

The Book of God #2

Text : **II Tim. 3: 10-17 ; I Pet. 1: 6-12**

S#1.
S#2.

A. With our last lesson we began a brief series on the subject of Bibliology.

1. The term *Bibliology* (from Greek *biblos* meaning “book”) refers to the study of the nature of the Bible as revelation.
2. The word “bible” is the transliteration of the Greek word “*biblos*.”
3. Thus we are studying the “Book of God.”

B. Last week we observed the physical makeup of “*The Book of God*.”

S#3.

1. It’s a collection of writings which were penned over a 1500 period by 40+ men.
2. It has two major divisions called the O.T. and the N.T.
 - a. The word testament refers to a covenant, an agreement between God and man.
 - b. The Old Covenant consists of 39 writings written by at least 30 men.
 - c. The New Covenant consists of 27 writings written by at least 10 men.
3. There was a 400 year period of silence between the Old and New covenants.
 - a. During the silent years, as today, many writing about religious topics were penned.
 - b. 14 of these writings became known as the Apocrypha which means “hidden.”
 - c. These weren’t accepted by Christians as from God and are not in the bible.
 - d. They are included in the Catholic Bible.
4. There have always been religious writings that are not viewed as scripture.
 - a. Some were by church leaders to refute error : Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, Origen and Justin Martyr,
 - b. Some were just works of fiction : *The Gospel of Thomas* .. clay birds fly
 - c. There were many pseudepigrapha 300 BC to 300 AD ... put the name of another
5. We observed that chapters and verses were not part of the original text.
 - a. Paragraphs were added to the O.T. before the time of Christ.
 - b. Chapters were add about 1227 AD.
 - c. Verses were added in 1560 when the Geneva Bible was printed.
6. The original manuscripts of the bible were written in all capital letters.
 - a. ENAPXHHNOΛOΓOCKAIOΛOΓOC
(THISISHOWENGLISHWOULDLOOK)
 - b. Translators added the spaces between the words, punctuation and capitalization.

C. Our previous lesson showed us two ways God reveals Himself.**S#4.**

1. God reveals Himself through “*General Revelation*” observable by all.
 - a. All men are born with a basic moral code.
 - b. All men can see the work of the creator’s hand in the creation.
 - c. All men have a conscience.
2. God reveals Himself to specific individuals and groups called “*Special Revelation*.”
 - a. God spoke to the patriarchs : Adam, Noah, Abraham
 - b. God spoke to Moses face to face (Ex. 33: 12)
 - c. God spoke to the Israelite from the mountain. (Exod. 19)
3. God revealed Himself in the person of Jesus the Christ.

D. This lesson will address how God revealed Himself in the Holy Scriptures,**S#5.****I. The scriptures affirm that they are given to man by God.****S#6.****A. God spoke to men through the prophets of old.****S#7.**

1. **Dan. 9: 9-10** – To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; **10** nor have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. **S#8.**
2. **Zech. 1: 6** – But did not My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, overtake your fathers? Then they repented and said, ' As the Lord of hosts purposed to do to us in accordance **S#9.**
3. **Ezek. 1: 2-3** – (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile, **3** the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the Lord came upon him.) **S#10.**

B. The N.T. writers were also given their messages by the Holy Spirit of God.**S#11.**

1. The New Testament affirms that ALL scripture is from God.

II Tim. 3: 15-16 – and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **S#12.**
2. Peter identifies to writings of the Apostle Paul as “scripture”, thus inspired.

II Pet. 3: 15-16 – and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. **S#13.**

3. The Apostle Paul held his own writings up as authoritative scripture.

I Cor. 14: 37 – If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize **S#14.**
that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

II. There are several theories of inspiration, but no one knows exactly.

S#15.

A. The neo-orthodox view of inspiration

S#16.

1. Neo-orthodoxy denies all forms of general revelation. Creation can't manifest God.
2. It denies that the bible is actually the word of God. Fallible words by fallible men.
3. Advocates that "inspiration" is when God sometimes uses words to speak to men who interpret what He said and write their interpretation.
4. Neo-orthodoxy places little value on scripture because it's the fallible product of men

B. The dictation theory of inspiration

S#17.

1. Each word is given by God and directly transcribed by men – secretaries.
2. The fact that the personality of the writer shines through disavows this theory.
3. The scriptures do not agree with this theory.

a. **II Pet. 1: 21** – for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **S#18.**
but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

b. Moved by = { pheró } : to bear, carry a burden, bring forth

c. **Acts 27: 16** – when the ship was caught *in it* and could not face the wind,
we gave way *to it* and let ourselves be driven { pheró } : along.

4. However, there are occasions when the Lord instructed men to write what He says :

Jer. 30: 2 – Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ' Write all the words **S#19.**
which I have spoken to you in a book.

C. The limited inspiration position

S#20.

1. The bible is primarily the works of man with limited help from God.
2. God gives limited guidance to writers, but allows them editorial freedom.
3. Such editorial freedom allows for historical errors, which can discredit the text.
4. If the whole bible is not true is not from God and cannot save.
 - a. **John 17: 17** – Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
 - b. **John 8: 32** – ... you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

III. The accurate view of inspiration is that it is verbal, plenary and confluent. S#21.

A. Definition of terms : S#22.

1. Verbal : relating to or in the form of words.
2. Plenary : Complete in every respect; Absolute; unqualified; all inclusive
3. Confluent : flowing or running together; blending into one

B. The scriptures are verbally inspired. S#23.

1. The very words of the scriptures come from God.
II Tim. 3: 17 – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
2. “Inspired” { *theopneustos* } 1. Breathed, inspired (literally expired = breathed out)
Psa. 33: 6 – By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
 And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
3. The Apostle Paul made doctrinal arguments based on individual words.
Gal. 3: 16 – Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. S#24.
 He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many,
 but rather to one, " And to your seed," that is, Christ.
4. Jesus made arguments based upon the wording of scripture.
 - a. 78 times Jesus quoted from 27 of the O.T. books. *For example* :
Matt. 4: 4 – But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"
 - b. He made an argument based on the tense of the verb “to be” i.e., “I am.”
Mark 12: 25-27 – "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you S#25.
 not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? 27 " He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."
 - c. Jesus endorsed even the smallest marks in the text of the O.T. S#26.
Matt. 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. (NKJV)

C. The inspiration of the scriptures is plenary. S#27.

1. Thus, we see that every word in the bible comes from God.
 - a. Every miracle actually happened exactly as recorded.
 - b. All of the instructions come from God.
2. God exercised superintendence over every word in the bible.
 - a. Not just concepts or themes

- b. Not just broad outline
- 3. The bible **IS** the word of God; it does not just contain the word of God.

D. The inspiration of the scriptures is confluent.

S#28.

- 1. Men wrote the bible, but God is the author. (*man and God flow together*)
- 2. God used men to produce the bible, but it is from HIS mind.
- 3. No part of the bible is from the mind of man.

II Pet. 1: 20-21 – But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

S#29.

- a. own interpretation { epilysis } 1. a loosening, unloosing (*interpretation is a metaphor*)
- b. A man must pen the words, but he is not teaching his own personal beliefs.

I Pet. 1: 10-12 – As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

S#30.

- c. The writer did not always know when they were writing by inspiration.

I Cor. 7: 40 – But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God. (cf- **I Tim. 5: 14**)

CONCLUSION :

- A. God reveals Himself through His Holy Scriptures.
- B. He superintended the writing of that revelation to guarantee accuracy.
- C. Those who want to know God must come to know him through His revelation.
Rom. 10: 17 – so faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves
- D. Have you learned about God and established a relationship with HIM ?

S#31. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Timothy 3: 10-17**

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

I Peter 1: 6-12

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, **7** so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **8** and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, **11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.