



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Bible: The Word of God

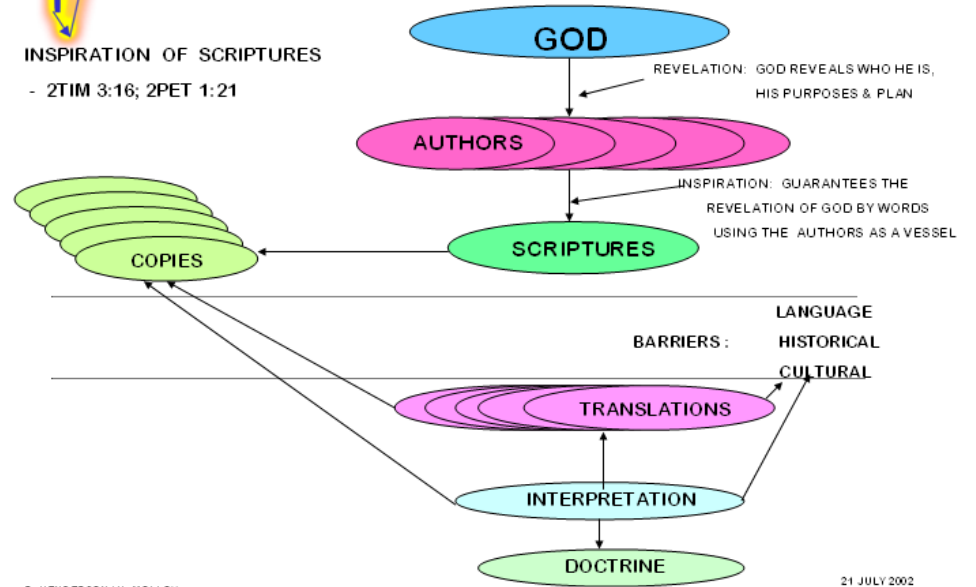
1. The Bible: The Word of God
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HOMEWORK: READ CHAP 3
ANSWER QUESTIONS: 1,3,8,11



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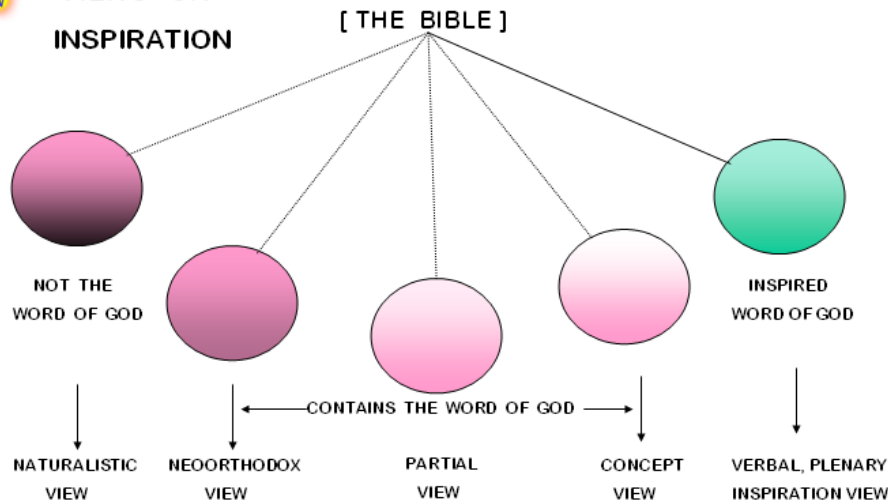
THE BIBLE : INSPIRED OF GOD



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VIEWS ON INSPIRATION



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DEFINITIONS

- Verbal:** The Holy Spirit guided in the choice of the words in the original Scriptures.
- Plenary:** Means fully inspired (all the words) and not just most of the words.
- Infallible:** Impossible of error, thus it cannot mislead, deceive or disappoint.
- Inerrant (unlimited):** The entire original scripture is truth & contains no error.
- Concept View:** The heresy that God inspired the concepts & not the words.
- Partial View:** The heresy that only parts of the Bible are inspired.
- Neo-orthodox View:** The 20th century heresy saying there are errors in the Bible and it is not literally true. Truth is dependent on the individual reader.
- Naturalistic View:** The heresy that the Bible is strictly a human production and is not the Word of God.



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THE BIBLE: INSPIRED OF GOD

1. Key Passages on verbal inspiration

a. 2 Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God....."

- Analysis:

- "All" = whole (Scripture as a whole or every passage of Scripture)
 - the "all" that Timothy had was copies of the 39 books of the Old Testament

This is proof that God protects His Word (copies nearly equivalent to originals)

The "all" would also include the New Testament (but not completed yet)

1 Cor. 2:7-13; Gal. 1:11-17; Eph. 3:1-12

- "Scripture" = the utterances of God by which man was directed and guided to write by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21)
- "Inspiration" = theo | pneustos
God | breathed
 - breath implies words (as opposed to thoughts)

b. 2 Pet. 1:21 "... prophecy came by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit..... "

- Analysis:

- "moved" (phero) = to carry, to bear
 - Lit. The writers were borne along by the Holy Spirit
- "prophecy" (propheteia) = God's revelation (His mind & counsel)
 - Note: The source of Scripture is God Himself via the Holy Spirit

c. Other passages

- Paul 1 Cor. 2:7-13 (words from Holy Spirit and not man)
Gal 1: 11-17 (revelation directly from Jesus Christ)
Eph 3: 1-6 (the revelation includes the mystery- the Church)
1 Thes. 2: 13 (His words are the Word of God)
- Peter 2 Pet 3: 15,16 (equates Paul's epistles to other Scriptures)
- Moses Exod. 24:3-8 (wrote the words of the Lord)
- Jesus Matt. 12:40 (confirmed the Jonah account)
Matt. 19:4-6 (confirmed the creation account)
- Isaiah Isa. 51:16 (God put words in Isaiah's mouth)

2. Words were inspired – not thoughts

a. Key expressions used (2500 times)

"Thus saith the Lord"

"Write thou these words"

"God said"... "The Lord said"

e.g. Exod. 20:1,22; 34:27-28; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 45:1; Prov. 30:6; Isa. 6:5-8;
Jer. 1:7; 36:1-2; Matt. 8:17; John 14:10; 17:8; 1 Cor. 2:4

Note: Apart from exact words and grammar there cannot be precision in a thought or concept.



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THE BIBLE: INSPIRED OF GOD (cont.)

b. The prophets did not select the thoughts nor did they select the words.

(1 Pet 1: 10-12)

- These prophets searched their own writings for the purpose of understanding God's plan
 - They did not know what they were writing about.
 - They did not even understand God's thoughts
 - They simply wrote the exact words God said.
- This passage must be referring to word or verbal inspiration.
 - The prophet's words originated from God. (2 Pet. 1:21)
 - They spoke and recorded God's words
 - Scripture never originated from man
 - But men were carried along (of the mind, moved inwardly, prompted) by the Holy Spirit
 - The human authors never added nor took away any words from God's revelation to man. (Rev. 22:18-19; Prov. 30:6)

1. Evidences of inspiration

a. Prophecy

- Jesus Christ's 1st coming – over 300 prophecies fulfilled
 - Born of a virgin: Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:34-35; Matt. 1:18-25
 - Born in Bethlehem: Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1; Luke 2:4-5
 - Descendant of Abraham & David: Gen. 22:18; Matt. 1:1; Ps. 132:11; Luke 1:32
 - 483 years between command to rebuild temple & Jesus Christ: Dan. 9:24-27; Luke 19:28-40; Zech. 9:9
 - Perform miracles and healing: Isa. 61:1-2a; Matt. 11:4-6; John 20:30; 21:25
 - Sinless-perfect character: Jer. 23:5-6; Isa. 11:2-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22
 - Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver: Zech. 11:12-13; Matt. 26:15; 27:3-10
 - He would be a sacrifice for man's sin: Isa. 53; Rom. 5:8; Heb. 2:9; Tit. 2:11
 - Death on a cross: Ps. 22; Matt. 27:39-46
 - Resurrection: Isa. 53:10; Ps. 2:7; Acts 2:23-24; Ps. 16:10; Acts 13:33
 - Part garments & cast lots: Ps. 22:18; Matt. 27:35
 - Chief cornerstone: Isa. 8:14; 28:16; 1 Pet. 2:6-8
 - Stone of stumbling: Ps. 118:22; Rom 9:32-33; Matt 21:42; 22:44
- Israel to return to land in latter days
 - Return in unbelief: Ezek. 36:16-24; 34:11-19
 - All Israel will be saved: Ezek. 36:25-28; Rom. 11:26-27
 - They will serve God in the land & dwell in peace: Ezek. 20:40; 34:20-31; 37: 21-28
- Points on prophecy
 - Fulfilled prophecy is unique to the Bible
 - It is positive and conclusive proof that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God
 - Only an almighty and all knowing God can infallibly predict the future



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THE BIBLE: INSPIRED OF GOD (cont.)

b. Historical accuracy of Scripture

- Existence of King Belshazzar – Dan. 5
 - The Bible confirmed his existence
 - Historians up to 1929 disclaimed his existence
 - In 1929 the Nabonidus Cylinder was discovered which proved Belshazzar's existence
- Three co-rulers in Babylon – Dan. 5:7, 29 (rejected by historians)
 - The Bible confirms 3 rulers
 - 1) Belshazzar – one ruler
 - 2) No name given – a second ruler
 - 3) Daniel – third ruler
 - The Nabonidus Cylinder also confirmed that Belshazzar was co-ruler with his father Nabonidus
- Summary
 - Multitudes of archeological findings have confirmed many Biblical accounts.
 - Many Biblical accounts have led to archeological findings.
 - No archeological finding has ever contradicted a Biblical reference.

c. Scientific accuracy of Scripture

- Earth is round: Isa. 40:22; Job 22:14
- Earth rotates on its axis: Gen. 1:5, 8, 13; Exod. 20:8-11
- Earth is suspended in space: Job 26:7
- Earth is one of many planets: Ps. 33:6
- The hydrologic cycle: Eccl. 1:7
- The increasing law of entropy: Ps. 102:25-27
- Life of flesh is in the blood: Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:11,14
- Nuclear fission: 2 Pet. 3:7-10

d. Transformed lives

- A believer is a new creation in Christ with a new nature (the very nature of Christ): 2 Cor. 5:17
- As a believer walks by faith and abides & beholds the Lord Jesus Christ through the word of God, the Holy Spirit conforms him/her to the image of Jesus Christ and manifests the life of Christ through the believer: Col 2: 6,7; Jn. 15: 1-5; 2 Cor. 3: 18; Rom. 8: 28,29
- The believer is the very epistle (message) of Christ for the world to observe. The world will see the very glory (essence) of Christ (e.g. His love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, patience, faithfulness, etc.) manifested in the believer: 2 Cor. 3:1-12, 18
- This transformed life of the believer is one of the greatest and most influential evidences that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God.