

Inspiration and Inerrancy of Scripture

by Robert Hall

<u>Definition of inspiration:</u>	God choosing and guiding human authors so that using their own individual personality and style, they wrote without error what God had revealed.
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1. 2 Timothy 3:16 – How much of God’s word is inspired by God or God-breathed? – multiple choice:

- a. None of it.
- b. Most of it
- c. Each individual must decide if a verse or passage is God-inspired or God-breathed.
- d. all of it

2. 2 Peter 1:21 – Fill in this table showing both God’s direction and man’s involvement in writing scripture: Use this translation to complete the table below; “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (NIV)

God as source	God’s working	Man’s working
from _____	carried along by the _____	men _____

3. Union of God’s working and man’s working:

Ltr	Scripture Reference	God’s Working	Man’s Working
a.	2 Samuel 23:2	The _____ of the _____ spoke	By/through _____
b.	Isaiah 59:21	My _____ which I have _____	in your _____
c.	Jeremiah 1:9	I have put _____ words	in _____ mouth

4. Psalm 19:7 – God’s law or God’s word is said to be _____ (= without error).

5. Christ's view of God's word

- a. John 17:17 – Jesus defines God's word as _____.
- b. John 10:35 – Jesus stated that the scripture cannot be _____.
- c. Matthew 5:17, 18 – Jesus taught that inspiration or being without error has to do with – multiple choice:
 - (1) only the concepts or basic ideas of the scripture
 - (2) only part of the scripture
 - (3) the very words of scripture including the smallest markings of the letters
 - (4) just the parts of God's word that make sense to us.
- d. Matthew 22:29 – Jesus taught that people are in error because they do not _____ the scripture nor the _____ of God.
- e. Matthew 22:32 – Jesus' argument from scripture where God said to Moses, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" instead of "I was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob hundreds of years after all three of these men were dead shows that we can rely on – multiple choice:
 - (1) only the concepts of scripture
 - (2) only part of the scripture
 - (3) just what we understand
 - (4) small details like the choice of a present tense verb instead of a past tense verb.
- f. Matthew 15:3-6 – When tradition and scripture clashed where did Jesus show that authority was – multiple choice:
 - (1) in scripture
 - (2) in tradition
 - (3) in both scripture and tradition
 - (4) in human reason
- g. Luke 10:25-28 – Where did Jesus tell the teacher of the law to look for the answer to his question?
 - (1) in scripture
 - (2) in tradition
 - (3) in both scripture and tradition
 - (4) in human reason
- h. John 16:12-15 – The things that Jesus did not tell the Apostles during His earthly ministry but would tell them later for writing in the New Testament would be given by – multiple choice:
 - (1) men
 - (2) angels
 - (3) the Holy Spirit
 - (4) tradition

- i. John 16:12-15 - The things that Jesus did not tell the Apostles during His earthly ministry but would tell them later for writing in the New Testament would be:
 - (1) partial truth
 - (2) all truth
 - (3) not concerned with truth
 - (4) mostly but not totally true

 - j. Matthew 4:4 – Jesus emphasized that God’s word is important– multiple choice:
 - (1) as to the concepts but not the very words
 - (2) most of God’s word
 - (3) the parts of God’s word our reason can accept
 - (4) as to every word of God.
6. Galatians 3:16 – Paul’s discussion of God’s promises to Abraham show – multiple choice:
- a. that the words are not important just the concepts
 - b. that God’s word is accurate even when it comes to whether a word is singular or plural
 - c. that it does not matter whether the word forms are accurate
 - d. that God’s word has errors
7. Deuteronomy 29:29; John 20:30; 21:25; 17:17; Psalm 19:7 – Inspiration of God’s word requires that – multiple choice:
- a. all existing truth is recorded in God’s word.
 - b. all that is recorded in God’s word is truth.
 - c. all that is recorded in God’s word is truth except for matters of history and science.
 - d. all that is recorded in God’s word is truth only to the extent that it is true for you.
8. 1 Peter 1:23-25 – God’s word is – multiple choice:
- a. old-fashioned and out-dated so much of it does not matter.
 - b. eternal so that it is not out-dated and so that it is important for our lives.
 - c. partly up-to-date and partly old-fashioned and out-dated.
 - d. something that will only matter when we leave this life.
9. John 10:9 – When Jesus stated that He was the door, this shows that God’s word – multiple choice:
- a. uses figures of speech but we understand the plain and normal meaning.
 - b. does not use figures of speech
 - c. uses figures of speech but we do not understand the plain and normal meaning.

10. Luke 1:1-4 – This shows that the human authors of the Bible – multiple choice:
- never had to research or investigate their facts.
 - sometimes investigated and researched their facts.
 - were not concerned with investigating anything but just sat down and wrote.
 - were not concerned with speaking to eyewitnesses.

Note: Some people who oppose the inerrancy of the scripture state that those who believe in Biblical inerrancy believe that the Bible was dictated. Some parts of the scripture were dictated by God such as the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament (Exodus 20:1-17). Biblical inerrancy only requires that God’s revelation be recorded without error regardless of whether it was researched, dictated or came by some other method.

11. Some proofs of biblical inerrancy in inspiration:

#	Statement of Evidence	Support of Evidence
1.	Fulfilled prophecy	One chance out of 5 with 60 zeros behind it for these prophecies to be fulfilled.
	a. Tyre	Ezekiel 26:3-5,7,12,14,16
	b. Samaria	Micah 1:6
	c. Gaza and Ashkelon	Zechariah 2:4-6; Amos 1:8; Jeremiah 47:5
	d. Jericho	Joshua 6:26
	e. Jerusalem	Micah 3:12
	f. Palestine	Leviticus 26:31,33; Ezekiel 36:33-35
	g. Moab and Ammon	Ezekiel 25:3,4,9,10; Jeremiah 48:47; 49:6
	h. Edom	Jeremiah 49:16-19
	i. Babylon	Isaiah 13:19-21; Jeremiah 51:26,43
2.	Changed lives	The divorce rate in 1970 was about 2 out of 5 marriages. However, in homes where both professed to be Christians, read the Bible together daily and prayed together daily, the divorce rate was 1 out of 1015
3.	The miraculous preservation of the Jews as a distinct entity for 1000’s of years	Both secular history and scripture support this in Genesis 12:1-3 and Jeremiah 31:36,37
4.	The scripture itself claims to be God’s word	2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 59:21; Jeremiah 1:9
5.	The authority of Christ Himself	John 10:35; 17:17; Matthew 4:4; 5:17,18; 22:29,32

12. Additional evidence for the inspiration of scripture

TIME SPAN FOR SECULAR WRITINGS AND FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000 years	10
Livy	59 B.C.	1100 A.D.		20
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 years	7
Tacitus (Annals)	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 years	20
Tacitus (minor works)	100 A.D.	1000 A.D.	900 years	1
Pliny the Younger (History)	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 years	7
Thucydides (History)	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 years	8
Suetonius (De Vita Caesarum)	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 years	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 years	8
Horace			900 years	
Sophocles	490-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 years	100
Lucretius	Died 53 or 55 B.C.		1100 years	2
Catullus	54 B.C.	1550 A.D.	1600 years	3
Euripedes	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1500 years	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 years	200
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400 years	5
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 years	10
<i>New Testament</i>	45-90 A.D.	*	**	5366

* The earliest copies of the New Testament: We have 2 copies dated about 300 A.D and 1 copy dated 400 A.D. The other manuscripts are generally 500 A.D. to 700 A.D. In addition there are 86,000 quotes from the church fathers during the first 350 years of the church from which we can almost reconstruct the New Testament. There are also 2000 church service books containing scripture portions from the first 500 years of the church. There are the old Latin, Syriac and Egyptian translations of the New Testament dating from the 200's. There are 75 papyri fragments dating as early as 135 A.D.

** 135 to 700 years

Actual variations in readings of the Greek New Testament are documented in the New King James version. I suggest you purchase one if you do not already have one in your possession. No doctrine or teaching about the Christian life is in question as a result of these variations

The above chart was adapted from Josh McDowell's "Evidence that Demands a Verdict."