

INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

- I. The Bible's UNIFIED Character
 - A. A COLLECTION written by over FORTY authors
 - B. Written over a span of over 1500 YEARS
- II. The Bible's CLAIMS to Inspiration
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:16
 - 1. EXTENT of inspiration—includes ALL Scripture
 - 2. MEANS of inspiration—"God BREATHED it OUT"
 - 3. PURPOSE of inspiration—to be "PROFITABLE"
 - B. 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - 1. Authors were MOVED by the HOLY SPIRIT (cf. Acts 27:15)
 - 2. Authors did not DIRECT the writing
 - 3. Therefore, the product is completely RELIABLE
 - C. 1 Corinthians 2:13
 - 1. Bible given in WORDS, not just THOUGHTS
 - 2. Does not imply that Paul's WRITINGS were not inspired (cf. 2 Peter 3:16)
- III. The KIND of Data that Was Inspired
 - A. Some came DIRECTLY from GOD (Deut. 9:10)
 - B. Some was organized by RESEARCH (Luke 1:1-4)
 - C. Some was PROPHETIC (about 25% at time of writing)
 - D. Some was HISTORICAL (Acts 16:10-13; etc.)
 - E. Miscellaneous material includes
 - 1. LIES of Satan (Gen. 3:4-5)

2. Writings of PAGANS (Titus 1:12)
3. Strongly EMOTIONAL material (Rom. 9:1-3)

IV. LIMITATIONS of Inspiration

- A. Does not include CHAPTER and VERSE divisions
- B. Does not include separation of LETTERS into WORDS (Greek)
- C. Does not include VOWELS (Hebrew)
- D. Does not include PUNCTUATION
- E. Does not include TITLES for most of the books
- F. Does not include COMMENTARY or explanation in the margins
- G. Does not include COPIES or TRANSLATIONS

V. DEFECTIVE Definitions of Inspiration

- A. Natural Inspiration—relies on HUMAN intellect
- B. Dynamic or Mystical Inspiration—human geniuses were filled and guided by the HOLY SPIRIT so the product contains MESSAGES from God, but are not infallible
- C. Degree Inspiration—Some parts are MORE inspired than others
- D. Partial Inspiration—Some parts are inspired, and others are NOT
- E. Concept Inspiration—Ideas are inspired, but not the WORDS
- F. Barthian Inspiration (Karl Barth)—Also called “ENCOUNTER” inspiration
 1. “The act of revelation in which the prophets and apostles in their humanity became what they WERE, and in which alone they in their humanity can also become for us what they ARE” (*Church Dogmatics*, I, 2, 563).
 2. The Bible BECOMES God’s Word when it speaks to YOU

VI. BIBLICAL Definition of Inspiration—“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” (Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 70)