

# Old Testament Survey

## Inspiration and Authority

### *The Character of the Bible*

#### **Two Testaments**

##### *Old Testament (written 2000 B.C. to 444 B.C.)*

The Law (*torah*)                      Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The Prophets (*nebiim*)

**Former**                              Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings,

**Latter**                                Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Twelve

The Writings (*kethubhim*)

**Poetical Books**    Psalms, Proverbs, Job

**Five Rolls**                              Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Esther,  
    Ecclesiastes  
    (*megilloth*)

**Historical**                              Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles

##### *New Testament (written 45 A.D. to 95 A.D.)*

Gospels                                      Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

History                                        Acts

Epistles

**Pauline**                                  Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians,  
    Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy,  
    Titus, Philemon

**General**                                Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1&2&3 John, Jude

Prophecy                                      Revelation

#### **Inspiration**

##### *Biblical Description of Inspiration*

2 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: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

### *Theological Definition of Inspiration*

It is the Bible that is inspired, not the authors.

Divine Causality - God is the prime mover in the inspiration of the Bible.

Prophetic Agency - The prophets who wrote scripture were not automatons.

Written Authority - The final product of divine authority working through the prophetic agency is the written authority of the Bible.

### *Important Distinctions*

Revelation is the process of unveiling the truth. It involves the method whereby God transmitted his truth to men.

Illumination is the process whereby God reveals the written word to the reader. It is the Holy Spirit's work when he brings Scripture "alive" to the reader.

### *Autographs and Copies - Some Important Notes*

Twentieth-century copies and translations do not possess *original* inspiration but *derived* inspiration.

The veracity and integrity of modern manuscripts is based on the highly accurate methods used in their copying as well as the lack of any evidence that they have been irrevocably corrupted.

Inspiration is applicable only to original autographs, never to translations although it is evident that God is involved in the translation and communication of his word.

## *The Nature of Inspiration*

### **Theories About Inspiration**

*Orthodoxy - The Bible IS the Word of God.*

**Verbal Dictation** - the writers were "secretaries" for God

**Inspired Concepts** - the writers were inspired but wrote in their own language and style.

*Modernism - The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God*

**Illumination View** - God illuminated certain pious men who wrote down their ideas and insights.

**Intuition View** - The Bible is merely a scrapbook of Jewish notions, myths, and ideas.

*NeoOrthodoxy - The Bible BECOMES the Word of God*

**Demythological View** - (Rudolph Bultmann, Shubert Ogden) The Bible is written in mythological language and one must peel off the mythology to get to the core.

**Personal Encounter** - the Bible becomes the Word of God when one has a personal encounter with it.

## What The Bible Says About Its Inspiration

**Inspiration is Verbal** - that is, the inspiration of the Bible includes the very words used. Although God spoke through human agents, each with their own style of writing and vocabulary, nevertheless the words that these authors wrote down were the very words God desired.

**Inspiration is Plenary** - all of the Bible is the Word of God, not merely parts of it.

**Inspiration is Authoritative** - because the Bible IS the Word of God, it is authoritative and binding on all humanity.

## Implications of Inspiration

*Inspiration encompasses both the Old and New Testaments.*

*Inspiration includes a variety of literary sources and styles.*

Vocabulary differences

Use of non-Biblical sources

Use of literary devices

Use of anthropocentric language

*Inspiration implies inerrancy*

## Evidences For The Inspiration of the Bible

### A Summary of the Claim for Inspiration

**Inspiration** means "God Breathed" - 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Three elements of Inspiration

1. **Divine Causality** - God is the Prime Mover
2. **Prophetic Agency** - The Word of God comes through men of God
3. **Divine Authority** - God invests the written word with His authority

Three characteristics of Inspiration

1. It is **verbal** - God's inspiration extends to the very words
2. It is **plenary** - inspiration applies to all of the Bible
3. It is **inerrant** - there are no errors in the original autographs

## Support For The Biblical Claim to Divine Inspiration

### *Internal Evidences*

1. The evidence of self-vindicating authority
2. The evidence of the testimony of the Holy Spirit
3. The evidence from the transforming power of the Bible
4. The evidence from the unity of the Bible

### *External Evidences*

1. The evidence from the historicity of the Bible
2. The evidence from the testimony of Christ
3. The evidence from prophecy
4. The evidence from the influence of the Bible
5. The evidence from the indestructability of the Bible
6. The evidence from the integrity of the human authors

## *The Characteristics of Canonicity*

### **The Definition of Canon**

The word **canon** is derived from the Greek word *kanon* (a rod or ruler) which in turn comes from the Hebrew word *kaneh*, an Old Testament word meaning “measuring rod.”

### **The Determination of Canonicity**

#### *Inadequate Views*

1. Age determines canonicity
2. Hebrew language determines canonicity
3. Agreement with the Torah determines canonicity
4. Religious value determines canonicity

#### *Principles for Discovering Canonicity*

1. The authority of a book
2. The prophetic authorship of a book
3. The authenticity of a book
4. The dynamic nature of a book
5. The acceptance of a book

## *The Inspiration of the Old Testament*

## **General Old Testament Claims to Inspiration**

Prophetic Utterances were written down - examples: Mosaic Law, Jeremiah's letter (Jeremiah 36:28), Isaiah (Isaiah 8:1), Habakkuk (Habakkuk 2:2).

The Old Testament writers were prophets, either by title or function.

An official register of prophets was kept (Joshua 24:26; Daniel 9:2, Ezekiel 13:9).

## **Specific Old Testament Claims to Inspiration**

Joshua - Joshua 24:26.

Judges - Judges 1:1, 3; 6:25.

Jeremiah - Daniel 9:2, Ezra 5:1.

Moses - Zechariah 7:12.

Psalms - 2 Samuel 23:2.

Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs - 1 Kings 3:9-10.

Job - Job 38.

Daniel - Daniel 2:19; 8:1.

## **General New Testament Support for Old Testament Inspiration**

**The Scriptures** - 2 Timothy 3:16, John 10:35.

**The Word of God** - Mark 7:13, Romans 9:6.

**The Law** - John 10:34, 1 Corinthians 14:21.

**The Law and the Prophets** - Matthew 5:17, 7:12, Luke 16:16, Acts 24:14.

**The Prophets** - Matthew 26:56, Luke 18:31.

**The Oracles of God** - Romans 3:2, Hebrews 5:12.

**"It is written"** - Mark 9:12, Luke 21:22.

**"That it might be fulfilled"** - Luke 24:44, Matthew 5:17.

## **Specific New Testament Support for Old Testament Inspiration**

Eighteen out of Twenty-Two Old Testament Books are referenced in the New Testament (Minor Prophets = 1 book, Ezra-Nehemiah = 1 book).

Genesis - Matthew 19:4-5.

Exodus - Ephesians 6:1.

Leviticus - Matthew 8:4.

Numbers - events mentioned in 1 Corinthians 10.

Deuteronomy - one of the most quoted - Matthew 4:4, 4.

Joshua - Hebrews 13:5.

1 Samuel - quoted by Christ.

1 Kings - Romans 11:4.

Ezra-Nehemiah - John 6:31.

Job - 1 Corinthians 3:19.

Psalms - Matthew 21:42; Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 2.

Proverbs - James 4:6.

Isaiah - Matthew 3:3; Luke 4:18-19.

Jeremiah - Matthew 2:17-18.

Lamentations - Matthew 27:30.

Ezekiel - John 3:5, Romans 6:23, Revelation 4:7.

Daniel - Matthew 24:15; 21:30.

Habakkuk - Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38.

Hosea - Matthew 2:15.