

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

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THE FULL PRESERVATION OF THE INSPIRATION

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Isaiah 2:3, *“...out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*

Saved people in our day need to be stirred up in the faith. As in the day when Jeremiah said, Jeremiah 15:16, *“Thy words were found, and I did eat them...”* People today can find nourishment and strength in the grace of Him whose word cannot be broken.

The guidebook of the Holy Bible remains the same to those who will read and understand it. The message is clear. The message in the Bible is given by the Lord who is Truth itself and cannot lie. In fact, the Bible is so accurate that a wayfaring stranger, though a fool, who follows and obeys its direction and guidance need not err therein or go astray.

Ephesians 6:12, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* Since Christ founded His church, they have been in a warfare. Our weapons of warfare are not carnal but spiritual. We have a spiritual supernatural book which we may use against Satan as the sword of the Spirit and say with our Saviour, *“it is written.”*

We as Baptists have a tremendous heritage. Christ founded His church which has prevailed throughout the ages, unto this day, as He promised. In fact, the oracles of God were committed to the churches, which are the pillar and ground of the truth, and we have today the full body of Scriptures.

The Scripture of the Old Testament were used by our Lord. In the day of our Lord, Christ accepted the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. Jesus quoted from these books and accepted them as making up the written revelation that God had given up to that time. As an example, Luke 4:16-21, *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him*

the book of the prophet Esaias. [Isaiah] And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your eyes.” The exquisite accuracy of Scriptures may be noted in comparing Jesus’ fulfillment of this prophecy of Isaiah and the prophecy itself in Isaiah 61:1-2, *“The spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,”* However, the Isaiah passage continues to read, *“and the day of vengeance of our God...”* The day of vengeance of our God was not being fulfilled by Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. The day of vengeance will be taken up at Christ’s second advent when the Messiah returns in judgment as the Lion from the tribe of Judah. In suspending the reading of this passage we have Jesus giving us in one comma a division between His first advent and His second advent of approximately one thousand nine hundred and eighty nine years, so far. The authority of the word of God is as good as its integrity, which is perfect.

I believe that we must not reject any portion of Scripture if we are to have the advantage of being honest. We claim that the Bible is inspired by God as a whole. The whole, then, being inspired is made of parts. Each part, as a matter of fact, is inspired, because God has given us an infallible Bible.

The doctrine of inspiration which I have adopted is that which the Bible itself teaches. My purpose is to examine a few of the expressed statements the Holy Scriptures make in clear-cut terms concerning themselves.

II Timothy 3:16, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* This statement is doctrinal. The Scripture in its entirety is inspired of God. Moreover, this statement is also practical. Paul is reminding Timothy to stay with what he has learned. Paul reminds him, II Timothy 3:14-15, 17, *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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...That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* The same God who gave Timothy salvation through His word can enable Timothy to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through His word. Timothy is not being asked to put his confidence in writings that find their origin in man, but in *“all scriptures”* which *“is given by inspiration of God...”* The Scriptures are writings which find their origin in God. The Bible doctrine of inspiration is that the Bible is the product of God.

II Peter 1:20-21, *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

In the context of this passage in II Peter, God through Peter assures us that we have a more sure word of prophecy. Peter denominates the entire body of scripture as prophetic and reinforces Paul’s writings in saying they are not of human origin. Startlingly enough though, Peter asserts that men did speak from God. These men that spake for God were moved by the Holy Ghost

and it was while they were in this condition that they spake from God. God is the source of their words and, yet, Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Peter emphasizes the divine side of the message of God as communicated by means of the instrumentality of men who were under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In the above two verses, we are again given the Scriptural doctrine of inspiration.

The fact that God gave and preserved an infallible revelation in the Old Testament writings used by our Lord and His apostles is all the proof we need to know. He has given us a manifestly complete, sufficient, final and fully preserved New Testament.

John 10:34, "*Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law?..*" With this question to the Jews, Jesus is appealing to one particular word in the Old Testament. The Jews had charged Him with blasphemy because He had made Himself equal with God. In defense Jesus employed Psalm 82:6, "*I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.*" He thus was bringing to mind a body of writings which the Jews recognized as the final court of appeal. Here Jesus not only attributes to these Scriptures a legal or an authoritative character, but as authority so great that it cannot be broken. The word of God will stand. Our Lord is saying that even these particular words, which form a part of the Scriptures, stand and He uses them to argue His case. John 10:35, "*...the scripture cannot be broken.*" Jesus is saying that every part of Scripture, even to minute details and particular words, is of the authority that it cannot be broken.

This essential element in the Bible doctrine of inspiration is also apparent in the writings of Paul. In speaking to the Galatians, Paul quotes Genesis 13:15, "*For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*" Paul is speaking of the seed of Abraham, which is Christ, singular. When he says Galatians 3:16, "*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made, He saith not, And to seeds, as of many;...*" Seeds here is plural, as in Genesis 25:6, "*But unto the sons of the Concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts...*" etc. Paul, then, puts the pivot of his whole argument concerning the teaching of the inheritance given to Abraham by God, by a promise and not by the law, on the tense of the word 'seed' being singular and not plural.

The Bible doctrine of inspiration includes particular words and what comprises these words and this is according to the Bible. When the Bible teaches that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, by necessity, we must believe in word for word inspiration because Scripture is made up of written words. In their capacity of official teachers and spokesmen for God the writers of the Bible were not left to themselves in the selection of words, as Paul said, I Corinthians 2:13,

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." Peter believed in the verbal (word for word) inspiration of the Old Testament.

Acts 1:16, "*Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.*" In addition to the Old Testament Scriptures, Peter affirmed his own writings and the writings of the other apostles to be on the same level of verbal inspiration in the New Testament. II Peter 3:1-2, 15-16, "*This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour...And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*"

In quotations in the New Testament from Old Testament passages, there are verbal quotations from the Septuagint: some borrowed from it; some quotations with the same meaning, but different words; other quotations which are more similar to the Hebrew and many quotations differing from the Hebrew and the Septuagint. There are these type quotations such as Psalm 32:1, "*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*" Quoted in Romans 4:6-7, "*Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*" Rather than detract from the doctrine of verbal inspiration they enforce it. We cannot account for these Old Testament Scriptures being quoted this way in the New Testament if the writers were not conscious of the superintendence of God the Holy Spirit over the writers in every word of scripture they wrote.

Matthew tells us that it was the Lord who spake through the Old Testament prophets. Matthew 1:21-22, "*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name, JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet...*" Matthew 2:15, "*And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.*" Luke 1:70, "*As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.*" When God spake through His prophet they were verbally inspired.

Hebrews 1:1, "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.*" This agrees that the apostles and the prophets were inspired of God but, also, that God's speaking through His Son extends this inspiration to the entire Bible. Hebrews 10:7, "*...Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me),...*"

Since meaning and truth are dependent upon words for expression, when the Old Testament writers implied and taught the Divine authority of their words we can be assured they are given by divine verbal inspiration. Fulfilled prophecy is also proof of verbal inspiration because their infallible foretelling of events which had not happened is impossible without infallible words.

Our Lord declares that the very words of the word of God we handle today are verbally inspired beginning in His exchange with Satan himself. Satan from the very garden of Eden until this day has tried to cast untrustworthiness upon the sacred authority of the word of God in questioning Eve, Genesis 3:1, "*...Yea, hath God said...*" Here, in the wilderness, after Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, Matthew 4:3, "*And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*" Jesus again quoting from the Old Testament Deuteronomy 8:3, "*...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD...*" Matthew 4:4, "*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" We have seen that it is Jehovah and non-other that has inspired the Scriptures. We have seen that they possess such divine authority and trustworthiness that they are free from error. Jesus in His command of the word of God, while dealing with His Arch-enemy, the Devourer, uses the Scripture as being irrefutable (not to be refuted and undeniable) and indefectable (not liable to defect or imperfection). I ask you, "Why would Jesus say that we are to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God if we do not have every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God?"

I am not through asking questions.

Chapter divisions in our Bible were placed there by men to aid in referencing. In the book of Matthew, Jesus is baptized by John, then, is in the wilderness of temptation with Satan and upon leaving him began His public ministry. Matthew 4:25 - 5:1-2, "*And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*" what we have come to know as the Sermon on the Mount. While discussing with His disciples His relationship to the law He said, Matthew 5:17-18, "*Think not that I am come to destroy*

the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Jesus was made under the law; He lived in perfect obedience to the law; He was a minister of the law to the Jews; He fulfilled the types of the law by His holy life and sacrificial death: He bore, vicariously, the curse of the law, and brought out by His redemption all who believe from under the law and established by His blood the New Covenant of assurance and grace, Romans 5:1-2, "...through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." But heaven and earth did not pass away when Jesus was crucified. All has not been fulfilled in the sense of this passage!

May I remind us that He did bare our sins in His own body on the tree; Galatians 3:13, "*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.*" They did pierce His hands and His feet, but the great work of Christ in redemption, when He was made to be sin who knew no sin, was that His soul was made an offering for sin. Jesus Christ suffered the equivalent of what my soul would have had to suffer in hell for eternity. I don't understand that but God does. God saw the travail of His soul and was satisfied. He was satisfied that the payment had been made to justify many. But, the law was not abolished. The law will be enacted in the same pitiless severity upon those who die without Christ as it was on Him. The saving value, benefit and efficacy of the cross is equally absolute. When will every jot and tittle of every word of God be fulfilled? When the captives of hell are set free and the anchor of our soul unloosed. The captives of hell will never be set free and the anchor of your soul will save to the uttermost them that come unto God by His Son Jesus Christ. The law of God and the word of God are eternal. Matthew 24:35, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*"

The unfolding of God's revelation to man has been gradual but we now possess the manifold wisdom of God, the whole counsel of God, which is the entire body of Scripture. When the oracles of God were committed to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the dwelling place of the Spirit in a teaching capacity, it is in this sense that Jesus is to have "...purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28) the church of God. Jesus gave Himself for His people and for His churches of the Living God, the pillar and the ground of the Truth. We are to contend for the faith (the body of Scriptures) once delivered to the saints. Will He find faith (the faith, the body of Scriptures being contended for) when he returns on the earth?

There is much that could be said concerning the preservation of the word of God and the history of the churches of the

Lord Jesus Christ through which it has been brought to us on a trail of blood.

I would simply like to close by making a few statements and ask another question. I do not believe the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ should accept our Bible on the authority of the Roman Catholic world-wide visible cult. I do not believe we should accept the words of the Pope as canonical, nor any other of their church fathers. I do not believe the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ should or will open the canon of their scriptures to include the Apocrypha or Pseudographia writings which contain uninspired lies. I do not believe the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ are dependent on the Roman manuscripts and subsequent "Modern Bibles" which are based on corrupt manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus and Vaticanus) translated by Westcott and Hort. Satan is dependent upon them to form Satan's bride. I believe those who use them in the main will find themselves in true unity under the dominion of the Anti-Christ when the saints have gone home to the Bema seat of Christ. I do not believe these modern false Bibles are inspired. They contain lies, omissions, contradictions, additions, and deliberately censor the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the preexistence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, and the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ for starters and they are therefore not of God.

I pray to God that others could be blessed to understand that, as another man said, according to the Bible, inspiration is a superintendence of God the Holy Spirit over the writers of the Scriptures, as a result of which these scriptures possess divine authority and trustworthiness and possessing such divine authority and trustworthiness, are free from error.

I pray to God that others could be blessed to understand that the inspiration of the Bible we have today is not based on translators, pages, or bindings being inspired but that the proper text of the Bible in any age in any language is determined by manuscript evidence.

I pray to God that others could be blessed to understand that when our Lord commands us that man should live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God that we have it. I don't care who tells me there are errors in the King James Version of the word of God, Hebrews 4:12, "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" I believe the Bible is their discernor. I believe the Bible is their critic.

I believe there needs to be a balance. The child (the King James Version) does not have authority over the parent (the original or copies of the original as to shade of meaning

or meaning derived by usage). I believe the fact is that they are both authoritative as are other versions in other languages in other ages as in this age based on proper manuscript evidence (Majority Text). I believe we are to take the fullest expression of each English word given to English speaking people in the King James Bible and expound from there our original language insights or exegetical paraphrases.

I believe that anyone who should improve upon the King James Version makes a mockery of millions of martyrs who've given their blood that we might have a complete revelation from God in our hands.

I believe that anyone who stands in the pulpit with a King James Bible to do his preaching and says another version has a better rendering is a hypocrite.

I believe that anyone using or endorsing Satan's counterfeit false bibles is apostate.

I believe a lot of other things concerning the word of God itself. Most importantly to me I pray to God that others could understand what the Bible teaches concerning itself so they could say with me, II Kings 22:8, "*And Hilkihah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD...*"

I am dependent upon God Almighty to bring His word to me. This is the answer to my final question. John 12:46-48, Jesus said, "*I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*"

How did Jesus know that the words He spake in A.D. 33 would be written down and preserved for us to read and stand in judgment upon us and others in the last day?

Satan has too many people doing his bidding already.

Brethren, I believe in the full preservation of the inspiration of God's holy word. You want to know what I believe, I believe the middle verse of the Bible, Psalm 118:8, "*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*" And I believe all the rest of them. I believe the Bible.