

## The Breath of God

Special Revelation – Inspiration and Illumination

**1 Thessalonians 2:13 HCSB (13)** Also, this is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the message of God, which also works effectively in you believers.



The Thessalonians understood that the letters they received from Paul were no mere human message. From the beginning the letters were believed to be the message of God; sacred Scriptures that effectively worked in the hearts and minds of believers.

Paul agreed with them claiming,

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The word we often translate as “inspired” is *theopneustos* which suggests that Paul considered the Scriptures to not be merely “inspiring” to the reader, nor written by “inspired” authors in the same sense as Hemmingway or Steinbeck, but to be literally breathed out by God.

How did Yahweh do this? What mortal man knows! However, before certain men were conceived Hashem consecrated them and commanded them to speak saying “...all that I command you, you shall speak...behold I have put My words in your mouth.”

- **Jeremiah 1:5-9 HCSB** I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. (6) But I protested, "Oh no, Lord GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am *only* a youth." (7) Then the LORD said to me: Do not say: I am *only* a youth, for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. (8) Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration. (9) Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: Look, I have filled your mouth with My words.
- **Exodus 4:12-15 HCSB** Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say." (13) Moses said, "Please, Lord, send someone else." (14) Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses, and He said, "Isn't Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will rejoice. (15) You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak, and will teach you both what to do.
- **1 Samuel 3:19-20 HCSB** Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let nothing he said prove false. (20) All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the LORD.
- **Isaiah 6:7-9 HCSB** He touched my mouth *with it* and said: Now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, and your sin is atoned for. (8) Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for Us? I said: Here I am. Send me. (9) And He replied: Go! Say to these people: Keep listening, but do not understand; keep looking, but do not perceive.
- **Jeremiah 36:6 HCSB** so you must go and read from the scroll--which you wrote at my dictation--the words of the LORD in the hearing of the people at the temple of the LORD on a day of fasting. You must also read them in the hearing of all the Judeans who are coming from their cities.
- **Ezekiel 2:4-5 HCSB** The children are obstinate and hardhearted. I am sending you to them, and you must say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says. (5) Whether they listen

or refuse *to listen*--for they are a rebellious house--they will know that a prophet has been among them.

- **Ezekiel 3:11 HCSB** Go to your people, the exiles, and speak to them. Tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says, whether they listen or refuse *to listen*."
- **Amos 7:14-15 HCSB** So Amos answered Amaziah, "I was not a prophet or the son of a prophet; rather, I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore figs. (15) But the LORD took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'"
- **Galatians 1:15 HCSB** But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased
- **Revelation 1:10, 19 HCSB** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...**19 Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this.**

This is a very interesting view when we compare it to the Scriptures' teaching on the origins of the universe. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth by calling out "Let there be light." He then proceeded to separate and identify darkness and light.<sup>1</sup>

In the same manner that God Father decided and then by the power of the Spirit created the universe through the Son, so through the Spirit He spoke through human authors and created yet another type of life-giving light: the light of truth. In that Word He has clearly identified spiritual light and darkness for us so that we can use the enlightenment as a guide.

- **Genesis 1:14-18 HCSB** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years. (15) They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. (16) God made the two great lights--the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night--as well as the stars. (17) God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, (18) to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- **Psalms 119:105 HCSB** Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

Having thus moved beyond the general revelation of nature and morality, God has directly and clearly spoken to us through the agency of the ancient prophets.

- **2 Peter 1:20-21 HCSB** First of all, you should know this: no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, (21) because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God.
- **Romans 3:1-2 HCSB** So what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? (2) Considerable in every way. First, they were entrusted with the spoken words of God.

His Word is therefore sanctifying Truth

- **John 17:17 HCSB** **Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.**

It is more necessary to our immortal lives than bread is to our mortal bodies.

- **Matthew 4:4 HCSB** But He answered, "**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:1-4

Having gone so far to reveal Himself to us and to give us the secrets to the underpinnings and purposes of the universe, El Hagibor<sup>2</sup> – Strong and Gracious – is justified when He rebukes the accursed proud who wander from His commands.

- **Psalms 119:21 HCSB** You rebuke the proud, the accursed, who wander from Your commands.
- **Romans 1:18-19 HCSB** For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, (19) since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.
- **Psalms 2:12 HCSB** Pay homage to the Son, or He will be angry, and you will perish in your rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any moment. All those who take refuge in Him are happy.

The only appropriate response to this wonderful gift of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is to ask for another – the gift of illumination.

“Open our eyes that we may see wonderful things in Your law. Help us understand the meaning of Your precepts so that we can meditate on Your wonders! If You will only help us understand Your instruction, we will obey it and follow it wholeheartedly.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> El Hagibor refers to His great strength and His supervisory role; Deuteronomy 10:17; Nehemiah 9:32

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 119:18, 27, 34