

Inspirational

*All Scripture is inspired
By God.*

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Table of Contents

Forward	The Flower Still Blooms.	3
Chapter 1	The Scripture is inspired by God.	4
Chapter 2	Old Testament claims inspiration.	8
Chapter 3	The hand of God came upon Ezekiel.	11
Chapter 4	The revelation of Jesus Christ came by angels.	15



The Flower Still Blooms

By Harold Bollinger

In memory of Elma Miller

Among the flowers that bloom within a field,
Some grow more perfectly in fragrance and delight.
A short life to a vase, she would not yield,
But grace the harvest field in wonder, day and night.

The sounds of joy and laughter now fill the court.
For those who pass will stop to gain a lasting glimpse,
Of memory of this flower now bound for port.

The cymbal, the harp, and organs sound acclaim,
The hopes, the dreams with song now fill the air.
The reunion begun shall not be changed,
For the flower still blooms with those she loved.

Chapter 1



All Scripture is inspired by God

1 Peter 1:21

Who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2 Peter 3:2

That you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

Peter is speaking of a person who has learned about Christ and how to be saved, and has even been positively influenced by Christians, but then rejects the truth and returns to his or her sin. This person is worse off than before, because he or she has rejected the only way out of sin, the only way of salvation. Like a person sinking in quicksand who refuses to grab the rope thrown to him or her, the one who turns away from Christ casts aside his or her only means of escape (see the note on +Luke 11:24-26).

Fulfilled Prophecies Prove Inspiration

Matthew 11:10

"This is the one about whom it is written, 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Means Of

Hebrews 1:1

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Do you remember how you felt when you were very young and your birthday approached? You were excited and anxious. You knew you would certainly receive gifts and other special treats. But some things would be a surprise. Birthdays combine assurance and anticipation, and so does faith! Faith is the conviction based on past experience that God's new and fresh surprises will surely be ours.

Two words describe faith: *sure* and *certain*. These two qualities need a secure beginning and ending point. The beginning point of faith is believing in God's character—he *is* who he says. The end point is believing in God's promises—he will *do* what he says. When we believe that God will fulfill his promises even though we don't see those promises materializing yet, we demonstrate true faith (see John 20:24-31).

Nature of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28

"It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

Peter quoted this passage (see Acts 2:16-21)—the outpouring of the Spirit predicted by Joel occurred on Pentecost. While in the past, God's Spirit seemed

available to kings, prophets, and judges, Joel envisioned a time when the Spirit would be available to every believer. Ezekiel also spoke of an outpouring of the Spirit (Ezekiel 39:28-29). God's Spirit is available now to anyone who calls on the Lord (Joel 2:32).

These "wonders" would give a hint or a picture of a coming event.

The "day of the LORD" is used here as God's appointed time to judge the nations (see the note on +Joel 1:15). Judgment and mercy go hand in hand. Joel had said that if the people repented, the Lord would save them from judgment (Joel 2:12-14).

In this Day of Judgment and catastrophe, therefore, some will be saved. God's intention is not to destroy but to heal and to save. However, we must accept his salvation or we will certainly perish with the unrepentant.

Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Purpose Of

Acts 1:16

"Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

How could someone who had been with Jesus daily betray him? Judas received the same calling and teaching as everyone else. But he chose to reject Christ's warning as well as his offers of mercy. Judas hardened his heart and joined in the plot with Jesus' enemies to put him to death. Judas remained unrepentant to the end, and he finally committed suicide.

Although Jesus predicted this would happen, it was Judas's choice. Those privileged to be *close* to the truth are not necessarily *committed* to the truth. See Judas's Profile for more information on his life.

Jesus View of Inspiration

Matthew 5:17-19

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

The religious leaders were jealous—Peter and the apostles were already commanding more respect than they had ever received. The difference, however, was that the religious leaders demanded respect and reverence for themselves; the apostles' goal was to bring respect and reverence to God. The apostles were respected not because they demanded it, but because they deserved it.

The apostles experienced power to do miracles, great boldness in preaching, and God's presence in their lives, yet they were not free from hatred and persecution. They were arrested, put in jail, beaten, and slandered by community leaders. Faith in God does not make troubles disappear; it makes troubles appear less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective.

Don't expect everyone to react favorably when you share something as dynamic as your faith in Christ. Some will be jealous, afraid, or threatened. Expect some negative reactions, and remember that you must be more concerned about serving God than about the reactions of people (see Acts 5:29).

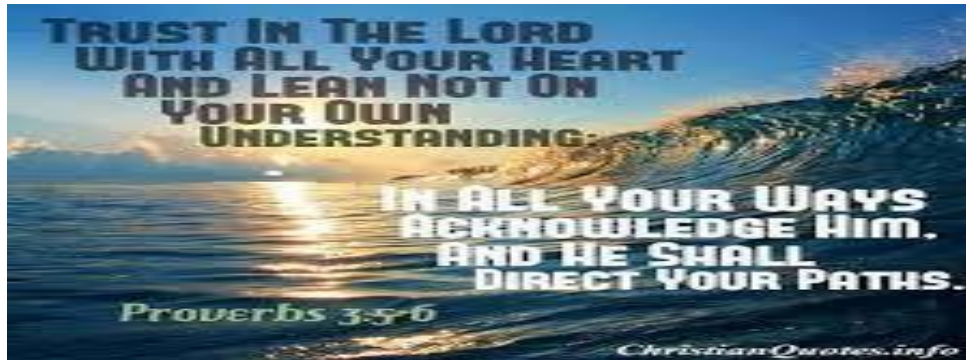
John's View of Inspiration

1 John 1:1-5

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

John opens his first letter to the churches similar to the way he began his Gospel, emphasizing that Christ ("the Word of life") is eternal, that God came into the world as a human that he, John, was an eyewitness to Jesus' life, and that Jesus brings light and life

Chapter 2



Old Testament Claims Inspiration

Exodus 4:11-16

The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Moses pleaded with God to let him out of his mission. After all, he was not a good speaker and would probably embarrass both himself and God. But God looked at Moses' problem quite differently. All Moses needed was some help, and who better than God could help him say and do the right things. God made his mouth and would give him the words to say. It is easy for us to focus on our weaknesses, but if God asks us to do something, then he will help us get the job done. If the job involves some of our weak areas, then we can trust that he will provide words, strength, courage, and ability where needed.

God finally agreed to let Aaron speak for Moses. Moses' feelings of inadequacy were so strong that he could not trust even God's ability to help him. Moses had to deal with his deep sense of inadequacy many times. When we face difficult or frightening situations, we must be willing to let God help us.

Old Testament prophecies inspiration

2 Peter 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

“Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” means that Scripture did not come from the creative work of the prophets’ own invention or interpretation. God inspired the writers, so their message is authentic and reliable. God used the talents, education, and cultural background of each writer (they were not mindless robots); and God cooperated with the writers in such a way to ensure that the message he intended was faithfully communicated in the very words they wrote.

The Inspiration of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

The Bible is not a collection of stories, fables, myths, or merely human ideas about God. It is not a human book. Through the Holy Spirit, God revealed his person and plan to certain believers, who wrote down his message for his people (2 Peter 1:20-21).

This process is known as *inspiration*. The writers wrote from their own personal, historical, and cultural contexts. Although they used their own minds, talents, language, and style, they wrote what God wanted them to write. Scripture is completely trustworthy because God was in control of its writing. Its words are entirely authoritative for our faith and lives. The Bible is “God-breathed.” Read it, and use its teachings to guide your conduct.

The whole Bible is God’s inspired Word. Because it is inspired and trustworthy, we should *read* it and *apply* it to our lives. The Bible is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. It is our safeguard against false teaching and our source of guidance for how we should live. It is our only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. God wants to show you what is true and equip you to live for him. How much time do you spend in God’s Word? Read it regularly to discover God’s truth and to become confident in your life and faith. Develop a plan for reading the whole Bible, not just the familiar passages.

In our zeal for the *truth* of Scripture, we must never forget its *purpose*—to equip us to do good. We should not study God’s Word simply to increase our knowledge or to prepare us to win arguments. We should study the Bible so that we will know how to do Christ’s work in the world. Our knowledge of God’s Word is not useful unless it strengthens our faith and leads us to do good.

My heart overflows with a good theme.

Psalm 45:1

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

This is called a Messianic psalm because it prophetically describes the Messiah's future relationship to the church, his body of believers. Psalm 45:2 expresses God's abundant blessing on his Messiah; Psalm 45:6-8 find their true fulfillment in Christ (Hebrews 1:8-9). The church is described as the bride of Christ in Rev. 19:7-8; Rev. 21:9; Rev. 22:17.

Every word of God is tested.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Send the inspired message to the seven churches.

Revelation 1:11

Saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Words of God spoken from Josiah to this day

Jeremiah 36:2

"Take a scroll and write on it all the words which I have spoken to you concerning Israel and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day I first spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day.

Chapter 3



The hand of God came upon Ezekiel

Ezekiel 1:3

The word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the LORD came upon him.)

The name Ezekiel means “God is strong” or “God strengthens.” In a very real sense, this sums up the basic message of the book—that in spite of the captivity, God’s sovereign strength prevails, and he will judge his enemies and restore his true people.

The word of God becomes a guide.

Acts 1:16

"Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

How could someone who had been with Jesus daily betray him? Judas received the same calling and teaching as everyone else. But he chose to reject Christ’s warning as well as his offers of mercy. Judas hardened his heart and joined in the plot with Jesus’ enemies to put him to death. Judas remained unrepentant to the end, and he finally committed suicide.

Although Jesus predicted this would happen, it was Judas's choice. Those privileged to be *close* to the truth are not necessarily committed to the truth. See Judas's Profile for more information on his life.

The Scripture is of private interpretation.

2 Peter 1:20

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

“Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” means that Scripture did not come from the creative work of the prophets' own invention or interpretation. God inspired the writers, so their message is authentic and reliable. God used the talents, education, and cultural background of each writer (they were not mindless robots); and God cooperated with the writers in such a way to ensure that the message he intended was faithfully communicated in the very words they wrote.

Promises of inspiration

Jeremiah 5:14

Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, "Because you have spoken this word, Behold, I am making my words in your mouth fire and this people wood, and it will consume them.

The northern kingdom, Israel, had fallen to Assyria, and its people had been taken into captivity. The tragic lesson of their fall should have caused the southern kingdom, Judah, to return to God, but Judah paid no attention. Jeremiah urged Judah to return to God to avoid certain disaster. This message came between 627 and 621 B.C., during Josiah's reign.

Although Josiah obeyed God's commands, his example apparently did not penetrate the hearts of the people. If the people refused to repent, God said he would destroy the nation because of the evils of Josiah's grandfather, King Manasseh (2 Kings 23:25-27).

The weary may be sustained by God's word.

Isaiah 50:4

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of disciples that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.

God promised to fight for Israel, but Israel sold itself into sin. Israel had caused its own problems. "Was my arm too short?" means "Am I powerless to help?" The people of Israel forgot God and trusted in other countries to help them. God did not reject Israel, but Israel rejected God.

God has put his words in your mouth.

Isaiah 51:16

"I have put my words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of my hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

God will give you utterance.

Luke 21:15

For I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

Jesus warned that in the coming persecutions his followers would be betrayed by their family members and friends. Christians of every age have had to face this possibility. It is reassuring to know that even when we feel completely abandoned, the Holy Spirit will stay with us. He will comfort us, protect us, and give us the words we need. This assurance can give us the courage and hope to stand firm for Christ no matter how difficult the situation

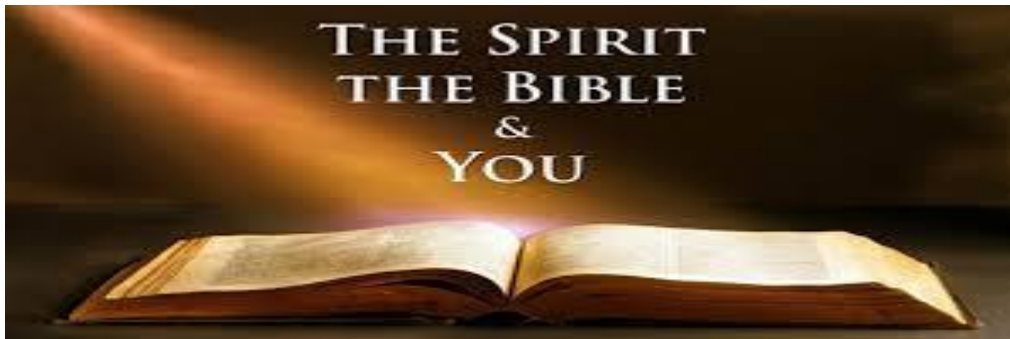
We are taught by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:13

Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

Paul's words are authoritative because their source was the Holy Spirit. Paul was not merely giving his own personal views or his personal impression of what God had said. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he wrote the very thoughts and words of God.

Chapter 4



The revelation of Jesus Christ was communicated by his angels.

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

Jesus gave his message to John in a vision, allowing John to see and record certain future events so they could be an encouragement to all believers. The vision includes many signs and symbols that convey the essence of what is to happen. What John saw, in most cases, was indescribable, so he used illustrations to show what it was *like*.

When reading this symbolic language, we don't have to understand every detail—John himself didn't. Instead, realize that John's imagery shows us that Christ is indeed the glorious and victorious Lord of all.

They sang a new song before the throne.

Revelation 14:3

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

, John sees the conflict between God and Satan. He sees the source of all sin, evil, persecution, and suffering on the earth, and he understands why the great battle between the forces of God and Satan must soon take place. In these chapters the nature of evil is exposed, and Satan is seen in all his wickedness.

Write the words that God has spoken to you.

Jeremiah 36:2

"Take a scroll and write on it all the words which I have spoken to you concerning Israel and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day I first spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day.

Most people in ancient times could neither read nor write, so those who could were extremely valuable. These scribes held positions of great importance and were much respected for their knowledge. Baruch was Jeremiah's scribe.

Writing was often done on vellum or papyrus sheets that were sewn or glued together and stored in long rolls called scrolls. After the exile, scribes became teachers of the law. In New Testament times, the scribes formed a powerful political party.

God inspired prophets and teachers

1 Peter 1:11

Seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

The Spirit of Christ is another name for the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus left his ministry on earth to return to heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, to teach, help, and guide his followers (John 14:15-17, 26; John 16:7). The Holy Spirit would tell them all about Jesus and would reveal his glory (John 15:26; John 16:14). The Old Testament prophets, writing under the Holy Spirit's inspiration (2 Peter 1:20-21), described the coming of the Messiah. The New Testament apostles, through the inspiration of the same Spirit, preached the crucified and risen Lord.

You admonished them by your spirit.

Nehemiah 9:30

"However, you bore with them for many years, and admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

Israel was devastated by times of intense rebellion and sin. Yet when the people repented and returned to God, he delivered them. God puts no limit on the number of times we can come to him to obtain mercy, but we must *come* in order to obtain it, recognizing our need and asking him for help. This miracle of grace should inspire us to say, "You are a gracious and merciful God!"

If there is a recurring problem or difficulty in your life, continue to ask God for help, and be willing and ready to make changes in your attitude and behavior that will correct that situation.

A prophet may enquire of the Lord.

2 Kings 3:11-12

But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of the LORD by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah." Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

Jehoshaphat's request for "a prophet of the LORD" shows how true worship and religious experience in both Israel and Judah had declined. In David's day, both the high priest and the prophets gave the king advice. But most of the priests had left Israel (see the first note on +1 Kings 17:1), and God's prophets were seen as messengers of doom (1 Kings 22:18).

This miracle predicted by Elisha affirmed God's power and authority and validated Elisha's ministry. In 2 Chron. 18, King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahab of Israel gave the prophet Micaiah a similar request. But they ignored God's advice—with disastrous results.

The Lord warned Israel and Judah through his prophets.

2 Kings 17:13

Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments, my statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through my servants the prophets."

The inspiration of Zechariah

2 Chronicles 24:20

Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus God has said, 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you.'"

When King Joash and the nation of Judah abandoned God, God sent Zechariah to call them to repentance. Before dispensing judgment and punishment, God gave them another chance. In the same way, God does not abandon us or lash out in revenge when we sin. Instead, he aggressively pursues us through his Word, his Spirit in us, the words of others, and sometimes discipline.

He does not intend to destroy us, but to urge us to return to him. When you are moving away from God, remember that he is pursuing you. Stop and listen. Allow him to point out your sin so you can repent and follow him again.

The spirit of God rested on the seventy elders

Numbers 11:25

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do it again.

God's word was on my tongue

2 Samuel 23:2

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.

Jesus is knocking on your heart's door.



Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

The Holy Spirit

- He inspired the writers of Scripture.



With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
You can be a spokesman for the Lord.