

How We Got Our English Bible

Session 3

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