



The Origin of the Bible
Part 6 ~ John and Jeremy Discuss 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

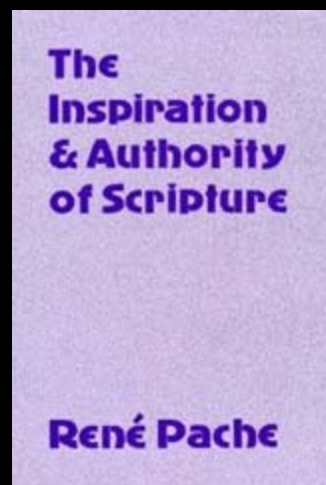
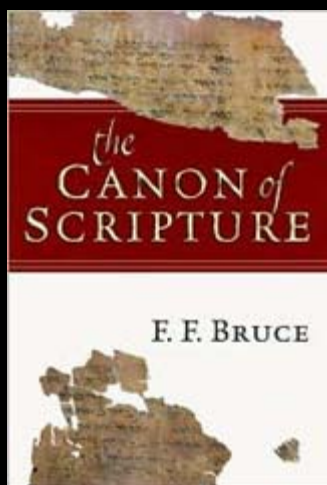
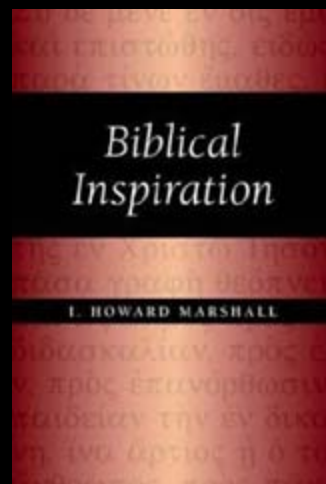
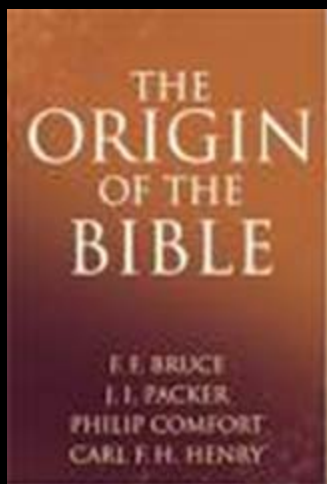
Inerrancy and Infallibility

Translation of Scripture





Series Outline





Inspiration

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





Views on Inspiration

1. The entire Bible is the product of prophetic inspiration (i.e., dictation).
2. 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.
3. The Bible is no different than any other books which were written; however, the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to make a particular form of divine revelation by speaking through it to particular individuals or communities.
4. The word "inspiration" should be understood as encounters with the divine serving to "inspire" the Biblical writers.
5. The Bible is simply the work of men and women who had remarkable spiritual insight and the ability to express themselves very eloquently.





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Plenary Inspiration ~ "In the composition of the original manuscripts, the Holy Spirit guided the authors even in their choice of expressions ~ and this throughout all the pages of the Scriptures ~ still without effacing the personalities of the [authors]."

"The original documents of the Bible were written by men, who, though permitted the exercise of their own personalities and literary talents, yet wrote under the control and guidance of the Spirit of God, the result being in every word of the original documents a recording of the exact message which God desire to give to man."





Inspiration

- Q. Is the Bible the Word of God, or does it merely contain the Word of God?

- Q. Was the Bible the product of plenary inspiration, allowing us to say that the entirety of the text is the Word of God? If not, how are we to understand inspiration?





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5. The Bible is simply the work of men and women who had remarkable spiritual insight and the ability to express themselves very eloquently.
6. 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.

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





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