

God-Breathed

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Introduction

1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – The efficacy of scripture is a conclusion drawn from its derivation – inspiration of God.
 - a. **“inspiration of God”** – *theopneustos* – *Theos*, “God,” *pneo*, “to breathe” (VINE)
 - b. **“All Scripture is breathed out by God” (ESV)**
 - c. I.e. scripture is a product of God. It is called the word of God because He spoke it – these are the very words of God.
2. Any appeal to scripture without the basic belief in its inspiration is vain. Yet, 7 times in the gospels Jesus asked the question, **“Have you not read?”** And 17 times Jesus uttered the phrase, **“It is written.”**
 - a. These exact phrases are by no means the only times Jesus appealed to scripture.
3. If scripture is merely a collection of literary works of men, it is of no more value than any other work.
 - a. Yet, some claim its value is immensely higher even though they have no faith in its inspiration.
 - b. Others claim to have faith in its inspiration but show no evidence of such a conviction in their teachings and practices.
4. Faith is the fundamental component man must have in order to have a relationship with God (**cf. Hebrews 11:6**). Yet, if the scripture is not inspired of God it is impossible that it provokes faith in God (**cf. Romans 10:17**).
5. The description of scripture which the apostle Paul gives that it is “God-breathed” is not an optional principle, but a keystone of our faith with deep implications.
- I. The Inspiration of Scripture
 - A. Inspiration Demonstrated
 - a. Moses and Aaron
 - i. Instructions to God after Moses’ excuses, and request to send another – **Exodus 4:13-17**
 1. **(v. 15)** – words put in his mouth – i.e. not the speaker’s choice.
 2. **(v. 16)** – typified the relationship between God and a prophet.
 - ii. **“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)**
 - b. Jeremiah
 - i. **Jeremiah 1:4-9** – Jeremiah was ordained a prophet.
 1. **(v. 5)** – Prophet – inspired man, mouthpiece of God – demonstrated...
 2. **(vv. 7-9)** – not only commanded what to say, but the very words put in his mouth.
 - c. Balaam

- i. Balak (Moabite King) requests that Balaam (prophet of God) curse the Israelites so he could defeat them.
 - ii. Principles of the relationship between the prophet and God:
 - 1. **Numbers 22:18** – cannot go beyond God’s word. (More or less)
 - 2. **Numbers 22:38** – cannot speak as he pleases.
 - 3. **Numbers 23:5** – God put a word in His mouth.
 - 4. **Numbers 24:13** – cannot speak of His own will. (“mind,” ASV)
 - d. Scripture quoted in the NT (the HS said...):
 - i. Scripture quoted in the NT often indicates the HS’s method of revelation – through the agency of men.
 - ii. **Mark 12:35-37** – David said by the Holy Spirit...
 - iii. **Acts 1:16** – HS spoke by mouth of David. (reference to Psalm 41:9)
 - iv. **Acts 28:25-27** – HS spoke through Isaiah.
 - v. **Hebrews 3:7** – HS says. (Quoted Psalm 95:7-11)
 - vi. **Hebrews 10:15-17** – HS witnesses, said... (Quoted Jeremiah 31:33-34 – like in chapter 8)
- B. The System of Inspiration
 - a. HS moved men to speak words of God – **2 Peter 1:19-21**
 - i. **(vv. 16-18)** – defending apostolic message by appealing to eyewitness account of the transfiguration of Jesus.
 - ii. **(v. 19) – “confirmed” – “We have also a more sure word of prophecy” (KJV); “And we have the word of prophecy made more sure” (ASV)**
 - 1. Even more than eyewitness testimony is the prophetic word.
 - iii. **(v. 20)** – not of private interpretation – origin.
 - iv. **(v. 21)** – Men moved by HS.
 - 1. *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)
 - v. Prophetic utterance not always understood by prophet – not his thoughts/words but God’s – **1 Peter 1:10-12**
 - 1. Peter on Pentecost – **Acts 2:39; 10:34-35**
 - b. Mystery revealed by HS through apostles and prophets – **Ephesians 3:3-5**
 - i. The very nature of inspired scripture is REVELATION of what is otherwise a MYSTERY.
 - ii. Man cannot know, but God must reveal (**cf. Deuteronomy 29:29**).
 - c. The degree of inspiration – Plenary Verbal Inspiration:
 - i. Plenary – complete – **2 Timothy 3:16** – ALL scripture is inspired.

- ii. Verbal – i.e. to the very words/letters – **1 Corinthians 2:10-13**
 - 1. **(vv. 10-12)** – we cannot know the things of God unless revealed through the Spirit.
 - 2. **(v. 13)** – “things we speak” is distinct from “words”
 - a. Idea of a thought conveyed through words.
 - b. “comparing spiritual things with spiritual” – with spiritual words is implied – **“those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.” (NASB)**
 - 3. God did not just give the thought, and leave the specific words to the men to choose, but gave them the EXACT WORDS:
 - a. **Matthew 22:32** – Jesus appealed to one word to refute the Sadducee’s denial of the resurrection.
 - i. “I AM” – present tense – but Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead when God said this. **(cf. Exodus 3:6** – burning bush passage).
 - ii. Not, “I WAS”
 - iii. If they are dead, and God is not God of the dead but the living, then there is a necessity of the resurrection of the dead, and such is implied in the language.
- iii. If not plenary verbal inspiration:
 - 1. If not plenary – Who decides which scriptures are inspired and which aren’t?
 - a. With inspiration, it is either all or nothing.
 - 2. If not verbal – God placed the responsibility of effectively communicating the plan of salvation to fallible man in their own choice of words. Would God ever do such a thing?
 - a. If He did, how can we be sure they communicated it accurately?

II. Implications of Inspiration

A. Total Belief is Required

- a. EX – Sadducees – **Acts 23:6-8; Matthew 22:23-33** – They refused to believe in the resurrection, not knowing the power of God or the SCRIPTURE.
 - i. Pharisees – **Acts 26:4-8** – refused to believe in the resurrection of Jesus.
- b. Creation – account not figurative, but literal – 6 literal days.
 - i. Must not interpret the bible through popular scientific theory.
 - ii. Science confirms the Bible? THE BIBLE CONFIRMS SCIENCE.

- iii. **Matthew 19:4** – in the beginning – day 6, but not the beginning if not literal days.
 - iv. If we can't believe the foundational miracle, we can't believe any miracle – EX: Jesus' creative power displayed in the feeding of the 5,000 (**John 6** – with 5 loaves and 2 fish – 12 baskets of fragments)
 - c. Universal flood – it was local, not universal – but it was indeed universal.
 - i. **2 Peter 3:3-6** – APPEAL TO JUDGMENT OF FLOOD – “WORLD...PERISHED, BEING FLOODED”
 - ii. Cannot believe in the universal judgment and destruction at the 2nd coming of Christ without believing in Genesis 6 as literal – **2 Peter 3:7, 10**
 - d. Also – Heaven, Hell, all doctrine, all sin, etc.
- B. Scripture Cannot be Broken
- a. **2 Timothy 1:13** – must hold fast the pattern.
 - b. **2 Timothy 2:15** – must “rightly divide.”
 - c. Some believe there will be no consequence to not taking all scripture for what it is and applying it.
 - d. Jesus to unbelieving Jews – **John 10:31-39**
 - i. Accusation – blasphemy for making Himself God.
 - ii. Quote of Jesus – **Psalm 82** – condemnation of unjust judges in a judgment from God.
 - 1. **(v. 6)** – you are gods – in reference to the judges – they have the responsibility in the office of judge to carry out the will of God – BUT THEY NEGLECTED THEIR DUTY.
 - iii. Jesus – **John 10:34-36** – He was anointed by God, and sanctified as the judges of Israel were.
 - 1. If the authority of inspired scripture referred to them as gods, how much more so the Messiah?
 - 2. You cannot undermine the authority of scripture – IF IT SAYS IT, THAT SETTLES IT, AND WE MUST ACCEPT IT.
 - e. When men try to break (reject, ignore, contradict, challenge) scripture – **Matthew 21:42-44** – they will be broken instead.
 - f. Application – plan of salvation, work/worship/organization of the church, fellowship parameters, design of the home, etc.

Conclusion

1. If one does not believe the internal claim inspiration in the scripture, there is no logical reason to believe any of it at all.
2. The plenary verbal inspiration of scripture is a foundational truth which inheres in the very power of the gospel to save.
3. If we cannot trust God's word, we cannot trust anything.