

Chapter Seventeen:

Inspiration Continued

Scripture Memory: 1Thessalonians 4:2

2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Scripture Review:

Revelation 22:18 & 19

II Timothy 3:16

II Peter 1:21

Deuteronomy 29:29

Isaiah 55: 8 & 9

Hebrews 4:12

I Thessalonians 4:2

Psalm 19: 7 & 8

Hebrews 9:15

Luke 1:1 – 4

Deuteronomy 29:29

Matthew 13:10 & 11

II Peter 1:20

I Corinthians 4:6

Genesis 1:3 & facts

John 12:48

II Timothy 4:3

Deuteronomy 4:2

I Thessalonians 2:13

I Peter 1:20, 24 & 25

The Doctrine of Inspiration

Inspiration is a common word in our vocabulary. Someone is “inspired” to write a great book or symphony. We find the movie or music “inspiring”. A patriotic deed “inspires” others to feats of bravery or sacrifice. There are many common uses of this word in the English language, but like so many of our words, it can have more than one meaning. When used in terms of the Bible, the Word inspired refers to its divine characteristic. Literally, “inspired” means in the Greek, “God breathed”. It is as if one can feel the breath of God on our face as He speaks to us from His holy Word.

In studying the doctrine of the inspiration of the Word of God we will look at two classic passages from scripture. The first...

II Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

In approaching this verse we must remember the axiom that “Interpretation is subject to definition” For language to have meaning, how we interpret a verse must be subject to the definitions of the key terms found within the verse. “Clean up the room” cannot be interpreted as watch TV”. Clean up and room both have specific definitions that limit your child’s interpretation of your statement. In the same way we cannot just fall back on the old knee jerk statement, “Well, that is not my interpretation”. The Bible is not subject to what we feel it says. Our feelings, rather, are subject to what the Word of God says. To correctly interpret a passage we must understand the key words or terms in the passage. Then our interpretation may not and must not exceed these definitions.

- I. “All Scripture” – The first questions most have are “What is meant by the term ‘All Scripture’? What constitutes the Bible and why?”
 - A. The Bible recognizes a beginning and an end to the Word of God
 1. Beginning: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His teaching recognizes clearly the Pentateuch in general and Genesis, in specific, as the starting point of the Word of God.
 2. LUK 24:27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
 - a. At what point does Jesus recognize as the Bible’s beginning?
 - b. Moses is the author of the first five books of the Old Testament. They are known as the Pentateuch or “Law of Moses”. What then would be the first book of the “Law of Moses” of these five books?
 - c. What then is the first book of the Bible?

3. LUK 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
 - a. Again, which book does Jesus say is the beginning of the Bible?

 - b. According then to the Revelation of the Bible, of Jesus, of God, what is the beginning of the Bible?

- B. The Bible recognizes Revelation as the ending point of the Word of God.
 1. Read: REV 22:18 & 19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
 2. How does this passage speak to the fact that this is the last book of the Bible?

 3. In this passage the Word of God is brought to a close. The last living Apostle, writing the last book of the Bible, closes with the last paragraph with these Words.
 4. There are two questions that are usually asked concerning this passage
 - a. Doesn't this just refer to the book of Revelation?
 Read the study supplied on this issue and write a summary statement in response to this question:
 - 1.) It is important to remember that to God, the Word of God is His book, written by His Holy Spirit. That God transcends both time and space, knowing the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning.
 - 2.) As a result He does not see the Bible as a library of books written by men, but as the Holy Scriptures, written by God.

- 3.) The dynamic nature of the Word of God is seen in the statement in II Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is...” Paul knew that there were in existence inspired writings, that he was writing under inspiration and that there would continue to be inspired writings until God closed the Word of God. (1TH 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.)
- 4.) Yet Paul spoke of it, under the inspiration of Scripture, as a whole and complete work. God was writing a book to be read as a whole, not as separate books to separate people groups and times.
- 5.) It would be as if you had a sports manual which concluded with, “These rules are final, nothing can be added or subtracted” and then changed the rules based on the argument that the statement only applied to the last chapter, not the whole book.
- 6.) Not only this but the book of Revelation, contains revelation in all aspects of the Word of God. If you have new Revelation then it is new and added to the book whether you actually do so or not.
- 7.) Again, if you have a sports manual that ends with the disclaimer, , “These rules are final, nothing can be added or subtracted” and you create new rules, but argue that they are valid because you did not literally “add” them to the book, you are just using them, then this would of course be considered nonsensical. They have been added, whether or not you literally do so or not. They change the very nature of the manual.
- 8.) In the same way, whether the passage refers specifically to Revelation or the whole Bible, it is still an addition to the information, the revelation of God found in Revelation and as such adds to or takes away from both the book or Revelation and the Word of God as a whole.

b. What about similar passages in the Bible which occur before this?

Again, read the study supplied on this subject and write a summary statement in response to this question:

- 1.) This injunction is found in other passages writhing the Word of God.
 - a.) DEU 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

- b.) DEU 12:32 ¶ "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.
 - c.) MAT 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
 - d.) 1CO 4:6 ¶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.
 - e.) Something immediately stands out in these passages. They are obviously dealing with the adding to or exceeding what God is saying and not the close of Scriptural Revelation. The tone and wording is distinctly different than the finality of Revelation 22:18 & 19
- 2.) Again we remind the reader that God, when authoring the Bible by the person of the Holy Spirit was not in a creative mood, being carried along by His creative ability, not knowing where it would take Him. He was not starting and stopping as the need arose. Rather, from the beginning He knew the end and included these admonitions throughout scripture, as one would naturally do when thinking of an entire Book or Revelation, not simply it's subparts.
 - 3.) An example of this is the admonition found in Deuteronomy 4:2. Even at the giving of that admonition, both God and Moses knew that the process of writing the Law of the Lord was not over. We read it and other passages in the light of the knowledge that God knew, even if man did not, that He was putting together a body of Scriptures which would come to be known as the Bible, the Word of God. These admonitions are that man should not add, God was free to do so, but man was not.
5. In Revelation 22, with the passing of John the Baptist and the ministry of the Apostles, the Revelation of God ceases for the church age. Any new information will be added by man, even if he claims it is coming from God.
 - a. Revelation 22:20; of this passage reminds us in the light of the finality of revelation that "He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."
 - b. And then closes with the reminder that the grace of the Lord Jesus suffices.
 - c. The period of Revelation has ceased for the church age. There will be new revelation when Jesus returns, there will be new revelation when we go to heaven, but for now, for the church age, revelation has ceased and is limited solely and only to the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, The Bible.
 6. A word of caution to those who are now thinking, "Gee whiz, I wish I got to live in the days of Revelation when things were really happening, rather than in the boring old days of the Bible."

- a. It was not such a great deal to live in the times of the Prophets, they did not necessarily know or understand what they wrote. IPE 1:10 – 12 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, 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. 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.
- b. Nor would it have been better to be in the times of Jesus. If you are thinking you would be asking Him questions, think again. The Word of God says, MAR 3:14 And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach, - and you would not have been one of them.
- c. Nor are we to think, if only an angel would appear. Look again at IPE 1:12 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. Angels yearn to understand what we understand.
- d. No, we are regenerated, we are born again, we have complete revelation, we have instant access, we are at the pinnacle of the revelatory age for mankind on the face of the earth and should rejoice and yet respond soberly to our stewardship of the Word of God.
- e. IJO 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
- f. Write a summary statement expressing how the Word of God is for us, a superior blessing, than to have lived in any other epoch of the people of God to date.

II. “Inspired” – the form of inspiration has taken place in a number of ways

A. Dictation

1. Some of the Word of God was given by dictation of God to the authors.
2. Examples of these are...
 - a. Moses: EXO 34:1 Now the Lord said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered. And again in, EXO 34:27 ¶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

- b. Jeremiah: JER 30:2 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.
- c. The Apostle John: REV 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

B. Proclamation

- 1. In other cases men proclaimed God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, God ensuring, by His own devices that His Word was accurately recorded, either at that time or a later date.
- 2. What follows are examples of the over 400 times the phrase "Thus says the Lord" occurs in the Word of God...
 - a. EZE 2:4 "And I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children; and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.'
 - b. AMO 1:3 ¶ Thus says the Lord, "For three transgressions of Damascus and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they threshed Gilead with implements of sharp iron.
 - c. OBA 1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom-- We have heard a report from the Lord, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle"—
 - d. In fact these men did not always know what they were saying - 1PE 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,
 - e. 1PE 1:11 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.
 - f. 1PE 1:12 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.

C. The Divine Use Of Man

- 1. This is most commonly seen in the writings of the New Testament, where God used men, but their will and words, though seen, are always subject to His desire for the contents of the Word of God.
- 2. This is most clearly understood in 2 Pet 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- D. In the space below, write a summary statement of the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Word of God.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Inspiration****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 24:27 & 44****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 2:13****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD
JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: Inspiration

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 30:2

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ezekiel 2:4

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 1:20 & 21

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?