

the Bible.

Where do great works originate? A great painting originates in the aesthetic soul of the artist; a great invention originates in the need of the day and the pragmatic grasp of a technician; a great movement begins in the vision of an advanced thinker; a great book begins in the mind of the author. This latter point is especially true of the Bible. Its very greatness helps to define its origin. It is unthinkable that such a work could originate in the mind of man. What mind is that great? The Bible originated in the mind of the author, and that author was God. When someone asks about the origin of the Bible, his question may be answered by simply stating that the originator of the Bible was God himself. The answer may be oversimplified, but it is true.

Nevertheless we need to look rather closely at this statement. We may reason that such a book could come from no other source than a divine one (and that reasoning has validity); but the concept of origination that the Bible gives to itself is very clear, and we prefer to let the Bible speak for itself. Some say that this is "reasoning in a circle," and that to ask the Bible what it claims for itself is an improper procedure. But if one sees an automobile and it bears a trade name of General Motors Corporation, he will accept that as sufficient testimony to establish the "make" of the car. When this is so common a practice in everyday life, it would seem silly to deny the Bible equal opportunity to speak for itself. Regarding its origin, the Bible spells out the facts in a number of references:

1. Heb. 1:1 — God spoke through the prophets. In other words, the message from the Old Testament prophets to the people was the truth of God. That message is of equal inspiration and origin to that of Jesus Christ's. God spoke through the prophets and through the Son. The term "prophets" is broader than our