

The Internal Testimony of Scripture

Christians believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of the living God. This conviction begins with the *internal testimony* of Scripture. The Scriptures make a claim that no ordinary book does. They clearly claim to be the Word of God. For instance, hundreds of times the Bible says, “*The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*” or like statements. In perhaps 1800 cases the Scripture claims to be giving a word-for-word quotation from God. Even a casual reader would notice that the Bible records direct quotes it claims to be from God himself.

Beyond this fact the Scripture claims the entire written record of Holy writ came from God. For instance, in 2 Peter 1:21 the apostle says “*the prophecy came not in old time (or at any time) by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*” The prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit or *carried along* by the Holy Spirit. The point is this: *they contributed nothing to the message!* The message originated with God and was not modified by the messengers in any way. The prophets were simply God’s mouthpiece. God gave the message to holy men set apart to the task of receiving the message. Then they communicated that message to the world.

In 2 Timothy 3:16 we have perhaps the most important statement in the Bible about the Scriptures. This verse states, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” The word translated “inspiration” is the Greek word *theopneustos*, which means “God-breathed.” This Greek word emphasizes that Scripture originated with God. He is the source of all Scripture. As the Lord Jesus Christ put it, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the*

mouth of God.” Scripture is literally *breathed out by God*. Thus, the process of giving his Word in written form was a miracle. The Lord gave the human authors the very words of the original autographs. This method of accurately and infallibly transmitting God’s revelation into written form is what we refer to as the *verbal inspiration* of Scripture.

As the verbally inspired Word of God it follows that the Bible is inerrant. This means that the written record is without error in its history, in the facts it states, and in the truth it reveals. This truth establishes the basis for the *authority* of the Scripture. Since the Scripture is God-breathed, and thus without error, the Bible speaks with the authority of God himself.

Review Activities

Give an example of the Bible quoting God word-for-word.

According to 2 Peter 1:21 who moved upon the holy men chosen of God to give his message?

What does the Greek word *theopneustos* mean?

What is *verbal inspiration*?

What do we mean when we say the Bible is *inerrant*?

Why does the Bible speak with the authority of God?
