

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

Part One: A theology of Scripture

*The authorship, character, and
authority of the Bible*

Adult Sunday School

9:30 am

Teacher: Mark Lincoln

How can we substantiate the claim that the Scriptures are God's Words?

- **Starting Point:** What do the authors of this historical document claim about its authorship?

Divine Origin of Scripture

Self-Claims

1. Old Testament

- A. Direct Statements
- B. New Testament's view of the OT
- C. Jesus' View of the OT

2. New Testament

- A. Words of Jesus
- B. Direct claims of Divine origin
- C. Equivalent to the OT

Divine Origin of Scripture

Self-Claims: Summary

- The prophets of the OT and the apostles of the NT considered themselves God's spokesmen; their message was viewed as God's word (2 Peter 3:2)
 - OT = God's word through the prophets
 - NT = God's word through the apostles
- 2 Timothy 3:15-16
 - "all Scripture" would apply equally to the NT as well as the OT

Divine Origin of Scripture

Substantiation

Is there sufficient reason and evidence to doubt or disprove this claim?

1. Issue of Credibility

2. Characteristics of Divine Authorship

Divine Origin of Scripture

Substantiation

1. Issue of Credibility

A. Authors' Credibility

- Not just one author, but many
- if their claims are false, then they are either insane, or deliberate liars (hoax), or self-deceived
- did these authors believe what they wrote?

B. Jesus' Credibility

- Part of the “truth” that Jesus spoke was his testimony about the Scriptures

Divine Origin of Scripture

Substantiation

1. Issue of Credibility

C. Credibility of their Writings

- Written in a historical, cultural setting
 - History of Israel and the ancient near eastern nations
 - History of Jesus, Judaism, early church, the Roman Empire
- **does not prove that it is God's word, but it shows it to be a credible/reliable document – strengthens the credibility of its claims!**

