

2009

## Bibliology

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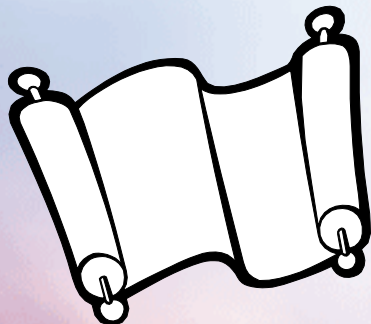
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### Recommended Citation

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# Bibliology

## The Study of the Bible

*The Invisible God has chosen to  
reveal Himself in the Person of  
Christ and through the revealed  
and inspired written Word of God*

*Adventure Works: The ultimate source for outdoor equipment*

# Meaning of “Bible”

- Derived from *biblion*, “book” or “roll”
- This word comes from *byblos*, from the papyrus plant
  - ◆ Cut in 1 ft. strips, dried, split, laid in criss-cross strips, glued together like plywood
  - ◆ Horizontal strips became writing surfaces
  - ◆ Very fragile
  - ◆ Sections glued together to form a scroll up to 30 ft
- Plural form, *biblia* used by Latin-speaking Christians for all books of Bible (OT and NT)

# Meaning of "Scripture"

- Comes from OT *graphe*, "writings"
- In OT "Writings" carried great authority (2 Ki 14:6; 2 Chron 23:18; Ezra 3:2)
- Collected into 3 groupings:
  - ◆ Law
  - ◆ Prophets
  - ◆ Writings (Psalms)
- In NT, *grapho*, used 99x ref to Bible and *graphe*, used 51x ref to Scriptures
  - ◆ Ref to all parts of Scripture (Mt 21:42; Ro 15:4)
  - ◆ Ref to individual parts of Scripture (Mk 12:10; Rom 11:2)
- Quoting *Scripture* is synonymous with quoting

# Divine Origin of the Bible

- 3,800 times, “God said” or “Thus says the Lord” (Ex 14:1; 20:1; Isa 1:10)
- Paul recognized what he was writing was the commandment of God (1 Co 14:37)
  - ◆ Acknowledged by believers (1 Th 2:13)
  - ◆ Peter warned not to alter it (2 Pe 1:16-21)
  - ◆ John said to reject his writings was to reject God! (1 Jn 4:6)
- Many suffered for making such claims (Jer 11:21; 12:6; 23:21)
- Testimonies of Jesus, Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Nehemiah, John, and Paul affirm the authority and verbal inspiration of Scriptures

# Continuity of the Bible despite diversity of authors

- 40+ authors
- Diverse backgrounds: political leader, military, shepherd, king, herdsman, prime minister, tax collector, doctor, rabbi, fisherman, Jesus' brother
- Different locations, diversity of conditions
  - ◆ Europe, Asia, Africa
  - ◆ Prisons (Paul, Jeremiah), deserts, countryside, royal court
- Most did not know of other writers of Scripture and unfamiliar of what they wrote
- Wrote over a period of 1500 years
- All without contradiction or inconsistencies.

# Comparison of Ancient Texts

<b>Autor</b>	<b>Date of writing</b>	<b>Most ancient copies</b>	<b>Num. of copies exist</b>	<b>Authenticity of copies</b>
Caesar	100 B.C.	900 A.D.	10	¿?
Livy	100 B.C.	¿?	20	¿?
Tacito	100 A.D.	1.100 A.D.	20	¿?
Thucidides	400 B.C.	900 A.D.	8	¿?
Demosthenes	300 B.C.	1.100 A.D.	200	¿?
Homer	900 B.C.	¿?	643	95%
<b>New Testament</b>	<b>50-100 A.D.</b>	<b>130 A.D.</b>	<b>5.000</b>	<b>99.5%</b>

# Divine "Revelation": Definitions

- Derived from *apokalupsis*, "disclosure" or "unveiling"
- God has revealed Himself to mankind
- Revelation makes theology possible – propositional statements about God
- Def: "The act of God whereby He discloses Himself or communicates truth to man's mind, that which could not be known in any other way."
- "*Revelation*": God's disclosure of Himself through creation, history, conscience of man and Scripture."



# General Revelation

- Though not adequate to procure salvation, but important antecedent
- General revelation is for certain truths and aspects of His nature to everyone
- Psa 19:1-6 indicates His revelation in the heavens
  - ◆ **It is continuous** (v. 2) *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*
  - ◆ **It is wordless** (v.3) *There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.*
  - ◆ **It is worldwide** (v. 4) *Their line is gone out through all the earth*
- Rom 1:18-21– **Invisible attributes are evident:**  
(1) eternal power; (2) divine nature (v. 20)

# More on General Revelation

- Reveals through Providential Control:
  - ◆ Goodness in distributing sunlight and rain Mt 5:45; Acts 14:15-17 James 1:17 *"Every good and perfect gift is from above"*
  - ◆ Dealings with nations
    - National discipline for disobedience (Israel: Deut 28: 15-68 and Egypt: Ex 7-11)
    - Raises nations to power and/or demise (Dan 2:21, 31-43)

# More on General Revelation

- Reveals through Conscience

- ◆ Intuitive knowledge concerning God in heart of man (Rom 2:14-15) *Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts,*

- It is sufficient to be the basis of condemnation (2:15) *their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)*

- ◆ Inner monitor or voice of God that passes judgment on response of man to inner moral law

# Special Revelation

1. A narrow focus: from Jesus and Scriptures
2. Scripture is given in Propositional statements coming from outside of man (not from within man)
  - a) *"God spoke all these words..." Ex 20:1*
  - b) *"Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book..." Deut 31:24*
  - c) *"...The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah... which Baruch had written at the dictation of Jeremiah..." Jer 36:27-28*
  - d) *"...I NEITHER RECEIVED IT FROM MAN, NOR WAS I TAUGHT IT, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal 1:11-12)*

# More on Special Revelation

- **Necessary due to man's sinful estate**
  - ◆ God revealed way of salvation/reconciliation
  - ◆ Special focus is Person of Christ
    - He explains the Father (Jn 1:18)
    - Declared His words (Jn 6:63) and works (Jn 5:36) and then recorded in Scriptures for world
    - Heb 1:3 Christ is "radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature."
- **Special because it is God-breathed**
  - ◆ Though written by men, the Spirit overshadowed it, carrying them along (2 Pet 1:21)
  - ◆ Though Christ was human born, the Spirit overshadowed the event (Luke 1:35)

# Review: Types of Revelation

## General Revelation

In Nature

Ps 19:1-6– Reveals God exists and His glory  
Rom 1:18-21 – Reveals God is omnipotent and He will judge

In Providence

Mt 5:45, God is benevolent to all  
Acts 14:15-17, God provides food for all

In Conscience

Rom 2:14-15, God placed His law w/n hearts of all men

## Special Revelation

In Christ

Jn 1:18, Jesus reveals what the Father is like  
Jn 5:36-37, Reveals Father's compassion  
Jn 6:36; 14:10, Reveals Father gives life to those who believe

In Scripture

2 Tim 3:16,17, Reveals doctrine and keys for good living  
2 Pet 1:21, Reveals God chose to disclose His Word through humans under the Spirit's control

# Inspiration of the Bible

- God's revelation is only as valid as the recording device: inspiration guarantees it
- Def: "The Spirit's superintending over the writers so that while writing according to their own styles and personalities, the result was God's Word written—authoritative, trustworthy, free from error in the original autographs"

# Necessary elements of Inspiration

1. **Divine element** —God the Spirit superintended writers, ensuring accuracy
2. **Human elements** —wrote according to their styles, vocabulary and personalities
3. **Result of Divine -human authorship**—a record of God's truth without error
4. **Extent of inspiration** —extends to the selection of each word by the authors without dictation
5. **Limitation** —extends to the original manuscripts only



# Meaning of “inspiration”

- Comes from Latin Vulgate Bible, verb *inspiro*
- In 2 Tim 3:16 and 2 Pet 1:21, the word “inspiration” is used to translate *theopneustos* (*theos*- “God”; + *pneustos*, “breath”)
- Emphasis is on the exhaling of God or “spiration” more accurate: product of the breath of God
- Other things breathed out by God:
  - ◆ Gen 2:7—the living souls of all men
  - ◆ Psa 33:6 – all the planets in space

# False views of Inspiration

- **Natural inspiration** —Not supernatural, but writings of unusual men, as Shakespeare
- **Spiritual illumination** —Special spiritual insight of Spirit, a potential of any believer: say the writer was “inspired”, not writings.
- **Partial or dynamic inspiration** —what relates to faith and practice is inspired, but history, science, chronology, etc. may have errors. Reject “verbal” and “plenary” inspiration. Say that what is inspired is sufficient for salvation.
  - ◆ Who determines which parts inspired?
  - ◆ How can doctrine be separated from History?
  - ◆ How can Bible be trustworthy in one area with errors in others?

# More False Views

- **Conceptual Inspiration** —only the concepts or ideas of authors were inspired. Errors are possible due to author's choice of words. Jesus (Mt 5:18) and Paul (1 Th 2:13) held verbal inspiration
- **Divine Dictation** —God dictated words and men merely wrote them down passively (as amanuenses or secretaries). Though authors did record God's statements to them, individual styles disprove this theory

# More False Views

- **Neo-orthodox opinion** —the Bible is not equal to the Word of God, because God doesn't speak in mere propositions. He doesn't reveal *facts* about Himself, but reveals *Himself*. The Bible *becomes* the Word of God, when the reader subjectively encounters Christ.

# Christ's view of the Bible

- **Inspiration of the whole—**
  - ◆ Mat 5:17-18, not even the smallest letter would pass without being fulfilled
  - ◆ Luke 24:44, All things written of Him in Moses and prophets must be fulfilled
  - ◆ John 10:35, "Scriptures cannot be broken"
- **Inspiration of the parts—**
  - ◆ Frequent quotes from OT (Mt 4:4,7,10) as inspired
- **Inspiration of the words—**Mt 22:44, Messiah not a political redeemer, but divine by emphasis on "My"
- **Inspiration of the New Testament—** Jn 14:26 promise of recall for later writing
- **Inspiration of the letters—**Mt 5:18, Not a "jot or tittle" will pass away



# Paul's view of Bible

- Inspiration of OT and NT—1 Ti 5:18, "*The Scripture says...*" quoting Deut 25:4 and Luke 10:7
- Inspiration of words—2 Tim 3:15, "*All scriptures...*" as the origin or product of..
- Entire Scriptures are God-breathed—not "every", but "*all*" Scripture
- "*Scripture*" included parts of NT which had been written at that time (1 Ti 5:18)

# Peter's view of Bible

- No Scripture produced by human will (2 Pet 1:21), that is, human intelligence or initiative
- Scriptures are “prophetic word” (v.19), “prophecy of Scripture” (v. 20); and “prophecy” (v. 21) = something completely reliable
- Writers were “*moved by*” (*pheromenoi*, “carried along”) ensuring their accuracy
- 2 Peter 3:16, False teachers distorted Paul's writings as they “*do the rest of the Scriptures*”, which equates Paul's writings with Scripture

# Inerrancy of the Bible

- In the past some have declared “inspiration, infallible and inerrant” while denying that the Bible is free from error!
- Definition: “The Scripture possess the quality of freedom from error. They are exempt from the liability to mistake, incapable of error. In all their teachings they are in perfect accord with the truth.”



# Inerrancy of the Bible

- Truth does contain approximations, free quotations, language of appearance, and different accounts of same events as long as those don't contradict.
- To suggest there are errors in Bible is to impugn the character of God. If errors, then God can fail. To assume God could contradict Himself or reality is deny the nature of God.

# Explanation of Inerrancy

- Allows for variety in style
- Allows for variety in details of explaining the same event (from Aramaic to Greek and diff. viewpoints)
- Does not demand verbatim reporting of events (Aramaic and quoting Hebrew or Greek OT, LXX)
- Allows for departure from standard forms of grammar (ej. Mixing metaphors common in Heb/Gk)
- Allows for problem passages (Linguist/Archaeologist solutions or trust the Author)
- Demands the account does not teach error or contradiction (Mt 8:5-13, centurion vs Lu 7:1-10, elders show different accounts of same event)

# Problems in rejecting inerrancy

- **Errantists conclude that errors can teach truth**
  - ◆ Unimportant to defend Bible's accuracy: Adam's historicity (But then comparison to Christ invalid)
  - ◆ Mic 5:2 describes birthplace of Jesus, then teaches eternity of Christ. Both must be true!
- **Errancy impugns the character of God**
  - ◆ If errors then God either made mistakes or was incapable to inspire inerrant Scriptures
- **Errantists disagree in listing errors**
  - ◆ Who determines what is error and what is not?

# Canonicity of the Bible

- ***Canon*, “measuring rod” in Gk/Heb.**
  - ◆ Standard by which texts were measured to see if inspired or not
  - ◆ Religious councils could not cause a book to be inspired or not
  - ◆ Councils merely recognized what God inspired when written
- **Jews and conservative Christians recognize 39 books of OT as inspired**
- **Evangelical Christians recognize 27 books of NT.**
- **Roman Catholics recognize 80 books which include the Apocrypha as “semi-canonical”**

# Canonicity of the OT

- Masoretic (Heb) text of OT divided 39 books into 3 categories:
  - ◆ Law (Pentateuch)
  - ◆ Prophets (Joshua, 1-2 Sam, 1-2 Ki, Major & Minor prophets)
  - ◆ Writings
    - Poetry & Wisdom books
    - Rolls: Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lam, Ecc, Esther
    - Historical Books: Dan, Ezra, Neh, 1-2 Chron
- Originally 24 books by combining 1&2 books, minor prophets, Ezra-Neh.

# Canonicity of the OT

- NT recognized 3-fold division (Luke 24:44) *" the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms,"*
- Other designations: "Scripture" (Jn 10:35), "Sacred Writings" (2 Tim 3:15)
- Three-fold division recognized by Josephus (37-95) and Council of Jamnia (90)

# Manner of recognition of Canon

## 1. Continuous recognition

- ◆ Moses seen as writing under authority of God (Ex 17:14; 34:27) *"LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book"*
- ◆ Acknowledgement of Pentateuch based on Mosaic authorship (declared a *"prophet"* (Deut 18:18))

## 2. Respect for prophets and their writings

- ◆ Institution of prophecy to continue God's revelations of Himself (Jer 26:8-15)
- ◆ They recorded their revelations (Josh 24:26; 1 Sam 10:25; Isa 8:1) *"Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God"*

# Manner of recognition of Canon

3. Did the book indicate Divine authorship? Did it reflect God speaking through a mediator? (Isa 2:1) Was he a prophet or have the prophetic gift? (1 Sam 10:25; Neh 8:3). Was it historically accurate?



# Need for Official NT Canon

- Spurious writings
- Contents testified of authenticity
- Apostolic writings used in worship
- Edict of Emperor Diocletian (AD 303) demanded sacred books to be burnt (needed to be recognized to be destroyed!)

# NT Tests of Canonicity

1. Apostolicity (writer or overseerer)
2. Acceptance by church overall (some legitimate books delayed (Heb, Jas))
3. Content consistent with doctrine already revealed
4. Inspiration as evidenced by high moral and spiritual values (Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha rejected here)

# Composition of the Bible

## Reliability of the OT

- None of the original MSS exist
- Hebrew scribes meticulously duplicated MSS
- Until Dead Sea scrolls oldest MSS dated 900 AD
  - ◆ Counted number of letters in a Book
  - ◆ Noted the middle letter on each line
  - ◆ Ex: Hebrew letter **א** occurred 42,377 times. If the count was different, the MSS was discarded.

Manuscripts  
of  
Original  
Texts

ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΝ  
ΕΡΧΑΝΤΕΣ ΟΥΚ ΕΝ ΑΓ  
ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΔΕΙΧΝΕΙΝ ΟΝΟΜΗ  
ΕΙΜΕΝΟΝ ΤΟ ΕΥΡΟΚΝΗ  
ΟΝ ΜΑΘΗΤΩΝ ΟΜΕ  
ΝΟΟΝΤΕΣ ΑΥΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΝΑΘΑΝΑΗΛ ΚΑΙ ΘΑ  
ΚΑΝΑΗ Η ΟΥΡΑΛΙΑΝ  
ΑΡΧΑΙΟΥΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΚΕ  
ΛΑΙΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΛΟΥΣ  
ΤΩΝ ΜΑΘΗΤΩΝ ΑΥ  
ΤΟΥΣ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ  
ΑΕΙ ΠΑΡΕΙΣΤΗΝΟΝ  
ΤΟ ΕΥΡΥΤΑΤΑ ΤΩ  
ΑΙ ΟΥΣ ΕΙΝΑΓΕΡΟΥΣ ΕΙΝ  
ΑΥΤΩ ΕΥΧΟΜΕΝΟΝ  
ΗΜΕΙΣ ΟΥΝ ΟΡΘΕΣ  
ΘΟΝΟΥΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΕ  
ΚΗΕΑΝΘΕΙΣ ΤΟΙΣ  
ΟΝΙΚΑΙ ΕΝΕΚΙΝΗ  
ΝΥΚΤΙ ΟΥΣ Η ΠΑΡΑ  
ΟΥΑΓΝΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΣΜΑ  
Η ΕΝ ΟΜΕΝ ΤΟΙΣ  
ΕΠΙ ΤΟΝ ΑΠΙΣΤΑΝ  
ΟΥΜΕΝ ΤΩ ΕΙΣ ΤΩ  
ΕΑΝ ΟΙ ΜΑΘΗΤΑΙ  
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ΕΓΕΙΟΥΝ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ  
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ΧΑΡΙΤΟΣ ΧΕΙΡΑ  
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ΚΥΟΑΙ ΕΧΟΥΝ ΑΙ  
ΤΟΥΣ ΗΛΘΟΥΣ  
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ΑΚΟΥΣ ΑΥΤΟΥΣ  
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ΟΙ ΟΥΝ ΕΥΡΟΝ ΤΕ  
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ΩΝ ΟΥΣ ΟΥΝ ΑΠΕ  
ΡΗΕΑΝ ΕΤΕΙ ΤΗΝ  
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ΜΕΝ ΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΤΗ  
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ΟΥΧ ΑΡΙΘΝΟΝ ΕΠ  
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ΜΑΘΗΤΩΝ  
ΗΛΘΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΕΝΕΚΙΝΗ  
ΕΤΕΙ ΤΩ ΟΥΣ

# Reliability of the OT Text

- Dead Sea Scrolls. Dated from 125 BC yet revealed no difference with Masoretic text of 900 AD
- Septuagint. Greek OT for dispersed Jews. Translated from Hebrew text 250-150 BC. Most quoted text by NT writers
- Samaritan Pentateuch. For worship of Samaritans at Mt Gerizim 400 BC from older Hebrew text
- Aramaic Targums. After return from Babylon Jews abandoned Hebrew for Aramaic (400 BC). Targums mean a “free or paraphrase” of Hebrew text

# Reliability of the NT Text

- Papyrus MSS: Earliest 125 AD of John
- Uncial MSS (capital letters): Texts from 0-500 AD written as uncials (capitals without separation of words)—240 MSS
- Minuscule MSS (small letters and separation of words)—2800 MSS
- Versions:
  - ◆ Syriac (170 AD), Peshitta (450 AD)
  - ◆ Latin Vulgate (400 AD)
  - ◆ Coptic (250 AD)

# Illumination of the Bible

- **Definition of *illumination***

- ◆ Since God-breathed it, God's help is necessary to understand it (1 Cor 2:11)
- ◆ Man's darkened mind requires illumination (Luke 24:44-45)
- ◆ "Ministry of the Spirit whereby He enlightens those who are in a right relationship or have a desire to know it (Jn 7:17) to comprehend the written Word"

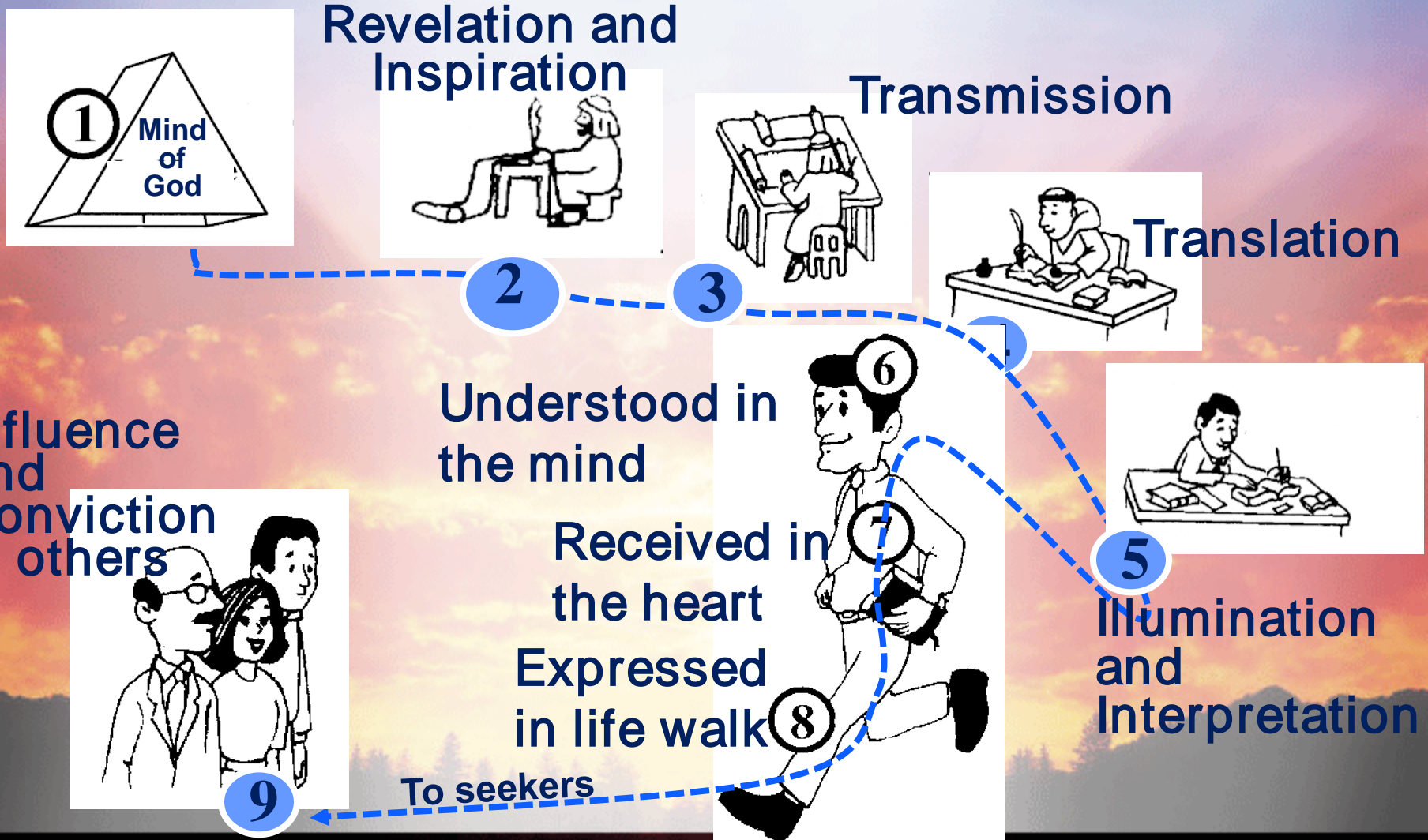
# Illumination of the Bible

- **Explanation of illumination**

- ◆ The Spirit must instruct the believer (1 Co 2:9-13)
- ◆ Jesus foretold that the Spirit would instruct (Jn 14:26), guide them into truth (Jn 16:13), disclose truth to them (Jn 16:14-15)
- ◆ Ministry of Spirit touches the mind (Ro 12:2; Eph 4:23), the heart or will (Act 16:14-15; Eph 1:18)



# Process of God's Communication



# Interpretation of the Bible

1. **Literal Interpretation** — *normal* meaning of author
2. **Grammatical relationships** — verbal and plenary inspiration mean the words and structure are inspired, thus important (verb tenses, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and rules of structure)

# Interpretation of the Bible

3. **Historical context** —what the text meant to the original hearers was God's first intent
4. **Literary Context- three main steps**
  - ◆ Study *immediate context* (paragraphs before and after)
  - ◆ Study more *remote context* (2-3 chapters either side)
  - ◆ Study the context of the *entire book or writings of author*

# Biblical Knowledge

Application  
Interpretation  
Observation

Be Careful  
Much  
Work  
Ahead

