



## **Introduction: Revelation & the Word of God**

When we speak of God’s *word*, we are referring to His communication:

“God’s word is certainly the sum total of his communications, everything that he has said, is saying, and will say. But...there is a sense in which God’s word is God himself. God eternally communicates his love and purposes within the Trinity...So God’s word is God himself, understood as a speaking God, one who eternally communicates...” —John Frame

When we speak the *revelation* of God, we are referring to the content that is disclosed by the word:

“It is important, therefore, to distinguish the word of God itself, which is purely divine, from the created media through which the word comes to us...But through the created medium, we receive the authentic word of God, and that word...should be treasured as if God were speaking it with his own lips. It should be received with absolute trust, obedience, and, yes, worship.” —John Frame

**Main Point: We are called to stand firm on the truth that God has specially revealed Himself by His Word in Scripture which He \_\_\_\_\_ to be written by His servants.**

## ***Has God Spoken Through Scripture?***

### **What’s at Stake?**

Many throughout history have acknowledged that the world evidences purpose and design. In that sense, people know of God and can have some sense of the human condition. However, knowledge *of* God is not the same thing as *knowing* God.

Rom. 6:23—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2 Tim. 2:15—*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

**Key Point: In Scripture, God has specially revealed the \_\_\_\_\_ that He has accomplished for in Christ and instructed us as to what it means to live well in the world that He has made.**

### **The Media of Special Revelation**

God reveals Himself through various created media such nature, history, and people. Along with each of these, however, the revelation of God is either accompanied by or delivered directly with *words*.

#### **1. The Divine \_\_\_\_\_**

This is the most direct form of God’s verbal revelation, speaking to human beings without any human mediator.

Exod. 20:1-2, 18—<sup>1</sup> *And God spoke all these words, saying,* <sup>2</sup> *“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...”* <sup>18</sup> *Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid*

Matt. 3:17—<sup>17</sup> *and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_**

Indirect verbal revelation given through human beings carries God’s authority because it is His words that is spoken.

Deut. 18:18-19—<sup>18</sup> *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.* <sup>19</sup> *And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

John 16:13—*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

#### **3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Word**

Indirect verbal revelation that is written down shows that revelation is not a momentary experience, but is to be preserved and passed on for the benefit of others.

Gen. 9:13—<sup>12</sup> *And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:”* <sup>13</sup> *I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.*

1 Tim. 6:20—*O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you*

Jude 3—*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

**Key Point: God has specially revealed His Word to us using the created media of human language so that we might \_\_\_\_\_ and rightly \_\_\_\_\_ to it in faith.**

“Scripture shows us that God has indeed succeeded in putting his word into human words, words that human prophets, apostles, and biblical writers utter as their own. For that, he deserves praise, not suspicion.” —John Frame

## **Special Revelation & the Inspiration of Scripture**

### **1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture is the special revelation of God that has been written by His servants.**

Psa. 19:7-9—<sup>7</sup> *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;* <sup>8</sup> *the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;* <sup>9</sup> *the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.*

### **2. Inspiration is the \_\_\_\_\_ by which God has revealed Himself in Scripture.**

2 Tim. 3:16-17—<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

“...*inspiration* is a reference to that controlling influence which God exerted over the human authors by who the Old and New Testaments were written. It has to do with the reception of the divine message and the accuracy with which it was transcribed”  
—Lewis Sperry Chafer

⇒ Inspiration is a claim about both the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture: The words of Scripture are God’s words!

θεόπνευστος (*theopneustos*)— “inspired or breathed out by God”

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“*complete...equipped*”— The (n) and (v) forms of ἄρτιος (*artios*)— “being well-fitted, capable, for some function.”

### **3. Inspiration is the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ .**

2 Pet. 1:20-21—<sup>20</sup> *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.* <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.*

John 14:26—*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

⇒ The Word of the Lord is therefore associated with the Spirit throughout Scripture.

Isa. 59:21a—“*And as for me, this is my covenant with them,*” says the Lord: “*My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth,*

Zech. 4:6—*Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.*

Eph. 6:17b—*and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*

### **4. Inspiration is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .**

Rom. 15:4—*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

“Inspiration is *verbal* in the sense that the Holy Spirit...influenced the selection of the very words used by the human writers, utilizing their personalities, vocabulary, while avoiding the intrusion of error. Inspiration is *plenary*...in the sense that [it] extends to every aspect...and even the very words of Scripture.” —Christopher Cone

**Key Point:** Because the words of Scripture are God’s words, they carry God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ !

2 Pet. 1:3-4—<sup>3</sup> *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,* <sup>4</sup> *by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire*

## **Concluding Thought**

**The Word of the Lord is given to us in Scripture so that we might know God’s powerful \_\_\_\_\_ just as the writers of Scripture themselves did.**

2 Pet. 1:18-19—<sup>18</sup> *we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.* <sup>19</sup> *And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,*



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