



HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

FROM GOD'S MOUTH TO OUR HANDS

A 10-PART BIBLE STUDY SERIES



REVELATION



INSPIRATION



WRITING



PRESERVATION



CANON



TRANSLATION



OUR BIBLES



OUR RESPONSE

GOD HAS SPOKEN. HE HAS PRESERVED IT. WE CAN TRUST IT.

◆ PSALM 119:89 ◆

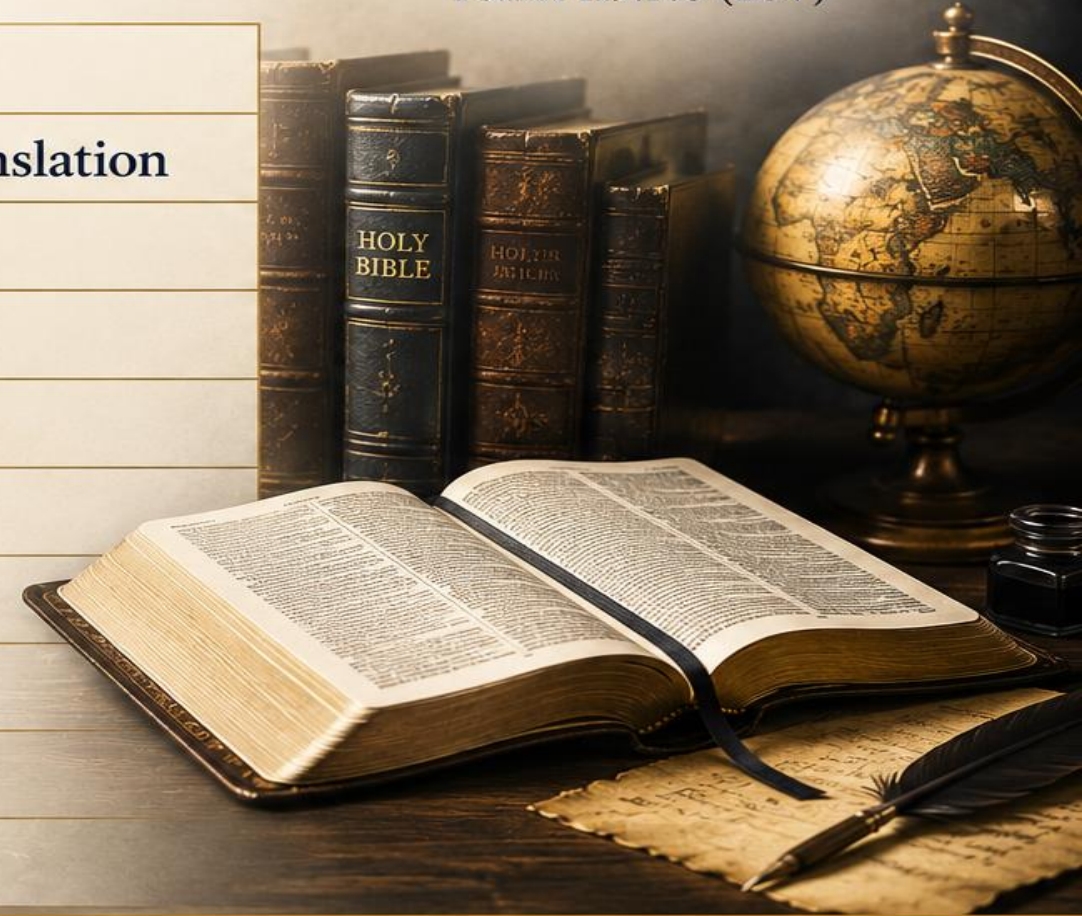
HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

SCHEDULE OF STUDIES

*“Your word is a lamp
to my feet and a light
to my path.”*

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

1	Why Does it Matter?
2	Inspiration, Revelation, Transmission, and Translation
3	The Revelation of the Old Testament
4	The Revelation of the New Testament
5	The Canon of Scripture
6	Preservation of Scripture
7	Manuscripts, Chapters, and Verses
8	The Development of English Translations
9	Answering Bible Objections
10	Proper Interpretation of the Scripture



OUR MISSION:

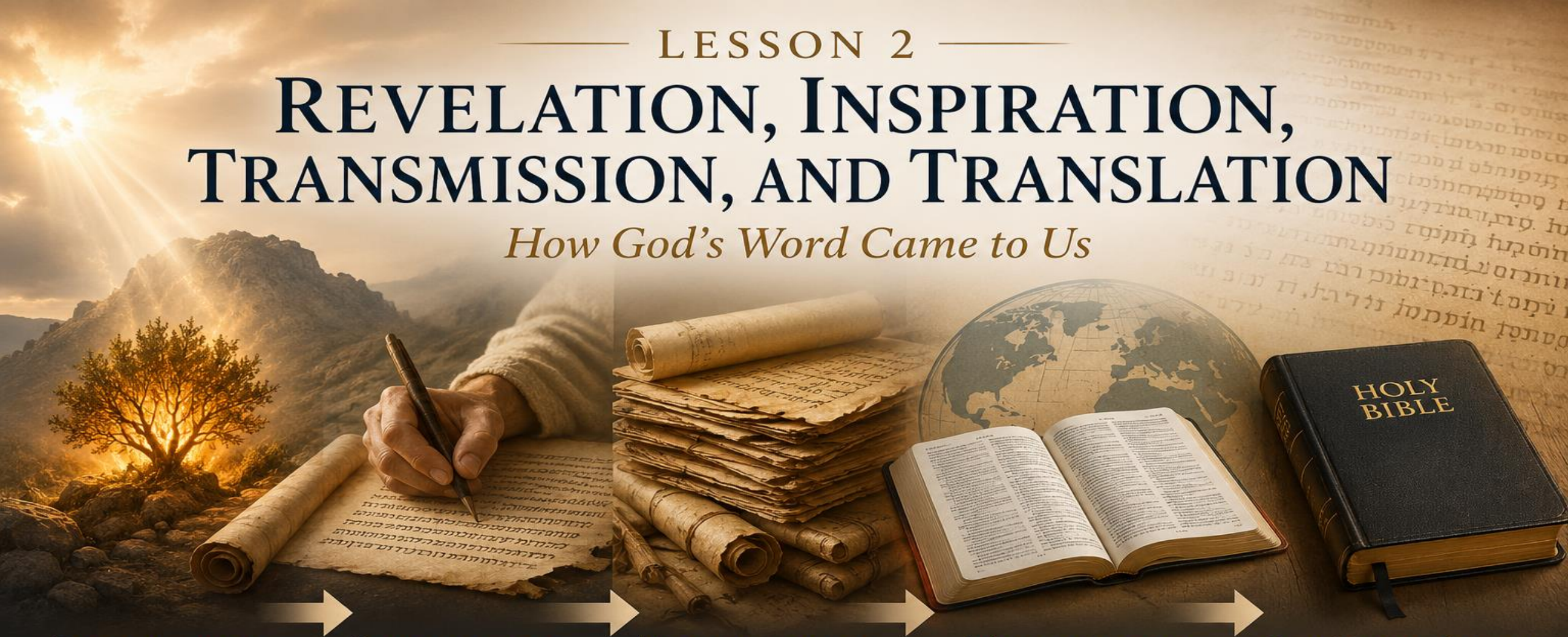
To examine the evidence and strengthen our confidence
that the Bible we hold in our hands is the very word of God.



LESSON 2

REVELATION, INSPIRATION, TRANSMISSION, AND TRANSLATION

How God's Word Came to Us



REVELATION

God makes known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.

INSPIRATION

God guides the writers so that they write exactly what He intends.

TRANSMISSION

The written text is copied faithfully and passed down through generations.

TRANSLATION

The message is accurately communicated in other languages so people can understand.

OUR BIBLE TODAY

God's Word is available to be read, believed, and obeyed by all people.

"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH." PSALM 119:105

**God first revealed His truth,
then inspired men to write it,
then that written revelation was
transmitted (copied and preserved),
and finally it was translated into other languages.**

① REVEALED



**God first
revealed His truth.**

② INSPIRED



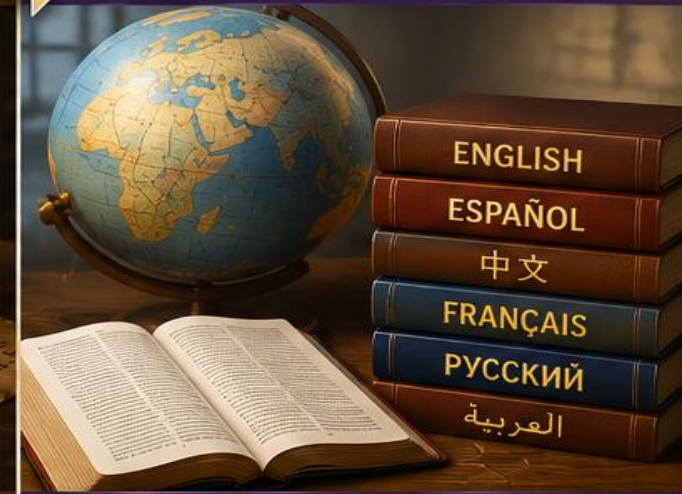
**Then inspired
men to write it.**

③ TRANSMITTED



**Then that written
revelation was transmitted
(copied and preserved).**

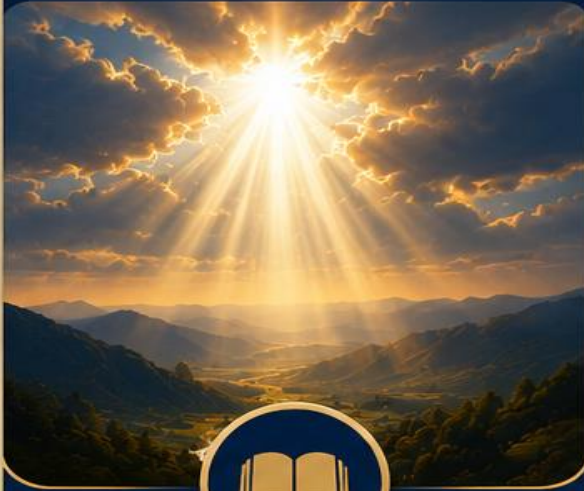
④ TRANSLATED



**And finally it was
translated into other
languages.**

DEFINING FOUR IMPORTANT TERMS

REVELATION



God makes known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.

INSPIRATION



God guided the writers so that they wrote exactly what He intended.

TRANSMISSION



The written text was copied and passed down from one generation to another.

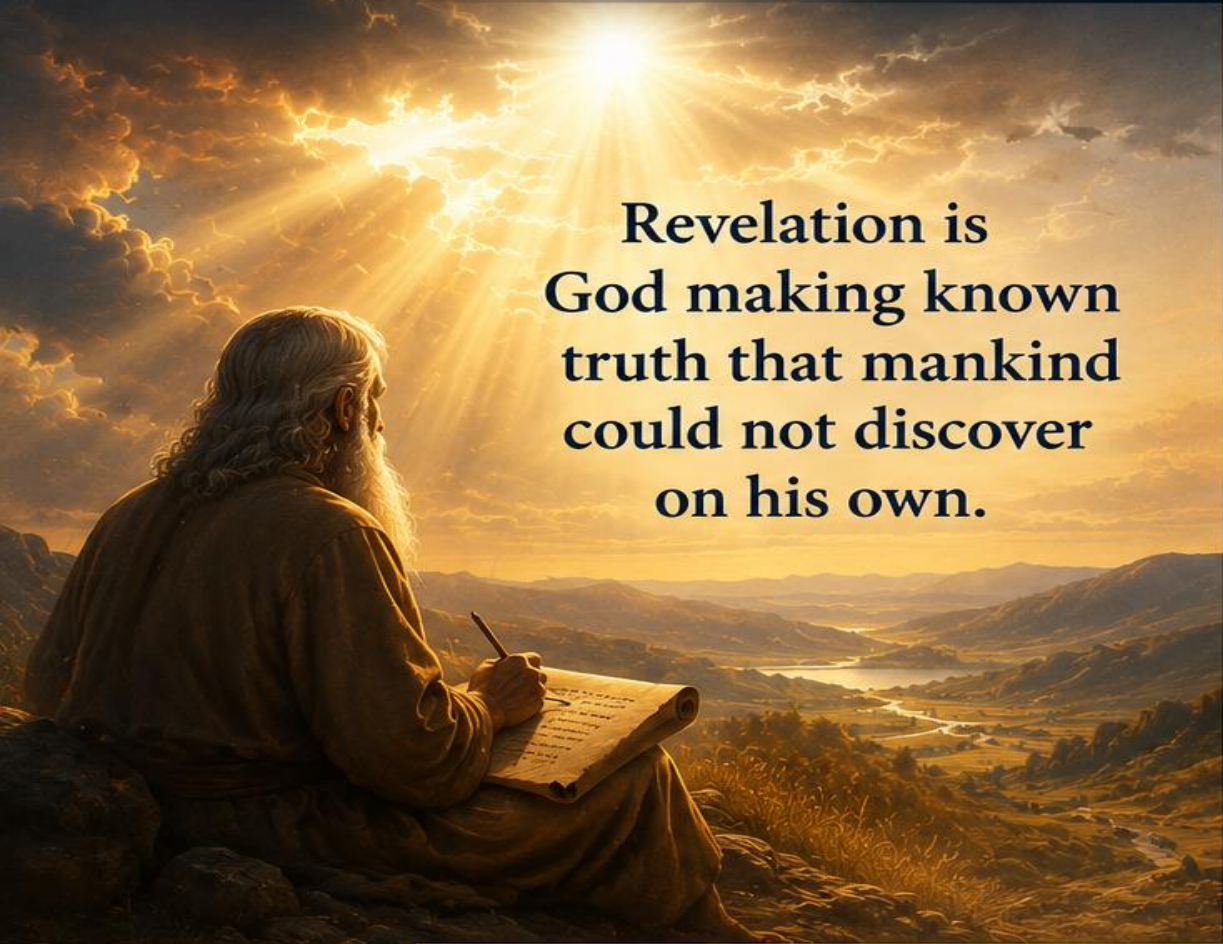
TRANSLATION



The message was translated into other languages so people can understand.

◆ *Four distinct steps in how God gave us His Word.* ◆

THE DEFINITION OF REVELATION



Revelation is
God making known
truth that mankind
could not discover
on his own.



1. DEFINITION

Revelation is God making known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.



2. GREEK TERM

The Greek term: *apokalupsis* (ap-ok-al'-oop-sis) means "disclosure:—appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation."



3. ANSWERS THE QUESTION

Revelation answers the question: "How did the writers know what to write?"



4. KEY TRUTH

Revelation does not originate in human reasoning, imagination, or discovery. It originates with God.

God is the Source. He reveals. We record.

KNOWING THIS FIRST OF ALL... – 2 PETER 1:20

“1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,”

Revelation 1:1 (ESV)

“6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?”

1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV)

“1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Ephesians 3:1 – 6 (ESV)

REVELATION WORKS TOGETHER WITH INSPIRATION

In revealing truth to man, God inspires men (Prophets) to **speak and write those truths** in order to **MAKE HIS REVELATION KNOWN TO MANKIND.**

REVELATION

God reveals truth.



God is the Source of truth.



Truth is made known to the prophets.



Truth originates with God.



GOD'S PURPOSE

That man may know, believe, and obey His truth.



INSPIRATION

God inspires men to write His truth.



The Holy Spirit moves men to speak and write.



The words recorded are God's words.



Scripture is preserved for all people.



GOD REVEALS THE TRUTH



PROPHETS RECEIVE THE TRUTH



PROPHETS SPEAK AND WRITE



GOD'S WORD IS PRESERVED



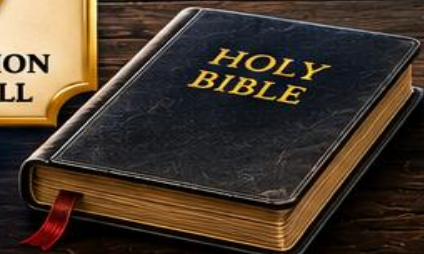
GOD'S REVELATION IS KNOWN TO ALL

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets..."

— Hebrews 1:1

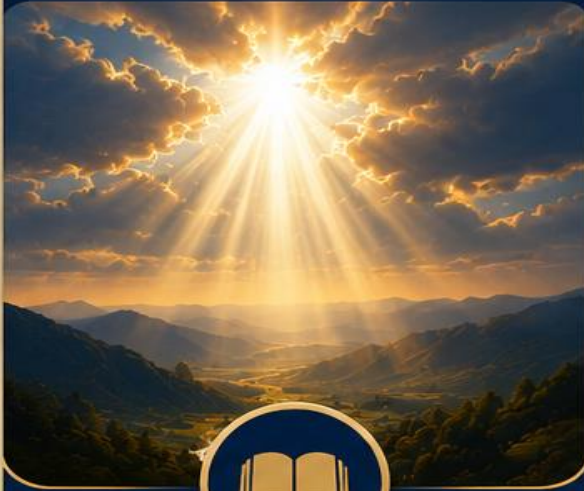
"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching..."

— 2 Timothy 3:16



DEFINING FOUR IMPORTANT TERMS

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God makes known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.

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God guided the writers so that they wrote exactly what He intended.

TRANSMISSION



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TRANSLATION

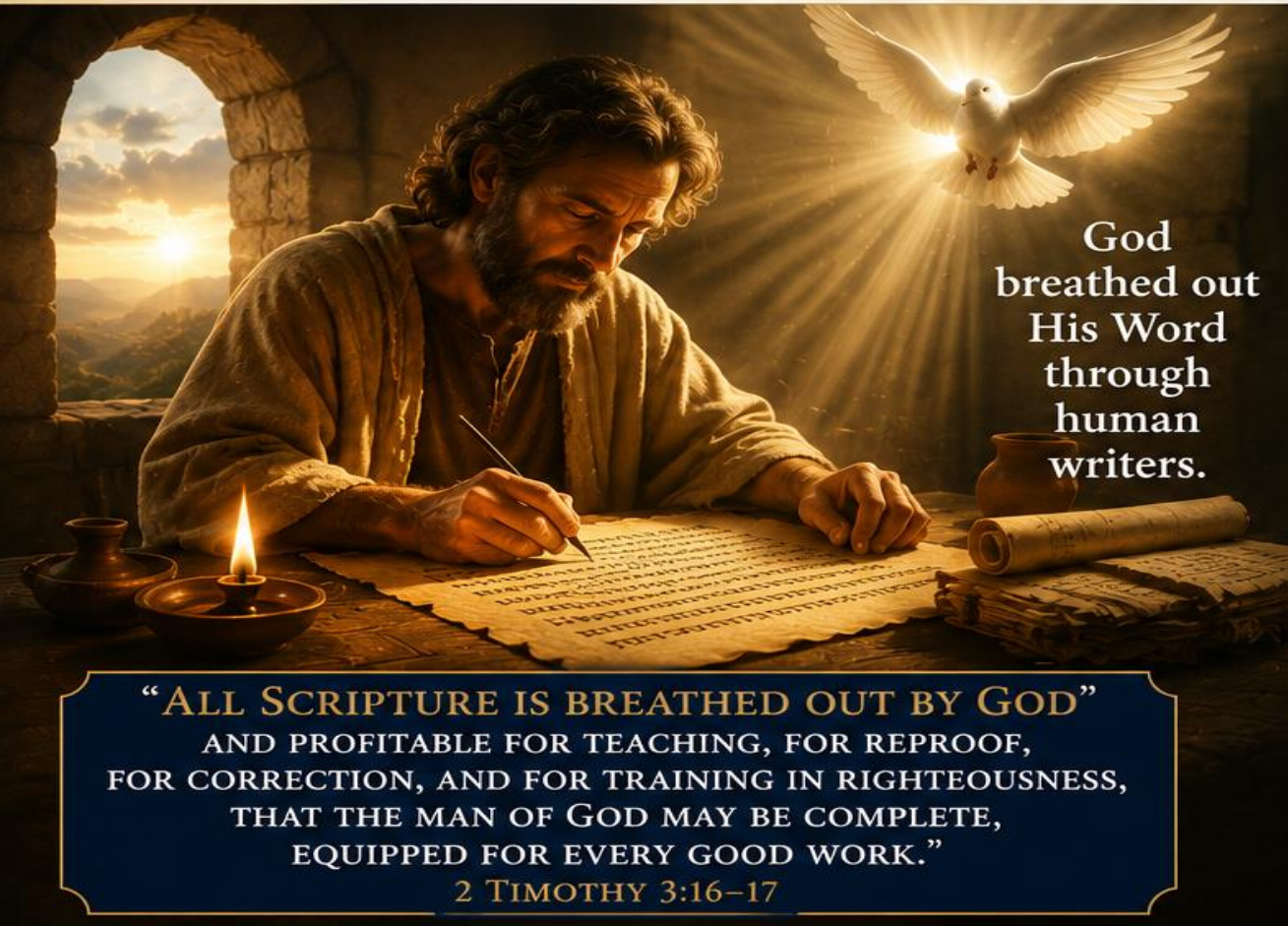


The message was translated into other languages so people can understand.

◆ *Four distinct steps in how God gave us His Word.* ◆

THE DEFINITION OF INSPIRATION

Inspiration is the process by which God guided the biblical writers so that the words they wrote were exactly the words God intended.



1. GOD-BREATHED

The Greek term *theopneustos* means “God-breathed” or “breathed out by God.”



2. CONCERNS SCRIPTURE

Inspiration primarily describes Scripture itself. The words of Scripture came from God.



3. GOD WORKED THROUGH HUMAN WRITERS

Inspiration did not erase the personalities, vocabulary, experiences, or writing styles of the human writers.



4. ACCURATE AND AUTHORIZED

God guided the writers so that the completed message was exactly what He intended. Scripture is completely trustworthy.



5. ANSWERS THE QUESTION

Inspiration answers the question: “How was God’s revealed message accurately recorded?”

The Bible is not merely inspired thoughts—it is inspired words.

“16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16 – 17 (ESV)

“20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 21 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.”

2 Peter 1:20 – 21 (ESV)

“13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”

1 Corinthians 2:13 (ESV)

“12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

John 16:12 – 15 (ESV)

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION: INSPIRATION

Inspiration does not mean the writers were inspired to think their own ideas.
Inspiration means they were inspired to write God's words.

WHAT INSPIRATION IS **NOT**

The writers did not compose their own messages.



NOT THEIR OWN IDEAS

They did not write from personal imagination or human wisdom.



NOT HUMAN INVENTION

They were not creating new religion or philosophy.



NOT PERSONAL OPINION

They did not speak on their own authority.



NOT ENTERTAINMENT

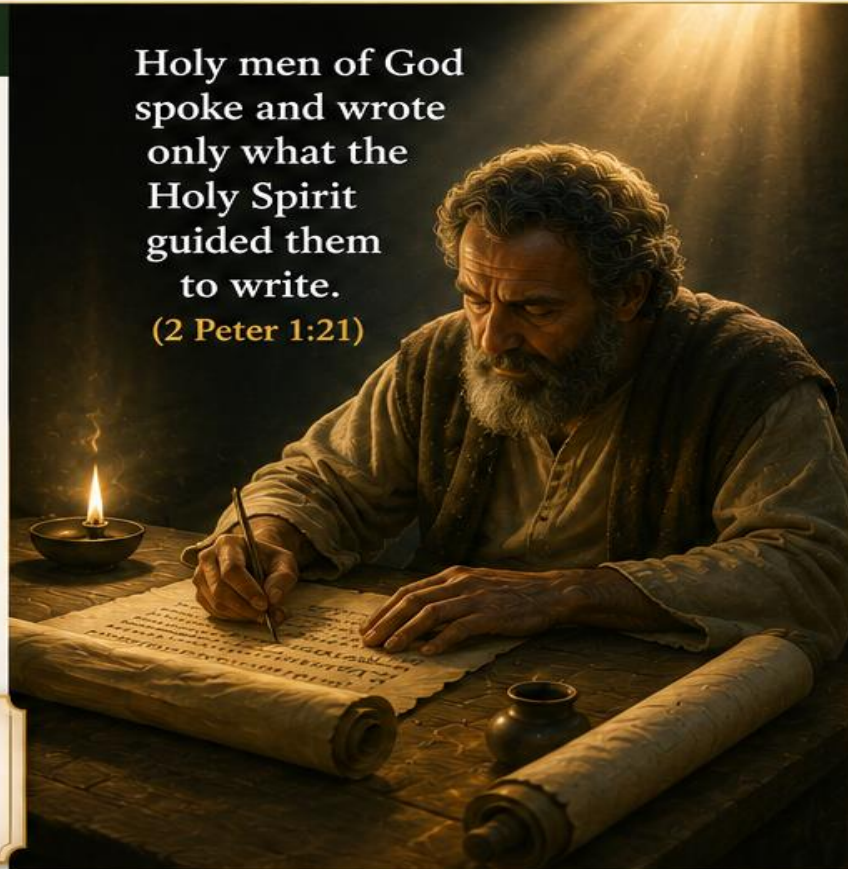
Their purpose was not to inform, entertain, or persuade.

"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."

– 2 Peter 1:21

Holy men of God spoke and wrote only what the Holy Spirit guided them to write.

(2 Peter 1:21)



WHAT INSPIRATION IS

The writers were moved by the Holy Spirit to record God's message.



GOD SUPERNATURALLY GUIDED THEM

The Holy Spirit directed their minds and words.



THEY WROTE GOD'S MESSAGE

They recorded exactly what God wanted revealed.



GOD PRESERVED THEIR WORDS

Inspiration ensured the original writings were without error in all that God intended.



THE PURPOSE IS GOD'S GLORY

That we might know the truth for salvation and faithful living.



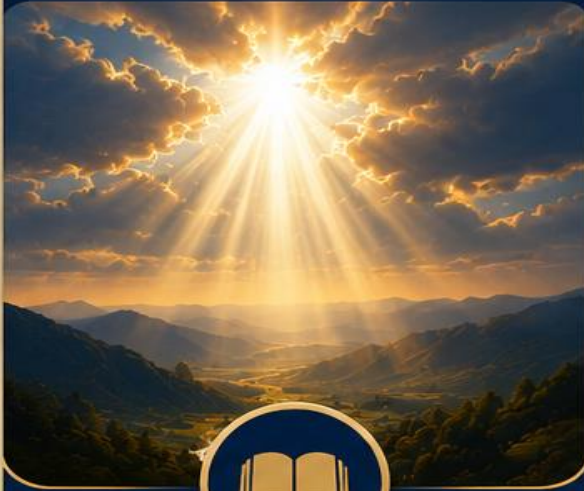
Inspiration = **God's words** through human writers.
The writers were human, but the message is from God.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching..."

– 2 Timothy 3:16

DEFINING FOUR IMPORTANT TERMS

REVELATION



God makes known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.

INSPIRATION



God guided the writers so that they wrote exactly what He intended.

TRANSMISSION



The written text was copied and passed down from one generation to another.

TRANSLATION

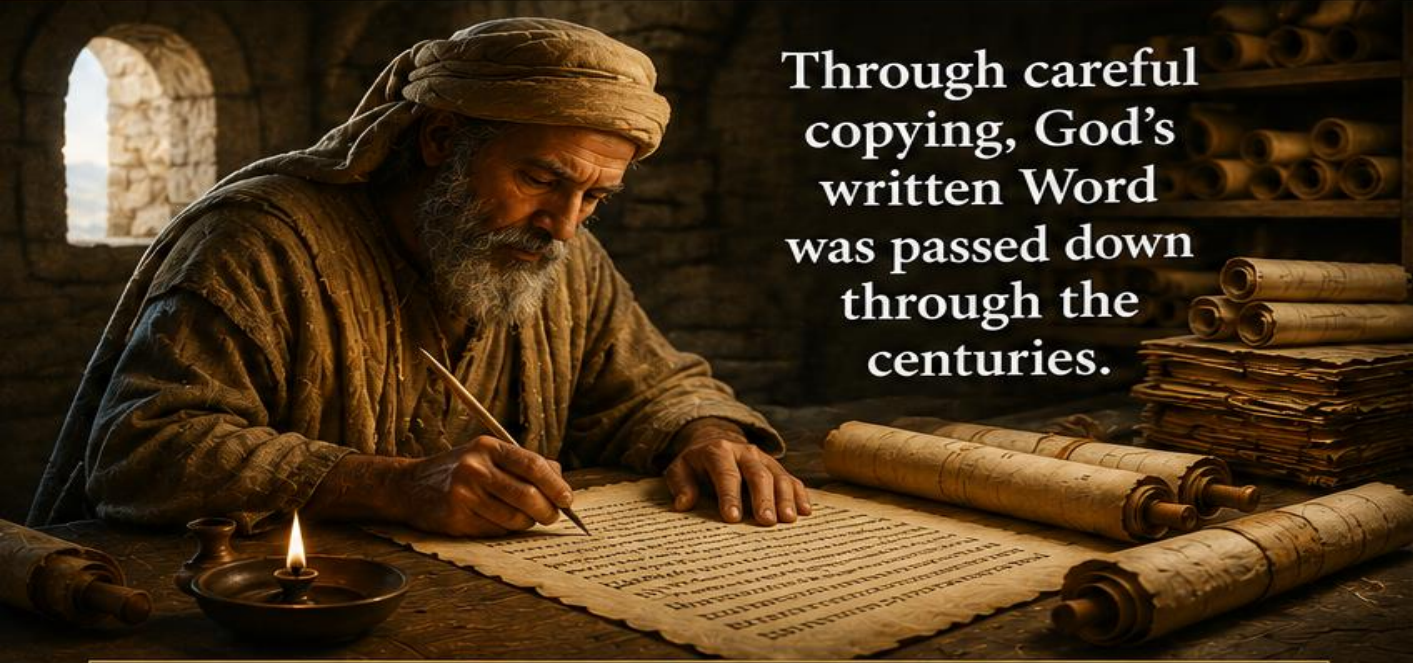


The message was translated into other languages so people can understand.

◆ *Four distinct steps in how God gave us His Word.* ◆

THE DEFINITION OF TRANSMISSION

Transmission is the faithful copying and passing down of God's written Word from one generation to another.



Through careful copying, God's written Word was passed down through the centuries.



TRANSMISSION ANSWERS THE QUESTION:
“How was the written text of Scripture passed down through the centuries?”



Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.” – **Matthew 24:35**



1. FAITHFUL COPYING

The original writings (autographs) were copied by scribes.



2. MANY MANUSCRIPTS

Thousands of manuscripts in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek preserve the biblical text.



3. CAREFUL PRESERVATION

Scribes copied carefully so the text could be read, taught, and passed to future generations.



4. GOD'S WORD ENDURES

Human opposition cannot destroy God's Word (Jeremiah 36:27–32; Matthew 24:35).



5. PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

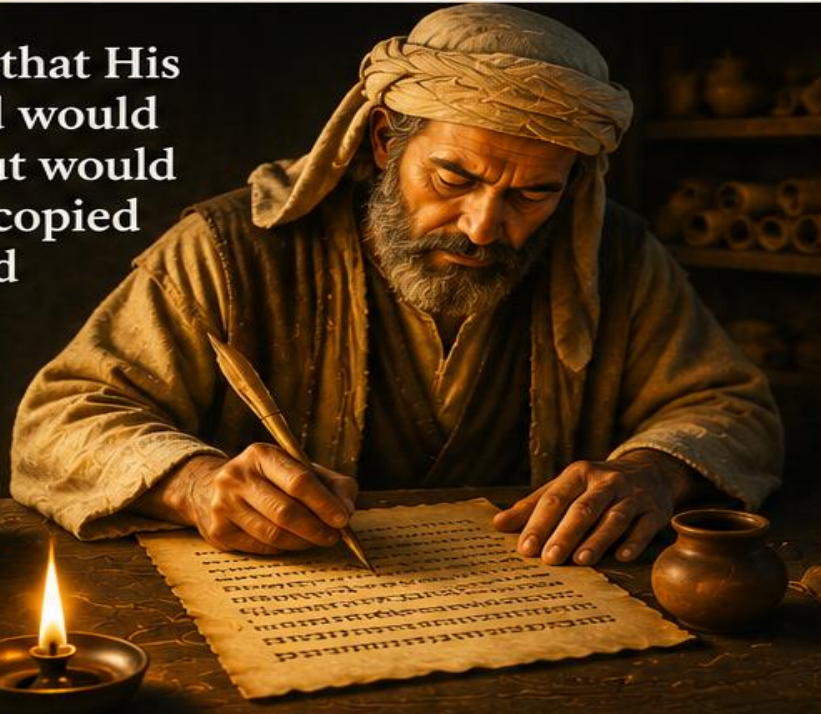
Through faithful transmission, God's Word has reached us today.

DISCUSSION: TRANSMISSION

TRANSMISSION

The written text of Scripture was faithfully copied and passed down from one generation to another.

God ensured that His written Word would not be lost, but would be faithfully copied and preserved through the centuries.



THE GOAL OF TRANSMISSION

To pass down the written text of Scripture accurately so that God's Word remains available for all generations.



His Word endures forever.
Isaiah 40:8

THE JOURNEY OF GOD'S WRITTEN WORD



Written by
inspired authors
(Autographs)



Copied by
faithful scribes
(Manuscripts)



Passed down
through generations
(Transmission)



Available to
us today



1. HOW WAS IT PASSED DOWN?

The original writings were copied by scribes so that the biblical books could be read, taught, and passed to future generations.



2. WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Faithful scribes, teachers, and believers carefully preserved and passed down the written text.



3. WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

Every word, letter, and sentence of the inspired autographs was carefully copied.



4. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Without accurate transmission, we would not have the Scriptures we have today.



5. WHAT TIME PERIOD?

Transmission spans from the time of the original writings (about 1600 years) until today.



Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. – Matthew 24:35