

Who Wrote the Bible? (Part 1)

By John R. Gibson

The Bible makes the bold claim within its pages that it originated with God. In 2 Tim. 3:16, 17 Paul wrote of the Scriptures' ability to properly guide man and linked that to its origin. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." We find a similar claim made when the apostle Peter argues that the prophecies of old were not the result of anyone's private or personal thinking, but instead "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

In seeking to establish the veracity of these claims one could take several different approaches, but in this and one more article we hope to show that the Bible did not originate in the minds of man since it is so radically different from the way people think. We will see that many who claim allegiance to this book are involved in teachings and practices that are either not found in Scripture or in other cases are actually in opposition to that which is contained in the Bible. Doesn't it stand to reason that a book produced by man and for man would reflect the desires of man? Yet, the Bible differs so radically from the way both Catholics and Protestants think that it must have originated with God.

This week we will consider seven reasons (we could list more) for concluding that the Bible was not written by Roman Catholic writers. We can safely conclude that the Bible was not written by Catholic writers because:

1. The name Roman Catholic Church is never found in its sacred pages. While the word catholic means universal and the Scriptures do talk about the concept of a church that is universal in its scope (Eph. 1:22-23; Heb. 12:23; et al), this universal church of Scripture is neither headquartered in Rome nor headed up by a pope. The universal church of Scripture is headed only by Christ who is in heaven at the right hand of God (Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:20-23; 5:23). Since the church at Rome is given no special prominence in Scripture and no one man is ever said to preside over the universal church, we must conclude that the Bible is not a Roman Catholic production.
2. Since the Roman Catholic Church contends that Peter was the first pope and Rome does not allow its popes to be married, does it seem likely that a Catholic writer would have written of Peter's wife in Matt. 8:14?
3. As important as the cardinals and archbishops are in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, it is striking that neither is mentioned in the Bible. If the Scriptures came from the minds of Catholic writers surely they would have included some reference to these important offices.
4. The presence of married bishops in the New Testament is another proof the Bible is not a Catholic production. Those who wear the title of Bishop in the Roman Catholic Church are expected to have taken a vow of celibacy, but the New Testament says a bishop must be "the husband of one wife" (1 Tim. 3:2). An exception to the vow of celibacy can be made for priests who convert to Catholicism from the Episcopal Church, but they are the exception and not the

rule, and the New Testament does not say that some bishops may be married, instead it says that they must have a wife.

5. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is never mentioned in the New Testament after the establishment of the church in Acts 2. Since Mary plays such a prominent role in the devotional life of Roman Catholics it is inconceivable that a Catholic writer would have ended her story in Acts 1:14. Surely, if the Bible were a product of the Catholic Church there would be some mention of reciting the Ave Maria (more commonly known as the Hail Mary).
6. The way the word saint is used in the Bible argues against a Roman Catholic origin. In modern Catholicism today sainthood is only bestowed on a person after his or her death and then only after extensive examination and “verification” that some miracle is associated with this candidate for sainthood. How different that is from the New Testament where the term saint was used of all Christians (Acts 9:13, 32, 41; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; et al).
7. If the Bible is a Roman Catholic book why are the dead never asked to intercede for the living? Today Catholics commonly ask various dead saints to pray for them and use their intercessory powers on behalf of the living, but nothing even remotely resembling this is found in the Bible. Living Christians are taught to pray for one another (James 5:16), but not one word is ever said about asking the dead to pray for the living.

Who wrote the Bible? It was obviously not a Catholic production and later we will see that it also could not have come from any of the denominations so familiar to us today. As we stated in the beginning, the Bible originated with God and it is vital that we make this the book that shapes our lives.

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:21-25).

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