

TEACHER NOTES:

revelation that He had given to Jeremiah. It was not enough that Jeremiah just preach it (Jer. 1:9). In Jer. 30:1-4, we see this illustrated. In verse 3, God uses the words “*will bring*” and “*will cause*”. God was revealing to Jeremiah truths concerning His people of His divine activity in their lives. In verse 2, God uses the words “*that I have spoken*.” God used inspiration to tell him exactly what he was to pen down. This inspired revelation that was to be written was limited to just Israel and Judah though (vs. 3).

- B. Jeremiah 36 records God’s explanation to Jeremiah for him to write down the revelation he had been given.
1. The written (inspired) revelation would **PROMOTE A RESPONSE** (Jer. 36:3- “*hear*”).
 2. The written (inspired) revelation would **PRODUCE REPENTANCE** (Jer. 36:3- “*return*”).
 3. The written (inspired) revelation would give a **PROMISE OF RESTORATION** (Jer. 36:3 - “*forgiveness*”-restoration of broken fellowship because of sin). God gave Jeremiah a revelation of divine truth in vs.3 (“*purpose to do*”). Jeremiah conveyed the revelation to Baruch through an inspired message to be penned (Jer. 36:18).

People often say, “I don’t read the Bible because I just can’t understand it.” The moment we become born again, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, the very author of the divine manuscript, the Bible. The Holy Spirit’s work concerning the Word of God does not cease in the inspiration of it, but is ongoing in the believer’s life. We are afforded the privilege of having truth imparted to us by the Author Himself. He teaches us and instructs us in both the message and the meaning, “*to guide us into all truth*” (Jn. 16:13). Are you allowing Him to teach you through His Word? Are you leaning on His strength as you seek to put into practice what He shows you (Matt. 5:16)?

LESSON TWO DEFINITIONS

Illuminate – To enlighten intellectually with knowledge or grace

Moved – To cause to act or determine

Process – A proceeding or moving forward

Revelation – The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God Himself.

INSPIRATION
– A People Group –

REVELATION
– A Few –

God reveals Himself
to individuals who
then tell others

God uses men to pen down His
Word giving a people group
access to Truth.



INSPIRATION

GOD ILLUMINATES A PEOPLE GROUP



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio

LESSON TWO: INSPIRATION

God Illuminates A People Group

A FEW

A PEOPLE GROUP

A GENERATION

THE WORLD

A statement to the supernatural act of inspiration for these men was mentioned by Jesus Christ Himself. The Old Testament authors did not always understand what they were being used to write about or their inspired prophecies about the coming Messiah. Jesus said they wrote about things they had never seen in Matt. 13:17. These authors did, however, understand that they were being used of God, carried along as a sailboat by the wind of the Holy Spirit, in order to reveal God to mankind through His Words that they were writing (2 Tim. 3:16; Luke 1:70; Acts 3:18). The same Holy Spirit that moved upon men to write it, desires to teach it today to and through mankind (1 Cor. 2:9-16; Jn. 14:26; Jn. 16:13).

TEACHER HELPS - ILLUSTRATION

(Wilmington's Guide to the Bible, "The Doctrine of the Bible")

Let us imagine a religious novel of sixty-six chapters which was begun by a single writer around the sixth century AD. After the author has completed but five chapters, he suddenly dies. But during the next 1000 years, up to the sixteenth century, around thirty amateur "free-lance" writers feel constrained to contribute to this unfinished religious novel. Few of these authors share anything in common. They speak different languages, live at different times in different countries, have totally different backgrounds and occupations, and write in different styles.

Let us furthermore imagine that at the completion of the thirty-ninth chapter, the writing for some reason suddenly stops. Not one word is therefore added from the sixteenth until the twentieth century. After this long delay it begins once again when eight new authors add the final twenty-seven chapters.

With all this in mind, what would be the chances of this religious novel becoming a moral, scientific, prophetic and historical unity? The answer is obvious-not one in a million. And yet this is the story of the Bible. (p. 811)

Since the beginning of mankind, God's desire has been for us to live with not only a knowledge or recognition of His **existence**, but also with an awareness of His **excellence**. More specifically, he desires for man to know not just about His **presence**, but also to know His **person**. He desires for the whole world to know not just of a god, but to personally know the real God of heaven (Jn. 17:3; 1 Th. 1:9; 1 Jn. 5:20). God has a plan in which to fulfill this objective.

God's ultimate will is that all men everywhere would repent of their sins and come into the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pt. 3:9). With that as His desire, He began a four-part plan to illuminate mankind with the knowledge of Himself.

The first piece of this four-part plan was **revelation**. God would reveal truth. Usually, this was to one individual; his task was to share it with those around him. However, this method was limited in its scope of reaching large numbers of people.

The second piece of this four-part plan used by God is **inspiration**. What would be the most accurate way in which to share with others, over and over again, a revelation given by God? Obviously, it is to write it down, taking great care as to get it exactly correct. To enable imperfect man to do a work that was to be perfect would take a supernatural occurrence. God had to be *literally* involved with the **process**. He recorded for our edification how this process took place in the penning of the Bible. He said in 2 Peter 1:21, "*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.*" Literally, the Holy Spirit superintended the reception and the recording of the divine message by the human authors, in a successful endeavor to preserve them from mental errors and mechanical blunders. He would become the hand of God inside the glove of humanity to put the revelation of Himself into written form (Rev. 1:3, 11, 19, 20; Rev 2:1, 8, 12, 18; Rev. 3:1, 7, 14).

Not only was the process supernatural, but the **product** is also supernatural. The laws of arithmetic teach us that the whole of something is made up of the sum of all its parts. If the whole of the Scriptures is inspired, then all of the pieces completing these Scriptures also have to be inspired. The Holy Spirit teaches this same doctrine in 2 Tim. 3:16. This verse says, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*" All means exactly what it says, "*All*." This includes the recording of the great events and miracles, as well as the less-exciting passages, including genealogies and things of that sort. It is not our place to pick and choose or make judgments of what is or is not inspired. God said "All" is inspired and profitable.

- I. Explanation of Inspiration
 - A. Distinction - Revelation is **HEARING** God's truth; Inspiration is enabling one to **SEE** God's truth.
 - B. Definition of Inspiration - *The infusion of ideas into the mind by the Holy Spirit; the conveying into the minds of men, ideas, notices or monitions by extraordinary or supernatural influence; or the communication of the divine will to the understanding by suggestions or impressions on the mind, which leave no room to doubt the reality of their supernatural origin.*
 - C. Definition of Inspired - *Informed or directed by the Holy Spirit.*

- II. Expounding upon of Inspiration by the Holy Spirit
 - A. The Process of Inspiration (2 Peter 1:21)
 - 1. "**MOVED**" - Literally, the Holy Spirit superintended the reception and the recording of the divine message by the human authors, so that they were preserved from mental errors and mechanical blunders. The Scriptures truly were given supernaturally.
 - 2. The span of time that God used this method was approximately 1600 years (most scholars place Job between 1500-1400 BC and Revelation around AD 95).
 - 3. Written in Hebrew, Greek, and a few passages in Daniel, Ezra, and Jeremiah believed to have been written in Aramaic.
 - B. The People used by Inspiration:
 - 1. They were **DIVINELY APPOINTED** - Approximately 40 authors known and a few wrote anonymously.
 - 2. They were **DIVERSELY ADAPTED** - the Holy Spirit of God used men of many various backgrounds and experiences. He used some men who were **prophets**, some **kings**, a **soldier** in Joshua, some **fishermen**, a **doctor** in Luke, and even a **Pharisee** who persecuted the church and desired to see Christians killed for their faith in the apostle Paul.
 - C. The Product of inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16) "All" - All means exactly what it says—all, including the great events and miracles that are recorded, as well as the less exciting parts of genealogies and things of the sort. It is not our place to pick and choose or make judgments of what is or is not inspired. God said "*All*" is inspired.

- III. An example of the value of the written Word.
 - A. Jeremiah 30
 - God knew there was a more effective means of communicating His truths to the most possible people. God instructed Jeremiah to pen down the