

Week 2: The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible

Grudem_{ST} 2,4; Grudem_{BD} 2; Ryrie 10-11

The Bible: (Geisler, 21)

From the Greek word *biblos* meaning the outer coat of a papyrus reed. By the 2nd Century AD, Christians were using the plural *biblia* to describe their writings. We now use the singular to describe the collection.

Inspiration: (Geisler, 34)

From the Latin *inspirare*, meaning “to breathe upon or into.” It conveyed the idea that a sudden, spontaneous idea (an inspiration) would have come directly under divine influence.

Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration:

- A. **Definition:** *God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings* (Ryrie, 81).
- B. 2Tim. 3:16 – All Scripture is God-breathed (Gr. *theopneustos*)
- C. 2Pet. 1:21 – Men spoke from God as they were carried along (Gr. *phero*) by the Holy Spirit (Gr. *pneuma*) – (Acts 27:15 – the boat was driven along (Gr. *phero*) by the wind) (cf John 3:8)
- D. 1Cor. 2:13 – words...taught by the Spirit (God’s message comes in the words of the text)
- E. So, “the Scriptures are the very spirated (breathed out) Word of God. The *form and content* of Scripture are the very words of God.” (Geisler 36) – (John 10:34-35)

The Word of God:

- A. Jesus Christ (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13; cf Heb. 1:1-2) – Gr. *logos*
- B. Speech (Grudem 47-51)
 - a. Decrees (Gen. 1:3)
 - b. Personal Address (Gen. 2:16-17; Ex. 20:1-3; Matt. 3:17)
 - c. Through Human Lips (Deut. 18:18-20; Jer. 1:9; cf Deut. 18:20-22; Ezek. 13:1-7)
 - d. Written Form – Bible (Ex. 31:18; Josh. 24:26; Jer. 30:2; 1Cor. 14:37; Rev. 2:1)

The Authority of the Word of God:

- A. **Definition:** *All the words of Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God* (Grudem, 73).
- B. The Bible’s claims:
 - a. The phrase, “Thus says the LORD” appears 417 times in the OT beginning in Ex. 4:22.
 - b. God is said to speak “through” a prophet (1Kings 14:18; 16:12, 34; 2Kings 9:36; etc...)
 - c. All Scripture is God-breathed (2Tim. 3:16)
 - d. Jesus spoke the words of God, the way the OT prophets did (Heb. 1:1-2)
 - e. Paul’s epistles are called Scripture by Peter (2Pet. 3:16)
 - f. NT writers considered their letters words from God (1Cor. 14:37; 2Pet. 3:2)
- C. Therefore to disobey or disbelieve any word of Scripture is to disobey or disbelieve God
- D. The truthfulness of Scripture
 - a. God cannot lie or speak falsely (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18)
 - b. Therefore all the words of Scripture are completely true and without error in any part (Prov. 30:5)
 - c. God’s words are the ultimate standard of truth (Gr. *aletheia*) (John 17:17). Note John uses the noun ‘truth’ not the adjective ‘true’.
- E. Written Scripture is our final authority

**** Divine causality + prophetic agency = Scriptural authority:** (Geisler, 38-39)

**** God spoke to the prophets and is speaking in their writings:** (Geisler, 39)

Questions:

1. How did God “inspire” the biblical authors to write down His words?
2. How can we be certain the Bible is God’s Word?
3. Have you ever known anyone to prove and part of Scripture false?
4. Is there any part of Scripture that you do not want to believe?
5. Is there any part of Scripture that you do not want to obey?