

The Bible's Claim of Inspiration

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (2 Tim 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.”
 - b. Today's view of inspiration
 - i. Three ways people look at the Bible
 - 1. Word of God – Infallible
 - 2. Word of God – Fallible
 - 3. Not the Word of God – Fraud
 - ii. View number 2 is not even valid
 - 1. If the Bible is fallible then so is God, because the Bible claims to be word of God.
 - iii. Only two options: Either the Bible is the infallible word of God or it's a fraud
- II. What is inspiration?
 - a. (2 Tim 3:16) “All scripture is **given by inspiration of God,**”
 - i. “θεοπνευστος” (theh-op'-nyoo-stos) “divinely breathed in”
 - 1. θεος – God
 - 2. πνευμα – Breath
 - ii. Adjective to the Noun – Scripture
 - iii. Scriptures are God Breathed!
 - b. What does it mean to be ‘God – Breathed’?
 - i. (2 Peter 1:20-21) “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation**. 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.”
 - 1. Private Interpretation
 - a. Modern school of thought – Peter already refuted such thought
 - b. Means – “personal explanations”
 - 2. No man knows the mind of God except God reveals it
 - a. (1 Cor 2:9) “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the **heart of man**, the **things which God hath prepared** for them that love him.”
 - ii. (2 Peter 1:21) “...but holy men of God spake as they **were moved** by the Holy Ghost.”
 - 1. Were moved – Carried – As a sail is carried by the wind
 - a. Same verb as in (Acts 27:15) “And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let **her drive**.”
 - iii. Peter's point is that the scriptures origin was not of man but God
 - 1. Verbal Inspiration

- a. (**Deut 18:18**) “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **will put my words in his mouth**; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”
 - b. The Apostles of Christ: (**Matt 10:19-20**) “But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or **what ye shall speak**: for it shall be **given you** in that same hour **what ye shall speak**. For it is not ye that speak, but the **Spirit** of your Father which speaketh in you.”
- III. What scriptures are inspired?
 - a. (**2 Tim 3:15**) “And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee **wise unto** salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - i. **Holy Scriptures** of the Old Testament that is a schoolmaster to bring one up to Christ
 - 1. (**Gal 3:24**) “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
 - ii. (**2 Tim 3:16**) “**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God,”
 - 1. All – includes the Old with the New
 - b. Paul includes both the New and the Old under the term ‘Scripture’
 - i. (**1 Tim 5:18**) “For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.”
 - 1. (**Deut 25:4**) “Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.”
 - 2. (**Luke 10:7**) “The labourer is worthy of his hire”
 - c. Peter includes Paul’s letters as scripture
 - i. (**2 Peter 3:15-16**) “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the **wisdom given unto him** hath written unto you; As also in all his **epistles**, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other **scriptures**, unto their own destruction.”
 - d. Old and New are consider scripture – Inspired
- IV. The Claims of the Bible
 - a. The Bible’s Claim
 - i. 46 Instances of “God said”
 - ii. 414 Instances of “Thus saith the Lord”
 - iii. 221 Instances of “Lord said”
 - iv. 31 Instances of “Lord hath spoken”
 - v. 258 Instances of “word of the Lord”
 - b. Old Testament
 - i. David

1. (2 Sam 23:2) “The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”
 2. Jesus confirmed this:
 - a. (Matt 22:43) “How then doth David **in spirit** call him Lord”
- ii. Isaiah
1. (Isa 1:1-2) “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: **for the Lord hath spoken**, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.”
- iii. Jeremiah
1. (Jer 1:4-9) “Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and **whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak**. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, **I have put my words in thy mouth.**”
- iv. Zechariah
1. (Zech 1:1) “In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, **came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah**, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying...”
 2. Zechariah also claims inspiration for the prophets before him
 - a. (Zech 7:12) “Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in **his spirit by the former prophets**: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts.”
- c. Jesus endorses the Old Testament as the infallible word of God
- i. (Matt 5:18) “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one **tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”
 1. Like our dotting of the ‘i’ and crossing of the ‘t’.
 2. Scriptures are true and reliable – down to the smallest detail
- d. Jesus endorsed the Old Testament stories
- i. (Matt 19:4) “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,”
 1. Jesus didn’t endorse the theory of God using evolution

2. He endorsed and believed in the Genesis account of creation.
 - ii. (**Matt 24:37-39**) “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”
 - iii. (**Matt 11:24**) “But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”
 - iv. (**Luke 17:32**) “Remember Lot's wife.”
 - v. (**Matt 12:40**) “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
- e. Inspired men claimed that what other writers wrote was from God
 - i. (**Matt 1:22-23**) “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
 - ii. (**Matt 2:15**) “And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.”
 - iii. (**Acts 1:16**) “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”
- f. New Testament claims
 - i. (**1 Tim 4:1**) “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly...”
 - ii. (**Eph 3:3-5**) “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”
 - iii. (**1 Thess 2:13**) “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”
 - iv. (**Gal 1:11-12**) “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - v. (**1 Cor 14:37**) “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”
 - vi. (**1 Peter 1:25**) “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

- vii. (**Rev 19:9**) “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true **sayings** of God.”
- V. What is the proof?
 - a. If I would write a book and claim that it was the word of God, would you believe me? Not, hopefully, without proof.
 - b. (**Heb 2:3-4**) “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; **God also bearing them witness**, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
 - i. The proof was in the signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost
 - ii. (**John 3:2**) “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come **from God**: for no man can do these **miracles** that thou doest, **except God be with him.**”
 - c. We have these miracles recorded for our confirmation today
 - d. We have all the fulfilled prophecies for further confirmation
 - i. (**Deut 18:21-22**) “And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”
 - 1. EXAMPLE: (**John 2:18-19**) “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
 - e. Truly... “The **word of the Lord is right**; and all his works are done in truth.” – (**Ps 33:4**)
- VI. What do we need to do?
 - a. Need to understand that the Bible is inerrant and infallible
 - i. Jesus says, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy **word is truth.**” (**John 17:17**)
 - b. Need to live by them
 - i. (**Matt 4:4**) “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every** word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
- VII. Conclusion
 - a. The scriptures are true
 - i. (**John 5:39**) “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
 - b. In the scriptures you can find eternal life for your soul