

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #2: The Bible: Inspired of God

Note: Most information based on pages 16-24 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

Some Important Facts:

1. The Bible is the only book ever written that was inspired of God in the sense that God personally guided the writers.
2. “Inspiration” of the Bible is defined as God so directed the human authors that, without destroying their own individuality, literary style, or personal interest, His complete and connected thought toward man was recorded.
3. In forming the Scriptures, it is true that God employed human writers; but these men, although they may not have understood all that they were writing, nevertheless under the guiding hand of God produced 66 books that form the Bible in which there is amazing unity and constant evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in directing what was written.
4. Although written by human pen, the Bible is God’s message to man rather than a message of man to his fellow man.
5. Although passages of the Bible differ greatly in the value of the information being revealed, EVERY WORD of Scripture is equally inspired of God.

Exodus 20:1 “And God spoke all these words: ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt...’”

John 6:63 “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

1Corinthians 2:13 “This is what we speak, NOT in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”

6. Scriptures in the New Testament appear to go to painstaking details to indicate that EACH WORD written in the Old Testament was critical and inspired of God:

John 10:34-36 “Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—what about...’”

Galatians 3:16 “The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to

seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

7. The claim of inspiration, of course, applies ONLY to the original writings of the Scriptures and not to copies, translations, or quotations; but NOTE:

a. As there are no original writings of the Scriptures (i.e. called “manuscripts”) left, scholars have gone to great lengths to determine the accuracy of the text of the Bible that we now have in our possession.

b. For the purpose of learning “truth” about and from God, it is very safe to assume that our present copies of the Bible are accurate reproductions of the original writings.

c. Although many minor variations in text exist, these very rarely affect any teaching of the Bible, and as further manuscripts are discovered, they tend to confirm this conclusion.

The Testimony of Scripture that supports “The Bible” as “The Inspired” Word of God:

1. Origin of Scripture is not from Man:

2Peter 1:20-21 “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Galatians 1:11-12 “I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

2. Inspiration of Scripture is from God:

2Timothy 3:16 (KJV) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...”

a. Definition of Inspiration:

1) Not same meaning of men doing great literature or art

2) Does not just “contain” the Word of God; along with Mistakes, Myths, Legends

3) “Theopneustos”- God breathed; origin of Scripture is God

def: Theo-pneustos....Theo-God Pneuma: “breath, spirit, wind”

“Peter was carried by the Pneuma in his fishing boat!”

4) Writers were moved by God to record that which God desired.

2Peter 1:21 “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

5) Mechanical dictation did not happen; Individual personalities were used.

a) We know this because the style and vocabulary used by the various writers of the Bible were as different as their education, vocation, and environments would understandably affect and influence.

b) For example: Paul was a very educated Jew who was also a Roman citizen. His mastery of the Greek language of his day was used by God to write very complex but proper sentences with intelligent logic and an advanced vocabulary. On the other hand, Peter’s background was in the fishing industry. His use of the Greek language in his writings prove he had a very limited vocabulary and little formal education. However, God was still able to use the “words” that Peter did know to transfer His Eternal Wisdom to man in a way that did not violate or manipulate Peter’s personality or fisherman’s mindset.

Josh McDowell (well known biblical apologist): *“The human authors of Scripture wrote spontaneously using their own minds and experiences, yet their words were not merely the words of men but actually the words of God. God’s control was always with them in their writings with the result being the Bible-the Word of God expressed in the words of men.”*

3. “EVERY” word in the Bible is considered “inspired” by both the N.T. authors and Jesus. This is called “plenary verbal inspiration”...which means EVERY WORD AND COMBINATION OF WORDS are inspired by God!

1Corinthians 2:13 “This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”

Matthew 4:4 “Man shall not live by bread alone, but BY EVERY WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 from the O.T.!)

4. God chose to “reveal” His Word (i.e. “inspire” the human authors) through the Holy Spirit:

1Corinthians 2:9-13 “However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him’ - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God...We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”

God the Holy Spirit worked in a unique and supernatural way so that the written words of the Scripture writers were also the very words of God.

5. Biblical writers assumed that the “words” they were given were from God and they were simply sharing them with those they were sent to evangelize and disciple.

1Peter 1:24-25 “For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flowers fall, but THE WORD OF THE LORD endures forever. And this is the word that was preached as the gospel to you.”

2Corinthians 4:2 “We renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.”

6. New Testament Authors Claimed That The Old Testament is the very words God

Romans 2:1-2 “What advantage is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision. Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in many ways...but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.”

B.B. Warfield, a reformed theologian wrote:

“The Church has held from the beginning that the Bible is the Word of God in such a sense that its words, though written by men and bearing indelibly impressed upon them the marks of their human origin, were written, nevertheless, under such an influence of the Holy Spirit as to be also the words of God, the adequate expression of His mind and will...This doctrine of “plenary inspiration” holds that the original documents of the Bible were written by men, who, though permitted to exercise their own personalities and literary talents, yet wrote under the control and guidance of the Spirit of God, the result being in every word of the original documents a perfect and errorless recording of the exact message which God desired to give to man.”

The Testimony of Jesus Christ supports “The Bible” as “The Inspired” Word of God:

1. Jesus Claimed that Old Testament Words are from God

Luke 24:44-45 “These are My Words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...”

Mark 12:24-27 “And Jesus answering them said unto them, Do you not err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?...have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.”

2. Jesus Claimed that Even “Accent Marks” and “Punctuation” was inspired by God:

Matthew 5:17-19 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter,

not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

(NOTE: KJV says “jot” and “tittle”; referring to “accents” and “punctuation”)

3. Jesus Claimed His Own Words are from God

John 7:16-17 “My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent Me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own.

John 8:26 “I have much to say in judgment of you. But He who sent Me is reliable, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world...I do nothing on My own but speak just what the Father has taught Me...”

John 6:63-64 “Jesus said: The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.”

CONCLUSION:

1. Based on what the Scriptures say about themselves, what the New Testament authors say about the Old Testament, and most importantly what Jesus said about both the Old Testament and the words He, Himself, spoke, it is obvious the authors of the Bible tried to plainly communicate that the “words” they used were “inspired” (i.e. God-breathed) from the mouth of God.
2. The volume of “fulfilled prophecies”, the amazing “scientific truths”, the confirming “archeological findings”, and “the undeniable effects” of the Bible provide overwhelming evidence that it is exactly what its authors claim it to be: The very inspired words of God!

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which is AT WORK IN YOU WHO BELIEVE.”

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Study Guide for “Doctrine #2: The Bible: Inspired of God

1. Read Pages 1-5 from the Doctrine#2 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “The Bible: Inspired of God” as you read:
 - a. **Some Important Facts:**
 - 1) Define what is meant by the “inspiration” of the Bible? (page 1, top)
 - 2) True or False. The Bible is man’s message about God to his fellow man. (page 1, middle)
 - 3) To what extent is the Bible inspired by God? (page 1, middle)
 - 4) According to Paul, the “words” that he and other New Testament authors spoke and wrote down were NOT words taught by human wisdom, but were what? (1Corinthians 2:13)
 - 5) Scriptures in the New Testament, like John 10:34-36 and Galatians 3:16, appear to go to painstaking details to indicate what? (page 1, bottom)
 - 6) Which of the two Bible Translations were “inspired” by God: The King James Version or the New International Version? (page 2, top)
 - 7) Although only the “original” manuscripts written by the authors of the Bible are “inspired” by God, why is it safe to assume that authorized translations like the KJV, NIV, and NKJV are “accurate” reproductions of the original writings? (page 2, top)

b. The Testimony of Scripture that supports “The Bible” as “The Inspired” Word of God:

- 1) According to 2Peter 1:20-21, where did the “prophecy” (i.e. “words”) of Scripture NOT originate from? Where did they originate from? (page 2, middle)

- 2) According to 2Timothy 3:16, ALL Scripture is what? (page 2, middle-bottom)

- 3) True or False. When referring to the “inspiration” of the bible’s authors, they were inspired similar to how writers of other great literature or men who have produced great works of art. (page 2, bottom)

- 4) True or False. The writers just “dictated” whatever a “voice from heaven” told them to write. (page 3, top)

- 5) True or False. The amazing miracle of the bible is that all of the authors, although they came from different backgrounds and educational experiences, still ended up using pretty much the exact same vocabulary and writing styles to record what they each wrote in the bible. (page 3, top)

- 6) Complete this statement made by Josh McDowell (a well known biblical apologist):
“*The human authors of Scripture wrote spontaneously using....*” (page 3, middle)

- 7) What is meant by a person saying they believe in the “plenary verbal inspiration” of the Bible?
(page 3, middle)

- 8) According to Jesus, “man shall not live by bread alone, but by...” what? (Matthew 4:4)

- 9) According to 1Corinthians 2:9-13, through Whom did God choose to “reveal” His Word (i.e. “inspire”) the human authors? (page 3, bottom)

- 10) True or False. Biblical writers assumed that the “words” they were given were from God and they were simply sharing them with those they were sent to evangelize and disciple. (page 4, top)

- 11) According to Peter, what “words” did he preach and write down for his audience? (1Peter 1:24-25)

- 12) According to Romans 2:1-2, what was the Jewish nation entrusted with? (page 4, middle)

- 13) How did B.B. Warfield, a reformed theologian, explain the “doctrine of plenary inspiration”? (page 4, middle)

- 14) What did Jesus Christ claim about the “words” used in the Old Testament? (page 4, bottom)

- 15) Jesus claimed what “details” of the Old Testament would NEVER pass away? (page 5, top)

- 16) According to John 7:16-17 and John 8:26, where did Jesus claim His words came from? (page 5, middle-top)

- 17) The volume of “fulfilled prophecies”, the amazing “scientific truths”, the confirming “archeological findings”, and the “undeniable effects” of the Bible provide overwhelming evidence that the Bible is WHAT? (page 5, bottom)