

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION - If I accept the Bible as the infallible, inerrant, inspired Word of God; then, what it says I must believe, what it enjoins I must do, and what it prohibits I must avoid or lose my soul.

1. SEQUENCE OF THE "INSPIRED WORD" FROM GOD TO MANKIND

God gave His word to Jesus: (John 12:49-50) "For I have not spoken of Myself ... even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak."

Jesus gave that word to the apostles: (John 17:8) "For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them."

Jesus also gave them the Holy Spirit for a purpose: (John 14:26) "... the HS ... he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

(John 16:13) "... the Spirit of truth ... he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself ... "

The apostles spoke that word: (1 Cor. 2:10-13) "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit ... which things also we speak ... "

The apostles also wrote their inspired spoken word:
(John 20:30-31) "... these are written ... "

(Eph. 3:3-4) "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand ... "

(Col. 4:16) "when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also ... "

(1 Thess. 5:27) "... that this epistle be read unto all the brethren"

(2 Peter 3:1-2) "This is the second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you ... "

(Rev. 1:3) "Blessed is he that readeth ... hear the words ... keep those things written ... "

Warning: don't add/take away from the book. (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19)

Over the years, copies of the text were maintained and distributed.

2. WHAT DOES THE BOOK CLAIM FOR ITSELF?

(2 Tim. 3:16) "All (every) scripture is inspired of God ... " - God breathed.

(2 Peter 1:21) "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the HS"

(Gal. 1:11-12) "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

“not after man” - not human in its origin.

“neither received it from man” - not come from a corrupted source.

“neither was I taught it” - did not come through the learning process.

“but by the revelation ... “ - it's a divine product without possibility of error.

3. THE BIBLE SETS OUT ITS OWN VIEW OF INSPIRATION: (1 Cor. 2:9-13)

1) It takes a revelation to know God:

(v9-10) “ ... God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit ... “

One cannot know the things of God by nature, intuition, nor by human history.

(Psalm 19:1) “The heavens declare the glory of God, firmament showeth his handiwork”

It takes the Bible to know God; the heavens manifest His power.
The heavens provide no specific information about God nor instruction.

2) That revelation must be made in word:

(v11) “ ... so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God”

One cannot know what one is thinking until it is revealed in words.

3) How that revelation was made:

(v13) “Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the HS teacheth ... “

“not in words which man's wisdom teacheth” - words

“the HS teacheth” - verbal inspiration

4. ASSURANCE THAT IT HAS BEEN UNCONTAMINATED

(1 Peter 1:23-25) “ ... by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever ... but the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

The Bible confirms its own continued existence; God will see that it lasts.

CLOSE - our obligation is to believe and obey. (John 14:6; 20:30-31)