

# The Inspiration of the Word of God

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Text: 2Peter 1:12-21, 3:1-2

Introduction:

- A. What saith the scriptures about the scriptures?
  1. 2Tim. 3:16-17 - "ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God"
  2. Mal. 1:1 - "The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi"
  3. Obad. 1:1 - "Thus saith the Lord concerning Edom"
  4. Mark 12:36 - Jesus said David spoke by the Holy Spirit.
  5. 1Cor. 14:37 - Believers recognize inspiration by its intrinsic quality (as opposed to apocryphal books and patristic writings)
  6. Inspiration is understandable, but not without complexities
    - a. Eph. 3:1-11; 2Peter 3:15-16
  7. There were periods when the word of God was not commonly available
    - a. 1Sam. 3:1; Amos 8:11-12; 1Peter 1:10-12
    - b. Even more so in the patriarchal age - Gen. 3:15 was the only known prophecy apart from God's conversations with patriarchs until the time of Noah - Gen. 5:28-29
  8. Inspiration came from multiple means - Heb. 1:1-2; Num. 12:4-8
    - a. By word and epistle; inspiration in the NT began with word only Acts 2:42, 5:42
    - b. Then a combination of word and epistle - 2Thes. 2:15
    - c. And finally by written word only - 1Cor. 13:8-10; 2Peter 1:12-15
- B. How to identify a true prophet of the Lord:
  1. Deut. 18:20-22 - the prophecy must come to pass.
  2. Deut. 13:1-5 - His teaching must be consistent with what has already been taught - Gal. 1:6-9
- C. What inspiration did for inspired men

## I. IT DID NOT PUT THEM ABOVE SIN

- A. It did not make automatons out of them.
  1. They retained their free moral agency.
  2. God is no respecter of persons giving inspired men special ability to avoid sin, or special exemptions from it.
- B. They were subject to the same temptations as you and me.
  1. David, the second most prolific OT writer, most of the Psalms... sinned with Bathsheba.
  2. Solomon, the third most prolific OT writer, books of wisdom... forsook God for the idolatry of his many wives.
  3. Paul, most prolific NT writer... had a constant struggle to control the temptations of the flesh - 1Cor. 9:27.
  4. Peter, author of the two best NT works on Christian living and examples, denied the Christ, wanted to worship ancestors, and divided the church at Antioch.

## **II. IT DID NOT GIVE THEM COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD**

- A. 1Peter 1:10-12 - OT prophets
- B. Acts 2:21, 39 - Peter didn't understand what he was preaching on Pentecost.
  - 1. It took 5 years, a miraculous vision, and the conversion of Cornelius before he got it.
- C. 1Cor. 14:13-14 - Tongue speakers needed interpreters.

## **III. IT MEANT THAT WHAT THEY GOT WAS FROM GOD AND NOT MEN**

- A. Num. 12:6-8 - no more and no less - Jer. 1:4-9
- B. NT apostles received it directly from the Holy Spirit sent by God.
  - 1. Gal. 1:11-20 - Paul received it from Jesus and not from other apostles
  - 2. Matt. 10:19-20; John 14:26, 16:13
  - 3. Seven texts that directly or by implication speak of verbal inspiration.

## **IV. IT MEANT THAT THEY WROTE AND TAUGHT WITHOUT ERROR**

- A. The Law of Moses was perfectly delivered, and was to remain unaltered until it was fulfilled - Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6
- B. The Law of Christ is complete and perfectly delivered.
  - 1. James 1:25; Rev. 22:18-19; 1Cor. 13:10; Matt. 11:25
- C. Since the Bible is given by God, and is His revealed will word for word, it is not subject to our interpretation, it is subject to our obedience.

## **The Word of God is Living and Powerful**

Introduction: Why men fear the word of God - Heb. 4:12

- A. The word of God read to Josiah and he tore his clothes in repentance
  - 1. 2Kings 22:1-11
- B. The word of God read to Jehoiakim a few years later, and he cut up the book and threw it into the fire
  - 1. Jer. 36:1-32
- C. Why? Millions have been tortured and killed over it.

It causes havoc wherever it is preached

It is hated because of its judgments

Governments have banned it

The school system has forbidden it

People attempt to compromise it

Publishers rewrite it

Religion has tried to overshadow it

Evil men tried to suppress it

Scholars question it

The Roman Catholic Church censored it

The Evangelical church watered it down

The Charismatic church added to it

The Evolutionists reject it

The Atheists despise it

False religions imitate it

- D. It is the Word of God no matter how much desecration it has undergone through history and in contemporary times, it still stands today as the only standard of truth in the world. **1Cor. 1:18 - 2:16**
- E. Secular leaders reject the Bible because it exposes their personal sins, the dishonest compromises it took to get into office, and the sinful decisions they make while in office. Not all great leaders feared the Bible
1. "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book." (Abraham Lincoln)
  2. "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." (Daniel Webster)
  3. "I have known ninety-five of the world's great men in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were followers of the Bible." (W.E. Gladstone)
  4. "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." (George Washington)

F. Atheistic scientists have been successful in our time in disseminating the false belief that the Bible and science are in hopeless, irreconcilable conflict. They have also been effective in causing many to believe that only the ignorant believe and accept the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant word of God. Those who proudly glory in their own learning are not in a position to benefit from the gospel. (1Cor. 1:18-31, 2:14). In addition, there is a class among the religious that believe no educated person can be a Christian. The truth of the matter is, an objective education is an asset to the Christian.

1. Francis Bacon (1561-1626) is recognized as the author of the "scientific method," which remains today unchanged in the scientific community. Bacon wrote the following regarding the Bible: "There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent our falling into error; the first, the volume of the scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the Creatures, which express His power" (Men of Science, pg. 13).

2. Isaac Newton (1642-1727) is preserved in history for his discovery of the law of universal gravitation and for many other famous scientific discoveries. Everyone in the scientific community reveres Newton as a scientist of enormous intellect. "We account the scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any (secular) history whatsoever" (Men of Science, pg. 26).

3. Samuel Morse (1791-1872) is acknowledged as an intellectual giant. The first message sent on the telegraph he invented was, "What hath God wrought!" (Num. 23:23.) Shortly before the end of Morse's life, he wrote the following: "The nearer I approach to the end of my pilgrimage, the clearer is the evidence of the divine origin of the Bible, and the grandeur and sublimity of God's remedy for fallen man are more appreciated, and the future is illumined with hope and joy" (Men of Science, pg. 47).

4. We live in an anomalous period of history. Great men in science, medicine, world leadership, and commerce have always feared God and respected His word, regardless of how well they lived those principles. The present intelligentsia and the media that feeds their bloated egos reject the Bible and faith in God as the residue of superstitions of the past held by the ignorant masses. They are the exception, not the

rule, not only in our time, but in all of time. It is a fashion that will pass, and future generations will view them as a fad like bell bottoms, beanie babies, & beehive hairdos

G. Why do men fear the Word of God?

1. 2Sam. 12:5-9 - It exposes sinful acts as sinful
2. 2Kings 22:11 - It humbles man
3. Heb. 4:12-13 - It demands accountability
4. Job 34:18-22 - It is the great equalizer
5. Mal. 3:6 - It is an unchanging standard
6. Num. 20:11-13 - It is objective toward believers
7. Matt. 24:46-51 - Its consequential teachings
8. Jer. 17:9-10 - It exposes the inner man
9. Gal. 4:16 - Man's tendency to despise truth

Conclusion:

“We are not born predisposed to lying. Humans are taught to tell lies as a means of protecting themselves from the consequences of the truth. The dirty little secret in contemporary mental health is that the most commonly held phobia is fear of the truth. Truth demands responsibility; it requires that we see ourselves as we really are and not as we imagine ourselves to be.”