



# Canon: Which Books Belong?

## Lesson Three: Inspiration—The Need and the Process

Why does modern man need an inspired record and why should he believe that the Bible is this volume?

### **WITHOUT AN INSPIRED COMMUNICATION FROM GOD, MAN...**

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- Will follow the wrong way (Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 25:4, 5)
- Finds only sorrow (Jeremiah 6:16; Romans 1:26-32)
- Will not know the divine will (Isaiah 55:8-11)
- Would never know the joys of salvation (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

### **THE REJECTION OF BIBLICAL DOCTRINES DEPRECIATES THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE...**

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- When man believes the Scriptures are inspired, he lives better.
- When man refuses to believe in the Scriptures, he will live devoted to self.
- Rejection of the Scriptures destroys all aspects of Christianity.

### **WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR GOD'S REVELATION TO BE WRITTEN?**

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- A written message is necessary (Luke 1:1-4).
- A written message is trustworthy (Matthew 5:18).
- A written text has great benefits (Exodus 17:14; Malachi 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:11).
- It is independent (Jeremiah 36:2, 4-21, 28, 32).
- It is universal, indestructible, and almost omnipresent (Psalm 102:18).
- It makes the readers personally responsible (2 Thessalonians 2:15; Luke 16:29).

### **THE MANNER AND EXTENT OF INSPIRATION IS REVEALED TO US IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1, 2.**

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- There is a mind of the Lord; a mysterious, hidden, and eternal wisdom of God (2:7, 16).
- The natural man is unable to understand the mind of God (2:14; 1:18, 23).
- God's mind was made known by God's Spirit revealing it to man (2:11).
- God took the initiative to reveal to man His eternal wisdom by giving His Spirit to the Apostles so they would know His thoughts (2:9-12).



- The thoughts of the Spirit were communicated with “words.” These “words” were written down by the writers (2:13).

### **THE INSPIRATION OF THE PROPHETS HELP EXPLAIN THE PROCESS OF INSPIRATION**

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- God has communicated to man by man (Exodus 4:11-16; 1 Samuel 3:1; Isaiah 6:8; Jeremiah 1:4,9; Amos 7:14, 15).
- This occurred only when God desired (Jeremiah 1:2; 14:1; 25:1; 26:1; 28:11; 34:1; 39:15). The prophets waited until a message was given to them.
- The writer’s were aware and conscious (Isaiah 6:11; Jeremiah 14:13; 15:15; Ezekiel 9:8; 11:13; Daniel 8:26).
- The message often surpassed the writer’s comprehension (Daniel 12:8, 9; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter 1:10-12).
- Sometimes the message was imposed upon the person (Jeremiah 20:7-9; 1:7, 9; Numbers 22:35; 24:13).
- Sometimes the author did not suspect he was being used by God, but the Spirit was guiding him (Luke 1:1-4; Daniel 12:8, 9).
- Inspiration has no degrees. It is always perfect and complete. Balaam (Numbers 22-24) was just as inspired as David (2 Samuel 23:2).
- The prophets believed they were transmitting God’s Words (2 Samuel 23:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 1:1, 2).

### **IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FACTS ON THE STUDY OF THE CANON OF THE BIBLE...**

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- God wants to communicate the divine will to man.
- This communication has been preserved in written form and is permanent.
- Thus, the written form of inspiration is God’s communication to man today.

This conclusion brings us to the next query in our series—“In what ways are the Scriptures ‘inspired’ of God?”