

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION & INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

Jesus' Great Commission

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

Jesus says that *all* authority has been given to Him, so in His next statement He issues an authoritative command. Of the 4 verbs in the Great Commission, the primary is “*make disciples*,” supplemented by 3 participles, “*go*,” “*teaching*,” and “*baptizing*.” Jesus’ disciples would now begin to take the *logos* of God, Jesus and His words, to the nations to make more disciples.

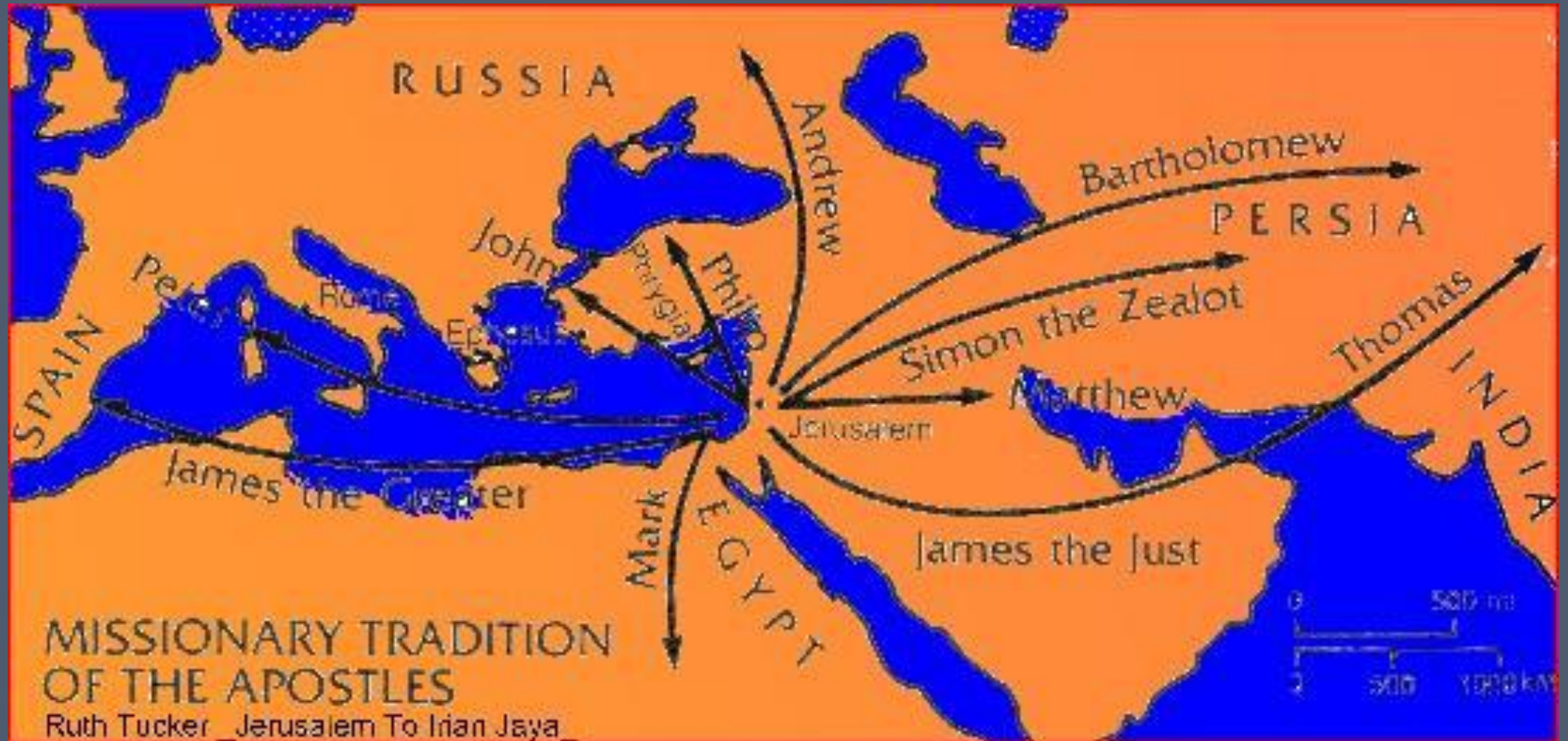
Jesus' Final Instructions

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

Right before He ascends into heaven, Jesus instructs His disciples to go to Jerusalem and remain there until the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This happened at Pentecost in Acts 2 just 10 days later. Jesus tells them that they would be His witnesses from there and radiating out to the ends of the earth. They listened and, as a result, we have the witness of Jesus in our Bibles today!

But How Did It Reach Us?



Why study the history of the Bible?

1. To further increase our knowledge and understanding of God's Word
2. To always be ready to give a defense of the hope that is in you
3. ???

But... this is a long, tedious journey filled with difficult questions with complicated answers

We begin in Acts 8:37

Acts 8:36–38 (ESV)

36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 8:36–38 (NKJV)

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”
37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”
And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

ESV Textual Basis (2001)

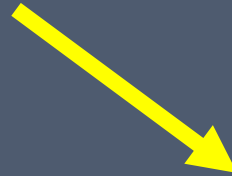
The ESV is based on the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible as found in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (5th ed., 1997), and on the Greek text in the 2014 editions of the Greek New Testament (5th corrected ed.), published by the United Bible Societies (UBS), and *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28th ed., 2012), edited by Nestle and Aland. The currently renewed respect among Old Testament scholars for the Masoretic text is reflected in the ESV's attempt, wherever possible, to translate difficult Hebrew passages as they stand in the Masoretic text rather than resorting to emendations or to finding an alternative reading in the ancient versions. In exceptional, difficult cases, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac Peshitta, the Latin Vulgate, and other sources were consulted to shed possible light on the text, or, if necessary, to support a divergence from the Masoretic text. Similarly, in a few difficult cases in the New Testament, the ESV has followed a Greek text different from the text given preference in the UBS/Nestle-Aland 28th edition. Throughout, the translation team has benefited greatly from the massive textual resources that have become readily available recently, from new insights into biblical laws and culture, and from current advances in Hebrew and Greek lexicography and grammatical understanding.

Some Questions We Will Answer

1. Why are some passages different between our Bibles?
2. Is the Bible the Word of God?
3. When did chapters and verses happen?
4. Are there errors in the Bible?
5. How did scribes copy the Bible?
6. Is our Bible today the same as the original?
7. Do we have the original copies?
8. How did the Bible get... from God to us?

FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION



TRANSLATION

Inspiration of the Bible

The Inspiration of the Bible

From the Latin *inspirare*, meaning...
“to breathe upon or into.”

It conveyed the idea that a sudden, spontaneous idea (an inspiration) would have come directly under divine influence.

Origin of “Inspiration”

¹⁶ Omnis Scriptura divinitus **inspirata** utilis est
ad docendum, ad arguendum, ad
corripendum, et erudiendum in justitia:

2 Timothy 3:16 (Vulgate) [~400 AD]

¹⁶ For al scripture **inspirid** of God is profitable to
teche, to repreue, to chastice, to lerne in
riztwisnes, that the man of God be parfit, lerud
to al good werk.

2 Timothy 3:16 (Wycliffe) [1384 AD]

Back to the Original

Original
Greek

θεόπνευστος
theopneustos
[theos] + [pneo]
God to blow/breathe

¹⁶ All scripture is **breathed out by God** and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

The Spirit and the Breath

⁸ The wind [*pneuma*] blows [*pneo*] where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit [*pneuma*] .”

John 3:8 (ESV)

How Inspiration Works

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit [*pneuma*].

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

The
Idea

¹⁵ And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

Acts 27:15 (ESV)

Views on Inspiration

THEORIES OF REVELATION AND INSPIRATION							
View	Name	Proponents	Revelation	Errors in Originals?	Errors in Copies?	Means of Inspiration	Degree of Authority of Bible
Mechanical Dictation	Hyper-Fundamentalism	Muslims Spiritists Some Hyper-Fundamentalists	In Words (Individually)	None	None	By Dictation	Infallible and Inerrant
Verbal Dictation	Fundamentalism	John R. Rice	In Words (Individually)	None	Few	By Supernatural Molding of Writer's Style	Infallible and Inerrant
Verbal Inspiration	Fundamentalism Evangelicalism	B.B. Warfield F. Schaeffer ICBI	In Words (Holistically)*	None	Few	Supernatural Process	Infallible and Inerrant
Conceptual Inspiration	Neo-Evangelicalism	A.H. Strong D. Beegle J. Rogers	In Concepts (Not Words)	None theologically (or morally) Some factually	Few	Revealed Ideas Writer's Own Words	Infallible Not Inerrant
Instrumental Revelation	Liberal Evangelicalism	C.S. Lewis	Through Words (Not <i>in</i> Words)	Some (In both areas)	Some	Writer's Words "Elevated" by God	Authoritative Not Inerrant
Personal Revelation	Neo-Orthodoxy	Karl Barth Emil Brunner John Baillie	In Acts, Events (Not Words)	Some (In both areas)	Many	Revealed Acts Writer's Record	Usually Reliable Not Inerrant
Illuminationism	Liberalism	Harold DeWolf Harry E. Fosdick	By Illumination (No Revelation)	Many (In both areas)	Many	Divine Actualization of Natural Powers	Often Reliable Not Inerrant
Intuitionism	Process Theology	Shubert Ogden	By Intuition (No Revelation)	Many (In both areas)	Largely	Purely Natural Powers	Sometimes Reliable Not Inerrant

Geisler & Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible (Revised and Expanded)*, p.190

The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit

³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,
“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right
hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’

Mark 12:36 (ESV)

*“God superintended the human authors of the Bible so
that they composed and recorded without error His
message to mankind in the words of their original
writings.”* (Ryrie, *Basic Christian Doctrine*, p. 81)

Inspiration Affirmed within NT

“¹⁵ ... just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:15-16

Church Fathers on Inspiration

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits;”

- Justin Martyr, *First Apology*, Chapter LXVII (c. 161 AD)

Church Fathers on Inspiration

“...confirmatory utterances are found both with the prophets and in the Gospels, because they all spoke inspired by one Spirit of God.”

- Theophilus of Antioch, *To Autolycus*, Book III, Chapter XII (c. 180 AD)

Church Fathers on Inspiration

“Nor was it only with regard to those Scriptures which were composed down to the advent of Christ that the Holy Spirit thus dealt; but as being one and the same Spirit, and proceeding from one God, He dealt in the same way with the evangelists and apostles.”

- Origen, *De Principiis*, Book IV, Chapter I:16 (d. 254 AD)

God's Inspiration of Ordinary People

Biblical Authors:

Moses (Egyptian heir)

Joshua (common Israelite)

Samuel (prophet)

Amos (shepherd)

David (shepherd/king)

Solomon (king)

Heman & Ethan (singers)

Ezra (scribe)

Nehemiah (cupbearer)

Ezekiel (priest)

Matthew (tax collector)

Mark (helper)

Luke (physician)

John (fisherman)

Paul (Pharisee)

Peter (fisherman)

James (carpenter)

Jude (carpenter)

God's Inspiration of Ordinary People

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13 (ESV)

The Holy Spirit does not alter the personality or the intellect of the inspired. But the mark of divine association is recognizable

The Implications of Inspiration

¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (ESV)

“the Scriptures *are* the very spirated (breathed out) Word of God. The *form and content* of Scripture are the very words of God.”

(Geisler & Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, p. 36)

God's Special Revelation

God reveals Himself “specially” through His Word

ὁ	λόγος	τοῦ	θεοῦ
<i>ho</i>	<i>logos</i>	<i>tou</i>	<i>theou</i>
the	Word	of	God

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

The Bible as God's Word

The Bible claims to be God's Word...

- The phrase “thus says the LORD” appears 417 times in the Old Testament, beginning with Ex. 4:22
- “The LORD said to ***” is used 217 times
- “The word of the LORD” is used 262 times

So, the Bible claims it is the word of God ~900 times with just these three statements in the Old Testament alone! But can't any book simply say it is God's word?

The Bible as God's Word

The Bible goes beyond the claim to be God's word... it exhibits the characteristics of the Author it describes

1. God is eternal and omniscient so He knows and sees the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10) so His word should be filled with prophecies that are 100% accurate... and it is
2. God is immutable (does not change) (Mal. 3:6) and cannot lie (Num. 23:19) so His word should be congruent and inerrant... and it is

**God's word is faithful and true (John 17:17)
because He is Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)**

Inspiration Implies Inerrancy

The Logic...

- 1.) God does not err
- 2.) The Bible is God's Word
- 3.) The Bible does not err

Inerrancy of the Bible

“If we are perplexed by an apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, ‘The author of this book is mistaken;’ but either the manuscript is faulty, or the translation is wrong, or you have not understood.”

- Augustine, *Contra Faustum Manichaeum*, XI:5 (~400 AD)

The Bible – our Authority
because of its Inspiration:

“All the words of Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”

(Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 73)