

UNIT 3: THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – PART 1

LESSON 3 – The Author of Scripture



Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - That the Holy Spirit spoke to human authors and guided them to write God's Word



Introduction

- What we want to do with what we learn:
 - Trust in the Author of God's Word, God Himself



Scripture Focus

- Exodus 34:27
- Isaiah 30:8
- Galatians 1:11-12
- John 1:1-5, 14



Opening Prayer

Lord, I am asking you to give me eyes to see Your Word, a mind that understands Your Word, and a heart that embraces Your Word. Without Your help, I am lost. Thank You for loving me and teaching me through Your Word. Amen.



Anchor Statement

The bible has been written by many witnesses over the course of many years, and yet it is entirely authored by God Himself



OVERVIEW



Overview

- Was all biblical content received dramatically like Moses received the 10 Commandments?



Overview

- We will discuss
 - The Holy Spirit's role in authorship
 - The different types of writing
 - Why we can still maintain the inerrancy of Scripture knowing that it was written with fallen human hands



Context and Details

Exodus

Author: Moses (accepted)

Time frame: ~1400-1200 BC

Purpose: Record of God's great rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt



Context and Details

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah, son of Amoz

Time frame: ~740-681 BC

Purpose: to call the nation of Judah back to God; to warn of coming judgment; to tell of God's ultimate salvation through the Messiah



Context and Details

John

Author: John the Apostle

Time frame: ~85-95 AD

Purpose: to clearly communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah



Context and Details

Galatians

Author: Paul

Time frame: ~48-53 AD

Purpose: to teach that there is no work we could accomplish to be saved, including keeping the law



THE SETTING



The Setting

- Moses received the Ten Commandments
- Moses smashed the tablets in frustration
- God renewed His promise, after the people repented



THE MAIN POINT



The Main Point

- The Holy Spirit is the true author of Scripture
- Writers understood the words they were writing did not come from them, but were from God



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To think about the challenge of communicating someone else's message to others



Question

- Have you ever played a communication game?



Communication

- **Was it easy to communicate the phrase down the line?**
- **If the communication broke down, why do you feel it broke down?**
- **What does this game show us about the miracle of how God's Word made it to us?**



Communication

- Sometimes, we struggle to communicate a simple, unimportant phrase to others. God's Word was written through human authors in a way that shows that the Holy Spirit was at work in it all



THE MAIN EVENT



Goal

- To understand how the Holy Spirit spoke to human authors and guided them to write God's Word



Question

- **What do you think it would have been like to be a writer of God's Word?**



The Main Event

- **We will be looking at several verses from Scripture about how the Holy Spirit authored the Bible through the pens and personalities of different people in different periods of time**



Exodus 34:27-28

- **Who was supplying the words for Moses?**



Explanation

- **Moses was not the one who created the words or ideas – He was simply the recorder of what God said, and, later, what God did**



Explanation

- **God's words helped define the roles and responsibilities in His promised covenant with His people.**
- **God wanted to ensure His expectations were ULTRA clear**



Isaiah 30:8

- **Prophets were considered the mouthpiece of God**
- **To convey what God wanted to communicate to the people**
- **Isaiah was simply the delivery person**



Question

- **How is Isaiah's command from God like Moses' command in Exodus 34:27?**



Galatians 1:11-12

- **How did Paul come to know the Gospel?**



Galatians 1:11-12

- **Paul, like many of the New Testament writers, had a direct encounter with God**



Could It Have Been Easier?

- **It would have been easier for Jesus to write down everything Himself**
- **Instead, He let Scripture be what it was from the beginning: a divinely inspired human testimony of the works and words of God**



The Point

- **Jesus is the Old Testament's promised Messiah (Savior)**
- **The whole Bible points to Jesus**
- **According to John's Gospel, Jesus is the Word of God on display in human form**



John 1:1-5,14

- John says that Jesus is:
 - The Life
 - The Word
 - God
- Jesus was like a walking, talking Bible – on display for the world to see



Question

- **How can we learn more about what God calls us to do in His Word by looking at Jesus?**



Lesson Summary

- **We've seen that the Holy Spirit is the One leading the writing of His Word**
- **He uses broken people like Moses, Isaiah, Paul, and John to write His message**



Anchor Statement

The bible has been written by many witnesses over the course of many years, and yet it is entirely authored by God Himself



THE LAST WORD



Goal

- To trust in the Author of God's Word



Remember

- There is a lot of false and misleading communication today
- We must know the true source of a message to know whether we should believe in, or follow, it



John 14:16-17

- Since the Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture, we can trust that Scripture is the Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit is called the “Helper”



Question

- How does knowing the Author of God's Word change the way you live out God's Word?



Question

- What is significant about followers of Jesus having the Holy Spirit as their Helper, while the world does not?



Importance of Scripture

- For followers, it can have the same effect as holding on to a letter from an old friend or a relative that you don't see very often
- You **KNOW** the person who wrote it
- Each time you read it will bring you closer and closer to Him



