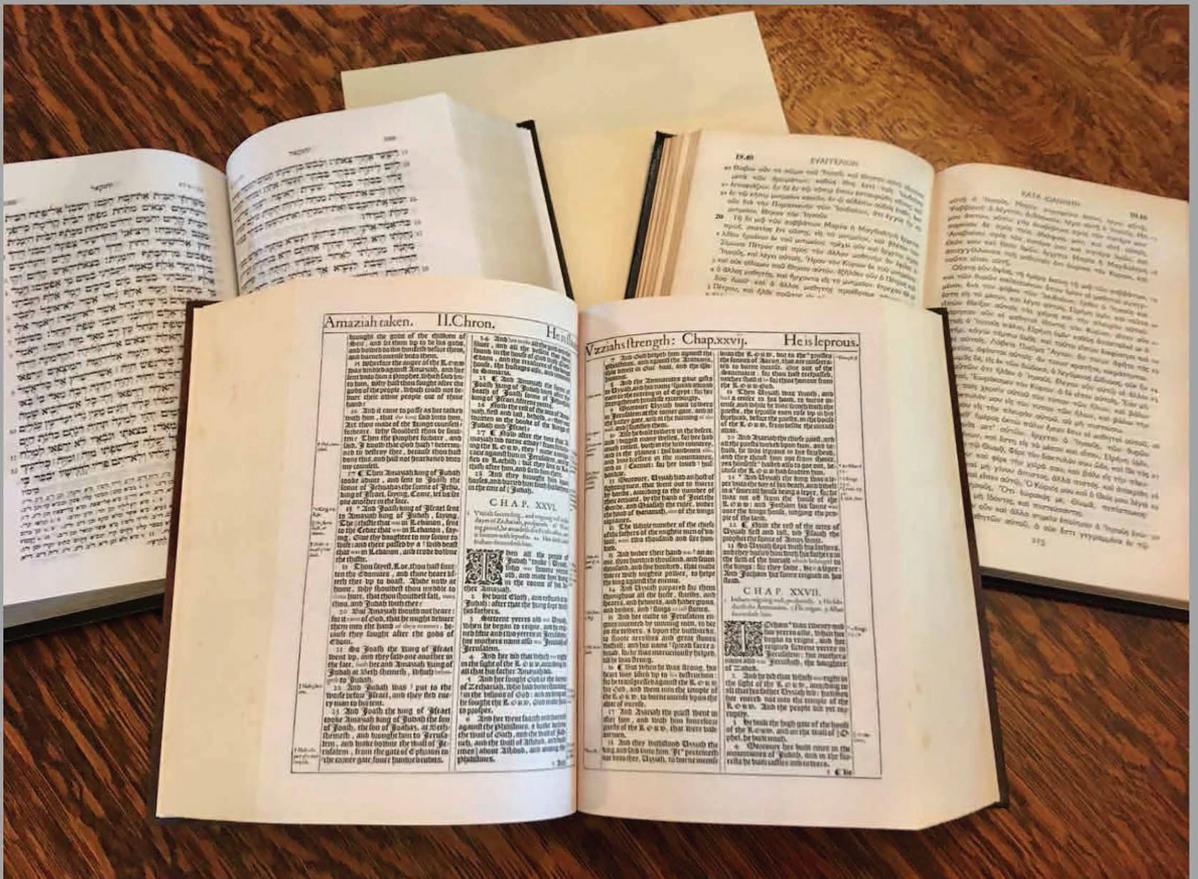


And What

Marbel!

Inspiration, Preservation and Translation

Dr. Gary L. Mann



And What Marvel!

By

Dr. Gary L. Mann

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October 2020

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All Scripture references are from the King James Bible

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Many of the quotes are copied and pasted exactly as they were in my computer with proper reference on who I took the quote from. Their quotes are helpful in these areas but my quoting men does not mean I agree with all their theology and every thing they say.

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THE COVER

The cover for this material has special meaning. The blank paper represents the originals before God breathed to the human author the words of the Word of God. The Greek and the Hebrew open books represent the Hebrew Masoretic text and the Textus Receptus. They were the original languages God gave the Scriptures in. The Bible on top of the Hebrew and Greek books is the King James Bible which is based on the texts under it. This shows the process of Inspiration, Preservation and Translation.

DEDICATION

“To all the faithful men in the past who revered the Word of God and who not only passed it down to succeeding generations but who also hazarded their lives and their possessions to pass down to us the same things it taught them.”

Dr. Gary L. Mann
October 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

And What Marvel! by Dr. Gary L. Mann is a valuable source for anyone who is interested in separating fact from fiction concerning the King James Bible. His book will assist you in getting “up to speed” concerning the many points of controversy that are associated with the King James Bible. Dr. Mann gives thorough treatment showing facts and flaws of the different views of Inspiration, Preservation and Translation. You will find his book a valuable and understandable book that is worth reading and recommending to others.

David L. Brown, Ph.D., President,
King James Bible Research Council
2020

“Dr. Gary L. Mann has performed a great service to all of us by authoring this volume. There are so many thoughts by many individuals today concerning “inspiration,” “preservation,” and “translation” that do not line up with Scripture. Obviously, Dr. Mann has spent many hours studying, praying, reflecting, and researching on these issues, but the foundation he uses is the Words of God, not what man “thinks” or has “written.” Every pastor, evangelist, missionary, and man in the pew would do well to take time to study this volume. We pray it will have wide circulation among those who are confused or need a refreshing about these doctrinal issues. We highly recommend it.”

H. D. Williams, M.D., Ph.D.,
President
The Old Paths Publications
October 2020

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AND WHAT MARVEL!

This is a part of the preface, which was written by the translators, who I call the “Men of Hampton Court” of the Authorized Version (King James Bible) and appeared in the original 1611 printing.

“And what marvel? the original being from heaven, not from earth; the author being God, not man; the inditer, the Holy Spirit, not the wit of the Apostles or Prophets; the penmen, such as were sanctified from the womb, and endued with a principal portion of God’s Spirit; the matter, verity, piety, purity, uprightness; the form, God’s word, God’s testimony, God’s oracles, the word of truth, the word of salvation; the effects, light of understanding, stableness of persuasion, repentance from dead works, newness of life, holiness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost; lastly the end and reward of the study thereof, fellowship with the saints, participation of the heavenly nature, fruition of an inheritance immortal, undefiled, and that never shall fade away; Happy is the man that delighteth in the Scripture, and thrice happy that meditateth in it day and night.”

SECTION 1

Introduction

Statement #1

Preface

How did we get God's Word? Do we have God's Word? Where can I find God's Word? Is the Bible written by God or men? How did we end up with the King James Bible and all the versions? These and many, many more questions will be answered in this book, and, hopefully, by the end of it you will have a much better understanding of the Bible and the answers to these questions.

In November of 2014 I was asked to teach things about the Bible to a church with a boarding school for boys. I knew I had to keep it simple and all the information very basic and keep it interesting. I also had the challenge of keeping it interesting enough for the adults who were there. What a challenge! Much of this material comes from that and my study of the many topics in connection with the Bible.

Since then, I have added much helpful and a little bit deeper material to get a complete grasp of the situation and help settle in the minds of the readers that the Kings James Bible is what we should continue to use and that it is THE Word of God for the English speaking people,. I trust that your study of the Bible will increase and that your life will continue to be richly blessed by the reading and study of the Word of God.

Statement #2

Introduction

There is a very interesting verse found in John 21:25 which says, “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.” This verse recently has been taught that there is more of the Word of God in heaven and that God only gave us the parts of it that He thought we needed in the 66 books of the canon of Scripture. This verse is NOT teaching that. As a matter of fact if you look back to John 20:30 it says, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:” Connecting these two verses together we see that it is teaching that if all the things Jesus had done while He was on the earth had been written down in the Bible, the world could not contain the books that should be written. There would be a huge Bible then and there would be an innumerable amount of books also that would be written by human authors about all that information.

This leads me to a question and my answer. Thinking about the myriads of books in existence, and more being added all the time concerning the Bible, why another book on how we ended up with the King James Bible? I can hear the question being asked, “Aren’t there enough books already written on this subject?” My answer is, yes, and no!

Yes, there are plenty of books already in print on this process, but no, there are still good reasons for another such book to be written.

First of all, many, if not most, of the books on this subject have been written from an “*Alexandrian*” view point and not on an “*Antioch*” one. I will not take a lot of time and space in this introduction to explain that but will simply say that I believe

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there is a HUGE need for material to be written, not from an Alexandrian, or New Evangelical, point of view, but from the Antioch or Biblical point of view. We do not need any more material from the Critical Text (Alexandrian) crowd, but from a Biblical, or Received Text (Antioch) crowd. Because of a huge neglect of writing from a Biblical viewpoint (Antioch), we have been inundated with non-Biblical (Alexandrian) material, and this must be stopped!

As you read and study the information in this book, you will understand more completely what I mean concerning the differences between the Alexandrian and Antioch teachings and will understand then the true process of how we ended up with the King James Bible and why we say that it is the Bible the English speaking people should use and not the Alexandrian versions.

Another reason this book and other material like it should be written is because Biblical Christianity has for far too long allowed the New Evangelicals and others to control the conversation through their constant flooding of the book market leaving Biblical Christianity with nothing to read from a historical and Biblical perspective. Therefore, Biblical Christianity does not have an understanding of many topics including the process of Inspiration, Preservation and Translation of the Word of God. Our graduates are leaving college without the basic understanding of this process let alone the difference between the Alexandrian and Antioch mindset and are therefore beginning to use the Alexandrian versions like the English Standard Version and others. This too must be stopped!

Lastly, this material is needed because of the amount of false teaching that is happening among Biblical Christianity in their effort to “fill the gap,” so to speak having especially to do with understanding the process of Biblical inspiration, preservation and translation of Scriptures. Without knowing it the teaching I am hearing and seeing is a blend of Alexandrian and

Antioch teachings but as the Scripture so plainly warns, “**A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**” (Galatians 5:8)

Titus, by revelation, was dealing with false teaching by false teachers. Titus 1:10 and 11 states, “For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.” Then we have Titus 2:1 which gives us a mandate when it says, “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” He then gave a list of the sound doctrine he was expressing the need to be taught in the following verses, which have nothing to do with my topic but the principle is the same.

In writing about Titus 2:1 John Gill wrote,

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. The things which become it are a good life and conversation, the various duties incumbent on professors of religion, according to their different station, age, and sex, which are observed in some following verses; these become the Gospel of Christ, and are ornamental to the doctrine of God our Saviour; and these are to be spoken of by the ministers of Christ, in their proper places, and at proper times; who ought not to be dumb, and keep silence at any time, but especially when there are many unruly and vain talkers: sound doctrine ought to be spoken out openly and publicly, fully and faithfully, with great plainness and evidence, that it may be understood and known by all; and with much certainty, without hesitation, as being, without controversy, undoubted truth; and with all boldness, not fearing men, or seeking to please them; and it should be constantly and continually spoken, in season, and out of season; and care should be taken that it be spoken consistently, and

INTRODUCTION

in an uniform manner, that there be no clashing and contradiction; and the duties of religion, which become sound doctrine, should be set in their true light, and proper place, as fruits of the grace of God, and to glorify him; these should be spoken out plainly, frequently insisted upon, and warmly and zealously urged, as being decent things, for the honor of God, the recommending of religion, the good of mankind, and the service of one another.”

With the large amount of Alexandrian teaching and material, and the lack of Antioch material and teaching we then have a weak understanding and outright false teaching that is taking place among Bible Christianity on the process of inspiration, preservation and translation of the Bible. There is a need for this material and more. It is not all that needs to be written and taught, but I do pray that this material will be read, understood, taught and will cause Bible believing Christians everywhere to get involved in adding more Biblical material. This is a part of discipleship and the propagation of the Bible...sound doctrine! To neglect publishing books with sound doctrine is to allow Satan to teach false doctrine and cause more confusion. We have taken the back seat for far too long with our anti-book, anti-writing and fear of writing attitude and we must step up to the plate and write and publish doctrinal material that will counter the Alexandrian mind-set and bring out the Antioch one. May it be so.

Dr. Gary L. Mann

Statement #3

Bible Doctrinal Statement

I believe the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally “moved;” that it has truth for its matter without any admixture of error; that it is and shall remain to the end of the age the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; and that it is the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

- I believe the Authorized (King James) Bible, Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God kept intact for English-speaking peoples by way of God’s divine providence and work of preservation; and that the Authorized Version translators were not “inspired.” but were merely God’s instruments used to preserve His words for English-speaking peoples.
- By Holy Bible I mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written and providentially preserved, does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.
- By inspiration I mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
- By providentially preserved I mean that God through the ages has, in His divine providence, preserved the very words that He inspired; that the Hebrew Old Testament text, as found in the traditional Masoretic text, and the Greek New Testament text, as found in the Textus Receptus, are indeed the products of God’s providential

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preservation and are altogether the complete, preserved, inerrant word of God.

SAMPLE PAGES

Chapter 1

The Same Thing!

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

While preaching recently in a friend’s church in Florida, I noticed that on both sides of the auditorium hanging on the walls were many portraits of preachers of the past. The portraits were drawings of men like John R. Rice, Tom Malone, Bill Rice, J. Frank Norris, Charles Spurgeon, Lee Roberson, R.G. Lee and many others. I was preaching from 2 Timothy 1:1-19 on faithfulness where Paul told Timothy some key things about being faithful, especially in verse 13 which states, **“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”** This began a theme in 2 Timothy which is picked up again in 2 Timothy 2:2 which says, **“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”**

If you will notice there are 4 generations of people mentioned in this verse. Paul is speaking to Timothy who is told to teach the same thing to another generation of faithful men who then is responsible to teach the same things to another generation of people. This shows us the importance of teaching the same things to people, or, being faithful to teach the same things that are Biblical to the next generation.

Another important and familiar verse in 2 Timothy is found in chapter 2 verse 15 which says, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** I have often taught about this verse that if study causes us to rightly divide the

word of truth then a lack of study causes us to wrongly divide it. Again, there is the theme of faithfulness.

Then in chapter 2 verse 24 is the following, “**And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,**” The emphasis here that I want to point out is that the preacher is supposed to be “apt (have the ability), to teach.” Teach what? The same things of course.

Finally in 2 Timothy 3:14-17 Paul wrote, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” In this section we see that Paul told Timothy to, “...continue thou in the things which thou hast learned...” So whatever he had learned, he was to continue in them; he was to put them in practice in his life. We also see the main source of the material that he learned from and that of course is what the Scriptures say. So, He had learned the Scripture from teachers, he was to continue in them and he was to teach the same things to faithful men who would then teach the same things to others.

The criticism by some on this material is going to be the use of quotes from an older generation. Some of the criticisms will come from men who, simply put, don't like some of the men that will be quoted. But, the “men on the wall,” are the ones who were taught by their predecessors and then they taught the same things to us on inspiration, preservation and translation. Their “Paul” had taught them that inspiration means “God breathed,” and that is what the “men on the wall” taught us. Their “Paul” taught them that God had promised to preserve His Word to all generations. Their “Paul” taught them that the King James Bible was an accurate and faithful translation, and they then taught

faithful men the same things who are supposed to pass down to the next generation those same Biblical truths.

The teachings we received from our “Paul’s” on inspiration, preservation and translation are historically and Biblically accurate. Verbal inspiration is still true today. The teaching that God breathed the words of the Word of God is still accurate today. God gave us Scripture by inspiration! Inspiration is not what God did TO the Scripture; it is how God GAVE us the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments.

A few today have changed what they have been taught. Some have done this to distance themselves from individuals they do not like. The problem with some change is that the ones who change what the Scriptures teach sometimes go too far the other way from the ones that they try to distance themselves from then coming up with their own false teachings.

Through all these changes I have been very slow and deliberate in my study and research for this material (taking well over 5 years to look at it all), and have determined that our “Paul’s” were not wrong. They were taught the same things they taught us and we are not to change those teachings.

I also see the scholarship of the men on the wall as compared to those today, and can readily see that there is no comparison. While the men of today who have changed what they used to teach, even sometimes basing their teaching on a woman’s material, go around pounding themselves on their chest and telling us the men on the wall were wrong and even deceived, I see the men on the walls abilities compared to those of today and cringe at the huge disparity. The men on the wall were true students of Scripture, history, accurate Bible study and even Greek and Hebrew. While the men who were supposed to teach the same things don’t even know the Greek alphabet and refuse to use materials that were designed to help us in our Bible study and even come up with weird definitions based on poor Bible study methods.

The men of today make comments like, “There was no perfect Bible until 1611,” while the men of yesterday all agreed with God that He would preserve His Word for every generation.

The men of today teach that the English corrects the Greek and Hebrew meaning that the languages God gave us the Word of God in were somehow either wrong or not preserved, while the men of yesteryear not only could quote the Greek and Hebrew from memory but used it consistently in agreement with the English of the King James Bible

The men of today call a person a liberal if they believe the Greek word “THEOPNEUSTOS” means God breathed and teach that it really means that God PUT His breath into the Word of God totally ignoring the Spirit of God’s work in conjunction with the Word of God. Inspiration is not what God did to the Scriptures; it is how God gave the Scriptures. They continue their accusations by saying that these liberals were influenced by books that were written by sinful men. Well, what book besides the Bible isn’t written by sinful men? What message preached is not preached by sinful men. If we are to ignore the writings of men in their books because they were sinners then I guess we should not listen to messages preached by sinful men! John Gill, who lived in the 1700's, believed THEOPNEUSTOS meant God breathed because of his knowledge of the Greek and Latin. He was not “poisoned” by the Strong’s Concordance, because it had not been published yet. Charles Spurgeon had also not been “infested” by a Concordance for the same reason but knew THEOPNEUSTOS meant God breathed. They were not liberals, they had been faithfully taught by their men on the wall and taught the same thing to others who were to teach the same thing to others who would teach us those same things!

Those men on the wall, and hundreds and thousands of others, including the men of Hampton Court (the translators of the King James Bible), understood and taught the process of inspiration, preservation and translation and I for one will continue to teach faithful men what I was taught about it who will

then teach others those same things BECAUSE THEY ARE HISTORICALLY AND BIBLICALLY SOUND! You can't get any better than that. The same thing!

The men of Hampton Court also knew the dangers in connection with their work of translation. In their letter to the reader they wrote, "...whosoever attempteth anything for the publick (especially if it pertains to Religion, and to the opening and clearing of the word of God), the same setteth himself upon a stage to be gloated upon by every evil eye, yea, he casteth himself headlong upon pikes, to be gored by every sharp tongue. For he that meddleth with man's religion in any part, meddleth with their custom, nay, with their freehold; and though they find no content in that which they have, yet they cannot abide to hear of altering." They were well aware, as was King James that the detractors would come and gnash on them with their teeth!

I too fully expect those who I often refer to as those who have, "drank the Kool-Aid," to reveal their venom with accusations and ridicule. I get that. Never-the-less, I felt it necessary to once again teach "What thus saith the Lord," on these subjects and quote from the men of Hampton Court and others as much as possible so we can once again reclaim the tried and true Biblical and historical teachings on the process of inspiration, preservation and translation.

I have spent too many years in this study and refuse to agree with the NEW teaching; and I have read, listened to and studied these NEW teachings and even had some conversations with some about these NEW teachings.

I firmly remain on the side of the great preachers of the past from my studies of their writings and messages as far back as the late 1600's until now. I firmly remain with Biblical studies not only on my own but from those who in the past accomplished great things for God as compared to the detractors and their NEW teachings who have lost marriages, churches and their buildings

and who have changed in their doctrine because of an agenda or personality clashes and jealousy.

I firmly remain with those in the past who knew the languages, who could read and write them fluently compared to those today who barely know their own language and who even refuse to refer to a dictionary in their own language. Here-in I stand, and I stand with the same things as they were taught to me from those in the past and many in the present, because they are Biblically and historically correct.

Chapter 2

God's Word!

In their letter to the readers the men of Hampton Court wrote, "And this is the Word of God, which we translate." The Word of God or God's Word. It is called, "God's Word!" The Bible is called that because it is God's Word or words. It is God's words, not men's word. **2 Peter 1:20 & 21** "**Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.**" Again in their letter to the readers the men of Hampton Court wrote in reference to God's Word, "...the Author being God, not man; the inditer the Holy Spirit, not the wit of the apostles or prophets..." This is God's Word, not man's!

In 2 Samuel 23:1 & 2, we see some of David's last words speaking about God's word. He said, "Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man *who was* raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue." In his very helpful work on God's Word, John Gill wrote about this verse,

"**The Spirit of the Lord spake by me**,.... The psalms and songs he composed were not the fruits of his own genius, but were written by him under the inspiration of the Spirit of God; by whom holy men of God, the penmen of the Scriptures, spoke, even as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, of whom David was one, being a prophet; see **Act 1:16 Act 2:30**; so the Targum here, "David spoke by the spirit of prophecy of the Lord:" 'or spake "in me"; what he spoke was first internally impressed upon his mind by the Spirit of God, and then he expressed it with his tongue, as follows: **and his word was in my tongue**; not only the matter of his psalms was indited by the Spirit of God, and

suggested to his mind; but the very words in which they are delivered were given to him, and he was directed to make use of them, and did." It is clear what David wrote were God's words, not his own. **This is the process of inspiration.**

A very familiar set of verses which will be referred to often is found in 2 Peter 1:16-21 which states, "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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." Again, Gill wrote the following on verse 21,

2 Peter 1:21 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.

"For the prophecy,.... The whole Scripture, all the prophetic writings; so the Jews call the Scriptures הנבואה, "the prophecy" (g), by way of eminence, and from the subject matter of the sacred word:

came not in old time by the will of man; was not brought into the world at first, or in any period of time, as and when man would, according to his pleasure, and as he thought fit: neither Moses, nor David, nor Isaiah, nor Jeremiah, nor Ezekiel, nor Daniel, nor any other of the prophets, prophesied

when they pleased, but when it was the will of God they should; they were stirred up to prophesy, not by any human impulse, but by a divine influence:

but holy men of God; such as he sanctified by his Spirit, and separated from the rest of men to such peculiar service; and whom he employed as public ministers of his word: for so this phrase "men", or "man of God", often signifies, 1Sa 2:27.

spake, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; who illuminated their minds, gave them a knowledge of divine things, and a foresight of future ones; dictated to them what they should say or write; and moved upon them strongly, and by a secret and powerful impulse stirred them up to deliver what they did, in the name and fear of God: which shows the authority of the Scriptures, that they are the word of God, and not of men; and as such should be attended to, and received with all affection and reverence; and that the Spirit is the best interpreter of them, who first dictated them; and that they are to be the rule of our faith and practice; nor are we to expect any other, until the second coming of Christ."

This is God's word, not David's, not Moses, not John's words, they are God's Words not man's! This is why we call the Bible God's Word! We see, "Thus saith the Lord" in 413 verses throughout the Bible and then what God said. This is God's Word!

In order for the Bible to become effective at all, you must first of all accept what is written as God's Word, not mans. If it is God's Word then it has all the authority behind it. If it is man's word then there is no authority and only a man's opinion.

In reading John R. Rice's book entitled Our God-Breathed Book – The Bible, I found something interesting and wrote a note in the pages of it saying, "Do not approach a study of the Bible to SEE if it is God's Word; but study it AS God's Word." On the next page Dr. Rice wrote,

"We come bowing to its authority as the authority of God and of Christ. We come to believe all its statements, to humbly try to follow its commandments, to claim gladly as many of its promises as our frail faith can claim."

How can we do that? By understanding it IS God's Word, not man's word! Thus, when it says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that, "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" that is exactly what it means! This is God's Word and must be approached as such. It must be studied as God's Word! It must be yielded to as God's Word. It is not just a book ABOUT God, it is His Word and we are commanded to study it AS His Word! We must stand firmly upon the fact that the Bible, the King James Bible in the English language, is God's Word!

As God's Word, we are not to tamper with it or change it in any way. Those of the Alexandrian line have changed God's Word to make it theirs, not God's. They still do not believe we have all of it, because, they think, we might find more if it somewhere. They did not believe in the inspiration of Scripture and are now of the mindset that we cannot know what God has said, thus, a new "Bible for every generation, gender, and gnostic."

As God's Word we are to protect it and stand for it let come what may. We are to earnestly contend for the faith and not allow it to be damaged in any way. It is God's Word!

In the Garden of Eden God communed with Adam and Eve. God spoke with them in their language and we have some of that conversation in our Bible. Go has always communicated with

mankind. How? By using WORDS! The same is true with the Bible and how He gave it to us. He did not just breath on the words; He breathed, or spoke, the words of the Word of God. THAT is what inspiration is! As I will say elsewhere in this book, Inspiration is not what God did TO the Bible; inspiration is how God GAVE the Bible! God uses words to communicate with man. This is God's Word and the very fact that it is God's Word and that He always communicated with mankind using words is why it is called God's Word!

Now notice some other rather revealing facts about God's Word. God's Word came from the mouth of God! Isn't that deep! In Revelation 1:16 it says, "**And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.**" Notice carefully that it says, "...and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword..." What is this sharp twoedged sword? We get another glimpse of this in Hebrews 4:12 where it states, "**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" (There are some who teach that the Bible actually THINKS using this verse as their proof, but I will get back to that in another chapter.) Notice the phrase, "...sharper than any twoedged sword..." There is that same phrase as used in Revelation where the sharp two edged sword comes out of the mouth of God. This phrase comes after the description in Hebrews 4:12 telling us what this sharp two edged sword is, "For the word of God..." The words of God are sharper than any two edged sword. God's Word is sharp! God's Word is called the two edged sword! Where does this sword proceed from? **FROM HIS MOUTH!** It is God's Word, or, what God says, that is sharper than any two edged sword!

In **Ephesians 6:17** we see this, "**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**" The sword of the Spirit, or what the Spirit uses, is the

Word of God. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. Isn't it great that in the English word sword used here is also the word, "word?" I love the "coincidences" of the Bible in the English language. Again, a reference in the Scriptures that what God has said is a sword and that sword comes out of His mouth. It is God's Word, or, God's communications with man, it is God's breathed, or spoken Word!

Notice in Matthew 4:4 (which quotes a part of Deuteronomy 8:3), it says, "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This again tells us where we got God's Word. It comes from and is the Sword of the Spirit which is sharper than any two edged sword and it comes from the mouth of God! The Bible is God's Word!

To me a hugely interesting verse which shows us how God created the world is found in **Psalm 33:6** which says, "**By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them BY THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH!**" In this case God breathed and spoke and there was light. He created the heavens and the earth by speaking! He gave us the Word of God by speaking! In the creation of the world in Genesis 1:3 it says, "**And God said...**" Before He created, He spoke! He spoke the world into existence and God's Word always came from the mouth of God! **THIS is why it is called God's Word or the Word of God!**

The phrase, "the Word of the Lord" is found 264 times in 261 verses. "Thus saith the Lord" is in 413 verses in Scripture. "The word of the Lord came...in a vision" is found 9 times in 8 verses. "Thus shalt thou say" is found in 10 verses and the phrase "say unto them" is in 75 verses used 76 times. The phrase "His word was in my mouth" is found in Numbers 22:38 and 23:12. "Out of His mouth" is in Proverbs 2:6; Revelation 1:16; 19:15 and verse 21.

AND WHAT MARVEL!

God's Word proceeds out of His mouth! It is God's Word; it is how He communicated with mankind and how He gave us all Scripture! The process of inspiration is Him breathing, or speaking the very words to holy men of old. All Scripture is GIVEN by inspiration. **IT IS GOD'S WORD!**

Section 2
Salvation

Chapter 3

The Real Importance of Scripture

From the letter to the readers the men of Hampton Court (the translators) had this to say, "...blessed be they, and most hounoured be their name, that break the ice, (by translation) and give the onset upon that which helpeth forward to the saving of souls. Now what can be more available thereto, than to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they understand."

The men of Hampton Court knew that the common people needed the Word of God in their language so it would help forward the saving of souls. There are many reasons why God gave us His Word but the most important one must be for the saving of souls. Without the Scriptures in the vulgar language (the language the people can read and understand) how are they to learn of salvation? How are they to learn of Christ except through the preaching and now in the printed page?

The translators also wrote the following on the importance of the Scripture in the language of the people. "But how shall men meditate in that which they cannot understand? How shall they understand that which is kept close in an unknown tongue?" They went on to write a little later, "It is necessary to have translations in a readiness. Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light." They knew their job was very important to the common people who they knew needed a translation so the light of the Gospel should come in to the saving of souls.

In this section on "SALVATION," we will see what is necessary to understand the Scriptures