

# The Bible Is Inspired

Focus: The Bible Is Filled with Prophecy

## ★ PREPARATION

Select the **Time Line**. Display it in a prominent area for easy viewing by students throughout the school year.

## ↻ EXTENSION

**4A** Have students name the books of the Bible from the Prophets category. Use **PP-1 Books of the Bible** or **DM-5 Books of the Bible** as a guide. Assign every student, or group of students, one of the books and have them find one prophecy God gave to that particular prophet.

**4B** Read **Luke 21:8**. State that Jesus warned His disciples about false prophets who would come after Him, claim to be the Messiah, and say that they could predict the future. Discuss how believers can recognize false prophets and false prophecies and can keep from being deceived by them. (**Answers may vary but should include by being careful not to believe or follow people who claim to be Jesus or to know the future, who don't believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, and who say that the prophecies in the Bible aren't true.**)

## Introduction ◀

Secretly write a number between 1 and 10 on a piece of paper. Have volunteers try to guess what the number is until someone guesses correctly. Then write the number 10 followed by 17 zeros on the board, representing a million billion. Discuss how difficult it would be to guess the right number if it was between 1 and a million billion. Explain that the chance, or probability, that just 8 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus would occur as stated is only 1 in a million billion. But they did! In fact, there are many more prophecies in the Bible that Jesus fulfilled! Read **Micah 5:2** as an example of a fulfilled prophecy. State that this prophecy said that Jesus the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Inform students that in today's lesson they will discover how God spoke through people.

## Directed Instruction ◀

Read **Jeremiah 30:1–2**. Ask students what God told Jeremiah to do. (**write in a book all the words God had spoken to him**) Explain that God powerfully breathed His words into the men who wrote Scripture, filling their heart and mind with His truth. Sometimes God spoke His words out loud, and sometimes He silently placed His words in the writer's heart. Because the Bible is inspired, or God-breathed, the Bible writers recorded exactly what God wanted them to say.

Invite a volunteer to read **2 Peter 1:20–21**. Ask students to name the two important truths in this passage. (**All prophecy is from God, not from men; the Holy Spirit gave chosen men the words God wanted them to speak.**) Emphasize that the men who wrote God's words were specially chosen by God. They did not make up the words of Scripture on their own. They listened to and obeyed God. All Scripture, including prophecy, came from God.

Explain that fulfilled prophecy, the length of time it took to write the Bible, and the number of Bible writers are three of the strongest proofs that Scripture is God's inspired Word. Remind students that *prophecy* is defined as *a message from God that tells people about a future event*. God gave these prophecies to men called *prophets*. State that the Bible contains more than 1,800 prophecies. Every prophecy in the Bible that foretold events up until the present time has been fulfilled. The odds of that happening by chance are nearly impossible. Fulfilled prophecies not only prove that the Bible is God-breathed but that everything recorded in the Bible is true and accurate.

## Time Line

To expound on the amount of total time spent in writing the Bible and the number of people God used to write Scripture, start with Moses' life and move along the **Time Line** until you reach the apostle John at the end. Explain that God inspired more than 40 people over 1,600 years to record His Word. Many Bible writers never knew one another and did not live at the same time or in the same place. Yet the Bible contains no errors. This perfection could happen only if God gave His words directly to men.

## Student Page 2.4

Direct students to complete the page.

### Review

- What is one of the strongest proofs that Scripture is God's inspired Word? (**fulfilled prophecy**)
- Why is fulfilled prophecy such strong proof? (**The reason it is such strong proof is because every prophecy in the Bible that foretold events up until the present time has occurred. The chances of that happening are beyond possibility.**)
- What are two other strong proofs? (**the length of time and the number of people it took to write Scripture**)
- Why are the length of time and the number of people it took to record Scripture such excellent proofs? (**Many Bible writers did not know each other or live at the same time or in the same place, and yet Scripture contains no errors.**)

### Notes:

### APPLICATION

- How can the proofs you discovered today help you share your faith in Jesus with others? (**Answers will vary.**)
- In what ways has God spoken to you? (**Answers will vary but should include through the Bible, prayer, my pastor, and my parents.**)
- God has the power to speak His words to people and to fulfill everything He tells about the future. How does knowing this help you trust Him? (**Answers will vary but should include that it helps me trust Him because everything God says takes place and He will take care of me in the future.**)

## DAY 4

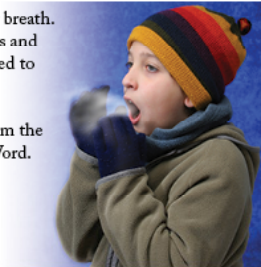
### 2.4 The Bible Is Inspired

When you breathe out on a cold day, you can see your breath. God breathed His words into each of the Bible writers and filled their heart and mind with His truth. They listened to God and wrote exactly what He wanted them to say.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or number from the Word Bank to give evidence that God inspired His Word.

#### Word Bank

1,800	million
8	billion



1. The chances of just 8  
Old Testament prophecies about Jesus Christ occurring are 1 in a million billion, and there are more than 1,800 prophecies in the Bible!

2. List three of the strongest proofs that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that the human writers did not make it up. Why is this important?

- fulfilled prophecy
- length of time it took to write the Bible
- number of Bible writers

This is important because **Answers will vary but should include that since these proofs show the inspiration of the Bible, the Bible is useful for life.**

3. Suppose your friend is not sure he or she believes that the Bible is from God. Your friend thinks that people might have made it up. Write a note sharing with your friend what you have learned that proves God inspired every word in the Bible. Use the information in Jeremiah 30:1–2 and 2 Peter 1:20–21 in your answer.

**Answers will vary but should include fulfilled prophecy, the odds of just 8 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus occurring—1 in a million billion—or the length of time and the number of people it took to record the Bible without errors.**

### REINFORCEMENT

The chances of just 8 of the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus Christ occurring were 1 in a million billion. This probability would be equivalent to covering the entire state of Texas with one-dollar coins piled two feet deep, placing a mark on just one of those coins, returning the coin to the pile, shaking up all the coins, and then having a blindfolded person randomly pick out that marked coin from all those million-billion coins in one attempt! The chances of more than 1,800 prophecies in the Bible occurring are even more staggering! Only an infinite, all-powerful Creator could accurately foretell the future and then ensure that each and every prophecy is fulfilled.