

# **“Is That You, God?”**

**1 Thess. 2:13**

## **Introduction:**

- A. “Is that you, God?” – Little Scott’s innocent question.
  - 1. Asked by first century man about Jesus, His words, and His apostle’s words.
  - 2. Asked by modern man about the words of the Bible.
- B. Yes, is my answer for two interwoven reasons:
  - 1. The Bible’s own claim (other evidence meaningless if no claims).
  - 2. The Bible’s own evidence (claim alone insufficient if not supported by evidence).

## **Discussion:**

### **I. The Bible’s Claim to Being the Word of God.**

- A. Paul’s claims (1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 3:3-5; 1 Thess. 2:13)
- B. Peter’s claims (2 Pet. 1:16-21; 3:16)
- C. John’s claims (Rev. 1:9-11; 22:18-19).
- D. The prophets’ claims (cf. Jer. 1:1-4, 13, 2:1; Ezek 1:3)

### **II. The Bible’s Evidence Supporting the Claim.**

- A. The very nature of the Bible.
  - 1. Not one book, but collection of Books.
  - 2. Not one writer, but over 40 writers.
  - 3. Not one period, but over 1600 years.
  - 4. Yet, reflects one mind with one theme – fall and redemption of man.
  - 5. Illustrate by wall mural.
- B. The credibility of the Bible.
  - 1. Its version of man’s origin versus other versions.
  - 2. Its candidness and calmness of expression.
- C. The first century outpouring of miraculous power.
  - 1. Unlike occasional miracles of Old Testament.
  - 2. Unlike isolated non-verifiable claims in human history.
  - 3. A great outpouring of miraculous activity.
    - a. Open, obvious and wide-spread (John 20:30, 31; 21:25; Mark 16:14-20; Acts 2:43; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6, 13; Acts 15:12)
    - b. Eyewitnesses of these miracles had all to lose and nothing to gain in this world.
    - c. Course of this world changes by the events of the age.
  - 4. The resurrection and reaction to it.
- D. The Prophetic evidence.
  - 1. Concerning Christ (Isa. 53; Psa. 22).
  - 2. Concerning the kingdom (Isa. 2:1-5; Dan 2:44).

## **Conclusion:**

- A. If claims are not true, then not a book but deliberate deception or writers were deceived men.
- B. If evidence not conclusive then one must explain both the claims and the events away.