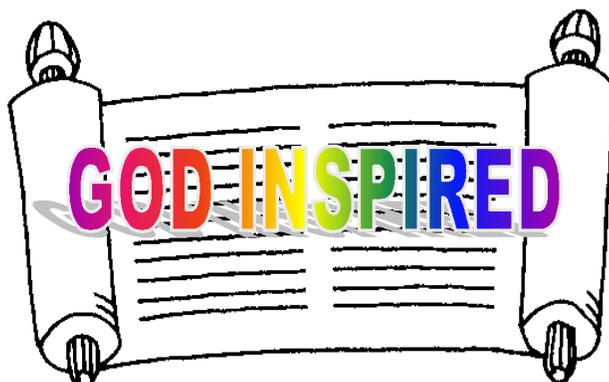


UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

HOLY MEN WROTE GOD'S WORD - Part 1



The word "inspiration" comes from II Timothy 3:16, using the King James Version:
"All scripture is given by inspiration of God . . ."

The words, "given by inspiration of God" can also be translated as "God-given" or "God-breathed" (NIV). This means that although the Bible was written by men, its real author or writer was God Himself. It was God who "moved" or "put it in the hearts of the prophets" to write His Word. And it is God who backs up what the writers wrote. The help which God gave to the writers made their writings "inspired". That is why these writings are reliable and "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." - II Timothy 3:16

"Inspiration" does not mean that the writers knew as much as God, or did not have human limitations like we have. It just means that what they wrote was exactly what God wanted written. He helped them to write correctly.

Many times over the years, people have tried to prove that the Bible is not correct. One subject in which they have tried to prove the Bible incorrect is that Jesus has not kept His promise to come again. We know that the early church expected His return at any time, but now after over two thousand years Jesus still has not returned. However, we need to consider today's verse, which says that the Lord is *not slow* in keeping His promise of His second coming. God may have seemed slow to the early believers as they faced persecution every day and longed to be delivered. But God is *not slow*; He just is not on our *human timetable*, as last week's memory verse states: "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." Jesus is waiting to return so that more sinners will yet repent and turn to Him. So we should live each day realizing that time is short and that we have important work to do.

Every time when the *whole Bible* is taken into consideration, we find that everything fits together perfectly. The writers never made mistakes because *they knew* what God was telling them. Yes, "All scripture is given by *inspiration of God*." The Bible really has just **One Author!** cs



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QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions with either "True" or "False."

1. The words, "given by inspiration of God" mean "God-given" or "God -breathed." _____
2. The real Author (or writer) of the Bible was God. _____
3. The men who wrote the Bible knew as much as God. _____
4. The men who wrote the Bible did not have human limitations. _____
5. God helped the men who wrote the Bible write exactly what He wanted. _____

Fill in the blanks in the statements below.

1. There have always been people who have tried to prove that the Bible is _____ .
2. After more than two thousand years, Jesus has not yet _____ .
3. God is not _____ to keep His promise; He just is not on our human _____ .
4. The reason Jesus is waiting to return is so _____ .
5. When the whole Bible is considered, we find that all its teachings _____ .

03



MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

II Peter 3: 9