



The Origin of the Bible
Part 5 ~ Introduction to Inspiration



Series Outline

Canon of the Old Testament

Transmission of the Old Testament

Transmission of the New Testament

Canon of the New Testament

Inspiration of Scripture

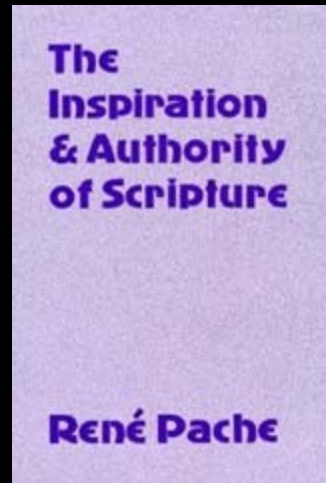
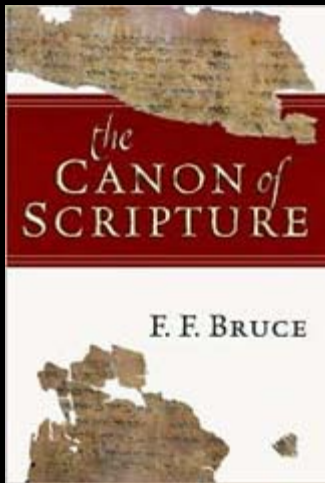
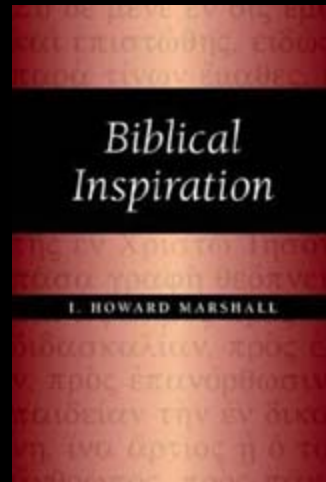
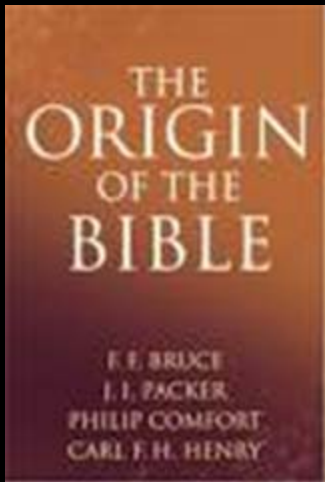
Inerrancy and Infallibility

Translation of Scripture





Series Outline





Inspiration

Your Questions on Inspiration:

What does “God inspired” mean? Who came up with the idea? What is it based on?

What does it mean for a writer to be “inspired” by the Holy Spirit.

Where does inspiration occur? Before writing? During writing?

How do we make sense of the fact that it was inspired by God yet written by humans (and some books by more than one author)?

How do we grapple with God’s sovereignty when we consider human authorship and human fallibility?

How much of the Bible can be attributed to culture, as far as issues related to gender, etc.?





Inspiration

Where Does the Doctrine of Inspiration Come From?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

“All Scripture is inspired by God...” (NASB)

“All scripture is inspired by God...” (NRSV)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (KJV)





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“Pasa graphe theopneustos”

“theos” = God “pneuma” = breath (also used for “Spirit”)

God-breathed

God out-breathed





Inspiration

Where Does the Doctrine of Inspiration Come From?

“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

- 2 Peter 1:16-21





Inspiration

Inspiration relates to God the Holy Spirit's action and interaction with the authors and the original manuscript.

Inspiration is not associated with transmission, translation or interpretation, or errors occurring in this process.

Illumination is the Holy Spirit's interaction with the reader of Scripture as it is continually read, understood and interpreted.

Revelation refers to how God has revealed Himself to humanity; in other words, how He has made Himself known.

General Revelation: God revealing Himself in creation or history

Special Revelation: God revealing Himself to the prophets
God revealing Himself in the incarnation
God revealing Himself in scripture





Inspiration

How Should We Think About Inspiration?

- Clearly, some words are recorded as the words of God.
- Other times, the words of scripture are attributed to God, even when they were originally spoken by someone else.

Examples: Acts 4:25, Acts 28:25, Matthew 19:4ff; Hebrews 3:7, Acts 13:34





Inspiration

How Should We Think About Inspiration?

- Clearly, some words are recorded as the words of God.
- Other times, the words of scripture are attributed to God, even when they were originally spoken by someone else.
- But what about:
 - ✧ Narrative descriptions?
 - ✧ Historical facts?
 - ✧ The author's own words?
 - ✧ The words of the historical actors?
 - ✧ Opinions or questions of the author?
- Is the Bible the Word of God, or does it merely contain the Word of God?





Views on Inspiration





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Views on Inspiration

1. The entire Bible is the product of prophetic inspiration (i.e., dictation).
2. The Bible is the product of the human mind, which is able to receive and express divine inspiration.
3. The authors of the Bible were witnesses to God's revelation and were moved by such experiences to write about them in unique and profound ways.
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Views on Inspiration

1. The entire Bible is the product of prophetic inspiration (i.e., dictation).
2. The Bible is the product of the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the authors.
3. The authors of the Bible were witnesses to God's revelation and were moved by such experiences to write about them in unique and profound ways.
4. The Bible is no different than any other books which were written; rather, the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to make a particular form of divine revelation by speaking through it to particular individuals or communities.
5. The word "inspiration" should be understood as encounters with the divine serving to "inspire" the Biblical writers.
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Views on Inspiration

1. The entire Bible is the product of prophetic inspiration (i.e., dictation).
2. Inspiration takes place in the composition of scripture, resulting from the witness of what God has done, the religious traditions of the community from which the author is writing, and the application of these traditions to specific circumstances.
3. The authors of the Bible were witnesses to God's revelation and were moved by such experiences to write about them in unique and profound ways.
4. The Bible is no different than any other books which were written; rather, the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to make a particular form of divine revelation by speaking through it to particular individuals or communities.
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Views on Inspiration

On a human level, authors composed the Scriptures by collecting information from witnesses, using other sources, writing and editing, composing letters, committing to writing prophetic messages, and from their own experience and witness.

On a divine level, *at the same time*, the Holy Spirit, was active in the whole process, so that the final result can be called the Word of God.

“If God wished to give His people a series of letters like Paul’s, He prepared a Paul to write them, and the Paul He brought to the task was a Paul who spontaneously would write just such letters.”

B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*





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