

Subject: God's Inspired Word, Part 2

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:19-21

As we consider why the Bible is in fact the Word of God, we are looking at some key words and concepts. We first examined the Bible as God's revelation (truth revealed by God that we could not know any other way). Then we began to think about the Bible as God's inspired Word (God-breathed). There are several things we need to consider:

- MEANING of inspiration – “all scripture is given by inspiration of God”
- MENTION of inspiration – many verses refer to God as the source of Scripture
- MISUNDERSTANDING about inspiration – wrong views of inspiration
- METHOD of inspiration – the process how God directed every word
- MARKS of inspiration – the unmistakable proofs that Scripture inspired by God

MISUNDERSTANDING about Inspiration

- It is not a high level of human inspiration – like a great writer or poet
- It is not the great thoughts of godly men

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Peter 1:10-11 ¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The Holy Spirit revealed truth to the prophets who wrote them down, read them, and in some cases tried to figure out what they meant. In other words, they didn't fully understand what they were writing or how it would come to pass.

- It is not partially inspired

Some have tried to believe that the Bible is inspired when it speaks about religious or spiritual matters, but not when it speaks of science and history. Who is qualified to pick out the parts that are inspired from the parts that are not?

- It is not inspired by mechanical dictation

Although some parts of scripture were given by dictation (example, the Ten Commandments), all scripture was not given that way. The human writers were not mindless robots. They were not in a trance when they wrote. Every part of the Bible bears an individual style and vocabulary of the writer. Obviously the human writers were not passive but actively engaged in the process of writing it down.

- It is not the influence of God upon the reader

Some say the Bible is inspired because it causes you to experience God. If you get convicted when you read it, then the Bible becomes the Word of God to you at that point.

The Bible should make an impact on the reader, but that doesn't make it inspired. We need to remember that all scripture is equally inspired, but all scripture is not equally inspiring. For example, read Genesis 5 and Matthew 5. What a difference when you read both chapters, and yet both are inspired by God. Some parts of the Bible will comfort you and some parts will convict you. Some parts of the Bible will encourage you and some parts will humble you. Some parts of the Bible will soothe you and some part will scare you.

METHOD of Inspiration

How did God give His Word to men and how did He record it through men?

- God set apart a special group of men to write His Word.

God used about 40 men over a period of about 1,500 years and led them to write down everything He wanted written. God tells us how that happened in **2 Peter 1:20-21** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.* The word "holy" means sanctified or set apart. The word "moved" means led along or carried along. The process was much like the sails on a ship and how the wind fills those sails to move it along in the water. Holy men of God set their sails and the Holy Spirit led them along to record the exact words God wanted them to record for all time.

- God used men with different backgrounds, personalities, and styles of writing.

The 40 human writers were all different. Some were leaders, some were musicians, some were teachers, some were fishermen, some were farmers, one was a tentmaker, and one was a medical doctor. They lived in different places at different times. They each had their own unique style of writing and vocabulary. This is what David said in **2 Samuel 23:2** *The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.* Just as a trumpet, trombone, and a French horn when they are "breathed into" by the same musician, all give a different sound. It is the musician's breath that flows through all the instruments to give their own distinct sounds. So God breathed through men Moses, David, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, and about 32 others.

"The result was that the right men were brought to the right places at the right times, and wrote the particular books or gave the particular messages which were designed for them." - Loraine Boettner

- God inspired men to write some things they could not have known or understood.

God describes the creation of the world in Genesis 1. He gave that information to Moses, but neither Moses nor any other person was an eyewitness to creation. God inspired Moses to write something he knew nothing about. The prophet Daniel admitted that he did not understand what he was writing. For example, in **Daniel 12:8-9** ⁸ *And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?* ⁹ *And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.* Consider what Peter wrote about this in **1 Peter 1:10-11** ¹⁰ *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:* ¹¹ *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.* These were inspired writers of Scripture studying the meaning of what they themselves had written.

Jesus spoke about how the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles in **John 16:12-15** ¹² *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.* ¹³ *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* ¹⁴ *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* ¹⁵ *All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

- God inspired men to write about some things they saw as eyewitnesses.

They were normal human beings who in the course of time observed many things and they recorded some of those things as God directed them. **1 John 1:1** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life...* **1 John 1:3** *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

- God inspired men to research and record things known by other eyewitnesses.

This was the method used by Luke in writing the Gospel of Luke and some of the Book of Acts. **Luke 1:1-3** ¹ *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,* ² *Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;* ³ *It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,* The Book of Acts is written in the third person except for some places where Luke was with Paul on his missionary journeys and he was an eyewitness, so he wrote in the first person (“we”).