

Lesson 2: Inspiration - God's Word Written

The biblical foundation of inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16–17 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

The language of “Scripture” (graphē)

Matthew 22:29 *Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”*

Acts 17:11 *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” (cf. Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 10:7)*

The divine and human elements in inspiration

God through man

2 Peter 1:20–21 *Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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.*

Mark 2:3 *And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.*

Conservative view of inspiration: the Bible is God's Word, inspired and superintended by the Holy Spirit, and therefore infallible and inerrant in its original writings. This means that the entire Bible is God-breathed, preserving the accuracy of every word written by the human authors, who maintained their own styles and circumstances.

Liberal view of inspiration: the Bible as a human-authored text that contains divine insights and profound spiritual truth, rather than being the literal, inerrant Word of God. It accepts that the Bible contains errors, contradictions, and pre-scientific ideas, viewing it as a collection of ancient literature written by good people who made mistakes.

The Old Testament claims of inspiration

Leviticus 1:1–2 *The LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them...”*

Numbers 1:1 *The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying...*

1 Samuel 3:21 *And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh. For the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.*

Deuteronomy 31:24–26 *When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, 26 “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.*

Joshua 24:26 *And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.*

Daniel 9:2 *in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.*

Ezra 1:1 *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:*

Ezra 5:1 *Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them.*

Luke 24:27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

The New Testament claims of inspiration

Acts 7:37-38 *This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.' 38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.*

Acts 28:25 *And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:*

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*

1 Thessalonians 5:27 *I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.*

Colossians 4:16 *And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.*

Ephesians 2:19-20 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.*

2 Peter 3:2 *That you may remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles.*

2 Peter 3:15-16 *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

Other evidence for inspiration

Archaeological Evidence: Tel Dan Stele, Peter's House, Siloam Pool, Seal of Baruch

Manuscript Evidence: Over 24,000 New Testament manuscripts exist.

Early Church Fathers: By AD 150, all 27 books of the New Testament were quoted as authoritative.

One integrated message: Unity, Honesty, Durability, Influence, Power

Prophecy: Tyre (Ezekiel 26), Fall of Babylon (Jeremiah 50-51, Isaiah 13), Messianic Prophecies (Micah 5:2), Fall of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24), Reign of Cyrus (Isaiah 45)

Application

- 1. Confidence in God's Word**
- 2. Authority for Life and Doctrine**
- 3. Encouragement in Future - Hope**
- 4. Motivation for Study and Growth**