

God's revelation

Part 2

In presenting his truth, God varied the methods of inspiration.

First, God told the Old Testament prophets about Christ, the Saviour of the world.

But “this salvation was something the prophets did not fully understand. Though they wrote about it, they had many questions as to what it all could mean.” 1 Peter 1.10 (Living Bible). This is inspiration *without* illumination.

Second, to help today's believers understand his message, “God has actually given us his Spirit . . . to tell us about the wonderful free gifts of grace and blessing that God has given us.” 1 Corinthians 2.12 (Living Bible). This is inspiration *with* illumination.

Third, God inspired the early disciples to write about Jesus' ministry – his teaching, miracles, death and resurrection. They didn't need special revelation of course because they were eye-witnesses – “We saw it happen!” 1 John 1.2 (The Message). This is inspiration *without* revelation.

Fourth, the Bible's last book is a direct revelation from God himself “to show his servants things which must shortly take place.” Revelation 1.1. This is inspiration *with* revelation.

How privileged we are, not only to have inspired scriptures, but also to have – when needed – the necessary illumination or revelation to aid our understanding.

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“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed.” 2 Timothy 3.16 (The Message).

Ken Packer