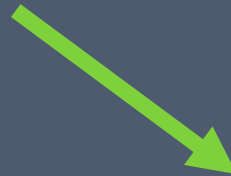


# HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

*Dan Leiphart*

# FROM GOD TO US

INSPIRATION



CANONIZATION



TRANSMISSION



TRANSLATION

# Jesus' Great Commission

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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 a 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.**

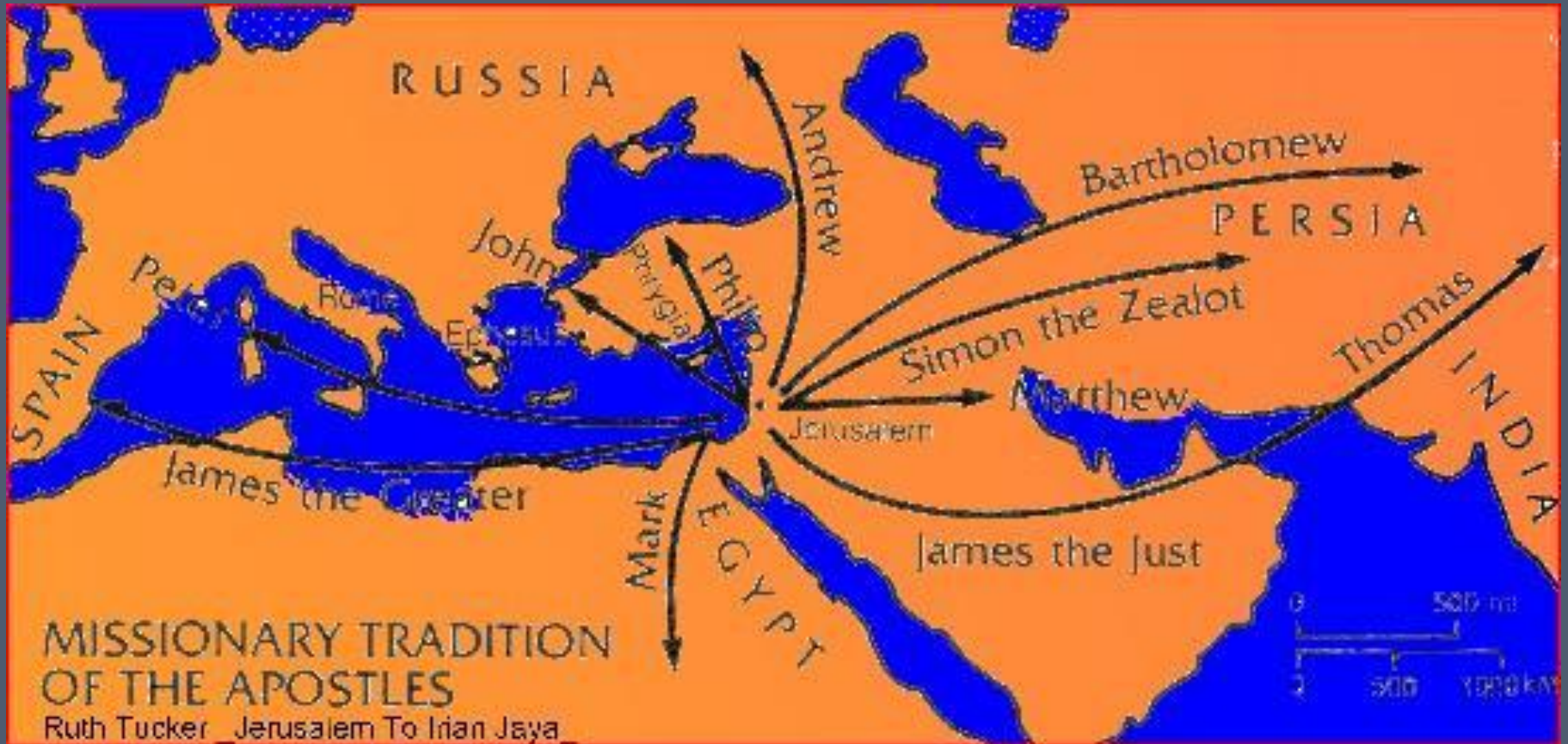
# Jesus' Final Instructions

<sup>8</sup> 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?



# 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.

*Geisler & Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible (Revised and Expanded), p.34*

# Origin of “Inspiration”

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

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

<sup>16</sup> 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

<sup>16</sup> 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

<sup>8</sup> 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

<sup>21</sup> 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

<sup>15</sup> 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

<sup>36</sup> 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

“<sup>15</sup> ... just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> 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)	Matthew (tax collector)
Joshua (common Israelite)	Mark (helper)
Samuel (prophet)	Luke (physician)
Amos (shepherd)	John (fisherman)
David (shepherd/king)	Paul (Pharisee)
Solomon (king)	Peter (fisherman)
Heman & Ethan (singers)	James (carpenter)
Ezra (scribe)	Jude (carpenter)
Nehemiah (cupbearer)	
Ezekiel (priest)	

# God's Inspiration of Ordinary People

<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>12</sup> 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.

# 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)