

GOD INSPIRED A BOOK

THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION PART IV

*"Behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me,
and that mine adversary had written a book."*

~ Job 31:35

1. An Inspired Book

- a. We benefit from the answer to Job's fervent prayer - Job 31:35
- b. 2 Tim 3 says the scriptures are holy (3:15) due to inspiration (3:16)
- c. Inspiration: God moving men to write the words he wanted in a book.

2. Inspiration is Limited to the Page

- a. Inspiration concerns what was written not all that was revealed by God
 - i. Words of Jesus, Mark 1:39, 2:2, Luke 2:26, 1 Cor 14:26, 30, Gal 2:2
- b. Inspiration concerns what was written not all that was spoken by prophets
 - i. Prophets spoke things they did not write – Matt 2:23, 27:9 (Zech 11:12?)
 - ii. Searching for the spoken words of Jesus denies this point of inspiration
- c. Inspiration concerns certain things written, not all that was written
 - i. These holy men wrote other things – 1 Kings 4:32, Col 4:16, 1 Cor 5:9
 - ii. Not-inspired books Jasher 2Sa 1:18, Iddo 2Ch 12:15, Jehu 2Chr 20:34, apocrypha (Maccabees), non-canonical – book of life Rev 20:15
- d. Inspiration concerns words on a page, not understanding/interpretation of men
 - i. Not merely the concepts, but the words that are inspired – Matt 4:4, 5:18
 - ii. They often did not understand – Luke 18:34, 1Pet 1:10, 2Pet 1:20, 3:16
 - iii. Misinterpretations, abuses, and heresies do not disprove inspiration.

3. Inspiration is of God (... though men supplied writing material)

- a. Inspiration includes words of God dictated to men to write – Isa 8:1-2, 1Cor 2:11
 - i. The obvious idea of God speaking by inspiration – Isa 42:5-8
- b. Inspiration includes writer's written thoughts, opinions, expression, emotions
 - i. Not always with knowledge of inspiration – 1 Cor 7:12,25,40, 2 Cor 11:17
 - ii. God knows the spirit of man - Heb 4:12, 2 Cor 10:5, Psa 139:1-4, 23-24
 - iii. The inspiration is in the writing, not in awareness, voice, or nature.
- c. Inspiration includes record of natural history/secular culture
 - i. Census, laws, genealogies, kings, songs, Ecclesiastes, kings
 - ii. Extra biblical – Jewish 2Ti 3:8, Gentile Acts 17:28, Epimenides Titus 1:12
 - iii. Not always original: revealed, preached, heard, written before – Obadiah
 - iv. Men could write them and did: Esther and SoS do not mention God.
- d. Inspiration includes record of the supernatural
 - i. Things they did not witness - Gen 1-4, Dan 2, Jn 11:49-51, Acts 2
 - ii. Men try to mythologize the prophetic/miraculous, but it is a true record
- e. Inspiration is a true record, not always a record of righteousness
 - i. Ahab, Jezebel, Jeroboam, Jeconiah, Herod, Satan, false prophets 2Pe 2:1

- ii. It describes slavery, polygamy, abortion, hypocrisy, witchcraft, adultery, murder, incest, wickedness, lies – “curse God” – Rom 3:19-20, 7:7
- iii. Blasphemy Isa 36, heresy 2Ti 2:18, wrong Matt 22:29, Job 42:7
- iv. The world glamorizes & justifies sin, God identifies and condemns it

4. Inspiration resulted in a book

- a. Inspiration was how men wrote, how God gave it.
- b. What he gave was a book. A collection of 66 – 39 Hebrew, 27 Greek
- c. A book has a unified purpose/theme/intent
- d. Books are written with organization, plot, progressive, practical use, audience
- e. God’s book would be infallible, inerrant, perfect, valuable treasure – Job 31:36
- f. This book is the righteous standard, canon of faith, holy record of God