

The Case for Christmas—Part 1

I. Who Wrote the Bible? (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- a. Bible = *Biblia* (βιβλία) = "Scroll" or "Book"
Old & New Testaments
66 Books
Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek
40 Human Authors
ONE D_____ AUTHOR
- b. *inspired* ("God-breathed" NIV & "*breathed out by God*")
ESV) = *theopneustos* (θεόπνευστος) = God—Breathed
Theos / (θεός) = *God—pneō* (πνέω) = "to breathe hard—
blow" (cf. Gen. 1:1; 2:7; John 20:22)

II. How Was the Bible Written? (2 Peter 1:19-21)

- a. *prophetic word* = the Bible
- b. *more sure* = more important than Peter witnessing Jesus' transfiguration
- c. *a lamp shining in a dark place* = a light to see where and how to follow Jesus (Ps. 119:105)
- d. Scripture and prophecy are NOT *a matter of one's own interpretation* or *an act of the human will*
- e. *Superintending* = *moved by the Holy Spirit* so that they *spoke from God* (cf. 2 Sam 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Ezek. 2:2; 11:5, 24; Micah 3:8; Zech. 7:12; Mark 12:36; Acts 28:25; Rom. 1:2; 3:2; 1 Cor. 2:10-13; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb 3:7; 5:12; 9:8)
 - i. "*Thus says the Lord*" (Jer. 10:1-2; Isa. 1:2; Ezek. 1:3; Hosea 1:1-2; Jonah 1:1; Micah 1:1; Zech. 1:1; cf. Joel 1:2; Amos 1:3, 6; Obad. 1:1; Zeph. 1:1; Hab. 2:2; Deut. 30:9-10; Num. 12:6-8; 23:5, 12, 16, 19; Luke 10:16; Matthew 1:22; 2:15; 22:29-32; John 16:13; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Heb. 1:1-2)

- f. **The Bible is Inerrant, Infallible, & Totally Sufficient** (cf. Ps. 12:6; 19:7-8; John 17:17; 2 Peter 1:2-3; cf. Deut. 4:1-2; 12:32; Jos. 1:7-8; Jer. 26:2)

III. When Was the Bible Written?

- a. **Torah / Pentateuch = 1400 BC**
Matthew = _____ AD
Luke = _____ AD (cf. Acts 23-27)
Mark = _____ AD
John = _____ AD
Revelation = 95 AD
- b. "Mark, the follower of Peter, while Peter was publicly preaching the Gospel at Rome in the presence of some of Caesar's knights and uttering many testimonies of Christ, on their asking him to let them have a written record of the things which had been said, wrote the Gospel which is called the Gospel of Mark, from the things said by Peter...when Peter got to know about it, he exerted no pressure either to forbid it or to promote it."
(Clement of Alexandria [ca. 150-215], cf. Irenaeus [ca. 115-ca. 180], Tertullian [ca. 155-220])

IV. What Does the Bible Say? (Gen. 3:15 & Luke 2:7)

- a. The odds of a man fulfilling just 8 Bible prophecies is 10^{17} or 100,000,000,000,000,000 or one-hundred-quadrillion to one
 - i. Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament Prophecies!
- b. **The Messiah Will Be Born a S_____ of Eve**
 - i. *seed* of Eve = a child
 - ii. *bruise him on the heel* = make Him suffer
 - iii. *bruise you on the head* = a final and fatal death blow to the devil
 - iv. **He & Him** = a Son
- c. **Protoevangelium** = the first flicker of the Gospel
- d. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son** = the *seed* of Eve