

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE – DEFINED

- Inspiration refers to the way in which God gave us the Bible.
- Having r_____ Himself to man, God then had this revelation recorded in w_____ form.
- The Bible itself is very clear as to its origins and its inspiration.

I. BIBLICAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING INSPIRATION

- The two outstanding scripture references regarding the doctrine of inspiration are:

1. _____

- This passage clearly teaches two key aspects of inspiration:
 - i. Human P_____ — “...holy men of God spake...”
 - ii. Divine A_____ — “...moved by the Holy Ghost.”
- An analysis of this particular verse makes it clear that God the Holy Spirit was the active S_____ of the scriptures.
- God did not follow the human writers to correct any of their mistakes, or intervene if necessary.
- Rather, the writers were consciously, willingly, carried along.
- As God gave the words, they wrote.
- The inspiration of the Bible is a s_____ miracle.
- God used approximately 40 human writers of varying occupations and education over a time span of about 1,600 years — and gave us a Book with amazing unity.

2. _____

- The important phrase is “inspiration of God”.
- The idea of “inspired” has the meaning “God-b_____.”
- This scripture clearly teaches the divine Authorship of the Bible.

II. INSPIRATION DEFINED

- By inspiration we mean the Holy Spirit m_____ the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own l_____ style.

- In considering this definition, there are five terms the student needs to define and be well acquainted with:

1. C_____ INSPIRATION:

- By this we mean that the holy scriptures are a product of two agents:
 - i. h _____
 - ii. d _____
- The words “in such a way” used in the above definition declare inspiration ultimately to be a phenomenon, a mystery — the product of divine/human involvement — thus as inexplicable as the virgin birth of Christ or the new birth.
- Many scriptures affirm that God spoke authoritatively through the words of men.
- Acts 4:25; Acts 13:35; Isaiah 8:1; Isaiah 30:8
- The following illustration should serve to show what we mean by “confluent inspiration” as distinct from the “mechanical dictation” theory.
- ILLUSTRATION
A man picks up a writing instrument and begins writing on a sheet of paper. Having done so, he may then say to another, “I have written these words.” Technically he is incorrect in what he says, for it is the writing instrument that has done the writing. Nevertheless, the instrument could not write anything unless it was moved by the hand of the man. Furthermore, the words written down are not those of the instrument but of the man.
- ILLUSTRATION
Secondly, the physical appearance of the writing will vary according to the instrument selected. A word written with a fine-point pen will look different than the same word written in crayon, or with a broad paint brush, or with a felt-tipped marker. It will also vary according to each writer — calligraphy or scrawl, script or block letters!
- This illustration explains the differences in style and content of the four Gospels, where the life of Christ is portrayed from four perspectives.
- The Bible is not the word of men, because they wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- Yet, like the different kinds of pens, God retained the individual characteristics of these men.
- He used their s_____, memories, intuitions, judgments, idiosyncrasies, and their r_____.

2. V_____ INSPIRATION:

- By this we mean that the very words of scripture are God's words.
- Inspiration goes beyond the concepts and the message to the actual w_____.
- **1 Corinthians 2:13; Matthew 24:35; Jeremiah 1:9**
- According to **Matthew 5:18** - also **Luke 16:17**, inspiration extends even to the letters ("jot", the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet) and the parts of letters ("tittle" — the minute accents and diacritical marks of the written Hebrew).
- Many scripture passages show the emphasis God places upon the "words" of the Bible — e.g. **Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 6:6; 12:28; 17:19; 18:18; 27:3; 31:12; 32:1,45,46; Joshua 8:34,35; 24:26; I Samuel 8:10; II Samuel 23:2; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5,6; Jeremiah 7:27; 23:36; 26:2; 30:2; Ezekiel 3:10; Daniel 10:9-11; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 8:47; 17:8; I Timothy 4:6; II Peter 3:2; Jude 17; and Revelation 1:3; 22:18,19.**
- The emphasis is such that we are told not to add nor take away from His words without c_____ - **Deut 4:2; Pro 30:6; Rev 22:18,19**

3. P_____ INSPIRATION:

- The word "plenary" means "extending to all parts a_____."
- By plenary inspiration we mean all of the Bible is inspired, and every part of the Bible is e_____ inspired.
- **2 Timothy 3:16**

4. I_____ INSPIRATION:

- The word "inerrant" means "not liable to be proven false or mistaken."
- Inerrant inspiration means the Bible was written down c_____ in every detail.
- **Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19; John 10:35**
- Inerrant inspiration provides that the exact divine message be given.
- Both God's truth and Satan's lie are reported and recorded exactly.
- Inspiration does not change truth into lies, nor lies into truth!

- “What Scripture says, God says — through human agents and without error.”
- The proof of this statement may be demonstrated by a quick comparison:
 - i. Romans 9:17 and Exodus 9:13,16
 - ii. Galatians 3:8 and Genesis 12:1,3
- The New Testament references state that it is the scripture which spoke, whereas the Old Testament references quoted or alluded to say it was the Lord Who said it.

5. I _____ INSPIRATION:

- This means the Bible is without error in its teaching.
- It is incapable of teaching d_____.
- Psalm 119:160; John 17:17
- The terms “infallible” and “inerrant” are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference:
 - i. Inerrant means without error in its r_____.
 - ii. Infallible means without error in its t_____.
- In other words, infallibility takes into account such things as the use of poetic or figurative language, the use of simile, hyperbole, allegory, parable and symbolism, etc.
- In most cases, what is inspired is also a _____ — but not all cases.
- Some things in the Bible, though accurately recorded through the process of inspiration, do not have the authority of God.
- ILLUSTRATION
 The Book of Job accurately records the words of God, Job, Satan, Job’s wife, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu. Some of the statements in the Book are consequently ungodly or in direct contradiction to other statements of scripture. They are inspired, but not authoritative.
- Many cults conveniently, or ignorantly, o_____ this very important distinction.

III. FACTS ABOUT THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

- Because the Bible is inspired of God, we can resolutely affirm that it is:
 1. INFALLIBLE — without e_____ (Psalm 119:160)
 2. INVARIABLE — without c_____ (Num 23:19; Psalm 119:89; Jam 1:17)
 3. INEXORABLE — without y_____ (John 10:35)
 4. INVINCIBLE — without c_____ (Isaiah 55:11; Jer 23:29; Heb 4:12)
 5. INEVITABLE — without f_____ (1 Peter 1:23-25)
- See also Psalm 126:5,6; Matthew 5:18; 24:35
- 6. INCOMPARABLE — without e_____ (Psalm 119:72)
- 7. INVALUABLE — without price because it:
 - i. C_____ (Hebrews 4:12)
 - ii. C_____ (Romans 10:17; James 1:18,21; 1 Peter 1:23)
 - iii. C_____ (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
 - iv. C_____ (Psalm 119:9,11; John 15:3; 17:17; Ephesians 5:26)
 - v. C_____ (Matthew 4:4; John 6:63)
 - vi. C_____ (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)
 - vii. C_____ (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

MEMORY VERSE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 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.