

Who Wrote the Bible? (Part 2)

By John R. Gibson

The Preacher said in Ecclesiastes 12:12, “Of making many books there is no end,” and since his time countless more books have been written, but the Bible claims it should be granted a unique position, head-and-shoulders above all others as the divinely inspired, all-sufficient guide for man (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). While its divine inspiration may be seen in various ways, we are seeking to emphasize its divine origin by noting how that even those who claim allegiance to the Bible clearly could not be the ones responsible for producing it.

Two weeks ago we looked at Roman Catholicism and saw that many of its prominent teachings are either omitted from the Bible or in contra-diction to it. From that we can safely conclude that the Bible is not of Catholic origin. In this article we will see that the same thing can be said about a Protestant origin, for no Protestant denomination would have produced a book that so plainly contradicts its own teachings.

The Bible was not written by an Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, or anyone else who sprinkles or pours a small amount of water on someone and calls it a baptism. It seems most unlikely that those engaging in such practice would have had Philip and the eunuch stop the chariot, get out, go to the water, and then go down into the water when, in their thinking, a baptism could have been accomplished by a small amount of water brought to the chariot (Acts 8:36-39). And even more conclusively, an advocate of sprinkling or pouring would not have written the words of Romans 6:4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death....”

Since the Episcopal Church appoints women to serve as bishops we know it was not an Episcopal writer who penned 1 Timothy 3:2 and its declaration that “a bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife....”

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). Since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints traces its beginning to a day in 1823 when an angel allegedly appeared to Joseph Smith to tell him of the existence of some golden plates upon which the Book of Mormon would be found, we can be certain no Mormon writer sounded the warning against believing another gospel preached by an angel.

The conclusion that the Bible is not a Mormon production is further strengthened by contrasting the Bible’s description of elders as husbands and fathers with faithful children (Titus 1:5, 6) with the Mormon practice of sending young, unmarried men (boys?) on missions and calling them elders. (Note: some would object to our including Mormons in a discussion of Protestant churches since they would regard them as a cult, but it matters not to this writer if they are considered respected Protestants or dangerous cultists—the point is that their teachings are not Biblical.)

Did a Pentecostal write the Bible? It is clear from a reading of 1 Corinthians 14 that the Bible was not written by one who believed everyone should be speaking in tongues during the assembly, for the writer instructs those with the gift of tongues to speak one at a time and only when an interpretation was offered (14:27, 28). The same chapter forbade women to address the assembled congregation (14:34, 35) and demanded that all things be done “decently and in order” (14:40). These words were not written by modern Pentecostals who encourage everyone, male and female alike, to display their gift of tongues to the assembly. And of course a modern Pentecostal would have written a much different account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-11 where the tongues that were spoken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit were actual, understandable human languages. In the Bible the miracle did not lie in men speaking “ecstatic” utterances, but in their ability to speak foreign languages they had never studied.

Was the Bible written by a Baptist author? If so, it seems strikingly strange that he did not call John a Baptist, but instead always used the definite article the to modify the term Baptist, as though there was only one. And is it possible to believe that the most militant advocates among us of salvation by faith only would write the words of James 2? "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only....For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (2:24, 26). Similarly, a Baptist preacher would not have answered the question of what we shall we do in Acts 2:37 with an admonition to be baptized (Acts 2:38) or have connected baptism with the washing away of sins as did Ananias in Acts 22:16.

The Bible did not originate in the minds of men; it is a divine production and it is imperative we study it with an appreciation of the fact that it may and often does conflict with the thinking of men. As we have considered a few conflicts between man's thinking and God's teachings, let's not forget to look inward. It is easy to see how the doctrines of others are not in alignment with the teachings of Scripture, but are we as aware as we should be of the danger of falling into the same trap as we try to shape the Bible to fit our ways, rather than molding our lives after its pattern? While we do not want others to credit us with having written the Bible, they should be able to see in us a committed effort to live by its teachings. "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern" (Philippians 3:17).

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