

INSPIRATION & THE WORD OF GOD

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

God's Word in II Timothy 3:16-17 states that the Scriptures are "inspired of God". The Greek is one word, "theopneustos", verbatim "God breathed." It is a declaration that God is the absolute author of the Bible. **Inspiration** cannot be explained precisely in a manner that humans understanding can understand it thoroughly.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35) Jesus quoted the OT as authoritative. The Holy Spirit in the prophets equipped them for their ministry (I Peter 1:10-11), and the Spirit of God spoke through David (II Sam 23:1-2) and other prophets.

In some fashion, God was able to use certain men, preserving their personal educated abilities and makeup. Yet He oversaw their writings to the exact will of His divine mind, which was transferred through the human instrument (I Cor. 2:11ff). The Bible contains a wide divergence of evidences that establish its supernatural origin. Its inspiration is confirmed in different ways. Some are: 1) An outstanding unity, as He used forty plus people to produce sixty-six writings over sixteen centuries. 2) Extraordinary prophecy, totaling more than 1,000. History was written in advance. 3) Supernatural truth, defying human clarification. There are abundant details in the book of Acts. 4) The Bible also evidences divine control in authorship by virtue of what it does not say. It contains no description of God or Christ. In fact, it omits most of Jesus' thirty-three years upon the earth, etc. If a human had recorded this - there would have been many more details concerning God and Christ. 5) The early writers such as, Peter and Paul, were willing to suffer torture and even death rather than relinquish their claim that they were spokesmen for God and Jesus in the documents they produced.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22) 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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