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## THE BIBLE'S CLAIM OF DIVINE INSPIRATION

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The Bible makes a strong claim for its own *divine inspiration*. If someone thinks it is not wise to investigate the Bible's inspiration by looking at its own claims, remember that if your neighbor claims he has oil, you start investigating by drilling on his land. We can learn about the Bible's inspiration by looking at the claims made therein.

### **GOD'S WORDS IN THE MAN'S MOUTH**

God informed Moses that He would be with him and Aaron as they spoke to Pharaoh and the people of Israel: "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do" (Ex. 4:15). God said to Jeremiah, "Behold I have put My words in your mouth..." (Jer. 1:9). When the prophets spoke, they would often say, "Thus says the Lord..." (cf. Amos 1:3; Hag. 1:7; Zech. 1:14).

Jesus promised His apostles that when they spoke, they would not need to worry about what to say, "for it is not you who speak but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you" (Matt. 10:19-20). The prophets of old and the apostles of Christ were mouthpieces to communicate the word of the Lord, both orally and in writing. The Scriptures are the written product of such inspiration.

### **GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The inspired word of God was spoken and written by men of God who were guided by the Holy Spirit. Prophets of old spoke "words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit..." (Zech. 7:12). These holy men of God "spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

The apostles and prophets of the New Testament spoke and wrote the inspired word of God. Jesus told His apostles that the Spirit would bring to their remembrance what He had taught them (Jn. 14:26) and guide them "into all truth" (16:13). The Holy Spirit was active in guiding the early church into knowing exactly what writings were to be read and preserved as inspired scripture (1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:16; Jude 3). What resulted is the Bible we have today – the entirety of the God's word.

Paul stated the truth when he said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Tim. 3:16). The Bible is not hesitant or uncertain in its claim of inspiration. No other "holy" book has the internal or external evidence to support such an awesome claim. God "breathed out" His word. Love, treasure, study, and obey it today!

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