

Just Thinking Apologetics

Looking to what books should be part of the Bible, the first major question that needs to be addressed is: Was it written by a messenger of God? God used people in both the Old and New Testament periods to get his message out. In the Old Testament they were called prophets, which simply means messenger. Some parts of the Bible explicitly claim to be from God. Consider these statements in the Old Testament, “And the word of the Lord came to the prophet (Jer. 37:6)”, or “The Lord spoke (Ex. 33:9)”, or “The Lord said unto (Amos 7:8).” There are many examples in the Old Testament that mention these three phrases.

In the New Testament God used messengers who were usually Apostles or close followers of Jesus. In Galatians Chapter 1 Paul states, “Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father.” A few books were disputed such as 2 Peter in the New Testament, because the style appeared different from I Peter, and Ester of the Old Testament because it never mentions the name of God. Both were later accepted based upon the authorship and other supporting evidences.

If the writing was from an individual who was a recognized messenger of God, its canonicity was easier to accept. It should be noted that there is more evidence than just the writing being a messenger of God. In the coming weeks we will look to this other evidence that supports the Bible as coming from the mouth of God.