

Inspiration and Revelation of the Bible **Terry B. Ewell, Fall 2004**

Categories of Revelation:

1. General Revelation

- ◆ Human History: God is revealed through human history (Ps. 136, Dan. 2:21)
- ◆ Nature: God is revealed through the universe (Ps. 8, Ps. 19, Rom. 1:18-21)
- ◆ Human Nature: Man in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27)

All of these, however, have received distortion through Adam's fall and humankind's perceptions of God's revelation in these has been adversely affected (Acts 17:23, Rom. 1:18-21, 2 Cor. 4:4)

2. Special Revelation

- ◆ Jesus Christ (John 1:14)
- ◆ Bible

The Bible Claims to be inspired by God

2 Tim. 3:16, Jn. 17:20

Bible Authors emphasize this claim

2 Pet. 1:20, 2 Pet. 3:16; 1 Tim. 5:18 cites Deut. 25:4 and Luke 10:7 as Scripture

What Exactly is inspired by God?

“God's truth is inerrantly expressed directly only in the autographs (original writings) and indirectly in the apographs (copies of the original works)” John R. Higgins “God's Inspired Word in Stanley M. Horton, editor, *Systematic Theology*, revised edition (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 2000), p. 104.

“Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of textual criticism as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission. The verdict of this science, however, is that the Hebrew and Greek text appear to be amazingly well preserved, so that we are amply justified in affirming, with the Westminster Confession, a singular providence of God in this matter and in declaring that the authority of Scripture is in now way jeopardized by the fact that the copies we possess are not entirely error-free.” *The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy* as quoted in James Montgomery Boice, *Standing on the Rock* (Weaton: Living Students, TyndaleHouse Publishers, Inc., 1984), p. 137.