

# The Inspiration of Scripture – Outline

## **I. An Exposition of 2 Peter 1:12-21**

### *A. The Christian's Obligation to Doctrine: Remembrance (12-15)*

#### 1. The Expectation for the Believer: Grounding in the Truth

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.

#### 2. The Burden of the Teacher: Stirring Up by Recollection

Indeed, I think it is right as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by reminding you; knowing that shortly I must lay aside my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has showed me.

#### 3. The Prospect of the Teacher: Continuance and Consistency in the Truth

Moreover, I will endeavour that you may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

### *B. The Historical Grounding of Doctrine (16-18)*

#### 1. The Witness to Divine Majesty: Eyewitnesses

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

#### 2. The Locus of Divine Majesty: Christ

For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

#### 3. The Reality of God's Display: Heard when with Christ

And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

### *C. The Christian's Basis of Doctrine: The God-Given Prophetic Word (19-21)*

#### 1. The Christian's Ultimate Confidence: The Prophetic Word

##### *a. The Supremacy of Scripture*

We have also the prophetic word made more sure;

##### *b. The Profitability of Scripture*

unto which you do well that you pay attention,

##### *c. The Illumination of Scripture*

as unto a lamp that shines in an obscure/dark place,

##### *d. The Anticipation of Scripture*

until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts:

#### 2. The Reason for this Confidence: The Inspiration of the Word

##### *a. Inspiration: Its Primacy*

Knowing this first,

##### *b. Inspiration: Its Totality*

that no prophecy of the Scripture

##### *c. Inspiration: It Excludes Man's Own*

is from one's own interpretation.

- d. *Inspiration: The Consistency of Its Nature*  
For no prophecy was ever made
- e. *Inspiration: It Excludes The Will of Man As Its Origin and Basis*  
by the initiative/impulse/will of man:
- f. *Inspiration: Its Channels*  
but men spoke from God
- g. *Inspiration: Its Author*  
as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## **II. Scripture's Description of Inspiration**

### *A. General*

1. Over 3,500 "Thus Says the Lord"-Type Statements
2. 2 Timothy 3:16 – Every Scripture is God-Breathed
  - a. The Comprehension of Inspiration – “All/Every”
  - b. The Qualification of Inspiration – “Scripture”
  - c. The Definition of Inspiration – “is God-breathed”
3. Job 33:14 – Inspiration Does Not Equal Illumination
4. Mark 12:36-37 – Dual Authorship
5. Hebrews 1:7 – Internal Affirmation: God's Ultimate Authorship Credited

### *B. The Old Testament*

1. Patterns of Old Testament Inspiration
  - a. Hebrews 1:1 – God Primarily Used Prophets in the Old Testament
  - b. Jeremiah 30:2 – An Illustration of Inspiration as We Know It
  - c. Ezekiel 1:3 – The Prophet's Relation to the Divine Word
2. The Old Testament As a Whole
  - a. Luke 24:27 – Christ Assumed and Acted Upon the Inspiration of the Total Old Testament
  - b. 2 Timothy 3:16 – though broader than just the Old Testament, this categorizes the Old Testament in its entirety as “inspired.”
  - c. Romans 3:2 – The Jews entrusted with the body of Divine oracles.
  - d. John 5:39 – The Jewish canon assumed as divine communication, worthy of study.

### *C. The New Testament*

1. Ephesians 2:20 – The Principle of Apostolic Authority Established
2. Ephesians 3:5 – Truth Given Authoritatively by Apostles and Prophets
3. Galatians 1:9-12 – Apostolic Gospel Preaching Unchangeably True
4. 1 Corinthians 14:37 – Apostolic Writing Admitted to Be From God
5. Acts 2:42 – Apostolic Teaching Recognized as Authoritative
6. 2 Peter 3:2 – NT Apostles Equal in Authority as OT Prophets

## **III. Dual Authorship**

1. Avoiding Two Extremes
  - a. Stripping Scripture of its genuine human (though God-ordained) sentiments. We should not feel obligated to deny the humanness of Scripture, since God has sufficient power to speak perfectly while using human instrumentation.
  - b. Stripping Scripture of its primary purpose as an authoritative revelation of God. We

should not feel obligated to defend the humanness of Scripture to the extent that it becomes just as much a man-made book as a God-given book. It is primarily God-given in its focus.

2. What God's Authorship Does and Does Not Imply
  - a. It DOES imply that every word of the text itself is His. It DOES NOT imply that every word recorded by the text is His (such as in narrative portions of Scripture).
  - b. It DOES imply that every word of the original text is according to His will. It DOES NOT imply that man had no genuine decision in writing the original text.
3. What Man's Authorship Does and Does Not Imply
  - a. It DOES imply that genuine human efforts were made to write the text of Scripture. It DOES NOT imply that those human efforts were subject to normal human error.
  - b. It DOES imply that genuine human will was involved to write the text of Scripture. It DOES NOT imply that the human will was never overridden.
4. What Is It Comparable to?
  - a. The Hypostatic Union?
  - b. Repentance/Faith and The Divine Call?
5. Questions That Arise On Dual-Authorship
  - a. How Can the Will of God and the Will of Man Be One in Writing?
  - b. Why Is It Necessary for Man to Have a Part in Authorship?
  - c. How Do We Deal With the Exclusively Human Statements of Scripture?

#### **IV. What is at Stake? Implications of the Doctrine**

- A. *Everything Hinges on Whether God Has Spoken or Not*
- B. *If God Has Spoken, Everything Hinges on the Way He Has Spoken*
- C. *The Inerrancy of Scripture is Affected*
- D. *Our Ultimate Authority is Affected*
- E. *Our Approach to the Bible is Affected*

#### **V. Conclusion: An Affirmation on the Doctrine of Inspiration**

- A. *As to Its Definition, I Affirm that Inspiration Is "That act whereby God through human instrumentation breathed out His revelation in the form of spoken or written words."*
- B. *As to Its Details, I Affirm that Inspiration Entails:*
  1. Reality: It is true and existent. It is not simply a fabrication of hopeful minds.
  2. Human Authorship: It had genuine human authorial intent in most cases. It was not simply the transcription of God's dictation by means of amanuensis.
  3. Full Divine Control: It had full subjection to the control of God so that every part of Scripture in the original autographs is exactly how He intended it as a perfect written revelation of Himself. It was not simply the divine approval to man's idealistic thoughts.
  4. Completeness: It covers the entirety of Scripture and excludes no part of it. It does not apply only to the scholar-approved sections of the Bible.
  5. Exactness: It applies to the structure, words, tenses, letters, and accents of the original text, because God had full control and deliberate action in every section. It does not only apply to the concepts presented in Scriptures, though the concepts are fully of God as well.

6. Objectivity: It makes the Bible God's Word in and of itself. It is authoritative, period. It's divinity does not stem from man's acceptance of it. It does not become the Word of God as it speaks to me; nor is it simply a witness to divine revelation. It is divine revelation.