Bible Inspiration: Testimony Of Jesus

Intro: Inspiration is the infallible, inerrant, recording of God’s Will to man resulting in the Scriptures. Paul wrote that the Scripture is God breathed and thus not of human origin; 2 Tim. 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” In this lesson, I would like for us to consider the testimony of Jesus in relation to the Bible’s inspiration.

I. He Taught The Old Testament As Inspired
   A. Mat. 5:17-18 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 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.”
      1. The Old Testament is inspired, eternal, and its authority will not pass till all be fulfilled.
      2. When it is fulfilled, then it will pass away in its authority.
   B. Mat. 22:31-32 “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”
      1. Moses is the one who said it.
      2. Jesus said God said it.
   C. John 10:34-35 “Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”
      1. This Scripture which cannot be broken is God’s Word.
      2. Yet it was written by man.

II. He Taught The New Testament As Inspired
   A. These were to follow after Him, so future.
   B. Various Scriptures:
      1. Mat. 10:20 “For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”
      2. Mat. 24:25 “Behold, I have told you before.”
      3. Luke 12:12 “For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.”
      4. John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
      5. John 12:49-50 “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
      6. John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
      7. John 15:26-27 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”
8. John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

9. John 17:8, 14, 18 “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me…. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world…. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

C. Jesus affirmed:
   1. The words He spoke came from God.
   2. He gave exactly the same word to His apostles.
   3. The apostles were both speak and write it.
   4. Eph. 3:1-5 “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”

D. Prove Jesus to be more that man, then what He said concerning the Old and New Testament is valid.

III. JESUS THE MAN
   A. Historically we can prove that Jesus lived:
   B. Historically we know where He was born.
   C. Historically we know where He went.
   D. Historically we know that His life affected His fellow man in a way no other life had.
   E. Historically we know He went about doing good.
      1. That good which He did was often called miraculous.
      2. There was no way to account for it because it was contrary to the laws of nature.
   F. Historically we know that Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a new tomb and the third day the tomb was empty.

IV. THE MIRACLES
   A. Evidence proving the miracles actually happened and were not the imagination of man.
   B. They were seen by more than one witness.
   C. They left little doubt as to their being entirely beyond natural causes.
   D. They were for specific purpose:
      1. They were never used to excite the fancy.
      2. Their purpose was to confirm the word.
         a. Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”
         b. Heb. 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing
them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

E. **They were of a concrete nature:**
   1. A withered hand returns to normal.
   2. Walking on the water.
   3. The blind see.
   4. Crippled men walk, etc.

F. **They were unrestricted in type:**
   1. Turning water into wine (non-alcoholic or grape juice)
   2. Raising the dead
   3. Calming the sea, etc.

G. **They were never performed to gain personal glory.**

H. **They were immediate.**

I. **They were complete.**

J. **They were of an enduring nature (they remained healed.)**

K. **Persons could be absent as well as present.**

L. **No one who lived at the time a miracle was claimed to have occurred ever left any record to the contrary.**
   1. No one ever questioned whether a miracle had happened.
   2. It was only centuries after the fact when some began to question whether they were actual miracles.
   3. There is much power in this one argument alone!

V. **His Victory Over All Attacks To Discredit Him.**

A. **Mark 3:6** "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him."

B. **Mat. 22:15-40**
   1. Pharisees and Herodians: is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar.
      a. If Christ had answered yes, then the Jews, who hated the Romans would have left Him.
      b. If Christ answered no, then He would have gone against Roman law.
   2. Sadducees:
      a. A woman married to seven husbands in heaven (Polygamy).
      b. Yet, no sin can enter into heaven.
   3. Lawyer, who is a Pharisee: What is the greatest commandment?
      a. The Jews had divided the law into 613 laws.
         (1) 248 positive laws: corresponding to the number of members of the human body.
         (2) 365 negative laws: corresponding to the number of days in a year.
         (3) 613 total laws: corresponding to the number of letters in the Decalogue.
      b. Each of these 613 laws had a group saying it was the greatest.
      c. Theoretically whichever law Jesus stated, 612 groups would leave.
d. Christ response:
   (1) Deu. 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the
LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”
   (2) He goes the second mile and gives the second greatest commandment.

   e. Even the lawyer admits that His answer is correct.

C. Jesus asks His question:
   1. Mat. 22:41-46 “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 Saying, What
think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. 43 He saith unto them,
How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my
right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?
46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him
any more questions.”
   2. No one was able to give an answer.
   3. No one asked any more questions of Him.

VI. HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

A. Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every
where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness
by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised
him from the dead.”
   1. We are given assurance of the judgment by the resurrection.
      a. By the resurrection, Jesus is proved to be the Son of God.
      b. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness,
by the resurrection from the dead:”
   2. Why is the resurrection an assurance?
      a. We can put it to the test of history and come to know.
      b. We come to the conclusion: “He was raised from the dead.”

B. We can prove historically that a man named Jesus lived, died, was buried, and that
the tomb was empty the third day.

C. What happened to the body?
   1. It was stolen:
      a. By His friends
         (1) This is what Jesus’ enemies spread; Mat. 28:11-15 “Now when they were going,
behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed unto the chief priests all the
things that were done. 12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken
counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by
night, and stole him away while we slept. 14 And if this come to the governor’s ears, we
will persuade him, and secure you. 15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught:
and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.”
   (2) There is an admission that the tomb was empty.
   (3) Absurdities in the report from the soldiers.
      (a) Roman soldiers would not sleep on guard.
      (b) If they were asleep, how did they know the body was stolen?
      (c) If they were asleep, how would they know who stole the body?
(d) If the guards had been asleep would the activities awaken trained soldiers?
   (i) unsealing the tomb.
   (ii) moving the large stone door (4 women wondered who would move it for them).
   (iii) commotion of dragging the body away.

(4) What did the disciples do with the body? Why was it never found?

(5) Why would the chief priest and elders pay the guards if they fell asleep at their duty?
   (a) Considering the chief priest and elders are the ones who went to Pilate to request the guard, why would they pay the ones who so utterly failed in performing their work?
   (b) Why would the guards have to be bribed to tell the truth if Jesus’ friends stole the body?

(6) Rex Turner notes the impossibility of this when he writes: “the stealing of the body by the disciples would have been a physical impossibility. The Roman guard was changed every six hours, and for one to suppose that a guard of at least fifteen men could all fall so soundly asleep at the same time so that a small band of unarmed disciples could creep in, break the Roman seal, roll away the great stone, and bear the body away without awakening a single one of the guard, is certainly preposterous” (22).

(7) If the disciples stole the body:
   (a) They would have to invent the resurrection story and be consistent between all of them.
   (b) What motive and advantage would they have to invent it?
      (i) They have no motive and no advantage.
      (ii) It was a disadvantage.
      (iii) They are persecuted, tortured, and put to death all because of what they know is a lie if they stole the body.
      (iv) Reasonable men do not act this way.

(8) The disciples after Christ’s death.
   (a) They did not expect Him to rise from the dead (until the general resurrection of all).
   (b) They were a beat, defeated, demoralized group.
   (c) Peter along with others said he was going fishing.
      (i) John 21:2-3 “There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. 1 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.”
      (ii) It is possible Peter was saying he was going back to his former occupation.
(d) They hid for fear of the Jews; John 20:19 “Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”

(e) Joseph and Nicodemus prepared the body against corruption, not resurrection; John 19:38-40 “And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. 39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. 40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.”

(f) On resurrection day the women came to the tomb to anoint the body with spices; Mark 16:1-2 “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.”

(g) When the women tell the apostles about the empty tomb their words seemed as idle tales; Luke 24:11 “And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.”

(h) Mary’s responses:

(i) to the angel; John 20:13 “And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.”

(ii) To Jesus; John 20:15 “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.”

(i) They had no idea of an immediate resurrection and the apostles did not intend to preach a resurrected Gospel.

(i) Even at the ascension the apostles still believed in an earthly kingdom; Acts 1:6 “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

(ii) Rex Turner notes: “The idea of a resurrection gospel had not occurred to them at the time the body of Jesus came to be missing from the tomb” (22).

(9) The change in the apostles:

(a) There is no way to account for the change in them apart from seeing the resurrected Christ.

(b) There is a marked change from what we have just noticed.

(c) These men become men of courage and strength.

(d) When persecuted and threatened, they remained faithful to their testimony that Jesus was raised.

(e) All except John suffered martyrdom for the cause of Christ.
Men are not willing to suffer and die for a fraud of their own perpetration especially if there is nothing to be gained from continuing the fraud.

The apostles condition; 1 Cor. 4:9-13 “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ’s sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; 12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.”

This accusation lacks any credibility.

b. By His enemies

(1) They had no motive for stealing the body.
   (a) They wanted Jesus dead, not alive.
   (b) With the body in the grave, His enemies were victorious.
   (c) Thus, the body was exactly where they wanted it to be.

(2) They had no intention of removing the body.
   (a) They intended it to stay in the grave.
   (b) They remembered Jesus saying He would be raised so they requested Pilate to put a guard at the tomb.
   (c) Mat. 27:62-66 “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. 65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.”

(3) His enemies never claimed to have the body.
   (a) They spread the rumor the disciples stole the body.
   (b) When the apostles accused them of murdering Jesus but God raised Him up, His enemies would have produced the body.
   (c) The Jewish leaders.
      (i) They charged the apostles not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus, but the apostles continued.
      (ii) The Jewish leaders correctly stated; Acts 5:28 “Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.”
      (iii) If they knew where the body was, they would have produced it and shown the error of the apostles and destroyed Christianity.
2. The swoon theory:
   a. Some infidels do not believe Jesus died on the cross.
      (1) Karl Friedrich Bahrdt around 1780 suggested Jesus deliberately feigned His
deadth using drugs provided by the physician Luke and later was
resuscitated by Joseph of Arimathea.
      (2) Around 1800 Karl Venturini claimed:
          (a) A group of supporters were with Jesus and while not expecting Him to
survive the crucifixion, yet they heard groaning from inside the tomb
where Jesus had regained consciousness in the cool damp air of the
sepulcher.
          (b) They then scared the guards away and rescued Him from the tomb.
      (3) Heinrich Paulus advocated Jesus had fallen into a temporary coma and
then revived while in the tomb.
      (4) In the early 1830s Friedrich Schleiermacher endorsed a form of Paulus’
theory.
      (5) While having its supporters through the years, almost no serious scholar
gives it any credence.
   b. Rex Turner noted: “The soldiers declared Jesus to be dead, and they break not
his legs because he was dead (Jn. 19:31,37). The testimony of those soldiers
would stand in court, and the testimony of a carping infidel who lived two
thousand years later would be laughed out of court. The Roman law did not
permit the removal of a body from the cross until the death of that individual
was obvious and certain, and Roman soldiers removed the body from the cross.
They were certain that Jesus was dead when his body was taken down from the
cross. One of those very soldiers ‘with a spear pierced his (Christ’s) side, and
straightway there came out blood and water’ (Jn. 19:34)” (21).
   c. The condition of Jesus’ body:
      (1) In the Garden he probably endured a state of hematidrosis (also called
hematohidrosis).
          (a) It is when one is in such agony and stress it causes him to sweats drops
of blood.
          (b) Blood loss is minimal, the skin becomes tender and sensitive.
      (2) After His arrest He endures five trials.
          (a) He is slapped and beaten.
          (b) He endures a Roman scourging which often produced death in the
victim.
          (c) After the scourging, the soldiers placed a robe on Him along with a
crown of thorns.
              (i) The crown of thorns, the thorns would be about an inch in length.
              (ii) The crown would be more like a helmet covering the entire scalp.
(iii) They took rods and beat the thorns into His head (the rods would have also contacted the head).
(iv) The result would not only be great pain but also large amount of bleeding.
(d) He would have been made to carry His cross
   (i) Probably just the crossbeam or patibulum which would weight from 75 to 125 pounds.
   (ii) The Bible does not state that Jesus fell under the load of the cross.
       a) The Roman’s made the condemned man carry his own cross.
       b) Yet, Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus’ cross.
       c) Falling under the weight of the crossbeam would probably cause blunt chest trauma and a contused (bruised) heart.
(3) No one who had endured these things prior to crucifixion would have been able to survive the ordeal of the cross.

d. When the guards came to break the legs of Jesus:
   (1) This was going to be done so they would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath.
   (2) They found Jesus to already be dead.
   (3) To make sure of His death a soldier thrust a spear into His side
       (a) John 19:34 “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”
       (b) This gave assurance to all that Jesus was actually dead.

e. Pilate is surprised by such an early death when Joseph of Arimathaea asked for the body of Jesus.
   (1) Mark 15:44-45 “And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. 45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.”
   (2) The centurion would not make a mistake about His death.

3. He was raised from the dead.
   a. This is the only other alternative and only reasonable one.
   b. The apostles affirmed and testified and eventually gave their lives for it.
   c. God had the power to raise Him from the dead. Paul says to King Agrippa; Acts 26:8 “Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”
   d. This proves He is more than just a man.

VII. Prophecies Concerning Christ

A. It has been stated there are 322 direct prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament.
   1. These prophecies are spelled out in minute detail.
   2. What would be the chances of one person fulfilling all these prophecies?
      a. Joseph P. Free stated the odds of one person fulfilling all of these were 1 over 84 with 97 zero’s following it.
b. Dr. Emile Borel, one of the world’s experts on mathematical probability, formulated a basic law of probability. This law states that the occurrence of any event where the chances are beyond one in one followed by 50 zeros is an event which we can state with certainty will never happen, no matter how much time is allotted and no matter how many conceivable opportunities could exist for the event to take place (chapters 1 and 3).

3. Yet Jesus fulfilled all of them, how?
   a. It would be impossible for it to have happened by chance.
   b. It is because there is a Supreme Being who knew what would happen and wrote about it aforetime.
   c. This proves inspiration.

B. Peter Stoner considered 8 prophecies of Christ.

1. These 8 are:
   a. Mic. 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”
   b. Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”
   c. Zec. 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”
   d. Zec. 13:6 “And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”
   e. Zec. 11:12 “And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”
   f. Zec. 11:13 “And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.”
   g. Isa. 53:7 “He was oppressed, 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.”
   h. Psa. 22:16 “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.”

2. He calculated that the probability of one man fulfilling these 8 prophecies would be 1 in 10^{28} (10 to the 28th power).

3. He continued on:
   a. What are the probabilities of one man fulfilling these 8 prophecies since the time they were given?
   b. He wrote, “the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17}” (106).
   c. To illustrate this, he wrote, “Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now
mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in anyone man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom” (107).

C. The fact that the prophets were able to correctly prophecy about Jesus proves they wrote by inspiration of God.

Conclusion: If Jesus is more than a mere man then what conclusion are we left? He is God. If He is God then what did He say about the Old Testament and New Testament? That they come from God, and that they claim (testimony) is valid.

Works Cited:
Free, Joseph P. Archaeology and Bible History.