"The Bible is God's Word"



2 Timothy 3:16 & Selected Scriptures

2/21/03

Introduction:

All of our Christian beliefs are based on the Bible

"The Bible is our only rule for faith and practice"

Biblical View of Inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16

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

Definition of Inspiration: *Inspiration describes the unique process of the Holy Spirit in which He controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men as they wrote exactly and totally what God wanted, so that the original manuscript was without error or omission.*

I. Inspiration was the unique process of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

II. The Holy Spirit controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men (II Pet. 1:20-21).

III. Chosen men wrote exactly and totally what God wanted (II Timothy 3:16).

IV. The result was that the original manuscript was without error or omission (Matt. 5:17-18; John 10:35).

Eight Rational Proofs for Inspiration

1. Unity
2. Prophecy
3. Honesty
4. Durability
5. Power
6. Freshness
7. Scientific Accuracy
8. Historical Accuracy

Because the Bible is inspired by God, it is therefore profitable, authoritative & complete. This is Paul's point in II Timothy 3:16-17: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God,* ***and is profitable 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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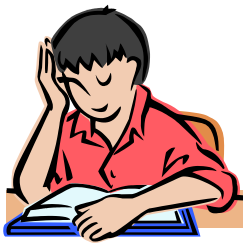

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1. **Inspiration was the unique process of the _____ (Jn. 14:26).**

2. **The Holy Spirit _____ and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of _____ (II Pet. 1:20-21).**

3. **Chosen men _____ and _____ what God wanted (II Timothy 3:16).**

4. **The result was that the original manuscript was without _____ or _____ (Matt. 5:17-18; John 10:35).**

Eight Rational Proofs for Inspiration

1. _____
2. _____
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4. _____
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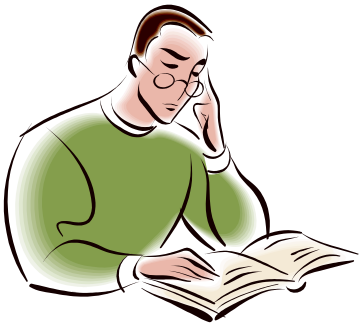
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



THE POWER OF THE BIBLE

The Holy Spirit can use the Bible to totally change (transform) our lives

See how the following word pictures show the unique power of the Bible:

1. **The Bible is a** _____ (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17)
2. **The Bible is a** _____ (James 1:23-25)
3. **The Bible is a** _____ (Mk. 4:1-20 *v. 14)
4. **The Bible is** _____ (Eph. 5:26)
5. **The Bible is a** _____ **and** _____ (Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)
6. **The Bible is a** _____ (Jer. 23:29)
7. **The Bible is a** _____ (Jer. 20:9; Lk. 24:32).
8. **The Bible is** _____ (I Pet. 2:2)
9. **The Bible is** _____ (Heb. 5:14; I Cor. 3:1-3)

“The Bible is God’s Word”

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2/21/03

All of our Christian beliefs are based on the Bible
“The Bible is our only rule for faith and practice”

Can God produce a Book so that people might know who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will yet do?

THE PRODUCTION OF THE BIBLE

Introduction:

False Views of Inspiration:

1. Liberal view - the Bible is not inspired by God.

They would say:
"The Bible is only a remarkable human book - authored by men."

*The term used to describe this view would be "Natural Inspiration." The Bible was produced by religious men who followed their intuition in collecting and piecing together good religious statements.

They would say: "The Bible is `inspired' in the same sense as Shakespeare's writings or Beethoven's music."

2. Neo-Orthodox view - the Bible can become inspired by God.

They would say:
"When the Scriptures speak to an individual, it becomes the Word of God to him at that point."

*The term used to describe this view would be "Potential Inspiration."

Carl Barth, the father of neo-orthodoxy, believed that the Bible uniquely reveals God to man--not in propositions about God, but as a means of personal encounter by God with man in an act of revelation. In this existential experience--crisis encounter--the meaningless ink blots on the pages leap from the Bible to speak to man concretely and meaningfully. At this "moment of meaning" the Bible becomes the Word of God to the individual. (Geisler & Nix, p. 40).

3. New-Evangelical view - the Bible is partially inspired by God.

NOTE: Not all new-evangelicals deny the Biblical doctrine of inspiration, but many do.

*The term used to describe this view would be "Partial Inspiration."

This view has many varieties:

a. Illumination theory - God gave illumination (insight or an intensified religious perception) to the writers of Scripture so that at certain points of their writing, they wrote God's Word (what points? No one knows).

b. Demythologizing theory - God inspired the truths found in the Bible. They say that the true Bible is found by removing the cultural myths (EX: miracles) (Bultmann).

c. Concept theory - God inspired the ideas, thoughts, or concepts but not the words.

Each writer was free to record it in his own words. The Spirit did not guide him in his choice of words.

d. Essential portion theory - God inspired only portions of Scripture which describe salvation. This view, also held by the Roman Catholic church, says that the Bible is without error in matters central to the Bible, but has errors in "peripheral matter."

Faulty Views of Inspiration

1. Dictationist view: The Bible is inspired by God, but there is no real human participation in its production.
*The term used to describe this view would be: "Verbal Dictation" or "Mechanical Dictation."
Each word was dictated to the writer, who served only as a secretary. Human writers served only as "pen men" or "typists." God used only their physical bodies, not their minds or personalities.

NOTE: Some parts of Scripture were dictated (much of the book of Revelation; Ex. 24), but this view overlooks the fact that God utilized the various personalities of those He selected to write Scripture, and yet they still wrote every word He wanted.

"Let us not be mistaken. We do not speak of a stiff, mechanical, dictated inspiration of the Word. This would be completely unworthy of a divine revelation. A mechanical inspiration (automatic dictation) is found in occultism, spiritism, and therefore demonism, where the evil inspiring spirit works by setting aside and excluding the human individuality. Divine revelation, however, has nothing to do with such suppression of the human personality . . . Divine revelation desires not passive `mediums' but active men of God; not dead tools, but living, sanctified co-workers with God; not slaves, but friends (Jn. 15:15)." (Erich Sauer, Eternity to Eternity, p. 104-105).

Biblical View of Inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16

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

1. Definition of Inspiration: ***Inspiration describes the unique process of the Holy Spirit in which He controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men as they wrote exactly and totally what God wanted, so that the original manuscript was without error or omission.***

2. A Breakdown of this Definition:

--Inspiration was the unique process of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

--The Holy Spirit controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men (II Peter 1:20-21).

--Chosen men wrote exactly and totally what God wanted (II Tim. 3:16).

--The result was that the original manuscript was without error or omission (Mt. 5:17-18; Jn. 10:35).

a. Inspiration was the unique process of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

1) Unique -

a) Inspiration is a unique process only true of Scripture and of no other literature (cp. II Tim. 3:16 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . .").

b) Inspiration is inexplicable. Man's comprehension cannot totally grasp all that occurred when the Holy Spirit directed the words that He used men to write.

2) Process -

Inspiration describes the actual process that occurred when the Holy Spirit guided men as they were in the act of writing God's Word.

3) Holy Spirit -

The Holy Spirit guided every word that was penned by the apostles and prophets.

David wrote "by the Holy Ghost" (Mk. 12:36).

"The Holy Ghost" spoke by Isaiah (Acts 28:25-26).

God spoke "by the prophets"
(Heb. 1:1-2).

Cp. I Cor. 2:13; II Pet. 1:20-21.

b. The Holy Spirit controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men (II Pet. 1:20-21).

1) Controlled and directed -

Scriptures are not a product of human investigation, reason, or origin.

Men wrote as they were "moved by the Holy Ghost."

"Moved" - lit. "borne alone"; "carried along." The Spirit lifted them up, causing them to be led to write what God wanted. "The metaphor here is that the prophets raised their sails and the Holy Spirit filled them and carried their craft along in the direction He wished" (Rienecker, p. 773)

2) The hearts, minds, and wills -

"Men of God spake": Even though it was God's Word, it was men who wrote/spoke it.

EX: Jesus credited Moses with commands of God (Mk. 7:10). He credited Isaiah with prophecy of God (Mt. 13:14). Peter credited Paul with Scripture from God (II Pet. 3:15-16).

Even though Scripture came from the very mouth of God, He in His wisdom used the instrumentality of men. God, in using men, controlled and directed them, not stifling their own personalities or using them as machines or robots but as conscious, sober instruments.

On the one hand, while it can be said that man had nothing to do with the production of Scripture (he was passive), on the other hand, he did have an active part in its production.

This is a paradox.

[NOTE: However, man's part was also controlled by God - what occurred was "passive activity," in which God so worked in the writers that He gave them the will and the ability to write what He wanted (cp. Phil. 2:12-13).]

Throughout the entire life of a prophet or apostle, God's providential control prepared him with the particular talents, education, and experience which would be needed for the message which he was to give orally or by writing (Boettner, p. 24).

--God used the extensive education and patience of Moses to write the Pentateuch.

--God made use of the worshipful tender heart of David to write most of the Psalms.

--God employed the wisdom of Solomon to write Proverbs.

--God utilized the heavy heart of Jeremiah to write Lamentations.

--God applied the loving heart of John to write the Gospel and Epistles of love that bear his name.

--God exercised the detailed thinking of Dr. Luke to write Luke and Acts.

--God put into service the logical mind and appropriate religious background of Paul to write Romans and his other deep epistles.

[Remember, however, that it was God who equipped these men with the qualifications and personalities which they had.]

"God is One who in His infinite power can use as His agents and instruments fallible human beings, who can bring into His employ all the gifts, talents, and characteristics of those human beings, and yet can cause them to pen His own Word, and keep that Word utterly separate and distinct from their own sinful nature and the consequent imperfections which are the result of that nature" (Young, Thy Word is Truth, p. 74).

3) Chosen men -

"Holy men of God" - men whom God had set apart for the special task of writing His Word.

God chose specific men to write His Word. These prophets and apostles proved that they were authorized to write Scripture by the signs and miracles that God did by their hands. God always vindicated His messengers (Ex. 4:28-31; II Cor. 12:13; Heb. 2:3-4).

When God chose select men to write His Word, He assured them that He would put His words into their mouths (EX: Moses - Ex. 4:11-16; Jeremiah - Jer. 1:5-9).

c. Chosen men wrote exactly and totally what God wanted (II Timothy 3:16).

The word translated "inspiration" is derived from the Greek Word "theopneustos" ("theo" meaning "God"; "pneustos" meaning "breathed").

Because the word is passive in its usage, it should be translated "breathed of God" or "God-breathed."

Scripture was "produced by the creative breath of the Almighty . . . it was God-given" (Boettner, Studies in Theology, p. 21).
The word "pneustos" which refers to both "breath" or "spirit" implies the divine creative action of God.

Just as the universe has its source in the God who spoke it into existence (Heb. 11:3; Ps. 33:6), and just as man's life had its source in the creative breath of God (Gen. 2:7; Job 33:4), the Scriptures came to man in the same way--right out of the mouth of God! Therefore, they are exactly what God wanted written.

NOTE: The word "God-breathed" does not suggest that God breathed into Scriptures that already existed; rather, He breathed the Scriptures out of Himself.

Isaiah 45:23 - "The word is gone out of my mouth."

Matthew 4:4 - "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

1) **"Wrote"** - "All Scripture": The word translated scripture is from the Greek word "graphe," which refers to that which was written. The word "graphe" refers to sentences, phrases, and words! (not just ideas).

Inspiration can only be applied to the writings, and not to the writers (i.e., God did not inspire the writers but the Scriptures).

2) **Exactly what God wanted** - "All Scripture" - the word "all" refers to every individual, written part.

Every detail of the Bible was inspired! Right down to the words, letters, and distinguishing parts of letters! This is called "Verbal Inspiration."

"Christ did not say of His thoughts, but of His words that they are spirit and life" (John 6:63). -- Luther

The message of Scripture at times depends on a single word. Therefore, God inspired every detail.

Cp. Gal. 3:16 - singular as opposed to plural

Cp. Jn. 8:58 - present tense as opposed to past

NOTE: God put specific words into the mouths of His prophets - Jer. 1:7-9; Num. 22:38, 23:12, 16; II Sam. 23:2.

NOTE: The grammatical/syntactical study of Scripture is based entirely upon the acceptance of verbal inspiration. (Those who have a low view of Scripture don't preach expositionally, and don't care about the details of the Bible)

3) Totally what God wanted - The whole complete Bible was inspired.

This is called "Plenary Inspiration."

If only parts of the Bible came from God's mouth, it would be left up to man to determine which parts were inspired and which parts were not.

The Bible would be all guess-work.

"All Scripture is God-breathed"; therefore all Scripture is without error (defect) and is fully authoritative (profitable).

Paul's entire purpose for placing the clause "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" in II Timothy 3:16 is to give a basis or support for the profitableness of Scripture for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction. If Scripture's source was not the mouth of God, it has no authority and no ultimate profit.

d. The result was that the original manuscript was without error or omission (Matt. 5:17-18; John 10:35).

1) "Original manuscript" - Inspiration only describes the Holy Spirit's superintendence of the original manuscript (by this we mean, the first copy written).

--Scribes who copied the autographa or copied from copies of the autograph were not inspired; nor was inspiration occurring while they copied.

--Translators were not inspired, nor were their translations.

Inspiration describes a miracle of God that happened only once!

God certainly would strengthen and help a scribe or translator who would sincerely ask Him. But He would not breath out any new revelation to them.

2) **"Without error"** - Jesus claimed authority for every letter that was written, even the parts of written letters (distinguishable marks that differentiated one letter from another were also inspired!) See Mt. 5:18 -

"Jot" = the smallest Hebrew letter, called the yodh י
(See Ps. 119:73).

"Tittle" = a part of a letter that would distinguish one letter from another (compare the daleth ד with the resh ר).

"John Wesley said, `If there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may as well be a thousand. If there is one falsehood in that Book, it did not come from the God of truth'." (Ryrie, Inerrancy, p. 26).

3) **"Without omission"** - The Scriptures are complete. All that God intended for us to have, He has given.

The Scriptures, as God gave them, are free from all errors, defects, or imperfections.

This is called "inerrancy."

Since the Bible was 1) inspired, it is
2) inerrant (because God could not make a mistake); and because the Scriptures are inerrant, they are 3) infallible (incapable of failing or leading you astray; the Bible is wholly true and wholly authoritative - Jn.17:17).

Conclusion:

Additional Features of Inspiration

1. Inspiration often involved writing an unwelcomed message (Jer. 20).

2. Inspiration often involved writing a message that the prophet or apostle did not totally understand (Dan. 12:8-9; Rev. 5:1-4).

3. Inspiration often involved writing a message that was not too "inspiring" (Judges 19 & 20) or truthful from the standpoint of the one who is being quoted (EX: Satan is quoted - Gen. 3:4, 5; Mt. 4:8, 9).

The Bible's Own Claim to Inspiration

1. In the Old Testament, various phrases make this claim - 3,808 times ("The Lord spoke"; "the word of the Lord came to me," etc.).

2. The Pentateuch alone makes this claim 420 times.

3. The prophets identified their written message as the Word of God.

   For example -
   - Isaiah - 120 times
   - Jeremiah - 430 times
   - Ezekiel - 320 times
   - Amos - 53 times
   - Haggai - 27 times
   - Zechariah - 53 times

4. The New Testament writers claim to have spoke and written the Word of God.
   - Paul - I Cor. 14:37; I Thes. 2:13
   - John - I Jn. 5:10
   - Peter - II Pet. 3:2

5. To quote the Old Testament was to quote God Himself.
   - Rom. 9:17 - quote from Ex. 9:16
   - Gal. 3:8 - quote from Gen. 12
   - Acts 4:32 - quote from Ps. 2:2

Christ's Declaration of Inspiration

1. Christ accepted the Old Testament as fully authoritative (Lk. 24:44; Mt. 5:18; Lk. 16:31).

2. Christ stated that the Scriptures cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35).

3. Christ regarded prophecies of Scripture as being certain of fulfillment (Mt. 24:15).

4. Christ stated that His own words possessed absolute authority (Mt. 24:35; cp. Mt. 7:29).

5. Christ pre-authenticated the words of His apostles as being the authoritative, trustworthy words of God (Jn. 17:20).

Eight Rational Proofs for Inspiration

1. **Unity** - The Bible was written by means of 40 different writers, in three languages (Hebrew and Aramaic - O.T.; Greek - N.T.), over a 1,500 year period, and yet the Scriptures have only one theme: namely, Jesus Christ and His salvation of mankind through His sacrificial and substitutionary death (See: Lk. 24:25-27; Jn. 5:39, 46; Acts 10:43, 18:28; I Cor. 15:3).

2. **Prophecy** - Fulfilled by Jesus at His first coming (Mt. 5:17; Lk. 24:27; Jn. 19:24)
   EX: Ps. 22 - written about 1,000 B.C.
   Is. 53 - written about 750 B.C.

3. **Honesty** - Shows people as they really are. The Bible's heroes are not "sugar-coated!" Rather, the faults of even the greatest are brought out (Abraham, Moses, David, Peter).
   The Bible also describes sin as it is; heaven and hell as they are; and God as He is (example of the tension between election and free will - If man wrote the Bible, he would have relieved it).

4. **Durability** - The Bible has lasted through the ages, though attempts have been made to exterminate this Book as no other (EX: Jer. 36:1-2, 27-28).
   Voltaire, the French infidel, said: "Another century, [and] there will not be another Bible on earth." After his death, his printing press was used to print Bibles!

5. **Power** - To change (transform) lives.

6. **Freshness** - George Mueller said: "I read through the Bible 100 times, and each time it is new to me."

7. **Scientific Accuracy** –
   The earth is round (a circle) – Is. 40:22
   The earth hangs on nothing – Job 26:7
   The life of the flesh is in the blood (Gen 9:4; Lev. 17:11)
   Circumcision on 8th day – Lev. 12:3
   Universal flood
   Uncountable multitudes of stars – (Gen. 15:5, Jer. 33:22)
   100 billion stars in our Galaxy alone!
   Plants and Animals reproduce only after their Kind (Species) Gen. 1 etc

8. **Historical Accuracy** – Proven by – Recent Achaelogical discoverier (cities discovered customs proven etc.)
   Proven by – Comparing the Bible with other Historical writings contemporary with the Bible
   Ex. Josephus- cp. Acts 12 – Herod's speech and Death
   With Josephus. Antiquities Book XIX chap. 7:2-5 & 8:1-2

Because the Bible is inspired by God, it is therefore profitable, authoritative & complete. This is Paul's point in II Timothy 3:16-17: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God,* ***and is profitable 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."***

THE POWER OF THE BIBLE

The Holy Spirit can use the Bible to totally change (transform) our lives

See how the following word pictures show the unique power of the Bible:

1. The Bible is a Sword (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17)

a. The Holy Spirit's offensive and defensive weapon is the Bible (Eph. 6:17). God is speaking by no other means today.

b. According to Heb. 4:12, the Bible as a sword is:

(1) Living ("quick" KJV)
(2) Powerful
(3) Piercing ("sharper...piercing")
(4) Penetrating ("dividing asunder")
(5) Convicting ("discerner [judge] of the thoughts and intents of the heart")

2. The Bible is a Mirror (James 1:23-25)

It reflects the mind of God and the true nature and condition of man.

3. The Bible is a Seed (Mk. 4:1-20 *v. 14)

As a seed, the Bible produces life, growth and fruit.

4. The Bible is water (Eph. 5:26)

The Bible cleanses and quenches thirst.

5. The Bible is a Lamp and Light (Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)

It offers protection from danger and guidance into the right way.

6. The Bible is a hammer (Jer. 23:29)

It has ability to tear down (humble) and build up (edify).

7. The Bible is a Fire (Jer. 20:9; Lk. 24:32).

It convicts, judges, and purifies.

8. The Bible is Milk (I Pet. 2:2)

It causes growth.

9. The Bible is Meat (Heb. 5:14; I Cor. 3:1-3)

It gives strength.