GROVE BIBLE

DIVINE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

BIBLIOLOGY PAPER





Divine Inspiration of Scripture

Divine inspiration is a foundational doctrine regarding the authorship of the Holy Scriptures. God superintended the writing of His Word. The Bible is God's actual Word (1 Thess. 2:13), written through men (2 Peter 1:21). As cogently stated by John Wycliffe, "The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as truly as if we heard it audibly." The verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture highlights that God organically inspired every word of the whole Bible.

Inspiration

The Scriptures have been, "breathed out by God" (2 Tim 3:16). The Greek word used in 2 Timothy 3:16, θεόπνευστος (theopneustos) is the combination of theos, meaning God, and pneustos, meaning to blow or breathe. So, in the original Greek the term literally means God-breathed. As B.B. Warfield pointed out, "all Scripture" is the product of the Divine breath, "is God-breathed", ...Scripture is the product of a specifically Divine operation." Divine Inspiration was the act of God superintending the writing of the Scriptures in a manner that did not override the circumstances, personalities, experiences, or vocabulary of the human authors. "The Spirit moved on the Biblical writers to produce the Word of God in the language of men" (John MacArthur).

This process of inspiration is not to be mistaken as a mechanical inspiration as if men were used like puppets or mechanical tools, in a trance-like state, blindly penning the words. Nor is the process of inspiration to be understood as dynamic inspiration, as if the writer was merely emotionally inspired to do art, poetry, or start a new diet. The superintendence of the Spirit of God in His work of breathing out the Scriptures was organic inspiration, as explained by Louis Berkhof.....



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Inspiration (Continued)

“The proper conception of inspiration holds that the Holy Spirit acted on the writers of the Bible in an organic way, in harmony with the laws of their own inner being, using them just as they were.” God granularly influenced the writing of Scripture, His divine winds blew through the sails of the Biblical writers and their faculties. When The Apostle Peter said, ”For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21). The verb “carried” in the original greek is φερόμενοι (pheromenoi), and means to bring, carry, or move, and has the sense of a ship that is carried along by the wind. When the authors of Scripture put ink to papyrus or parchment, amidst real situations, the letters, words, and sentences were being supernaturally guided by the Wind who is The Spirit.

Verbal, Plenary

“ The doctrine of Verbal, Plenary Inspiration highlights that every word (verbal) of the Bible, and that the whole (plenary) of the Bible has been, “breathed out by God” (2 Tim 3:16). The Bible does not merely “contain” the word of God, nor does it only “become” the word of God when subjectively working in the lives of its hearers, the Bible is not only the word of God “in part”. The Bible, in its entirety, every word, jot and tittle, was authored by God The Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:16,17). When God inspired His inerrant Word, He did so in a manner that left no imperfection or stain upon His perfect light of truth (Prov 30:5, Ps.12:6). The product is so perfect that entire doctrinal arguments are made contingent upon the tense of a single word (Gal 3:16). This is why Jesus can say, “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35) and that it is by, ”every word that comes from the mouth of God,” (Matt. 4:4) that man shall live. As Basil the Great said, “No single syllable of the sacred writings is to be neglected. Every word or action must be accepted on the testimony of inspired Scripture.”