



Session 32

Topic

Inspiration of the Bible Demonstrated and Defended

Teacher

Neil Smith

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SESSION THIRTY-ONE
AND THIRTY-TWO
STUDENT NOTES



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- 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**).
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- Christ began His earthly ministry with an “It is written” (Matthew 4:4), and ended His earthly ministry with an “It is written” (Luke 24:46).

II. THE INSPIRATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The inspiration of the New Testament rests upon three factors:
1. THE P_____ OF CHRIST (John 14:26; 16:13)
 - These verses give Christ’s pre-authentication of the divine inspiration of the New Testament.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:13; Acts 21:11
 - The New Testament is referred to as the “words or commandments of the holy apostles” — Jude 17; 2 Peter 3:2; Ephesians 2:20; 3:5.
 - Apostolic authority resides today in the pages of the New Testament — not in any man, living or dead!
 2. THE DIRECT STATEMENTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
 - A. 2 Peter 3:15,16 — refers to Paul’s writings as scripture.
 - B. 1 Timothy 5:18b — quotes Luke 10:7 as scripture.
 - C. Ephesians 3:1-5
 - This key passage explains how we received the New Testament.
 - Observe:
 - i. Revelation (v.3,5)
 - ii. Inspiration (v.3)
Inspiration is the inerrant recording of revelation.
 - iii. Preservation (v.4)
Preservation means the writings are kept intact and perfect for future generations to read.
 3. THE CLAIMS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
 - Luke 1:1-4; Romans 16:26; Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 2:20; 3:3,5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 14:37c; Revelation 1:1

III. INTERNAL EVIDENCES FOR INSPIRATION

- By internal evidences we mean evidences from within the Bible itself which bear testimony to the divine inspiration and authority of the Book.
 - Such evidences include:
1. DETAILS OF EVENTS B_____ HUMAN KNOWLEDGE:
 - The Bible gives details of things such as Creation, the words of Satan, and what was in the heart of certain people, which no human could possibly know about.
 - Only God could give these things.
 2. THE REMARKABLE U_____ OF THE BOOK:
 - The Bible is a Book written on different continents over a space of 1,600 years by over 40 human writers of diverse backgrounds and occupations and under different circumstances — yet it has a unique doctrinal and structural unity.
 - There is one theme; there is no conflict!
 3. THE S_____ DOCTRINES IN THE BOOK:
 - Many of the doctrines in the Bible are contrary to human nature, and most certainly wouldn’t have been written if the Bible were just a “m_____ book.”
 - For example:
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- A. The Doctrine Of God.
 - Compare the Bible's presentation of God as an infinite, sovereign, triune, holy, and loving Person with the various "deities" concocted by men.
 - The God of the Bible altogether transcends our finite intellect — man couldn't have invented Him.
 - B. The Doctrine Of Man.
 - The Bible's portrayal of man as base, vile, sinful, corrupt, and depraved would never be so written by natural man.
 - Even the hideous sins and the warts of a "hero" like David are mentioned.
 - C. The Doctrine Of Sin.
 - Natural man minimises sin and exalts the world - the Bible does the opposite.
 - The fact that Hell is denied by natural man shows we have a Bible that man would not write.
 - D. The Doctrine Of Salvation.
 - Man seeks salvation through works and appeasement.
 - If the Bible were a human book, the plan of salvation would be by works of some kind.
 - The Bible teaches salvation through the shed blood of the Son of God!
4. F _____ PROPHECY:
- Over two-thirds of the Bible was prophetic at the time of its writing.
 - Much of this prophecy has already been fulfilled to the letter.
 - This is the s _____ internal proof of inspiration.
 - Messianic prophecy alone is remarkable.
 - Over 300 prophecies of the birth, ministry, passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ have already been fulfilled.
 - In one 24 hour period — our Lord's passion — approximately 21 different prophecies were fulfilled exactly to detail.
 - The "odds" of this being a mere chance are s _____.

IV. EXTERNAL EVIDENCES FOR INSPIRATION

- By external proofs we mean the things outside of the Bible which bear evidence to its divine inspiration and authority.
- There are many such proofs, among which we cite:
 1. THE BIBLE'S C _____
 - This subject will be covered in detail in a later lesson.
 2. THE BIBLE'S T _____ RESULTS
 - Through unaided reading of the Bible, men and women have been born again and become new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - Drunks have been made sober, harlots made chaste, and lives ruined by sin have been made whole again.
 - The Bible has changed the course of nations and human history.
 3. THE BIBLE'S INEXHAUSTIBLE T _____
 - Unlike any other book, the more the Bible is read, the more it reveals.
 - Each week, thousands of sermons are preached and scores of books and articles are printed — all proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ.



THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE — DEFENDED

- Not everyone believes what the Bible teaches concerning the doctrine of its divine inspiration.
- There are a number of other theories of inspiration, and these can be classified under the three major theological positions, as follows:
 1. Theories of Inspiration within Conservative theology
 - “THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD”
 - i. D_____ Inspiration
 - ii. C_____ Inspiration
 2. Theories of Inspiration within Modernist theology
 - “THE BIBLE CONTAINS THE WORD OF GOD”
 - i. P_____ Inspiration
 - ii. G_____ Inspiration
 - iii. N_____ Inspiration
 3. Theories of Inspiration within Neo-Orthodox theology.
 - “THE BIBLE BECOMES THE WORD OF GOD”
 - i. D_____ Inspiration
 - ii. P_____ E_____ Inspiration
- This lesson will briefly examine each of these theories and answer them from the Word of God.

I. THE THEORY OF DYNAMIC INSPIRATION

- This view of inspiration is also known as m_____ dictation.
- This theory holds that the writers of the Bible were mere passive instruments, just “machines,” and insensible to what they were doing.
- This is not so much a theory that is actually held by anyone.
- Rather it is a “straw man” theory that those who hold to a verbal, plenary, inerrant, infallible inspiration are often accused of believing.
- However, such a charge ignores the fact of c_____.
- It should be noted that there were definite occasions when dictation occurred (e.g. [Revelation 2:1,8,12,18](#); etc., and [Exodus 34:27](#)).
- Yet it is evident that even these kinds of passages exhibit the peculiar “style” of the writer.
- Answer:
How do we account for the different writing s_____ of the Books of the Bible? If inspiration involved pure dictation, we would expect a uniform style to be seen throughout the Word of God.

II. THE THEORY OF CONCEPTUAL INSPIRATION

- Otherwise known as “T_____ Inspiration,” this view holds that only the thoughts, concepts, and overall message of the Bible were given by inspiration.
- This theory readily accommodates the use of different v_____ of the Bible.
- After all, “they are all saying basically the same thing!”
- Answer:
The Bible itself teaches verbal inspiration — [1 Corinthians 2:13](#). The thoughts, concepts, and message are indeed inspired — but so are the w_____!



III. THE THEORY OF PARTIAL INSPIRATION

- This common modernistic opinion is usually expressed by the statement, “The Bible contains the Word of God.”
- Somewhere, between the covers of the Bible, you will find the Word of God.
- Those holding such a view cannot agree on which parts are inspired and which parts are not inspired.
- Some believe the cardinal doctrines of Christianity are inspired, while the supportive arguments and evidences are of human origin.
- Some hold only those parts of the Bible containing “good moral instruction” to be inspired.
- Usually, the criterion is “what is rational?”
- Similar to this theory is “Deistic Inspiration” which sees some parts (e.g. the Sermon on the Mount) as more inspired than others (e.g. the Mosaic laws).
- Answer:
The Bible teaches Plenary inspiration — **2 Timothy 3:16**. This theory is very subjective. Who decides what parts are inspired? Man himself becomes the author!

IV. THE THEORY OF GRACIOUS INSPIRATION

- Otherwise known as “Gracious Inspiration,” this theory holds that it was the writers who were inspired — in the sense that they were pious, Spirit-filled men, who were granted deep special religious insight by the Holy Spirit.
- This theory sees the human writers of the Bible as much the same as other post-Biblical Christian “greats.”
- Thus the writings of John Bunyan (for example) might be taken as being on the same level as those of the apostles and prophets (and thus liable to error).
- Some also consider this kind of “inspiration” as being the same experienced by non-Christian writers such as Shakespeare, Mohammed, Confucius, etc.
- Answer:
If such inspiration were possible, why not write another book for the Bible?
cf. **Revelation 22:18**. **2 Timothy 3:16** states that it is the scriptures (writings) that are inspired, NOT the writers.

V. THE THEORY OF NATURAL INSPIRATION

- This theory is also known as “Inspiration” or “Universal Christian Inspiration.”
- It holds that the writers of the Bible were inspired in the same sense in which Christians of all ages have been inspired.
- The scriptures then are just writings of men which are “inspiring!”
- Answer:
Such a theory is similar to that of Gracious Inspiration (above), and it is answered in much the same way. Illumination, enthusiasm, zeal, Spirit-filling, etc., are not inspiration.
Yes, the Word of God is inspiring, but that is not what is meant by divine inspiration. The scriptures are “Thus saith the LORD!”

VI. THE THEORY OF DEMYTHOLOGICAL INSPIRATION

- This view sees the Bible as being written in the legendary style of its day with the task of the modern day scholar being to “demythologise” it — i.e. peel away the myth to find the truth.



- An example of this kind of thinking would be “t_____ e_____.”
- The first two chapters of Genesis are pure myth — the real message is that somehow, God used evolutionary forces to bring man into existence.
- It's the m_____ that's important, not the f_____!
- Answer:
The Bible becomes a s_____ Book, because it requires the correct interpretation before the message comes through. Again, man becomes the final authority.

VII. THE THEORY OF PERSONAL ENCOUNTER INSPIRATION

- This Neo-Orthodox view holds that the Bible is an imperfect record which becomes the Word of God when the message of God “breaks through” the written record in such a way as to speak personally to the reader.
- Inspiration is viewed (in the words of Frederick Schleiermacher) as the “original translation of Christian feeling.”
- In other words, what we read in the Bible are the writers’ responses to their personal encounters with God — and we can share in those same encounters as we work back through their written responses.
- The existentialist theologian, Karl Barth (1886-1968) said the Bible brought about an encounter with the hidden God.
- Answer:
Theology based upon such a view of inspiration can only be e_____ and m_____ and again makes man the authority. People will worship a “Christ” of their own imagination (**Romans 1:21**).

