

June 7, 2015

## Inspired 2 Peter 1:16-21

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When the Bible speaks of being inspired, it \_\_\_\_\_ that it was breathed out by God. Today we will \_\_\_\_\_ the inspiration of the Bible. We search the Bible because we know the Bible provides the one true and trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_ of God's wisdom and instructions. We go to the Word of God because it's the only \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life. Some modern-day prophets \_\_\_\_\_ God spoke to them, but they offer no \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration. We can, however, \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

Occasionally someone speaks of a book being inspirational, meaning the book had a positive \_\_\_\_\_ on their thinking and lives. I love inspirational books like *Tom Sawyer* or Greg Tidwell's new book, *The Effective Edge*. You pick them up and they're so \_\_\_\_\_ you can't put them down. You read them with a smile and appreciation. But being inspirational isn't the \_\_\_\_\_ as being inspired of God. While one can learn a whole lot from an inspirational book, in the end it's still coming from a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. But when the Bible speaks of being inspired, it means that it came from God Himself; that God breathed it out to us and for us.

One of my teachers and a translator of the New Testament, Hugo McCord, said, "The Bible was given by inspiration of God as the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ within select men, revealing to them the thoughts of God and enabling them to use the appropriate words to communicate divine truth without \_\_\_\_\_. God put the Holy Spirit into the writers of the Bible and, through Him, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the writing of the Bible. Thus, 'inspiration' may be defined as the \_\_\_\_\_ by which God breathed His Spirit into men, enabling them to receive and to communicate divine truth without \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, the Bible is God speaking!" Brother McCord is right! We must pay \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word.

### **Our reading today comes from 2 Peter 1:16-21.**

If we wish to \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of inspiration, we must go to the Scriptures themselves. The Bible actually has a \_\_\_\_\_ to say about inspiration. There are three passages in the New Testament that are especially valuable.

**First, read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:10-13.** Paul argues that what he \_\_\_\_\_ came from God through the Holy Spirit, not through \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom. He didn't borrow these things from the worldly religions or the Jewish rabbis; the Holy Spirit himself was their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Second, read what Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.** When Paul says "all Scripture," he unquestionably is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Old Testament, but not exclusively. Paul had earlier given a \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture that included passages in the New Testament. Paul wrote, "For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his

wages” (1 Timothy 5:18). In this passage, Paul quoted from \_\_\_\_\_ the Old and New Testaments (Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7), and he called both of them Scripture. While Paul spoke of the “sacred writings” or “Holy Scriptures” in 2 Timothy 3:15, referring to what Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ as a child, Paul speaks of “all” Scripture in chapter 3 verse 16. The use of the word “all” suggests that Paul understood clearly that there was \_\_\_\_\_ to the inspired Scriptures than merely the Old Testament. Paul said what he wrote came from God and had God’s \_\_\_\_\_. He told the Corinthians that “the things that I am writing to you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37).

**Third, read what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:20-21.** Prophecy didn’t come by an act of human will, but men of God \_\_\_\_\_ as the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them. The phrase “of one’s own interpretation” doesn’t refer to how men today interpret or understand Scripture, but how the prophets \_\_\_\_\_ it. While false prophets set forth their \_\_\_\_\_ ideas, the Holy Spirit moved the men of God to speak what He wanted to be said.

The Lord God spoke through men not only with their \_\_\_\_\_ but also through their \_\_\_\_\_. One can hardly read the Psalms without also wanting to \_\_\_\_\_ closely into the life of David. One can hardly read the book of Philippians about \_\_\_\_\_ and not remember how Paul was imprisoned. One can hardly read of Hosea’s struggles with an unfaithful \_\_\_\_\_ and not see how God was revealing His own heart and His own \_\_\_\_\_ to an unfaithful Israel. God moved and spoke through His \_\_\_\_\_.

The Old Testament repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ to be from God. God told Moses in Exodus 34:27 to write the commandments of the Lord in a \_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament repeats hundreds of times such expressions as “The Lord says,” or “thus says the Lord,” or “the word of God came saying....” Jesus called the Law of Moses the “word of God” in Matthew 15:6. Scholars estimate that there are over \_\_\_\_\_ such claims that Scripture is God’s Word.

David said, “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my \_\_\_\_\_” (2 Samuel 23:2). God said to Isaiah, “I have put My words in your \_\_\_\_\_” (Isaiah 51:6). The Lord told Jeremiah, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth” (Jeremiah 1:7), and “Because you have spoken this word, Behold (that is God speaking), I am making My words in your mouth \_\_\_\_\_ and this people \_\_\_\_\_, and it will consume them” (Jeremiah 5:14). God made His will known by testifying through the \_\_\_\_\_ according to 2 Chronicles 24:20. The clear testimony of the prophets and the writers of the New Testament was that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament came from God.

While the Old Testament sometimes designates a \_\_\_\_\_ speaker or author to a passage, the New Testament attributes those same words to God. For instance, Psalm 2:1-2 is attributed to \_\_\_\_\_, but Peter claimed that this verse came “by the Holy Spirit” in Acts 5:25-26. What the psalmist said in Psalm 95:7, the Hebrew writer says the same verse came by the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrews 3:7. What the sons of Korah wrote in Psalm 45:6 and an unknown Psalmist said in Psalm 102:25-27, the New Testament attributes these things to \_\_\_\_\_ in the book of Hebrews 1:8-12. God speaks through Scripture, so that one may easily recognize that whatever the Scripture instructs us, the Lord is actually \_\_\_\_\_ those instructions.

The New Testament views the \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament as “the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2). Christ and his apostles \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament texts, not merely as what Moses, David or Isaiah said, but also as what God said through these men. The idea of God speaking and the idea of Scripture are interchangeable in the Bible. For instance, Paul refers to God’s verbal \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham as words which the Scripture spoke to him in Galatians 3:8. This shows how completely Paul equated the statements of Scripture with the utterances of God.

The New Testament likewise \_\_\_\_\_ inspiration for itself. Jesus claimed that His words were not His \_\_\_\_\_ but came from His Father in John 7:16-17. **Read John 12:49-50.**

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would inspire their \_\_\_\_\_ and would defend them before authorities (Luke 12:11-12); also, the Spirit would \_\_\_\_\_ them what to speak and remind them of Jesus’ words (John 14:26); and the Spirit of truth would \_\_\_\_\_ them into all truth (John 16:13). According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit’s function was to \_\_\_\_\_ to the apostles the truth that was given to Him by the Father.

When Paul wrote to the various churches, he argued that what he wrote was indeed “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.” **Read why Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Read what Paul said in Galatians 1:11-12.**

We should look at Scripture the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus did. When Jesus relied solely upon the Hebrew Scriptures as the \_\_\_\_\_ of authority for those under the Law, He looked at them as God’s \_\_\_\_\_. Christ never referred to extra-Biblical literature, those books of the day, but He candidly \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish traditions that contradicted the Scripture in Matthew 15 and Mark 7. He didn’t want those traditions. For Jesus, Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_. When Jesus says, “It is written,” He means that what has been written is still written and still in \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus shows the enduring \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture with such statements as: “Have you not read...?” (Matthew 21:16; or Mark 12:10), or “You do err, not knowing the Scriptures” (Matthew 22:29). What God said through Moses and the prophets was still \_\_\_\_\_ even hundreds of years later in the days of Jesus Christ.

Jesus believed \_\_\_\_\_ part of Scripture is worthy of our accepting. In Luke 24:44-45, He speaks of the law and the prophets and the writings. In Matthew 23:34-36, the Lord speaks of the first and the last martyrs in the Bible (that is “from Abel to Zechariah”). This is a reference from Genesis to Chronicles, the first and last books of the Hebrew Bible.

When Jesus interpreted Scripture, he commonly used the \_\_\_\_\_ method (according to Matthew 12:40), considering the events of the Old Testament, like Jonah being in the belly of the great fish for three days, so he would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. He looked at those things as \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus used the punishment of Lot’s wife as a means to \_\_\_\_\_ his disciples not to turn back (Luke 17:32). There is simply no evidence that He ever regarded the creation, the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, or any other story of the Bible as some \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said, “For this \_\_\_\_\_ I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the \_\_\_\_\_. And everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37). What

does Jesus have to \_\_\_\_\_ by dealing with myths or fables? Nothing! But He has a great deal to lose by presenting inventions of men as \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus frequently \_\_\_\_\_ erroneous religious teaching when he found it. He was indeed committed to the \_\_\_\_\_. What did He have to \_\_\_\_\_ about the authenticity of the Genesis account of creation, of the flood, of Jonah's big fish, or of Daniel's writing of the book of Daniel? Jesus underscores the truthfulness of the Genesis account of \_\_\_\_\_ when He referred to the "beginning" of creation as the time when a man and a woman were created and joined together by God in marriage (Mark 10:6-9). By \_\_\_\_\_ from Genesis, Jesus acknowledged its authority and truthfulness. By using the words, "What God has joined together....," He recognized God to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of these Genesis writings.

For Jesus, all Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ true and trustworthy. He said, "Scripture cannot be \_\_\_\_\_" (John 10:35). Jesus is arguing that Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ authoritative and reliable. If the Son of God, who has lived through all eternity and witnessed all the events of the Old Testament, regards them as true and utterly trustworthy, what \_\_\_\_\_ have we of further witnesses? We too can \_\_\_\_\_ every word of every sentence of every verse of every chapter of every book is inspired of God and utterly trustworthy.

Whether the Bible arose from men alone or whether God inspired it is perhaps the most crucial \_\_\_\_\_ of our time. Some are \_\_\_\_\_ whether the Bible is verbally inspired and whether it is inerrant. Some believe the Bible to be inspired of God, but say it contains \_\_\_\_\_ and contradictions. They say the Bible is infallible in its essential message pertaining to our salvation, but contains \_\_\_\_\_ in its details. If the Bible is merely human, arising from myths and legends, it has no \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives and should be granted no greater honor than any other ancient literature. On the other hand, if the Bible is from the one \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God as it claims, then it possesses unconditional, divine authority over us.

Since the Bible is from God and accurately transmitted to us, then we may surely \_\_\_\_\_ every letter of every word, every word of every sentence, every sentence of every verse, every verse of every chapter, and every chapter of every book. We regard its promises to be \_\_\_\_\_, its commands to us to be \_\_\_\_\_, its approved examples as a \_\_\_\_\_ to our path, its implications to be truth indeed, and its warnings and admonitions to be taken to heart. This is no \_\_\_\_\_ book, the Bible; there is none like it in all history. It is God's Word!

Why do I believe the Bible? Because it accurately predicts the \_\_\_\_\_ in the most specific terms. The prophecies of the Messiah, the Lord's prediction of His own death and resurrection, and the Lord's prediction of the fall of Jerusalem provide unquestionable \_\_\_\_\_ that the words of Scripture come from God Himself. No other book in all history has so many specific prophecies that have come to be \_\_\_\_\_. Only God can see the future, and only God could give us this book. Oh, give me the Bible, because it is inspired of God!