

Finding God's Word In The New Age

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GOD HAS A WRITTEN WORD

God wrote a book. It is composed of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Consistently throughout the scriptures the authors of the books of the Bible and those that they quote refer to the written words of God.

HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

God reveals himself objectively to all men, not only to believers but also to unbelievers, even to those that deny Him and seek to erase Him from their thoughts. There are four ways in which God reveals Himself: first, in the processes of nature; second, in the unfolding of human history; third, in the preaching of the Gospel; fourth, in the Holy Scriptures.

WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

Dictionary definitions for inspiration include the act of "breathing in" and "inhalation."

There are two references to the word "inspiration" in the Bible:

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

2 Tim. 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

In the Genesis account of the creation of man, the act of inspiration is shown in a most literal way. God breathes into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and he becomes a "living soul."

Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The act of Godly inspiration in the Bible is one that gives LIFE and is ETERNAL (John 6:63). Just as Eve and her children received life from God's first "inspiration" of Adam, so too the initial inspiration of the scriptures is transferred to copies and their subsequent translations.

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SINCE GOD WROTE A BOOK, HOW WAS IT WRITTEN?

The Bible tells of three methods God used to write His word:

(1) The first method God used to write His words was for God Himself to write His words on material that He provided:

Exod. 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

In this instance, God wrote His commandments on tables of stone. Moses broke these tables of stone when he saw the Hebrews in sin. **(There went the originals!)**

There is also another example in the Bible where this method was used. This was during the time of Daniel when King Belshazzar “saw the handwriting on the wall.”

Dan. 5:24-25 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

One more example; this one of Jesus writing on the ground with His finger:

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

(2) The second method God used to write His words was for God Himself to write on material that men provided:

Exod. 34:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

(3) The third method God used to write His words was to have men write His words under His inspiration. This method is the predominant method used by God to write His Book. In this method, the prophet was passive and God's words were either written by the prophet himself or copied down by a scribe. This is also called dictation. (Note: this is not to say that the prophet or writer was put into a trance or totally overcome by the Holy Spirit. That is called special spiritual revelation and is not supported by the scriptures.)

Below are given a few examples of how God used men to write His word:

Isa. 8:1 Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and

write in it with a man's pen concerning Mahershalalhashbaz.

Jer. 36:2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

Jer. 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

Every word of every book of the Holy Bible is inspired by God as a result of the close supervision by God with respect to His words, This is what is meant by *plenary* (completely or fully) and *verbally* (the words themselves) inspiration:

Josh. 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

(1) BELIEVING BIBLE STUDY: Key to the Space Age; Dr Edward F. Hills; The Christian Research Press, Des Moines, Iowa, Copyright 1967,1977

(2) Theology I Course; Dr Greg Estep; Charity Baptist Bible Institute; Beavercreek, Ohio; Aug 1989