

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE (Part 1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### What Is Inspiration?

- **Inspiration** is: "A supernatural influence exerted on the sacred writers by the Spirit of God, by virtue of which their writings are given Divine trustworthiness" (B.B. Warfield, "Inspiration," International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, page 1473).

### What Is Inspiration?

In defining scriptural inspiration three factors must be kept in mind:

- (1) First, the primary **Cause**, the **Holy Spirit**, who acts upon man; cf. John 16:12-13; Matthew 10:19-20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12; cf. 2 Peter 1:20-21
- (2) Second, the **Subject** of inspiration, **man**, the agent upon whom the Holy Spirit acts directly; cf. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13
- (3) Third, the **Result** of inspiration, a **written revelation**, given once for all, thoroughly accredited and tested by miracle and fulfilled prophecy, cf. Ephesians 3:3ff; Hebrews 2:2-3 (cf. J. E. Steinmueller, Companion to Scripture Studies [1941], 1:5, 14).

### THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

The claim of inspiration.

- **John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 14:37  
Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 3:1-5;  
1 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 1:1-2**

### THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

***Bible writers claimed to be speaking the word of God.***

***"Thus saith the Lord"*** or equivalent occurs over 2,000 times in the Old Testament alone. ***Isaiah 1:1-2; Jeremiah 10:1-2; Ezekiel 1:3***

### THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

***The Bible is verbally inspired.***

- **1 Corinthians 2:10-13** – The apostles spoke the things of God using words which the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) taught them to use.
- **2 Samuel 23:2** – David said that "*the Spirit of the Lord spake by me ...*"
- **Jeremiah 1:9** – When God appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet He put His words in Jeremiah's mouth (not merely His ideas into Jeremiah's mind).
- **Jeremiah 36:4** – Jeremiah dictated "*all the words of Jehovah*" which were then written upon a roll of a book.
- **Acts 1:16** – Scripture was spoken by the Holy Spirit by the mouth of God's prophets (such as David, in this instance, cf. Matthew 22:43).

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*The process of inspiration is summed up in Zechariah 7:12: God sent His word > By His Spirit > By His prophets > To His people*

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

- ***God's inspired scriptures are incorruptible – 1 Peter 1:22-25.***
- ***Inspired scripture completely equips a person to do God's will - 2 Timothy 3:16-17.***

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

- ***Scripture is the authoritative word of God – John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 14:37.***
- ***Bible inspiration is supported by its unity and fulfilled prophecy – Isaiah 42:8-9; Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Luke 24:44-45.***
- ***THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD!***

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

The Bible Claims to Be the Complete Revealed Will of God to Man.

- A. Jesus promised that the Spirit would guide the apostles into ALL truth (John 14:26; 16:13).
- B. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. God's will was revealed "*unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit*" (Ephesians 3:5; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 1 Peter 1:12).
- C. They wrote it down in a "*few words*" which we may read and understand (Ephesians. 3:3.4). We are warned, "*not to go beyond the things which are written*" (1 Corinthians 4:6; cf. 2 John 9).

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- D. The apostle Paul said, "*according to that which is written, I believed, and therefore did I speak*" (2 Corinthians 4:13).
- E. He also stated that a man was "*accursed*" or "*anathema*" who taught "*any gospel other than that which we preached*" (Galatians 1:8-9; cf. 1 Timothy 1:3).
- F. Peter asserts that God "*hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" (2 Peter 1:3);
- G. Paul affirms that the scriptures furnish "*completely unto every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:17); and

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- H. Jude writes of the "*faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints*" (Jude 3).
  1. Concerning the phrase "*once for all*" in Jude 3, Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon says: "used of what is so done as to be of perpetual validity and never need repetition" (page 54).
  2. Therefore, the word of God is complete; there is no need for additional revelations; there are no latter day revelations.

Galatians 1:6-7, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another (*heteros*, "different" ASV), gospel: Which is not another (*allos*); but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." (KJV)

Paul speaks of "a different gospel (*heteros*), which is not another" (*allos*, another like the one he preached), Gal 1:6-7. **Allos** expresses a numerical difference and denotes "another of the same sort"; **Heteros** expresses a qualitative difference and denotes "another of a different sort." (W.E. Vine)

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The Bible says:

- "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).
- "the word of God ... liveth and abideth forever" and that "the word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Peter 1:23,25).
- **The Fact of Inspiration Stated.** "Every scripture inspired of God (is) also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

Five great truths of inspiration taught:

### 1 Timothy 2:16-17

- The verbal inspiration of the Bible, "all" or "every" (ASV);
- The verbal inspiration specifically of the OT, plainly implying the entire NT as well, that is, "all Scripture";
- The divine authorship of Scripture – "inspired by God" ("God-breathed");
- The supreme value of all Scripture to the spiritual life, "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness";
- The holy purpose of Scripture, "that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely for every good work."

## The Nature of Inspiration

2 Peter 1:20-21, "knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit."

First, it declares how it DID NOT originate – it is not "a matter of one's own interpretation," that is, it is not the result of human research nor the product of the writer's own thought. It did not come into being by the will of man. Man did not propose to write it, decide its subject matter, or outline its arrangement.

Second, this passage tells how the Scriptures DID originate. "Men," that is, certain divinely selected men, "spoke from God," the source. These inspired men were borne, or carried along, by the Holy Spirit, the message being His, not theirs.

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unusual style of the Scriptures

**The brevity of entire books.**

- The book of Genesis has only fifty chapters, yet it tells of the origin of the world and all that is in it.
- The first 2,500 years of man's history on earth is covered in these same chapters.
- The first 34 verses tell of the creation of the material universe, the plant world, the animal world, and man.
- To relate the life of Christ, Matthew used 28 chapters, Mark used 16, Luke used 24, and John used 21.

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unusual style of the Scriptures

**The brevity of Bible incidents.**

- Genesis 3:1-24 tells the story of man's fall ... origin of sin, suffering, sickness, death, toil, and the necessity of the coming of a Messiah.
- The baptism of Jesus is described in Matthew 3:13-17. Mark and Luke also give brief accounts of this great event.
- The transfiguration of Jesus is described in Matthew 17:1-8. Moses and Elijah coming back from the dead and the superiority of Christ in only eight verses.
- The death of James the first apostle to be martyred is told in Acts 12:2. Only eleven words.

**Men on their own do not write with such restraint.**

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unusual style of the Scriptures

#### The omissions of the Scriptures.

- a. The apostle John told of only twenty different days of the Lord's life and ministry. The total life of Christ covered more than 12,000 days, and His active ministry more than 1,270 days, yet all of the gospel narratives together tell of events which happened on only some 34 different days in the life of Christ. Out of the 879 verses in the gospel of John, 237 pertain to one day of Jesus' life ... cf. John 20:30-31  
cf. especially John 21:25
- b. The book of Acts tells of events in the lives of Peter and Paul ... What about the other apostles?
- c. What about the trial of Paul before Nero?

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unusual style of the Scriptures

#### The impartiality of the Scriptures.

- a. The writers of the Bible set forth both the virtues and the follies of those of whom they wrote.
- b. Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-12.
- c. David – 2 Samuel 11:1-21
- d. James and John (Anger toward the Samaritan village – Luke 9:51-55); cf. Matthew 20:20-28.
- e. Peter's denial – Matthew 26:69-75 and his hypocrisy – Galatians 2:11-14.

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unusual style of the Scriptures

#### The calmness of the Scriptures.

- a. Christ's miracles ... (1) Feeding the 5,000 – Mark 6:39-44.  
(2) Walking on the water – Mark 6:49-51. (3) Raising Lazarus – John 11:43-46.
- b. Christ in Gethsemane told without anger.  
Matthew 26:14-16, 47-56.
- c. Christ's crucifixion is described without emotion.  
Matthew 27:33-56.
- d. Christ's resurrection is pictured without the colorful adjectives that men would normally use. John 20:11-20.

All this without the adjectives: *amazing, unbelievable, unprecedented ...*

## Evidences of Inspiration

### The Unity of the Scriptures

1. Sixty-six books of the Bible, written by about 40 different men, over a period of nearly 1,600 years.
2. Men from different countries, speaking different languages, from different backgrounds, yet they present one central theme, without variation or contradiction.
  - a. Many of these had no access to the other books of the Bible dealing with events of their own time, yet they wrote in perfect unity, each complementing what the others had written.
  - b. Compare this to the writings of other religious writers ... (Book of Mormon, Writings of the Watchtower, etc.)

**Unguided men could not have written with this degree of unity.**