

# EVERY WORD FROM GOD'S MOUTH

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*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Tim 3:16). None of the scriptures came by the will of man: *"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"* (2 Pet 1:21). Second Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21 both teach the plenary (complete) nature of God's inspiration of the scriptures. But many people have the wrong understanding of the method God used to inspire the Bible. Some believe that God inspired the thoughts, ideas or principles of the scriptures, but that the words themselves were chosen by men. That is wrong. God gave (spoke) every word in the Bible. The inspiration of the scriptures is *verbal* as well as plenary. As our Lord Jesus Christ taught, *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"* (Matt 4:4).

## **How Moses and Jeremiah were inspired**

In Exodus 4:10-16, *"Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God."* This passage reveals the method by which God inspired His word. Moses was going to serve in God's role with Aaron, and Aaron would serve in the prophet's role. Moses would give each individual word to Aaron, and Aaron would speak those exact words to the people. Of course, God was going to be the one giving the words to Moses to begin with. This situation was unusual because there was an extra link in the chain (Aaron). Normally, God would speak His words to the prophet and the prophet would then speak them to the people. But the method was the same. For example, when God called Jeremiah to be His prophet, *"The Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth"* (Jer 1:9).

## **How Ezekiel was inspired**

Ezekiel chapters 2 and 3 also clearly teach the method that God used to

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(continued)

inspire His word. In the case of Ezekiel, God told him, "And thou shalt speak my words unto them" (Ezek 2:7). Ezekiel was told to "hear what I say unto thee" (Ezek 2:8), showing us that God *spoke* His words to Ezekiel. Ezekiel was given a book to "eat" and then was told to speak the words of that book to the house of Israel (Ezek 2:8-3:3). Those words were God's words. "And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them" (Ezek 3:4). "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord God" (Ezek 3:10-11). Again, God *spoke* words to Ezekiel, and Ezekiel spoke those very words to the people of Israel. We see this again in Ezekiel 3:17: "*Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.*" In Ezekiel 3:26-27, we learn that the Holy Spirit literally took control of Ezekiel's mouth to either keep him silent or make him speak. "*And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God.*"

## **Every part came from God**

In certain cases, the inspired men did not even understand what they were speaking about (1 Pet 1:10-12; also compare Acts 2:39 and Acts 10:28). This clearly demonstrates that the words themselves came from God. Yes, the evidence is abundant that God chose words in accordance with the vocabularies, personalities and sometimes even moods of the prophets, but God is still the source of the words. Ezekiel did not speak his own words (Ezek 2:7-3:27). The apostles did not speak their own words (Matt 10:18-20; 1 Cor 2:4-5,12-13). Even Jesus (John 12:48-50) and the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15) would not speak of themselves. God certainly did not permit mere mortals to speak their own words in the Bible. God inspired every part of the Bible, not just the thoughts, ideas, or principles. He gave each and every individual word and letter (Prov 30:5-6; Matt 4:4), singular and plural (Gal 3:16), verb tense (Matt 22:31-32), and jot and tittle (Matt 5:17-18) to the prophets, and they spoke and wrote down exactly what God gave them (Matt 22:31-32; Gal 3:16). Therefore, we can have full, unwavering faith that every part of every word in the Bible is as it is in truth: the word of God (1 Thes 2:13).