

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE BIBLE



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“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, THE WORD OF GOD, which also effectively works in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

The Bible was written by humans. However, we often say it's the Word of God, why? What does the Bible state about itself?

How was the Bible written? How should we interpret it then?



- The revelation**
- The inspiration**
- The writing process**
- The Word**
- The interpretation**

THE REVELATION

"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

The Bible writers claimed that they wrote "what the Spirit says", and not their own ideas (Revelation 2:7).



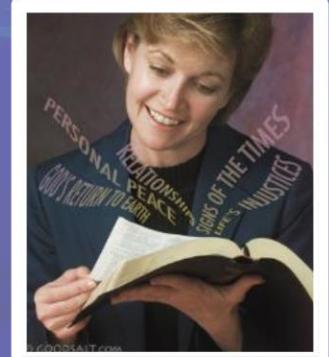
God used them to show us His plans for us (Amos 3:7). He revealed Himself through them.

The instructions and advice in the Bible were given by God, so they're trustworthy and true.



The Bible is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

By reading the Bible, we learn how God wants us to live.





THE INSPIRATION

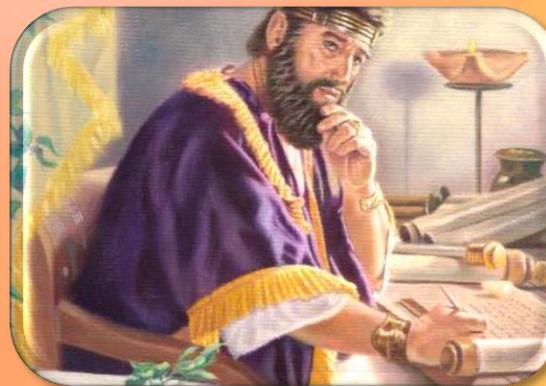
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," (2 Timothy 3:16)

There's a perfect harmony from Genesis to Revelation. This is so only because the Holy Spirit inspired all the Bible authors.

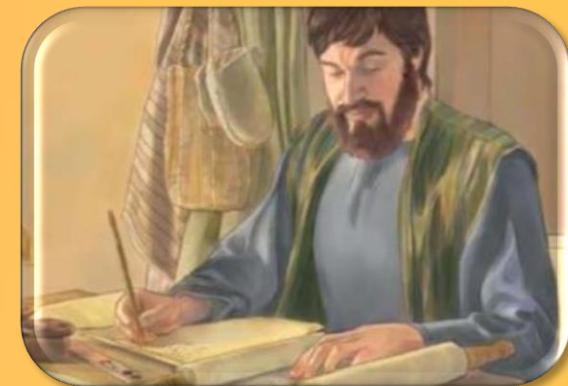
However, all the writers were not inspired the same way.



Direct inspiration:
God speaks, and the prophet writes down (Dt. 18:18; Ez. 13:18; Rev. 14:13).



Inspiring the idea: God reveals an idea and the writer uses their own words to explain it (e.g. Proverbs).



Selective inspiration:
The author investigates, and the Spirit leads them to the right sources (Luke 1:3).

This is why the Bible is such a varied book. Each author explained God's truth in a different way.

“The Scriptures were given to men, not in a continuous chain of unbroken utterances, but piece by piece through successive generations, as God in His providence saw a fitting opportunity to impress man at sundry times and divers places. Men wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost.”

E.G.W. (Selected Messages, vol. 1, cp. 1, p. 19)



THE WRITING PROCESS

"Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: 'Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you.'" (Jeremiah 30:2)

Why did God want to have His words written? Which are the advantages of a written message?

- ▶ It's harder to forget what you read
- ▶ You can go over it and memorize it
- ▶ It can be preserved
- ▶ It can be copied many times
- ▶ Many people can read it
- ▶ It can be read in distant places
- ▶ It endures. It can be read by future generations
- ▶ Even those who cannot read may hear the message from others reading it aloud



Thanks to God's written message, today we can know His will and obey it.

THE WORD

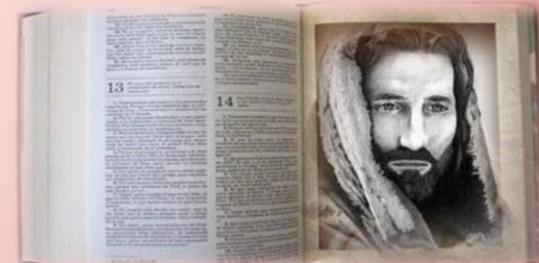
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)



John introduced Jesus as God's Word incarnate. There's a parallelism between Christ and the Bible.

- Both have a supernatural origin
- Both combine divinity and humanity
- The work of both covers the whole humanity
- Both came in a specific moment and culture, but their work goes beyond time and space
- Both came down to a human level so we can understand their message

There are also differences between them. The Bible is not God incarnate, and it cannot be worshipped. It just testifies of Jesus (John 5:39).





THE INTERPRETATION

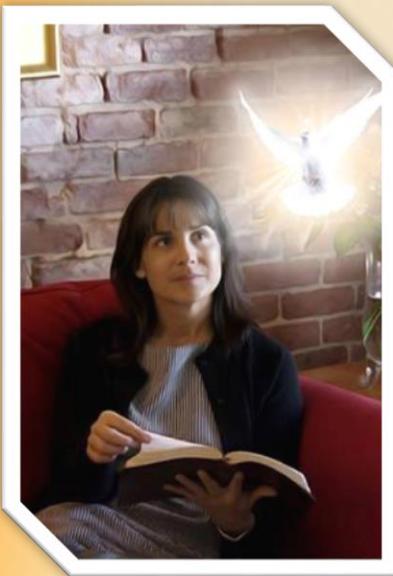
"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation," (2 Peter 1:20)

The Bible shouldn't be studied or interpreted as any other book.

For example, Higher Criticism tried to interpret the Bible by using the grammar structure and ignoring any supernatural element.

Then how should we interpret the Bible?

Above all, we must remember that it is the Word of God, so faith is necessary (Hebrews 11:6).

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored top, sits on a red couch, looking up and to the left while holding an open Bible. Above her head, a white dove-like spirit with a golden halo around its body is hovering, emitting a bright, circular glow. The background consists of a brick wall.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible writers, and we must let Him also inspire us as we read it.

Therefore, we should pray before reading the Bible, asking for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so we can understand it correctly.



FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.)

“A knowledge of the truth depends not so much upon strength of intellect as upon pureness of purpose, the simplicity of an earnest, dependent faith. To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, angels of God draw near. The Holy Spirit is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth.”

E.G.W. (Christ's Object Lessons, cp. 2, p. 39)