



**Session 31**

**Topic**

Inspiration of the Bible Defined

**Teacher**

Neil Smith

**Online Content**

<https://sermonaudio.com/sermon/882365204201>

**QR Code**





SESSION THIRTY-ONE  
AND THIRTY-TWO  
STUDENT NOTES





## **THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE — DEFINED**

- Inspiration refers to the way in which God gave us the Bible.
- Having revealed Himself to man, God then had this revelation recorded in written form.
- The Bible itself is very clear as to its origins and its inspiration.

### **I. BIBLICAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING INSPIRATION**

- The two outstanding scripture references regarding the doctrine of inspiration are:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
    - This passage clearly teaches two key aspects of inspiration:
      - i. Human Participation — “...holy men of God spake...”
      - ii. Divine Authorship — “...moved by the Holy Ghost.”
    - An analysis of this particular verse makes it clear that God the Holy Spirit was the active Subject of the scriptures.
    - God did not follow the human writers to correct any of their mistakes, or intervene if necessary.
    - Rather, the writers were consciously, willingly, carried along.
    - As God gave the words, they wrote.
    - The inspiration of the Bible is a supernatural miracle.
    - God used approximately 40 human writers of varying occupations and education over a time span of about 1,600 years — and gave us a Book with amazing unity.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
    - The important phrase is “inspiration of God”.
    - The idea of “inspired” has the meaning “God-breathed.”
    - This scripture clearly teaches the divine Authorship of the Bible.

### **II. INSPIRATION DEFINED**

- By inspiration we mean the Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own literary style.
- In considering this definition, there are five terms the student needs to define and be well acquainted with:
  1. CONFLUENT INSPIRATION:
    - By this we mean that the holy scriptures are a product of two agents:
      - i. Human
      - ii. Divine
    - The words “in such a way” used in the above definition declare inspiration ultimately to be a phenomenon, a mystery — the product of divine/human involvement — thus as inexplicable as the virgin birth of Christ or the new birth.
    - Many scriptures affirm that God spoke authoritatively through the words of men.
    - Acts 4:25; Acts 13:35; Isaiah 8:1; Isaiah 30:8
    - The following illustration should serve to show what we mean by “confluent inspiration” as distinct from the “mechanical dictation” theory.



## SHINING LIGHT INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

- **ILLUSTRATION**  
A man picks up a writing instrument and begins writing on a sheet of paper. Having done so, he may then say to another, "I have written these words." Technically he is incorrect in what he says, for it is the writing instrument that has done the writing. Nevertheless, the instrument could not write anything unless it was moved by the hand of the man. Furthermore, the words written down are not those of the instrument but of the man.
  - **ILLUSTRATION**  
Secondly, the physical appearance of the writing will vary according to the instrument selected. A word written with a fine-point pen will look different than the same word written in crayon, or with a broad paint brush, or with a felt-tipped marker. It will also vary according to each writer — calligraphy or scrawl, script or block letters!
  - This illustration explains the differences in style and content of the four Gospels, where the life of Christ is portrayed from four perspectives.
  - The Bible is not the word of men, because they wrote only as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
  - Yet, like the different kinds of pens, God retained the individual characteristics of these men.
  - He used their s\_\_\_\_\_, memories, intuitions, judgments, idiosyncrasies, and their r\_\_\_\_\_.
2. **V\_\_\_\_\_ INSPIRATION:**
- By this we mean that the very words of scripture are God's words.
  - Inspiration goes beyond the concepts and the message to the actual w\_\_\_\_\_.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:13; Matthew 24:35; Jeremiah 1:9**
  - According to **Matthew 5:18** - also **Luke 16:17**, inspiration extends even to the letters ("jot", the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet) and the parts of letters ("tittle" — the minute accents and diacritical marks of the written Hebrew).
  - Many scripture passages show the emphasis God places upon the "words" of the Bible — e.g. **Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 6:6; 12:28; 17:19; 18:18; 27:3; 31:12; 32:1,45,46; Joshua 8:34,35; 24:26; I Samuel 8:10; II Samuel 23:2; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5,6; Jeremiah 7:27; 23:36; 26:2; 30:2; Ezekiel 3:10; Daniel 10:9-11; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 8:47; 17:8; I Timothy 4:6; II Peter 3:2; Jude 17; and Revelation 1:3; 22:18,19.**
  - The emphasis is such that we are told not to add nor take away from His words without c\_\_\_\_\_ - **Deut 4:2; Pro 30:6; Rev 22:18,19**
3. **P\_\_\_\_\_ INSPIRATION:**
- The word "plenary" means "extending to all parts a\_\_\_\_\_."
  - By plenary inspiration we mean all of the Bible is inspired, and every part of the Bible is e\_\_\_\_\_ inspired.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16**
4. **I\_\_\_\_\_ INSPIRATION:**
- The word "inerrant" means "not liable to be proven false or mistaken."
  - Inerrant inspiration means the Bible was written down c\_\_\_\_\_ in every detail.
  - **Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19; John 10:35**
  - Inerrant inspiration provides that the exact divine message be given.
-



## SHINING LIGHT INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

- Both God's truth and Satan's lie are reported and recorded exactly.
- Inspiration does not change truth into lies, nor lies into truth!
- "What Scripture says, God says — through human agents and without error."
- The proof of this statement may be demonstrated by a quick comparison:
  - i. Romans 9:17 and Exodus 9:13,16
  - ii. Galatians 3:8 and Genesis 12:1,3
- The New Testament references state that it is the scripture which spoke, whereas the Old Testament references quoted or alluded to say it was the Lord Who said it.

### 5. I \_\_\_\_\_ INSPIRATION:

- This means the Bible is without error in its teaching.
- It is incapable of teaching d\_\_\_\_\_.
- Psalm 119:160; John 17:17
- The terms "infallible" and "inerrant" are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference:
  - i. Inerrant means without error in its r\_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Infallible means without error in its t\_\_\_\_\_.
- In other words, infallibility takes into account such things as the use of poetic or figurative language, the use of simile, hyperbole, allegory, parable and symbolism, etc.
- In most cases, what is inspired is also a \_\_\_\_\_ — but not all cases.
- Some things in the Bible, though accurately recorded through the process of inspiration, do not have the authority of God.
- ILLUSTRATION  
The Book of Job accurately records the words of God, Job, Satan, Job's wife, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu. Some of the statements in the Book are consequently ungodly or in direct contradiction to other statements of scripture. They are inspired, but not authoritative.
- Many cults conveniently, or ignorantly, o\_\_\_\_\_ this very important distinction.

### III. FACTS ABOUT THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

- Because the Bible is inspired of God, we can resolutely affirm that it is:
  1. INFALLIBLE — without e\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:160)
  2. INVARIABLE — without c\_\_\_\_\_ (Num 23:19; Psalm 119:89; Jam 1:17)
  3. INEXORABLE — without y\_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:35)
  4. INVINCIBLE — without c\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 55:11; Jer 23:29; Heb 4:12)
  5. INEVITABLE — without f\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 1:23-25)
    - See also Psalm 126:5,6; Matthew 5:18; 24:35
  6. INCOMPARABLE — without e\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:72)
  7. INVALUABLE — without price because it:
    - i. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:12)
    - ii. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 10:17; James 1:18,21; 1 Peter 1:23)
    - iii. C\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
    - iv. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:9,11; John 15:3; 17:17; Ephesians 5:26)
    - v. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 4:4; John 6:63)
    - vi. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)
    - vii. C\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 4:18)





## **THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE – DEMONSTRATED**

- The doctrine of inspiration does not rest upon one or two proof texts (although that would be sufficient), but is supported throughout the pages of scripture.
- it is seen either as:
  - i. direct statements (a fact taken for granted by the writers), or
  - ii. evidenced by the narrative
- The proofs for Bible inspiration may be classified as follows:
  - i. D\_\_\_\_\_ claims for inspiration
  - ii. I\_\_\_\_\_ evidence for inspiration
  - iii. E\_\_\_\_\_ evidence for inspiration

### **I. DIRECT CLAIMS FOR OLD TESTAMENT INSPIRATION**

- Over and over, the Old Testament directly claims to be the Word of God.
- We may categorise these claims as follows:
  1. OLD TESTAMENT WRITERS WERE P\_\_\_\_\_
    - The New Testament refers to the Old Testament as the “scriptures of the prophets” ([Romans 1:2](#); [Hebrews 1:1](#); [2 Peter 3:2a](#)).
    - A prophet was a mouthpiece for God, regardless of his occupation.
    - The Messianic prophecy in [Deuteronomy 18:18-22](#) shows that true prophets could only speak as God gave them His words.
    - [Exodus 7:1,2](#); [Numbers 22:18](#); [1 Kings 14:18](#); [Ezekiel 3:17](#); [Amos 3:8](#)
    - The various writers of the Old Testament Books were prophets, as shown below, thus indicating the divine nature of their writings:
      - i. Moses ([Hosea 12:13](#); [Deuteronomy 34:10](#))
      - ii. Samuel, Nathan & Gad ([1 Chronicles 29:29](#))
      - iii. David ([Acts 2:30](#))
      - iv. Solomon ([1 Kings 11:9](#) with [Numbers 12:6](#))
      - v. Daniel ([Matthew 24:15](#))
      - vi. Ahijah & Iddo ([2 Chronicles 9:29](#))
    - Add to these the writers of the prophetic Books, and we have compiled a list of all the writers God used to pen the pages of the Old Testament.
  2. OLD TESTAMENT WRITERS C\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AS SCRIPTURE
    - i. Joshua — acknowledged the Law of Moses ([Joshua 1:7,8](#))
    - ii. Ezra — called Jeremiah “the Word of the Lord” ([Ezra 1:1](#))
    - iii. Ezra — also recognised the prophecies of the post-exilic prophets Haggai and Zechariah ([Ezra 5:1](#))
    - iv. Daniel — accepted the Book of Jeremiah and the Law of Moses as the Word of God ([Daniel 9:2,11-13](#)) - Note also a mention of the Book of Judges.
    - v. Zechariah — alludes to the “former prophets” (the historical Books) in [Zechariah 7:12](#).
  3. OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS WERE R\_\_\_\_\_ BY ISRAEL
    - i. The tables of the Law were kept in the ark ([Deuteronomy 10:2](#))
    - ii. The Books of Moses were commanded to be read ([Joshua 1:8](#))
    - iii. Samuel’s writings were kept in the tabernacle ([1 Samuel 10:25](#))
    - iv. Israel stood at the reading of the Law ([Nehemiah 8:5](#))



## SHINING LIGHT INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

4. DIRECT CLAIMS FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THE L\_\_\_\_\_ (TORAH)
  - i. Exodus 20:1 — “God spake all these words...”
  - ii. Exodus 32:16 — “...the tables were the work of God ... the writing was the writing of God”
  - iii. Exodus 35:1 — “These are the words which the LORD hath commanded...”
  - iv. Leviticus 1:1 — “The Lord spake...”
  - v. Leviticus 8:9 — “The Lord commanded...”
  - vi. Numbers 1:1; 2:1 — “The Lord spake...”
  - vii. Numbers 4:1 — “The Lord spake...”
  - viii. Deuteronomy 1:3 — “...the Lord had given him in commandment.”
  - ix. Deuteronomy 4:2 — “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
  - x. See also Judges 3:4; 1 Kings 8:53; 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 34:14; 35:6; Daniel 9:12; Ezra 6:18; Nehemiah 13:1.
5. DIRECT CLAIMS FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THE P\_\_\_\_\_ (NEBHIIM):
  - i. The Former Prophets — the historical books
    - Joshua 24:26,27; 1 Kings 16:34
    - Judges 1:2 — “The Lord said...”
    - 1 Chronicles 29:29
  - ii. The Latter Prophets — the prophetic books
    - The phrase, “thus saith the Lord,” or its equivalent occurs over 3,800 times.
    - Isaiah 1:2,10; 8:1; 45:1; 50:1; Jer 1:6-9; 2:1,2; 10:1,2; 11:1.
6. DIRECT CLAIMS FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THE W\_\_\_\_\_ (KETHUBHIM)
  - David (2 Samuel 23:2)  
2 Samuel 23:2  
The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.
  - Solomon (1 Kings 3:9,10; Ecclesiastes 12:10 - Proverbs)  
Ecclesiastes 12:10  
The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.
  - Job (Job 42:7a)
7. NEW TESTAMENT TESTIMONY FOR OLD TESTAMENT INSPIRATION
  - Perhaps the greatest testimony to Old Testament inspiration is found in the New Testament.
  - On numerous occasions the New Testament either quotes from the Old Testament, exalts the Old Testament as the Word of God, or accepts the Old Testament as authoritative.
  - There are 332 direct quotations and references to the Old Testament in the New Testament, and a total of over 1,000 quotes, references, and alludings.
  - This testimony covers:
    - A. The Old Testament As A W\_\_\_\_\_
      - i. In their primary application, verses such as 2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 4:12; etc., refer specifically to the Old Testament.



## SHINING LIGHT INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

- Also consider **Mark 7:13** and **Romans 15:4**.
  - ii. Phrases such as “the scriptures” (52 times), “it is written” (133 times), “that it might be fulfilled” (over 30 times), and “the oracles of God” (4 times), all indicate the accepted authority of the Old Testament.
  - B. Particular S\_\_\_\_\_ Of The Old Testament
    - i. The Law
      - **Matthew 5:17,18; 7:12; 12:5; Acts 13:39; 24:14; 1 Corinthians 14:21; 2 Corinthians 3:15; Galatians 3:10; Hebrews 10:28.**
    - ii. The Prophets
      - **Matt 26:56; Luke 1:70; 18:31; John 1:45; Acts 3:21; 7:42; 28:25; Hebrews 10:15-17 with Jeremiah 31:33,34; Romans 1:2; 1 Peter 1:11.**
    - iii. The Writings
      - **Luke 24:44; Acts 1:16; 4:25; Matthew 22:43,44.**
      - Note the context of **John 10:35** is a reference to the **Psalms 82:6**.
  - C. Particular B\_\_\_\_\_ Of The Old Testament
    - 20 of the 24 Books in the Hebrew Old Testament (the same Books as our 39 Books) are cited authoritatively in the New Testament.
    - Of the other four Books (Judges-Ruth, Chronicles, Esther, and the Song of Solomon,) events mentioned in two of them (**Hebrews 11:32; Matthew 23:35** respectively) and alludings to the other two (**John 5:1; 4:10** respectively) are found in the New Testament.
8. THE TESTIMONY OF C\_\_\_\_\_ TO THE INSPIRATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
- The Lord Jesus Christ accepted all the Old Testament as the Word of God (**Luke 24:25,27,44,45**)
  - For example:
    - i. Jesus quoted Old Testament verses (**Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3**)
    - ii. Jesus verified the Genesis account of Creation (**Matthew 19:4-6**)
    - iii. Jesus accepted the Genesis account of the Flood (**Matt 24:37-39**)
    - iv. Jesus believed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Luke 17:28,29**)
    - v. Jesus verified the story of Jonah (**Matthew 12:40,41**)
    - vi. Jesus often quoted from Isaiah (**Matthew 13:14,15**)
    - vii. Jesus acknowledged Daniel as a prophet (**Matthew 24:15**)
    - viii. Jesus taught and believed in the divine inspiration and infallibility of the Old Testament (**Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; Matthew 24:35**)
  - Of these examples, the veracity of numbers ii. to vii. have been attacked by Higher Critics of the Word of God.
  - Christ and Christianity s\_\_\_\_\_ or f\_\_\_\_\_ with the Bible.
  - This is one reason the Bible is constantly attacked by Satan’s ministers — discredit the Bible and Jesus Christ is made to be a l\_\_\_\_!!
  - Jesus also makes reference to other Old Testament people, precepts and particulars (**Matthew 6:29; 8:4; 12:3,4,42; 19:5-7; 22:31,32; Mark 2:24-28; 7:10; 12:19,26; Luke 4:25-27; 11:51; 20:37; John 3:14; 6:32,49**).
-