

## INSPIRATION: SCRIPTURE AS A DIVINE AND HUMAN BOOK

**INSPIRATION:** We must acknowledge & appreciate both the divine and human element of Scripture and understand how they relate.

\* 2 Tim 3:16<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*

**\*\* Scripture is the Word of God – It is not the word of Inspired Men \*\***

\* Heb 4:12<sup>12</sup> *For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

\* Guess how many times the bible claims to be the Word of God in the OT alone?

**\*\* What this inspired Word does 1<sup>st</sup> is tear you to pieces –  
Then it puts you back together again \*\***

\* What does this statement mean?

\* What role does “Inspiration” play in this concept?

\* For the believer, God’s Word brings ultimate joy – as the apostle John tells us ...

\* 1 John 1:4<sup>4</sup> *And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

\* What things did John write?

\* It is impossible to separate the glory of the Word from God Himself because this is His own Word.

\* Ps 138:2<sup>2</sup> *... For Your lovingkindness and **Your truth**, for You have magnified **Your word** above all Your name.*

\* How many OT & NT Books?

### What Scripture Says About Scripture

\* What does Scripture portray about itself?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

## The Bible as the Word of God

\* The Bible declares itself to be the Word of God

\* Jer 1:4<sup>4</sup> *The word of the Lord came to me.*

\* I Thess 2:13<sup>13</sup> *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because **when you received the word of God which you heard from us**, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

\* Do the biblical writers uniformly declare their message as coming from God? Absolutely

\* Heb 1:1-2<sup>1</sup> *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*<sup>2</sup> *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds*

**\*\* Holy Scriptures are not a catalogue of human thoughts regarding God and eternity, but the record and explanation of God's redemptive acts in history \*\***

\* In 2 Sentences, With respect to “Sin”-What story is told of “Man’s Problem” & “God’s Plan”

1)

2)

\* Given the redemptive-historical nature of this material, who else could have authored the Scriptures but the God whose actions are recorded in it?

\* The 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith points out that there are numerous reasons to accept the Bible as God’s Inspired Word – Name Some:

1)

2)

3)

4)

\* From where does our “full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority” come from?

\* I Cor 2:10<sup>10</sup> *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

## The Inscripturated Word: Inspiration

\* How would you summarize the method God used to give us His written Word?

\* What points summarize God’s purpose in His inspiration of His written word?

1)

2)

3)

4)

\* What method did God “**initially**” use to reveal this plan?

\* Deut. 9:10<sup>10</sup> *Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.*

\* Bonus: Name the First 5 OT Covenants

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) |    |

\* Who did God use to provide further written revelation?

\* What 3 Primary Things did His Prophets do?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

\* With respect to the word ...

\* What occurred when the Old Testament promised Messiah arrives – What did Jesus do?

\* What happened after Jesus ascended into heaven?

\* These Scriptures (Old & New Testaments - meaning covenant), were inspired by God as He most often worked in ordinary ways through, who?

\* Why is the term “Inspiration” a key term?

\* What does Inspiration “NOT” mean?

\* How did God breath-out the Scriptures?

\* Peter gives us a glimpse into that mystery when he says: 2 Pet 1:21<sup>21</sup> *For no “prophecy” was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

\* Ever heard of Inspiration by Concursus?

\* Concursus: There is a simultaneous operation between the human author and the divine author, though the divine author is principal, inseparable from consideration as THE Author.

\* Much like a ship at sea driven along by the wind

\* Acts 27:15, 17<sup>15</sup> *So when the ship was caught, & could not head into the wind, we let her drive ...*<sup>17</sup> *When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; & fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail & so were driven.*

\* What assumption do we see across Jesus words & the writings throughout the entire NT when referring back to the OT Scriptures?

\* We see this whenever Jesus refers to the OT author & the Spirit simultaneously

\* Mark 12:36-37<sup>36</sup> *For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*<sup>37</sup> *Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" and the common people heard Him gladly.*

### **Examples of Prophecy which Prove the Inspiration of Scripture**

1) The blessings of Abraham: Gal 3:8<sup>8</sup> *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."*

### **Assurance of Inspiration: Through "Fulfillment" of The Gospel**

\* Jesus and the Gospel writers indicate that the Scriptures have been fulfilled in the person and work of Christ.

\* Luke 4:21<sup>21</sup> *And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

### **Implications of Divine Authorship & Authority**

\* Citing Gen 2, we see God's authority when Jesus answered a question about divorce

\* Matt 24:4-5<sup>4</sup> *Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said,*<sup>5</sup> *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*

\* On the basis of God's authority in his Word, Jesus concluded:

\* Matt 24:6<sup>6</sup> *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*

\* John Calvin concluded: "We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone."

**\* Unity**

**\*\* Behind the efforts of the more than forty human authors is the one perfect, sovereign and guiding mind of God \*\***

\* If God is the author and the biblical flow is one of Unity, what principle should we use as we attempt to interpret scripture?

\* Scripture cannot and does not contradict itself – True or False? Why?

**The Humanity of Scripture**

\* We’ve already established that:

\* Though scripture has a Divine Origin, it was conveyed through human writers.

\* *Heb 1:1*<sup>1</sup> *God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.*

\* *II Pet 1:21*<sup>21</sup> ... *“men spoke from God.*

\* What types of writings does the bible include?

\* \* \*

\* Carefully researched history: *Luke 1:1-4*<sup>1</sup> *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,*<sup>2</sup> *just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,*<sup>3</sup> *it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,*<sup>4</sup> *that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*

\* The human element of Scripture incorporates the experiences, perspectives, and even feelings of the various authors.

\* \* \* \* \*

**\*\* Scripture does not see man as an impediment to the achievement of the divine purpose. Even man’s sin and blindness cannot prevent God from achieving his purpose \*\***

**The Divine Book**

\* What factors must always be our controlling ideas when considering the validity of Scripture?

\* \* \* \*

\* According to the Bible, how should the teacher of Scripture view their role?

\*

\*

\*

**\*\* The Scriptures are throughout a Divine book, created by the Divine energy and speaking in their every part with Divine authority directed to the heart of the readers \*\***

\* Like Isaiah, Hosea, Ezekiel, and all the rest, we join them in reverently asserting of Holy Scripture: **“Thus says the Lord.”**

**“The Holy Spirit so informed the minds of the Biblical writers that they were kept from falling into the errors that mar all other books ... According to the doctrine of inspiration, the account is as a matter of fact; the Bible is an ‘infallible rule of faith and practice.’”**