

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Introduction:

We have met here tonight because we believe the Bible. We believe in the God of the Bible; the Christ of the Bible; the plan of salvation revealed in the Bible; and everything else written in the Bible. To a finer point, we believe the King James Version of the Bible to be the very Word of God in the English language.

We hold up our Bibles and we say, "This book is the Word of God! I believe it is true from cover to cover. It is without error and it is absolutely perfect." I believe that too, but I fear that many do not know why they believe that.

Friends, everything we believe either stands or falls on the accuracy of the Bible. Therefore, it is imperative that we know why we believe what we believe about the Bible.

A good word that describes the Bible is the word “unique”. The dictionary defines the word “unique” as follows:

1. Existing as the only one
2. Having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable

It is the only book of its kind in existence! Several features point out its uniqueness, and by way of introduction, I want to share those features with you today.

- The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years
- The Bible was penned by over 40 different people (Among them were kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, statesmen, musicians, scholars and shepherds.)
- The Bible was written in many different places, at many different times and by people experiencing many different moods.
- The Bible was written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

- The Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.
- The Bible addresses hundreds of difficult issues without a single contradiction.
- The Bible is a book of great diversity, yet, in spite of this, it unfolds a single continuous story, and it does so without ever contradicting itself.
- The Bible has for its main character God Himself, made known through the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is a unique book! But, this uniqueness was not accidental, it was purposeful. How can this be? The Bible achieves its uniqueness through a process known as Inspiration.

You will see the definition of inspiration on the sheets of terms and definitions I just handed you.

Inspiration Definition:

lit., “God Breathed.” The scriptural doctrine that the Bible is a God-breathed and therefore perfect book whose writers were guided supernaturally by the Holy Spirit who kept them free from all error

If God has given His Word, delivered by His very breath, then it stands to reason that the scripture He has given us is absolutely perfect.

Now let me say a few things before we dig into this.

1. This is a serious issue which affects fundamental doctrines.
2. Taking a different position doesn't make a man a heretic.
3. There are good and bad people on both sides of this issue.
4. It's not always necessary to separate with a brother or sister over their position on the Bible. It is necessary to separate over practice.

Notice: We see in this passage:

1. The Extent of Inspiration – “All”
2. The Essence of Inspiration – “literally God Breathed”
3. The Effect of Inspiration – “Profitable”

Let's look into the matter of inspiration.

1. THE PROCESS OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION

What process did God use to get His Word into the hands and hearts of men? There are three terms that must be addressed as we deal with this matter of Inspiration. You again will find the definitions to these terms on the sheets that I gave you.

A. Revelation

The first step in getting the word of God on paper is the process known as revelation. This is the process whereby a man hears from the Lord just what the Lord wants written down.

Notice:

The Marvel of Inspiration – “More sure Word”

2 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

The Methods of Inspiration – “spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”

2 Peter 1:21

²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

At varying times, God used varying means to give His revelation to men.

- He spoke through angels

Genesis 18, 19; Luke 1-2; Matthew 28

- He spoke through an audible voice

Genesis 3:9-19, 6:13-21, 12:1-3; Exodus 20:1-17;
Joshua 1:1-9; 1 Kings 19:11-12

- He spoke in a still small voice

1 Kings 19:11-12

- He spoke through nature

Psalms 19

- He spoke through animals

Numbers 22:28

- He spoke in dreams

Genesis 28:12; Matthew 1-2:19-22

- He spoke through visions

Isaiah 6:1-6; Daniel 7, 8, 10; Acts 16, 19

B. Inspiration

The second step in the process is inspiration. This is man writing on paper what God has told him to say. As we have already seen this process is said to be “God breathed”.

- The Bible clearly claims inspiration for itself

2 Timothy 3:17

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 1:1

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Let me say about 2 Peter 1:20-21:

If it's new it probably not true and if it's true it's not new.

- Paul believed his writings were inspired

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 4:15

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

- Peter believed his writings were inspired

2 Peter 3:2

² That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

- Peter believed the writings of Paul were inspired

2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶ As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Someone once said about Inspiration as:

“God’s superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.”

How did God do this?

There are many different views, but only one correct view. Let me share a few of those with you.

- Natural Inspiration

This theory holds that there was nothing supernatural involved in the writing of the Bible. Men were inspired in the same fashion as Shakespeare, Milton and other authors.

- Spiritual Illumination

People who hold this view believe that the people and the words were inspired. They believe that any devout Christian can be inspired to write more Scripture.

Example – The Book of Mormon

- Partial Inspiration

This view says that only the elements in the Bible related to faith are inspired. There may be scientific or

historical error, but God has preserved the message of salvation. The problems with this view are clear! If you cannot believe part of the Bible, how can you believe any of the Bible?

- Conceptual Inspiration

The concepts of scripture and not the words are inspired. God just gave a man an idea and he wrote what he thought about that topic. Again we see the problem with this concept; it involves man's intellect, and thought and opinion of men.

Psalm 94:11

¹¹ The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- Divine Dictation

The biblical writers were merely robots in the hand of God. He came upon them and overrode them. He moved the pen and merely used their body as a vehicle to write His Own Words. If this is true, then why do John, Paul, Peter, James, Matthew, Moses, etc all reveal differing styles?

All of these, among others, are false views of inspiration. Allow me to share with you the biblical view of inspiration. Most fundamentalists believe in what is called the “Verbal, Plenary Inspiration of the Bible.”

This simple means that we believe that “all” (plenary) the very “words” (verbal) of the Bible are inspired. This is the claim of the Bible.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 5:17-19

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

John 10:35

³⁵ If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

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What this means is that God gave His Word to human authors. But, He did not override their personalities. He did, however, guide their choice of words. When they had written down all that God had given them in His revelation, they had produced a perfectly inspired record of God's revelation. God breathed His Word through human vessels giving the world a perfectly inspired statement of His Word to men!

In this process of inspiration we have considered the Revelation, the Inspiration; notice also:

C. Illumination

Illumination = The work of the Holy Spirit which gives the believer understanding of God's Word.

We will look at this in more details later on in this study.

Notice not only the Process of Interpretation but also

2. THE PROOFS OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION

Our faith can rest not just in the fact that God personally breathed His Word through men, but that His Word will stand up to several important tests as to its perfection. Let me share a few of those with you as I close:

- It passes the Historical/Archeological Test

For many years people laughed at Bible believers because the Bible referred to places, people and events that had no basis in recorded history. However, God has allowed the archeologists' to uncover many items from the ancient past that confirm the factual nature of the Word of God.

Not a single piece of evidence had ever surfaced that contradicts the Bible at only point of its history.

- It passes the Scientific Test

Others have mocked the Bible and claimed that it was inaccurate in matters of science. However, time has once again vindicated the accuracy of the message of the Bible.

The Bible says the earth is a sphere, Isa. 40:22. Man discovered this in the 15th century.

The Bible says the earth is suspended in space - Job 26:7. Sir Isaac Newton discovered this in 1687.

The Bible claims the number of the stars is innumerable, Gen. 15:5. Abraham could only see about 1,200 stars in his day. Now, we know that there are trillions of stars in the heavens.

The Bible contains rules regarding medicine and sanitation that were thousands of years ahead of their time. (Ill. Washing and quarantine)

- It passes the Prophecy Test

There are literally thousands of prophetic predictions made in the Bible. Some of these prophecies are quite dramatic in nature. For instance, Isaiah mentions Cyrus the Persian King, by name, 125 years before he was born.

Not a single one prophecy made in the Bible has ever failed, or will ever fail, to come to pass! Some of the most remarkable prophecies are those related to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. He would be born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2

Micah 5:2

² But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

2. He would be preceded by a forerunner, Isa. 40:3

Isaiah 40:3

³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

3. He would enter Jerusalem on a colt, Zech. 9:9

Zechariah 9:9

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

4. He would be betrayed by a friend, Psa. 41:9

Psalm 41:9

⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

5. His hands and His feet would be pierced, Psa. 22:16

Psalm 22:16

¹⁶ For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

6. He would be wounded by His enemies, Isa. 53:5

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

7. He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, Zech. 11:12

Zechariah 11:12

¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.

8. He would be spit upon and beaten, Isa. 50:6

Isaiah 50:6

⁶ I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

9. The betrayal money would be cast down in temple and would be used to buy a potter's field, Zech. 11:13

Zechariah 11:13

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

10. He would be silent before His accusers, Isa. 53:7

Isaiah 53:7

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

11. He would be crucified with thieves, Isa. 53:12

Isaiah 53:12

¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

12. People would gamble for His garments, Psa. 22:8

Psalms 22:8

⁸ He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

13. His side would be pierced, Zech. 12:10

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

14. Not a bone in His body would be broken, Psa. 34:20

Psalm 34:20

²⁰ He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

15. His body would not decay, Psa. 16:10

Psalm 16:10

¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

16. He would be burial in the tomb of a rich man, Isa. 53:9

Isaiah 53:9

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.

17. Darkness would cover the earth, Amos 8:9

Amos 8:9

⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

- It Passes the Unity Test

What God begins in Genesis, He ends in Revelation. (Ill. Gen. 1:1; Rev. 21:1; Gen. 1:27-28; Rev. 21:9, etc.)

Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Revelation 21:1

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Genesis 1:27-28

²⁷ So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Revelation 21:9

⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

This is in spite of the fact that it took 1,500 years to write the Bible. It is the unfolding of a single story from beginning to end. This could never be duplicated by any human work!

- It Passes the Honesty Test

If this were merely a human book, it would gloss over the failures of the people found within its pages. However, the Bible does not hide Noah's drunkenness, Samson's lust, David's adultery, Elijah's depression or Peter's denial. It tells the truth from cover to cover!

There are many other areas in which the Bible could be put to the test, but I just want you to know that it passes them all with flying colors! No human book could accomplish this! Just what I have mentioned this evening is proof positive that we have in our hands a divinely inspired Bible!

Notice not only the Process of Biblical Inspiration, the Proof of Biblical Inspiration, we will consider now:

3. THE PRODUCT OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION

We know what inspiration is and we can see the God's fingerprints all over His Word. If we accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God, what does that teach us?

What can we take away from such an examination?

We are left with three precious truths that must never be taken for granted.

A. The Bible is Infallible

This word means that the Scriptures are incapable of failing! Everything the Bible says is truth and all everything it promises will come to pass! The Scriptures are in every sense perfect and they are a perfect revelation of the mind of God to man!

B. The Bible is Inerrant

The Bible is without error. When people say that the Bible contains mistakes and errors, they are calling the very character of God into question! We are told that God simply cannot tell a lie.

Hebrews 6:18

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

He claimed inspiration for His Word, then that Word must be inerrant. If it isn't then God lied when He claimed to have inspired the original text.

C. The Bible is Complete

When the Apostle John laid down his pen at the close of the book of Revelation, the revelation in the Scriptures was perfect and fully complete. There has not been a single inspired word since that time and there never will be. God has finished His Scriptures and we hold in our hands the perfect and complete record of that revelation.

Close:

When you read your Bible, you are reading the very words of God! You can base your faith upon it! You can trust your eternity to it. You can embrace its

message knowing that it reveals the very mind of God to man! It cannot fail! It cannot err! It will never be corrected, updated or amended! It is complete and it is perfect!

I hope this message has served to help to further anchor your faith in the blessed Word of God.