

The Origin of the Bible – Part 2

Introduction: Let's do just a little review. See how many of the blanks you can fill in on your own.

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of _____, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the _____.

I. THE BIBLE CAME THROUGH MORE THAN ____ INDIVIDUALS.

A. Name three:

B. The Bible took over _____ years to write.

1. The first book written was probably _____.

2. The last book written was the _____.

C. The Bible was written in _____ languages: (Name them)

D. Knowing the Bible has so many human authors, what evidence is apparent that there is a single author behind the man who wrote the Scriptures? The _____ of thought and instruction.

II. THE BIBLE CAME FROM _____.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture *is* given by _____ of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

III. THE MEANING OF INSPIRATION

A. Biblical meaning: God-_____

IV. THE MEANS OF INSPIRATION

The testimony of the Scriptures is that God used _____ means of inspiration. Name three:

V. THE RESULTS OF INSPIRATION

A. The whole Bible is inspired. This is called _____ Inspiration (plenary means full).

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*'"

The Bible is composed of many types of literature. Understanding whether a passage is history or poetry in the original language is important for reading, understanding, and interpreting the text. However, every type is inspired; and one type is _____ more inspired than the other. The Bible contains

1. **History**
2. **Poetry**
3. **Admonition**
4. **Exhortation**
5. **Instruction**

All of the Bible is inspired.

B. Every word is inspired. _____ Inspiration (verbal means pertaining to words).

1. **Many mistakenly equate Verbal Inspiration with Mechanical Dictation.**

a. **Mechanical Dictation means that God dictated the words and man wrote them down mechanically.**

b. _____ of the Bible was mechanically dictated, but not all.

2. **Verbal Inspiration means that whatever the means of inspiration (dictation, vision, research...), the end result was that the very _____ God desired to be used to express His truth were the ones that made it to the page.**

3. **Jesus referred to the words written by _____ as the words of God.**

Mark 7:10-13 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

4. **Paul also affirmed that it is the very words which are _____.**

1 Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

5. **The truth of Verbal Inspiration is in contrast with the popular modern theory called _____ Inspiration.**

2. **Infallible means that if you follow it, it will not lead you _____.**
3. **How could words breathed out by God be anything less?**
4. **This is the testimony of the Scriptures themselves.**

Psalm 19:7-11 7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

Psalm 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

5. **Jesus treated the Scriptures as if they were _____.**

Matthew 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- a. **Jesus affirmed the _____ accuracy of the Scriptures.**

- 1) **That Adam and Eve were historical people, not symbols of mankind.**

Matthew 19:3-5 3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’ 5 and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’?”

- 2) **Jesus referred to Noah’s ark and the _____ as historical events.**

Luke 17:26-27 26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

- 3) **Jesus believed that _____ was a man literally swallowed by a great fish.**

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- 4) **Jesus used the Scriptures in such a way as to show His complete _____ in the minute detail of the written words of the Bible.**

a) **In John 10:31-38, Jesus defends Himself from a charge of blasphemy, with its resultant stoning, based on a single word of Psalm 82.**

6. The importance of inerrancy

- a. **Sometimes people ask, “What difference does it make whether or not the Bible is inerrant?”**
- b. **The answer is, “All the difference in the world.”**
- c. **The reason it matters is that once you are willing to say that any one portion of the Bible is in error, then _____ in the Bible is open to question, unbelief, debate, and rejection. Once you have begun this journey, there is no place to stop.**
- d. **When you try to determine whether something in the Bible is true, you have made yourself the _____ of Scripture. That is backwards. You are judged according to the Scriptures.**

7. Questions often raised about inerrancy

- a. **Q - Which translation is inerrant?**
A - The autographs (_____) are inerrant.
 - 1) The autographs are what the men inspired of God wrote down. The affirmation of inerrancy says, “I believe what they wrote down was perfectly true.”
- b. **Q - Do we have any of the autographs?**
A - Not as far as we know, not yet; but it _____.
 - 1) We have tens of thousands of copies and copies of copies of those autographs.
 - 2) By the study of all of those copies, scholars can determine to a virtual certainty what was written in the original autographs.
 - 3) A.T. Robertson, world class scholar on the text of the Bible, says that while critics will claim over _____ variations in the text

of the copies, those of any significance at all are less than 1/10 of 1%. He goes on to say that even among those, none of the differences alter the message. That is why I or other preachers hardly ever have to refer to a variant reading in the text.

- c. **Q - Since we do not have any of the autographs, what difference does it make whether we affirm the inerrancy of the autographs?**

A - It is important because we know that the Bible _____ in a state of perfection. This leads us to be able to _____ our modern copies.

- 1) As study of the multitude of texts reveals the exact wording of the autograph, we know what it says is perfectly true.
- 2) We are at this point today. I do not know of any significant theological debate among Christians today that is caused by an uncertainty about the original text.
- 3) If we deny inerrancy, it does us no good that scholars have been able to come to such a reliable determination of what the original text said, because it might have mistakes any way.
- 4) But if we affirm inerrancy, then when we have the product of the scholars work printed in the form of our modern Bibles, we can have confidence that what we are reading is the very Word of God.

- d. **Q - What about translations? Which translation is perfect?**

A - No translation is perfect, but that does not keep us from understanding the perfect _____ perfectly.

- 1) I know a little Spanish. With a review of the grammar and the aid of a lexicon, I could translate the verses of the Roman Road so that I could share the gospel with someone who only spoke that language. To be sure, it would not be a perfect translation. But although my translation would not be perfect, that would not change the fact that the words I was translating were perfect, and it would not keep the hearer from understanding the message perfectly.
- 2) Some translations are better than others. Serious study requires some reference to the original languages.
- 3) KJV, NKJV, and NAS are all very dependable translations.

“The grass withers, and the flower fades; but the Word of our God shall stand forever.”
Isa. 40:8

NEXT WEEK – HOW AND WHEN WERE THE BOOKS CHOSEN TO BE A PART OF THE BIBLE?