

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is the inspired word of God. Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Tim. 3:16-17). “Inspiration of God” translates a Greek word (theopneustos) which literally means, “God breathed in.” God breathed his message into the minds of men. God, using the personalities of each man, gave to them the words to write. This is verbal inspiration. This is confirmed by Paul’s statement to the Corinthians, which says, “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”(1 Cor. 2:13).

God gave the terms, the tenses of the verbs, and even the letters of the words. Jesus made an argument on the tense of the verb when he answered the modernistic Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection. “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matt. 22:29-32). Paul made an argument on a single letter in addressing the Galatian churches. He wrote, “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” (Gal. 3:16). Paul was quoting from Genesis 22:18.

I am ashamed that some of our brethren have put out a worthless version of the Bible called the Easy-to-Read Version, and they have pushed its dissemination to all nations. It would be better to call it the Easy-to-Read Perversion for it is a loose translation, fraught with much error. These brethren, in this perversion, take away Paul’s argument by stating in the text: “God did not say, ‘and to your descendants’ (that would mean many people. But God said, ‘and to your Descendant.’ That means only one person; that person is Christ).” Yet in the verse to which Paul referred, according to the E-R-V, the prevaricators rendered it: “Every nation of the earth will be blessed through your descendants.” The amenders make Paul a liar and silence God. The translation is not worth the paper and ink used to produce it. Brethren would be better off buying reliable

Bibles from the Baptists than buying such perversions from the World Bible Translation Center. Some Baptists have a greater respect for the text of the Bible than do our own brethren. “Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon!”

The Bible is inspired, God breathed, from the first word of Genesis 1:1 to the last “Amen” in Revelation 22:21. This is plenary inspiration which means full, entire or complete, extending to every part. It is inspired from “cover to cover” or from Genesis to the maps.

The Bible is God’s revelation to man, not man’s revelation of God to man. Peter wrote, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; where-unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:19-21).

The word “canon” is from a Greek word (kanon) which initially meant a straight rod, rule or measure. Through the passing of time the word changed from that which measures (the rule) to that which is measured. In its primary metaphorical sense the word “canon” means a standard rule of faith. In the Greek New Testament the word is found in Philippians 3:16. The word “canon,” as now used, is applied to the books which make up the Bible, sixty-six in all.

The books which are in the Bible are there because they are inspired. They are not inspired because they are in the canon, but they are in the canon because they are inspired. And there is a world of difference between those two ideas! The New Testament books were recognized as inspired by the prophets and apostles of the first century (Col. 4:16; 1 Cor. 14:37; II Peter 3:15- 16; I Thess. 5:27; I Tim. 5:18). No mere human council of men or churches determined what made up the canon. A fourth century council may have recognized the canon, but it was recognized by the people of God long before then.

In reference to the Old Testament books, there is some disagreement among scholars as to when the thirty-nine books, as we have them today in our English Bibles (or twenty-four books as the Hebrew Scriptures), were recognized as God’s word. However, there is NO doubt that, at the very latest, they were recognized as the Old Testament canon by around 280 B.C. when the Septuagint Version, a

Greek translation of the Old Testament, was completed. Also, Josephus, a Jewish historian, stated that the Old Testament was written between the time of Moses (1441-1401 B.C). and Artaxerxes I (465-424 B.C).. Further, Josephus wrote that nothing was added to the twenty-two books (some in our Bibles were combined) of the Old Testament after Artaxerxes I. Jesus certainly recognized the Old Testament as a complete body of truth during his personal ministry. He often referred to the Old Testament.

How do we know what books are inspired of God? There is a standard, or test, of canonicity which must be met. Each book must meet the following criteria:

Divine authorship. That is, is the book inspired of God? Was it given by God through the Holy Spirit to men? Or, did the book come from man alone?

Human authorship. Was the book written or endorsed by a prophet or an apostle of Jesus Christ?

Genuineness. Is the book genuine? Can it be traced back to the time and to the writer from whom it professes to come? Or, if the writer cannot be identified, can it be shown to contain same matter, in every essential point, as it contained when written?

Authenticity. Is it authentic? Is it true? Does it give a faithful record of the actual facts?

Testimony. Does it have the support of ancient writers and historians? Can it be supported by manuscripts, ancient versions and writings of the Church fathers?

Adapted from H. S. Miller’s *General Biblical Introduction*, pp. 87-88

We are facing a crisis in our world today, a battle for truth. Souls are at stake. The skeptics, infidels, evolutionists and atheists are boldly challenging the word of God. David, when but a lad, was questioned by Eliab, his older brother, as to why he had come down to the battle where the giant Goliath had been challenging the army of the Israel of God. David’s response is ours today, “Is there not a cause?” Let us meet the challenge of those who reject the inspiration of the Bible.

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Monica Nemechek, 11-04.

BIRTHDAY

Tom Bright, 11-05.

ILL

Sunday: Kathleen Camp, Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Janice and Jennifer Carter. Betty James, John James' sister-in-law, is recovering at home. Jamal Abyad continues to have difficulties with cancer.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Ted Thrasher is in Muskogee, Oklahoma this weekend for the lectureship at Eastside.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Jim O'Connor is our guest speaker this Sunday. We welcome Jim and Judy to Olathe!

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, November 4 following AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, November 11 following AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 35; Wednesday PM, NA.

Those To Serve

November 4, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson

PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards

ASSIST..... Steve Brown

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher

INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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