

The Origin of the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Introduction

I The Inspiration of the Bible

- A. The Bible claims to be **divinely** inspired
 - 1. It claims to be authored by God:
 - a. It is God-**breathed** - 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - b. It is God-**spoken** - Heb 1:1-2
 - 2. It claims to be authored by the Holy Spirit:
 - a. It is Spirit-**taught** - 1 Cor 2:13
 - b. It is Spirit-**driven** - 2 Pet 1:21-21
- B. The elements of inspiration:
 - 1. **Divine** origin and causality
 - 2. **Human** agency
 - 3. Written verbally - 1 Cor 2:12-13
 - a. Direct **dictation** - Deut 9:10
 - b. Superintending human **research** - Lk 1:1-4
 - c. Spoken **revelation** - Gal 1:11-12
 - 4. Plenary - 2 Tim 3:16; Matt 22:32, 42; 5:17-18; Gal 3:16
 - 5. The original "Autographs" are inspired
 - 6. Because Scripture is inspired, it is inerrant - Ps 12:6
 - 7. Because Scripture is inerrant, it alone has final **authority**
- C. Defense for verbal, plenary inspiration
 - 1. The **Bible** claims it - 2 Tim.3:16; 2 Pet.1:20, 21
 - 2. The Prophets describe it - Zech.7:12
 - 3. **Jesus** affirmed it - Matt 4:4; 5:18; Jn 10:35
 - 4. The **apostles** confirmed it - Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 2:13

II The Canonicity of the Bible

- A. The definition of canonicity
- B. The tests of canonicity
 - 1. Was it written by a **prophet** of God?
 - 2. Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?
 - 3. Does the message tell the **truth** about God?
 - 4. Did it come with the power of God?
 - 5. Was it **accepted** by the people of God?

- C. The formation of the canon
 - 1. How the OT books were determined
 - 2. How the NT books were determined
- D. Why the Apocrypha is not in the protestant Bible

III The Translations of the Bible

- A. **Formal** equivalence - KJ, NKJ, NASB
- B. **Dynamic** equivalence - NIV, NET

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

- 1. How important is it for you to know that your faith rests on the fact of the Bible's divine origin? Would it make a difference if you believed that it was a book written by man alone? Why?
- 2. The Bible claims to be God-breathed and Spirit-inspired. Interestingly, the Bible never claims that Jesus the Son had a direct role in the inspiration of the Scriptures. What was His role? [Hint: Read John 1:1-2, 14]
- 3. The Bible describes the writings of the scriptures as a cooperative work between God and man. What was the role of each? In what ways can you see the same cooperative venture between God and man continuing today? Can you share a recent personal experience where God allowed you to cooperate with Him in achieving His goals?
- 4. There is on-going debate about which translation of the Bible is the *best*. The reality is that each translation has both strengths and weaknesses. More important than which translation you read is that you read, study and apply the Word to your life. Take a moment now to ask God for a renewed appreciation and hunger for His Word.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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