

Doctrine of scripture: Inspired

Starter(s) for 10:

- What is the Bible?
- Can we trust the Bible?
- How can we know God?
- Can we even know God?
- *What is truth?*
- Does any of this matter?

What we believe:

THE BIBLE

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was ***inspired*** by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

Some definitions:

'Scripture's own self-testimony is that it is God's word written by the agency of human authors. But how do we explain or account for the relation between God's word and the words of the human authors? The *theological* term that accounts for this relation is *inspiration*¹

'A working definition of "inspiration" is as follows: inspiration is the extraordinary or supernatural work of the triune God in and through the Holy Spirit on the human authors of Scripture so that their freely composed writings are what God intended them to write in order to communicate his truth, and as such, they are completely authoritative and trustworthy²

OK but what does that mean?

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.³

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit⁴

¹ Stephen J. Wellum, [*Systematic Theology: From Canon to Concept*](#), vol. 1, Systematic Theology (Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2024), p. 289.

² IBID(As above), p. 290.

³ NIV 2011, 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

⁴ NIV 2011, 2 Peter 1:20–21.

God has spoken:

- In a way we can understand
- Despite ourselves
- Speaking through prophets & apostles
- Speaking through Jesus
- Revealing Himself to us
- Reconciling us to Himself.
- A word of life
- Words written down for us

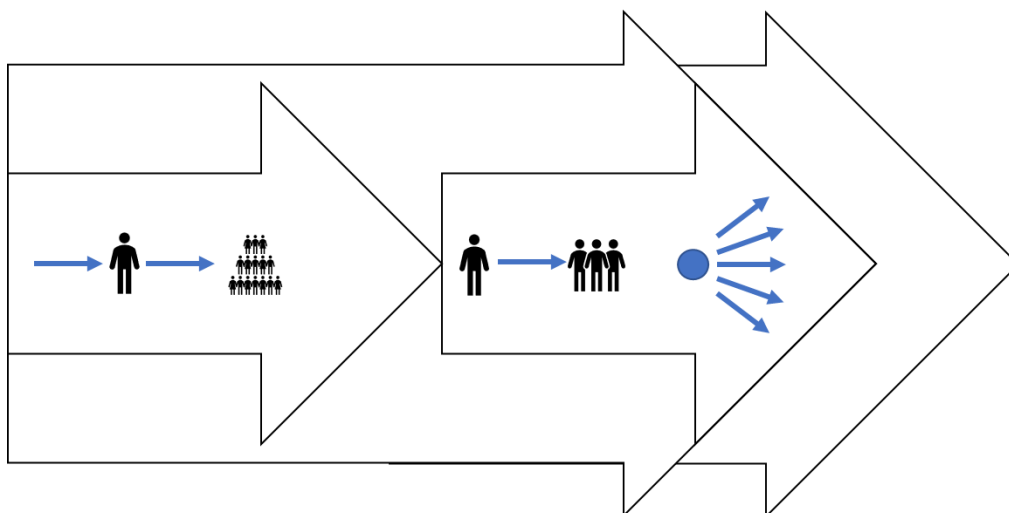
God speaks today

"If God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plow shall know more of the Scripture than thou dost."⁵

A communication problem?

Sin?

The solution



⁵William Tyndale - <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/a-man-for-all-people>

Our response:
Why does this matter?

How does this matter?

- Confidence
- Personal reading
- Corporate reading
- Verifiable
- Competing ideas
- Evangelism

Resources

Couple of quick articles:

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-does-the-inspiration-of-scripture-mean/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/the-doctrine-of-scripture-four-points-from-two-verses/>

(second article on specifically the new testament as scripture)

Accessible books:

'Words of Life' – Tim Ward

'Taking God at His Word' – Kevin DeYoung