**The Inspiration of Scripture**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**Introduction**

1. Paul told Timothy that Scripture was inspired of God.
2. Such Scripture is profitable and sufficient:
   1. **(v. 16b)** – **Profitable** – doctrine (teaching), reproof (convicting of sin), correction (from wrong to right), instruction in righteousness (further instruction and all instruction in doing right).
   2. **(v. 17)** – **All sufficient** – ***“THOROUGHLY equipped for EVERY good work”***
3. Scripture is the only means by which we are equipped for ***“every good work,”*** or all that God requires us to do:
   1. **(vv. 1-9; REFERENCE)** – All that causes and is included in the ***“perilous times”*** must be avoided – Christians are to have no part in such.
   2. **(vv. 10-11)** – Living acceptably before God, and suffering for His name’s sake.
4. **Scripture discloses the knowledge necessary to attain to such, and gives us the power to continue in it.**
5. HOWEVER, the only reason Scripture is so profitable, and is sufficient is due to the fact that ***“All Scripture is given by INSPIRATION OF GOD.”***
6. **What does it mean that Scripture is given by inspiration of God? Why is this fundamentally important for us to understand and believe?**
7. The Inspiration of Scripture (PART 1)
8. Inspiration
   1. **2 Timothy 3:16** – Scripture inspired of God.
      1. ***“is given by inspiration of God”*** – *theopneustos* – from *theos*, God and *pneo*, to breathe.
      2. “divinely breathed in” (STRONG)
      3. ***“All Scripture is breathed out by God” (ESV)***
      4. The idea is not that God inspired men to write certain truths in the same way that we feel inspired to do something, **but that Scripture is the very words of God. (That have left His mouth, as when we speak we produce breath.)**
      5. **Scripture:**
         1. Context **(vv. 14-15)** – OT taught him by his grandmother (Lois) and mother (Eunice).
         2. Also NT is inspired – **cf. 1 Timothy 5:17-18**.
            1. Paul appeals to Scripture in the same way as 2 Timothy 3:16 – to find authority, and inspired command.
            2. Quote from **Deuteronomy 25:4** (OT), and **Luke 10:7** (NT) – both SCRIPTURE.
      6. *Inspiration speaks, not simply of the WAY in which God used men to communicate with mankind,* ***but of the ORIGIN and AUTHORSHIP of scripture*** *– it comes from God, and is authored by Him. 🡪*
   2. **2 Peter 1:20-21** – no private origin.
      1. ***“prophecy of scripture”*** – *prophēteia* – a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden. (Thayer) *(NOT simply future telling, but INSPIRED WORDS.)*
      2. ***“private interpretation”*** – *epilysis* – a loosening, unloosing.
         1. The idea is ORIGIN.
         2. **Scripture does not come from man’s “loosening” of information, but God’s.**
      3. **(v. 21)** – God used men, but it was not man’s will.
         1. These men were MOVED by the HOLY SPIRIT.
         2. **Moved** – *pherō* – "to bear, carry," is rendered "being moved" in 2Pe 1:21, signifying that they were "borne along," or impelled, by the Holy Spirit's power, **not acting according to their own wills, or simply expressing their own thoughts**, but expressing the mind of God in words provided and ministered by Him. (VINE)
         3. *NOT simply guiding, directing, or leading.*
   3. **Examples of inspiration:**
      1. **Moses and Aaron** – **Exodus 4:14-17** – After Moses’ excuse (Not eloquent), and request (send someone else).
         1. Especially **verse 15, 16**.
         2. Moses – as God; Aaron – as spokesman of God.
         3. ***“put the words in his mouth”; “he himself shall be as a mouth for you”***
         4. ***“So the Lord said to Moses: ‘See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.’” (7:1)***
      2. **Jeremiah** – **Jeremiah 1:4-9** – Jeremiah ordained as a prophet.
         1. **(v. 7)** – Whatever God commands. However, 🡪
         2. **(v. 9)** – God touched mouth, and put HIS words in mouth.
         3. *Not simply God commanding to speak a certain thing, and then leaving Jeremiah to phrase it anyway he deems fit.*
         4. God put HIS VERY WORDS in Jeremiah’s mouth.
      3. **Balaam** – **Numbers 22-24** – Balak (Moabite King) requests that Balaam (prophet of God) curse the Israelites so he could defeat them.
         1. **(22:18b)** – Can’t go beyond God’s word.
         2. (**22:38**) – No power to speak as he pleases. MUST speak God’s word.
         3. **(23:5a, 16)** – God put HIS word in Balaam’s mouth.
         4. **(24:13)** – not ***“of my own will.”***
         5. *The words were not the prophet’s, and the prophet had no power, no choice. IT WAS GOD.*
9. All Scripture is Given by Inspiration
   1. **Given** – implies **(1)** it is something we did not already have, and (**2)** it is not something we can attain within ourselves.
   2. **1 Corinthians 2:6-12** – Hidden, thus needed to be revealed.
      1. **(v. 7**) – mystery in the sense of being ***“hidden.”***
      2. (**v. 9)** – The contents of the gospel, and God’s scheme of redemption could not be perceived by man without revelation 🡪
      3. **(v. 10)** – The only reason we know is because God has REVEALED.
      4. **(vv. 11-12)** – Through His Spirit, for only the Spirit knows the mind of God.
      5. **God’s wisdom is something we CANNOT know by ANY means except REVELATION OF THE SPIRIT.**
   3. **Ephesians 3:3-5** – BY REVELATION OF THE SPIRIT to apostles and prophets.
      1. ***“when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).***
      2. ***“He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine” (John 16:14-15a)***.
   4. The apostles and prophets message and words were NOT their own. They COULD NOT know those things, for they were God’s wisdom and thoughts.
   5. **This is seen in that the prophet did not always even understand the full extent of what he was saying 🡪**
      1. **1 Peter 1:10-12 –** God spoke through them, but they did not fully understand.
      2. **Acts 2:38-39; 10:28** – Peter, by inspiration, preached the universality of the gospel, but did not fully understand until what occurred in Acts 10.
      3. **It is not possible that the men articulated themselves things which even they could not understand – THEY WERE THE WORDS OF GOD 🡪**
10. Plenary Verbal Inspiration
    1. **Thought inspiration?** – God gave the idea, or thought, but left the writer to choose his own words. (NO)
    2. **Plenary verbal inspiration** – plenary (complete), verbal (of, pertaining to words; each word), inspiration (God breathed). (**EACH INDIVIDUAL WORD IS GOD BREATHED AND HAS EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE.)**
    3. **1 Corinthians 2:13** – The spiritual thoughts (idea, wisdom, message) were given specific words (spiritual words).
       1. ***“we also speak…words…which the Holy Spirit teaches”*** – EACH INDIVIDUAL WORDS.
       2. **Comparing** – to joint together fitly, compound, combine. (STRONG)
       3. ***“Spiritual things with spiritual”*** – *pneumatikos* (x2) – things relating to the spirit. (I.e. the will of God for man.)
       4. **Comparing spiritual with spiritual** – *what?* – *“words…which the Holy Spirit teaches”*
       5. *The idea is that the HS gives, not only the thought, but the very words to express God’s will.*
       6. ***“combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.” (NASB)***
    4. ***If this is not the case, then how do we determine which words are inspired, thus profitable, and which are not? WHO IS UP FOR THAT TASK?***
    5. **Jesus and the apostles argued from individual words:**
       1. **Matthew 22:32** – God of the living – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are living – ***“I AM”*** **(Present tense**). (If He is God of living, and is PRESENTLY their God, then they are living.)
       2. **Galatians 3:16** – SEED not SEEDS. (**PLURAL**) (*How could he make that argument without the concept of plenary verbal inspiration?)*
11. *For this reason, we must treat the scriptures with GREAT RESPECT, for they are the VERY WORDS OF GOD*! – ***“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63b)*** – IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THAT LIFE, WE MUST HEED EVERY SINGLE WORD. 🡪
12. Implications from the Inspiration of Scripture (PART 2)
13. All Scripture is Relevant, and Must be Believed and Obeyed
    1. **Matthew 5:17-20** – Jesus understood the importance of obeying inspired scripture.
       1. **(vv. 17-18)** – Fulfilled in His death, and the establishment of the NT. (**Jot** – smallest Hebrew letter; **Tittle** – small point which distinguishes a word)
       2. **(v. 19)** – Every commandment is inspired of God, and MUST be obeyed.
       3. **(v. 20)** – Their righteousness was merely outward, much of which was self-righteousness. REQUIRED INWARD CHANGE, AND FULL ADHERENCE TO SCRIPTURE.
    2. **Matthew 22:23-33** – Sadducees who say there is no resurrection do not know the scriptures.
       1. **Sadducees reject the very notion that life continues after death. – *“For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection – and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both” (Acts 23:8)*.**
       2. **(v. 29)** – The scriptures taught concerning the resurrection.
          1. Even the patriarchs had faith in such.
          2. ***“for he [Abraham] waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10*** – received in the resurrection – strangers and pilgrims on earth).
       3. **(v. 31-32)** – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died long ago, but the God of the LIVING is their God.
          1. They may have died physically, but they are still alive – in Hades.
          2. **If they are alive in Hades, they are waiting for the resurrection.**
    3. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-19** – Scripture speaks of a resurrection, and this especially centers on Christ’s resurrection which is of UTMOST IMPORTANCE.
       1. **(vv. 1-4)** – This is the core of the gospel – MUST BE BELIEVED or else…
       2. **(vv. 12-19)** – There are severe consequences to not believing inspired preaching and scripture concerning the resurrection.
          1. **(vv. 13-14)** – No resurrection – Christ not risen – preaching and faith is empty.
          2. **(vv. 15-16)** – No resurrected Christ – Apostles false witnesses.
          3. **(v. 17)** – No resurrected Christ – faith is futile – still in sins.
          4. **(vv. 18-19)** – No hope in Christ beyond this life.
       3. **If one part of scripture is rejected, and not believed, then many other facets of scripture crumble.**
    4. ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16)*** – *If scripture says it, God says it, that settles it, and we must believe it and obey it!* 🡪
14. This Includes:
    1. Days of Creation
       1. **Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; 2:1-3** – Creation in 6 **“days”** and God rested on the 7th day.
       2. **Proposed problem** – This does not agree with the secular idea of an “old earth” – Big bang; evolution; etc.
          1. **Day/Age Theory** – These “days” weren’t literal, 24 hour days. They were “ages” of many, many years – millions.
          2. Or, the days were literal 24 hour days, but had millions of years in between.
       3. **Firstly** – we do not interpret the Bible based on secular science. **We are to interpret all other things based on what the Bible says first.**
          1. ***“Let God be true but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4).***
          2. We must rely upon God FULLY.
       4. **Secondly** – ***“day”*** – *yom* – refers to a normal, 24 hour day – THIS IS HOW IT IS USED CONSISTENTLY IN THE OT.
          1. “The days of this creation are natural days of twenty-four hours each. We may not depart from the ordinary meaning of the word without a sufficient warrant either in the text of Scripture or in the law of nature. But we have not yet found any such warrant. Only necessity can force us to such an expedient. Scripture, on the other hand, warrants us in retaining the common meaning by yielding no hint of another, and by introducing ‘evening, night, morning, day,’ as its ordinary divisions. Nature favors the same interpretation.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
          2. **When Moses, by inspiration, used the Hebrew *yom* for “day,” God meant 24-hour period as we know a day to be.**
          3. **Exodus 20:11 –** 10 commandments – Sabbath day **– God created the world and everything in it in 6 days.**
       5. IF WE CAN’T BELIEVE GOD’S CREATIVE POWER TO FULFILL CREATION IN 6 LITERAL DAYS, WHAT CAN WE BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE? (*Ex: Jesus’ creating more out of five loaves and two fish – instantaneous creative power.*)
       6. **This erroneous interpretation of the Creation Account has serious consequences! 🡪**
    2. Jesus’ Appeal to Creation – MDR
       1. **Matthew 19:1-6** – Jesus’ appeal to the ***“beginning”*** to answer divorce question.
          1. **(v. 3)** – Pharisees tested Jesus with question about divorce.
          2. **(vv. 4-6)** – Jesus appealed to the Genesis account to show God’s intention for the marriage union was permanent.
             1. **(v. 4)** – ***“at the beginning”*** – Adam and Eve created on DAY 6.

**If the days were not literal, but instead ages of thousands, even millions of years, was this the beginning?**

Only the 6th day would be IN the beginning.

The 6th “age” of thousands and millions of years would NOT be the beginning.

* + - * 1. **(vv. 5-6)** – **Jesus’ appeal to the creation account of man and woman in the beginning**, and the subsequent joining of them together, **serves His purpose of refuting the idea of divorce for any reason**.

**(v. 5) –** Shows the intended purpose of marriage by God was PERMANENT.

***“at the beginning”*** – if we cannot rely on Jesus’ interpretation of Genesis 1, *we cannot rely on His comments concerning God’s design of the marriage relationship.*

* 1. Universal Flood
     1. **Genesis 6:5-8, 13, 17** – The human race grew corrupt, God repented that He made them, and decided to destroy them with a flood.
     2. **Claim** – The flood was not universal, but merely a local flood.
        1. **This claim is made simply because of a lack of faith, and or understanding in God’s OMNIPOTENCE.**
        2. How could the ENTIRE world be flooded? Impossible!
     3. **Firstly,** if God created the world in 6 literal days, is it so hard to believe He could flood the ENTIRE world with water?
     4. **Secondly, the judgment was universal**:
        1. **(v. 5)** – ***“man”*** in totality (save for Noah); ***“the earth”*** in totality.
        2. **(vv. 7, 12, 13)** – ***“earth”*** in totality; ***“all flesh…on the earth”***
        3. ***(7:4) – “face of the earth ALL living things”***
        4. ***“when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water” (1 Peter 3:20).*** (Out of ALL the souls, only a FEW, that is EIGHT were saved – all else destroyed, ALL MAN)
     5. **NOTE: All the natural structures, land formations, etc. that are explained by extremely long periods of time subject to erosion are actually products of a universal flood.**
        1. The world we see as it is today is a reminder of the judgment of God!
        2. **Mankind was not the only thing to be destroyed. THE EARTH ITSELF was destroyed – the universal flood was catastrophic** 🡪
  2. Peter’s Appeal to Flood – The Day of the Lord
     1. **2 Peter 3:1-7** – Peter defends the Divine warning of the Day of the Lord from the ***“scoffers”*** by appealing to the flood.
        1. **(vv. 3-4)** – They don’t believe in the day of judgment because during their time there hasn’t been something so dramatic.
           1. **(vv. 10-12)** – This day will be catastrophic, and dramatic.
           2. EVERYTHING will be BURNED to the point of CEASING TO EXIST.
           3. **The *“scoffers”* have never seen such a dramatic change of destruction, so they do not believe.**
        2. **(vv. 5-6)** – Peter’s appeal to the flood.
           1. NOTE: ***“by the word of God”*** – inspiration, God told Noah it would happen, and it did.

**Also, the event is recorded for us by inspiration.**

**The followers of God then believed because Scripture said it happened.**

* + - * 1. **(v. 6)** – ***“the world”*** (UNIVERSAL); ***“perished, being flooded with water”*** (DESTRUCTION OF PHYSICAL WORLD)

**Up to the point of the flood in Genesis 6, no such EXTREMELY DRAMATIC thing had occurred since creation (which nobody witnessed).**

**However, the things at that time that *“continue[d] as they were”* CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.**

* + - 1. **(v. 7)** – **Peter’s conclusion** – Just like with the flood, God has promised a DAY OF JUDGMENT, and DESTRUCTION – this time by fire. (IT WILL HAPPEN!)
    1. **If we cannot believe that the flood was universal, as the Scripture says, WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN THE PROMISE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD?**

**Conclusion**

1. **All Scripture is inspired of God** – PLENARY VERBAL INSPIRATION.
2. Each and every verse, sentence, word of Scripture is true – MUST BE BELIEVED, AND OBEYED.
3. **We MUST HEED the word of God, to do all it says.**
4. **2 Peter 3:11-14** – The Scripture says a judgment day is coming. ARE YOU READY?