

How We Got Our English Bible

Session 1

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 (*nebhiiim*)

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