

Reformed Systematic Theology

Week Three - The Inspired Nature of Holy Scripture

1. Introduction and Review

2. Revelation and Scripture

A. Revealedness – the bible, with regards to its subject matter or “message” is a revelation from God. That is to say, it “tells a story” that people could not and would not have known without divine aid. God was its author and source. He had to tell them.

B. Inspiredness -- God was the sole author and he moved men to write what He desired mankind to know.

3. Scriptural Proof for the Inspiration of Scripture

A. The writers were often told to write what was told to them
Exodus 17:14; Jer 25:13; Ezek 24:1; Hab 2:2

B. The writers were conscious of bringing the word of the Lord

1. Old Testament Evidence - Jer 36:27, 32; Ezek 26, 27, 31;
2. New Testament Evidence –
 - a. Paul - 1 Cor 2:13; 2 Cor 13:3; 1 Thess 2:13
 - b. Book of Hebrews – 1:5; 3:7; 4:3; 5:6; 7:21
 - c. 2 Tim 3:16

4. The Nature of Inspiration – 2 Timothy 3:16

A. Two Wrong Views

1. Mechanical inspiration – dictation by God to the writers resulting in a passive involvement of them. This means that the personalities, character and minds of the writers were not part of the process. 1 Kings 11:41; 14:29; Luke 1:1-4

2. Dynamic inspiration – inspiration that elevated the spiritual condition of the writers to a “higher pitch” so that they saw things more clearly and had a more profound sense of their real spiritual value. It was a permanent characteristic of the writers and affected their writings only indirectly.

B. The Correct View

1. Organic Inspiration: the Holy Spirit acted on the writers of Scripture in an organic way, in harmony with the laws of their own inner being, using them just as they were, with their character and temperament; their gifts and talents, their education and culture, their vocabulary and style.

2. 2 Tim 3:16 – All Scripture is “inspired” by God.

A. “all Scripture”

1. The writings of the Old Testament – 1 Tim 3:15

2. The writings of the New Testament – 1 Cor 7:40; 14:37; 1 Tim 5:18 (cp with Deut 25:4 and Luke 10:7).

B. “God breathed”

1. Only place the Greek term is used (*theopneustos*) and is closest to the term *theodidaktos*, which means *God taught*

2. Definition – The Scriptures were the “divine breath” of God in such a way that they were “breathed out” thus resulting in a divine product. It was a specifically divine operation unique only to the God of Scripture alone. Ps 33:6; Gen 2:7; Ezek 37:1-14

5. The Extent of Inspiration

A. Partial inspiration – only parts of it are inspired. There are numerous logical problems with this view.

B. Plenary inspiration – Every part of the bible is inspired by God. Evidence:

1. Use of Old Testament Scripture– consider Matt 18; 15ff; Matt 19:1-12
Matt 4; Hebrews 1:5-9

2. Reference by other writers – 2 Peter 3:16

3. “All” Scripture. 2 Tim 3:16

C. Verbal inspiration - Cases where God specifically told the writers what to write. Evidence: Lev 6:1, 24; Josh 1:1; Jer 1:9; Ezek 3:4, 10-11;

6. Conclusion and Application