

The Breath of God

Special Revelation – Inspiration and Illumination

Also, this is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the message of God, which also works effectively in you believers. - 1 Thessalonians 2:13 HCSB

The Thessalonians understood that the letters they received from Paul were no mere human message. From the beginning, the letters were believed to be the message of God; sacred Scriptures that effectively worked in the hearts and minds of believers.

Paul agreed with them claiming, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”¹ The word we often translate as “inspired” is *theopneustos* which suggests that Paul considered the Scriptures to not be merely “inspiring” to the reader, nor written by “inspired” authors in the same sense as Hemmingway or Steinbeck, but to be literally breathed out by God.

How did Yahweh do this? What mortal man knows! However, before certain men were conceived, Hashem consecrated them and commanded them to speak saying “...all that I command you, you shall speak...behold I have put My words in your mouth.”²

This is a very interesting view when we compare it to the Scriptures’ teaching on the origins of the universe. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth by calling out, “Let there be light.” He then proceeded to separate and identify darkness and light.³ As God spoke the universe into being, so He spoke through human authors and created yet another type of life-giving light: the light of truth. In that Word, He has clearly identified spiritual light and darkness for us so that we can use the enlightenment as a guide.⁴



Having thus moved beyond the general revelation of nature and morality, God has directly and clearly spoken to us through the agency of the ancient prophets. No prophecy of Scripture comes from anyone’s own interpretation because no prophecy ever came by the will of man. Instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God.⁵

His Word is, therefore, sanctifying Truth⁶ more necessary to our immortal lives than bread is to our mortal bodies.⁷ Having gone so far to reveal Himself to us and to give us the secrets to the underpinnings and purposes of the universe, El Hagibor⁸ – Strong and Gracious – is justified when He rebukes the accursed proud who wander from His commands.⁹

The only appropriate response to this wonderful gift of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is to ask for another – the gift of illumination. “Open our eyes that we may see wonderful things in Your law. Help us understand the meaning of Your precepts so that we can meditate on Your wonders! If You will only help us understand Your instruction, we will obey it and follow it wholeheartedly.”¹⁰

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

² Jeremiah 1:4-9; cp Exodus 4:11-16; 1 Samuel 3; Isaiah 6:1-9; Jeremiah 36:6; Ezekiel 2:3-3:11; Amos 7:14-15; Galatians 1:15; Revelation 1:10-11, 19

³ Genesis 1:1-4

⁴ Genesis 1:16-18 cp Psalm 119:105

⁵ 2 Peter 1:20-21; Romans 3:2

⁶ John 17:17

⁷ Matthew 4:4

⁸ El Hagibor refers to His great strength and His supervisory role; Deuteronomy 10:17; Nehemiah 9:32

⁹ Psalm 119:21

¹⁰ Psalm 119:18, 27, 34