

The Inspiration of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

"All Scripture..."

- The word translated "Scripture" comes from the Greek word "*graphe*" which simply means "*writing*."
- Paul is definitely referring to the complete Old Testament, but also to those portions of the New Testament that were then in existence.
- Does this mean we can't trust the other books in the New Testament that were written after this? No.

2 Peter 3:15-16

- **Peter speaks of Paul's Epistles as "scriptures."**
 - Peter looked at Paul's writings as being on the same level as the Old Testament.
 - When we speak of "scripture" today, we mean the writings of both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - So every verse of the Bible, both Old and New Testament, has been written by the inspiration and guidance of God.

"...Inspiration of God..."

- Inspiration of God is the English translation of the Greek word "*Theopneustos*" which literally means "*breathed out by God*," or simply, "*God-breathed*" or "*proceeding from God*."
 - **Men were the channel, but God was the source.**
 - The Bible is the product of the creative breath of God.
 - It originated with Him.
 - Therefore, it is authoritative and without error in all it teaches.
 - As a result, it should be the standard for our beliefs and our values.
- **Your attitude toward God's Word is your attitude toward God Himself.**
 - You do not love God more than you love His Word.
 - You do not have more room in your heart and life for God than you have for His Word.

What is meant by Biblical Inspiration?

- According to the Moody Handbook of Theology, Inspiration may be defined as “*the Holy Spirit’s superintending over the writers so that while writing according to their own styles and personalities, the result was God’s Word written-- authoritative, trustworthy, and free from error in the original autographs.*”
- It is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the Bible’s writers, which guaranteed that what they wrote was accurate and trustworthy. They wrote what God directed them to write.
 - What they wrote was the very Word of God, inspired and infallible.

2 Peter 1:20,21

- **The writers of the Bible did not give their own private interpretation of things, but wrote the message which was given to them by God.**
 - Some 3,800 times, the Bible declares, “God said,” or “Thus saith the Lord.”
 - Ex. 14:1; 20:1
 - Lev. 4:1
 - Num. 4:1
 - Dt. 4:2; 32:48
 - Isa. 1:10,24
 - Jer. 1:11
 - Ezek. 1:3
 - Paul also recognized that the things he was writing were the Lord’s commandments
 - 1 Cor. 14:37
 - And they were acknowledged as such by the believers
 - 1 Thess. 2:13
 - John recognized that his teaching was from God; to reject his teaching was to reject God (1 Jn. 4:6).
- The Bible is the product of the creative breath of God.
 - It originated with Him.
 - Therefore, it cannot be anything else but absolutely true and trustworthy at all points.
- **Whatever the Bible says about itself, man, God, life, death, history, science, and every other subject is true.**
 - This does not mean that every statement in the Bible is true, because the Bible records the lies of men and of Satan.
 - But the record of it is true.
- **As a result of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is just as accurate and true in its factual statements as if God Himself had taken a pen and written the words.**

The Verbal, Plenary Inspiration View

- “**Verbal**”--signifies “**words**.”
- “**Plenary**” means “**full**” or “**complete**,” as opposed to partial.
 - So, this view holds that **the words themselves, and all of them, are inspired**.
 - God gave full expression to His thoughts in the words of the Bible.
 - He guided the very choice of the words used within the personality of the writers.
 - The inspired writers used “words” which the Holy Spirit taught.
- **2 Pet. 1:19-21; Heb. 1:1-2**
 - The truth insisted on in the Scriptures is that the very words originally given by God to men were God-breathed.
 - God gave more than just the “thoughts,” He gave the very “words” to the writers.
- **Matthew 4:4**
- **Exodus 24:3-4**
- **Deuteronomy 27:1-8**
- **Jeremiah 1:9**
- **I Corinthians 2:13**
- **Revelation 21:5**
- **Galatians 3:16**
 - Paul’s entire argument rested on the distinction between the singular and plural of one word!
- Although some parts of the Bible were given by dictation (Ex. 20:1...”Then God spake all these words.”), the books of the Bible reveal a distinct contrast in style and vocabulary, suggesting the authors were not mere robots.
 - If the dictation theory were true, the style of the books of the Bible should be uniform.

Matthew 22:43-45; John 10:34-35

- Jesus’ arguments rest on the accuracy of a single word of the Bible.

Matthew 5:18

- “**Jot**”--The smallest Greek vowel and is generally taken to represent the smallest Hebrew letter “yodh,” which looks like an apostrophe (‘)
- “**Tithe**”--Refers to the minute distinction between two Hebrew letters.
 - An equivalent would be the distinction between an “O” and a “Q”

- **So Jesus was saying that it was easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than for the smallest detail of the Law to be set aside.**
 - So the Bible is God's Word even to the smallest detail.
- **This makes the Bible God's book, and differentiates it from all other writings in the world.**
- **It is God's message to man--His only true revelation of Himself to mankind in written form.**
- **It is totally trustworthy and is the only safe and reliable guide for time and eternity.**