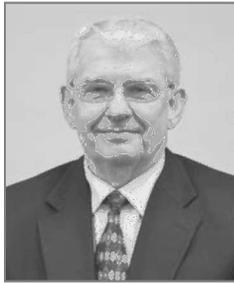


BIBLE TALK



Mike King-Minister

Question: Was the Old Testament inspired as well as the new?

Answer: *"All scripture is given by the inspiration of God."* (2 Tim. 3:16). *"For prophecy never came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Pet. 1:21). The design of inspiration was to render certain selected men infallible as teachers when acting as the spokesmen for God. Inspiration has as its object, not the writers, but the holy books which were never to pass away. The reason for this is that they were "God breathed" or originating from God and not mere men. As previously mentioned, God through His Holy Spirit delivered truths capable of saving the souls of men (Rom. 1:16).

The inspired nature of the Old Testament can be proved by testimony of the writers themselves. *"And God spoke to Moses..."* (Ex. 3:14). *"And Joshua said...thus says the God of Israel..."* (Josh. 24:2). *"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was upon my tongue"* (2 Sam. 23:2). *"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken"* (Isa. 1:2); *"and the Lord said...I have put my words in your mouth"* (Jer. 1:9). *"...Speak with my words unto them"* (Ezek. 3:4). These passages make it evident that the prophets all claimed to be inspired of God, and that their office was to communicate to others the very words of God. All the Old Testament is prophecy, therefore, it is all inspired! Instruction for the Lord's church comes from the New Testament (Heb. 9:15-20); things *"written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"* (Rom. 15:4). Those earlier writings functioned as a "tutor" to merely bring us to Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27).

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