


The Breath of God

Bibliology:
Inspiration



A Brief History of Inspiration

- Until 1700s
- 1753 – Jean Astruc
- 1865 – Karl Graf
 - J = Jehovah
 - E = Elohim
 - D = Deuteronomistic
 - P = Priestly
- Julius Wellhausen
- The Catastrophic Results:
 - Deny 1st 5 books by Moses
 - Deny contents as truly factual
 - Deny written when claimed
- The Key Issue: anti-supernaturalism

A Brief History of Inspiration

- 1893 – Charles Briggs’ heresy trial
- 1920s – Harry Emerson Fosdick
 - First Presbyterian Church of NY
 - Riverside Baptist Church of NY
- Auburn Affirmation
 - Inspiration
 - Virgin Birth
 - Miracles
 - Substitutionary Atonement
 - Bodily Resurrection


An Explanation of Inspiration

Definitions ~ the Word Itself

- Latin Vulgate
- 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21
- *Inspiro*
- Other English translations

Definitions ~ the Doctrine

“Inspiration is... God’s superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.”



Definitions – the Doctrine

- 2 Tim. 3:16
 - “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God”
 - *Theopneustos*
 - *theos* = God; *pneustos* = breath or spirit
 - Cf. 1 Thess. 4:9 – *theodidaktos*
 - God-breathed

False Views of Inspiration

- Natural
- Spiritual Illumination
- Mechanical or Dictation
- Dynamic
- Post-canonical

The Biblical View of Inspiration

- God superintended the process.
- Chosen men wrote the Scripture.
- The result was God’s error-free revelation.

A Defense of Inspiration

The Lines of Evidence

- Internal Arguments
- External Arguments
- The Spirit’s Authentication

Internal Arguments

- The Bible’s Claims to be the Word of God
- The NT’s Writers Identification of the OT as God’s Word
- Christ’s Authentication of Scripture

The Bible's Claims

- Old Testament
 - “Thus says the Lord...”
 - Ex. 7:1-4; 4:10-16
 - Deut. 18:14-21
 - Jer. 1:4-10
 - Jer. 36 – a picture of inspiration
- New Testament
 - Gal. 1:11-12
 - 1 Thess. 2:13
 - 1 Cor. 2:6-13
 - 2 Pet. 3:15-16
 - 2 Tim. 3:16

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 - 2 Pet. 3:15-16
 - 2 Tim. 3:16
 - 1 Pet. 1:10-12

Unacceptable Views

- Degree inspiration
- Partial inspiration
- Concept inspiration
- Neo-orthodox inspiration

The NT's Identification of the OT

- Viewed OT as fixed and authoritative
 - In the interchangeable use of God/Scripture
 - In its entirety
 - In its words

The NT's Identification of the OT

- Viewed NT as Equal to OT Scripture
 - 1 Tim. 5:18
 - 2 Pet. 3:16
 - 1 Cor. 2:13
 - 1 Cor. 14:37-38
 - 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 2:5
 - 2 Thess. 3:6, 14
 - Others

Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of the whole
 - Matt. 5:17-18
 - Matt. 22:29
 - Luke 24:44
 - John 10:35
 - Luke 16:31

Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of its parts
 - OT quotes
 - Matt. 4:4, 7, 10
 - Matt. 19:4
 - John 5:39
 - Matt. 23:53-56

Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of its history
 - Creation of man (Matt. 19:4-5)
 - Murder of Abel (Matt. 23:35)
 - Noah's flood (Matt. 24:37)
 - Sodom & Gomorrah (Matt. 10:15)
 - Lot's wife (Luke 17:32)
 - Jonah & great fish (Matt. 12:40)

Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of its words
 - Matt. 22:23-33
 - Matt. 22:44
 - John 10:34
- Of its letters
 - Matt. 5:18

Smallest Letter & Stroke

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ:



Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of its words
 - Matt. 22:23-33
 - Matt. 22:44
 - John 10:34
- Of its letters
 - Matt. 5:18
 - Luke 16:17

Christ's Authentication of Scripture

- Of the NT
 - John 14:26
 - John 16:12-15
 - John 17

External Arguments

- Church History's Testimony

1st Epistle of Clement End of 1st Century

"Look carefully into the Scriptures, which are the true utterances of the Holy Spirit. Observe that nothing of an unjust or counterfeit character is written in them."

Irenaeus Early 2nd Century

"most properly assured that the Scripture are indeed perfect, since they were spoken by the Word of God and His Spirit."

Augustine

"I ... believe most firmly that not one of those authors had erred in writing anything at all. If I do find anything in those books which seems contrary to truth, I decide that either the text is corrupt, or the translator did not follow what was really said, or that I failed to understand it.... The canonical books are entirely free from falsehood."

Luther

"I beg and faithfully warn every pious Christian not to be offended by the simplicity of the language and the stories that will often meet him here. Let him not doubt that, however simple they may seem, they are the very words, works, judgments, and deeds of the high majesty, power, and wisdom of God."

Luther

"The Scriptures, although they also were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God."

Calvin

"This is the principle that distinguishes our religion from all others, that we know that God hath spoken to us and are fully convinced that the prophets did not speak of themselves, but as an organ of the Holy Spirit utter only that which they had been commissioned from heaven to declare. All those who wish to profit from the Scripture must first accept this as a settled principle, that the Law and the prophets are not teachings handed on at the pleasure of men, or produced by men's minds as their source, but are dictated by the Holy Spirit."

John Wesley

"The Scripture, therefore, is a rule sufficient in itself, and was by men divinely inspired, at once delivered to the world.... If there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may well be a thousand. If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth."

Second Helvetic Confession

"The canonical Scriptures are the true word of God."

Westminster Confession

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.

External Arguments

- Church History's Testimony
- Word's Supernatural Character
- Word's Internal Unity
- Uncommon Accuracy
- Fulfilled Prophecy
 - First Advent
 - Israel's Dispersion
 - Syria vs. Egypt

External Arguments

- The Witnesses' Character
- Historical Results & Changed Lives
- The Bible's Preservation

The Lines of Evidence

- Internal Arguments
- External Arguments
- The Spirit's Authentication

The Spirit's Authentication

- 1 Cor. 2:13-14
- 2 Cor. 4:4-6
- John 10:27