

Journey through the Bible.

I. How to read your Bible.

A. The nature of the Bible (**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.) Inspired means "God breathed (or to blow), prompted by God, divinely inspired.

We can see God speaking through according to William MacDonald:

1. When Paul speaks of all Scripture, he refers to the complete OT and those portions of the NT that were then in existence. (**1 Timothy 5:18** For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.) He quotes **Luke 10:7** ("And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.") as Scripture. And Peter speaks of Paul's Epistles as Scriptures (**2 Pet. 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.). So today, we are justified in applying the verse to the Bible.

2. This is one of the most important verses in the Bible on the subject of inspiration. It teaches that the Scriptures are God-breathed. Miraculously, He communicated His Word to men and led them to write it down for permanent preservation. What they wrote was the very word of God, inspired and infallible. While it is true that the individual literary style of the writer was not destroyed, it is also true that the very words he used were words given to him by the Holy Spirit. Thus, we read in 1 Corinthians 2:13, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." If this verse says anything at all, it says that the inspired writers used WORDS which the Holy Spirit taught. This is what is meant by verbal inspiration.

3. "The writers of the Bible did not give their private interpretation of things, but wrote the message which God gave them. (**2 Pet. 1:20, 21** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.).

4. It is false to say that God gave the thoughts to the individual writers and allowed them to express these thoughts in their own words. The truth in the Scriptures is that the words originally given by God to men were God-breathed.

God imparted himself into His Word. The Bible in every place is God-given. (**Hebrews 1:1-3** God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.)

Let's look at some examples of God's breath resulting in action. Ruah

1. Creation (**Genesis 1:1-2** In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. **2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.) Spirit means "spirit, wind, breath." The Holy Spirit is imparting His power into creation.

2. Moses (**Exodus 10:13** And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. **Ezekiel 19:12** But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them. **Psalms 11:6** Upon the wicked, he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.)

3. Gideon (**Judges 6:33-34** Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together and went over and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. **34** But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, and Abiezer was gathered after him.)

4. Saul (**1 Samuel 15:14** But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.)

5. Obadiah (**1Kings 18:10-16** As the Lord thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. **11** And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. **12** And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth. **13** Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave and fed them with bread and water? **14** And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me. **15** And Elijah said, As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him today. **16** So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.)

6. Job (**Job 12:10** In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.)

7. Psalmist (**Psalms 51:10-12** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy spirit from me. **12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.) Free is a "feminine noun indicating dignity, honour, and nobility. It indicates a positive, approving, willing spirit, a spirit of dignity."

What should we understand about Ruah? That God moves in specific ways described through wind or breath. God's very person is involved in the creation, judgment, kings, transportation, life and metaphysical feelings such as thoughts, joy and guilt.

The Bible was a work of God through men at every point; therefore, to change the Bible is to be in rebellion against the Word of God.

God promises:

1. He will fulfill all His Word (**Matthew 5:18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.)

2. He will preserve His Word (**Psalms 12:6-7** The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **7** Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.)

3. He will punish those that try to change His Word (**Revelation 22:18-19** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. **Deuteronomy 4:2** Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. **Deuteronomy 12:32** What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.)

The purpose of the Bible (**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **John 5:39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.) So the Bible is given to us to help us teach "doctrine." Reproving an enemy for correcting wrong ways and chastisement for righteousness. So we as Christians may be complete and fit to be complete in all things concerning Christ's way.