:15–16).

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw (Rev. 1:1–2).

Jesus himself argues that every word of the Old Testament is inspired, that he came to fulfill the Old Testament, that God's words will not pass away without accomplishing their purposes, and that God's words should be obeyed.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:17–19).

God's words are of everlasting authority and always perfectly accomplishes God's intentions.

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever (Isa 40:6–8).

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