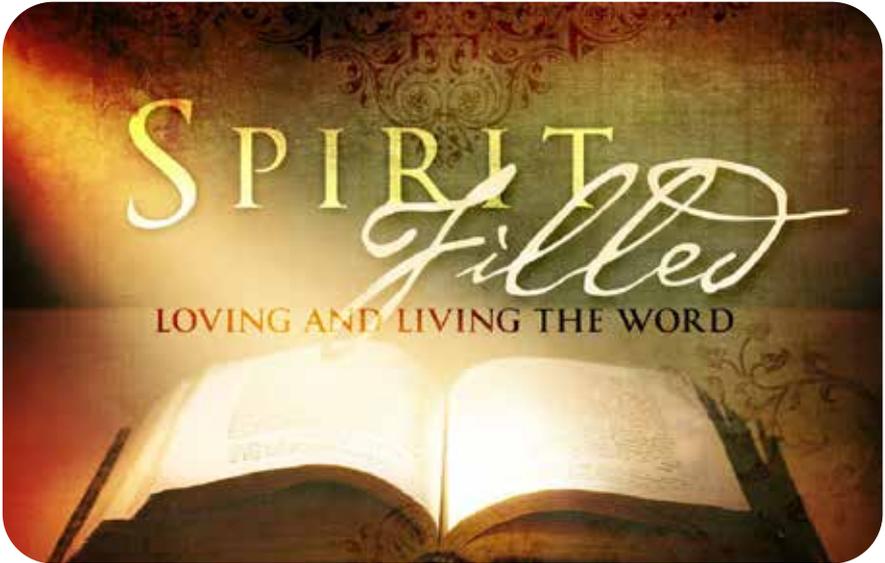


For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:21 ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service & Communion

Sunday, 6 February, 2022

Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm
 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>
 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 1015am
ZOOM links provided

Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)
Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707**
email: info@bereanbarbados.org
www.bereanbarbados.org

THE MEN WHO WROTE SCRIPTURE WERE LED BY THE SPIRIT

When Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16, literally, that all Scripture is θεόπνευστος (theopneustos), or “God-breathed,” it does not mean that the human authors were “inspired” but that the Scripture itself, the product was, as we have been taught to say, “inspired.”

But how did the divine Word come to us from the inner being of God, as he breathed it out? If 2 Timothy 3:16 speaks to the product, then 2 Peter 1:21 speaks to the process.

“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” A more exact rendering of the Greek form of the second clause would be, “... but by the Holy Spirit being carried/led, men spoke from God.” In other words, the Holy Spirit was the divine Agent who carried or led or conducted the authors of Scripture so that what they were writing was God-breathed Scripture.

The Greek participle translated “carried” (φέρω, pherō) simply means to bring something like an object or a message (hence, “carry”) or lead someone from one place to another. But because the word “spirit” can also mean “wind” or “breath,” authors have sometimes suggested that Peter is thinking that the authors are like ships driven by the Spirit who filled their sails.

John MacArthur is relying on this tradition when he explains,

As those godly men were carried along by the Holy Spirit, He superintended their words and used them to produce the Scriptures. As a sailing ship is carried along by the wind to reach its final destination, so the human authors of Scripture were moved by the Spirit of God to communicate exactly what He desired. In that process, the Spirit filled their minds, souls, and hearts with divine truth— mingling it sovereignly and supernaturally with their unique styles, vocabularies, and experiences, and guiding them to produce a perfect, inerrant result (Strange Fire, 2013, p. 223).

Amen to that!

But, still, the idea of men being led by the Spirit to write God-breathed Scripture does not tell us much about how that process took place. Many people, I think, imagine that the Spirit’s “filling their minds, souls, and hearts with divine truth”

means that these men simply sat down one day with a blank papyrus roll and filled it up with what the Spirit was whispering in their minds. But if we read the Bible carefully, we discover that the process was a lot more complicated and sometimes messier than that. For me, it raises a lot of questions about the process.

I often wonder, for instance, when reading a beautifully constructed, rhythmic psalm in the Hebrew language, with perfect parallelism, how many times the author said to himself in the composition process, “No, that phrase doesn’t work” or “that word doesn’t fit” and change the text. (Have you ever tried to write poetry?) And then there are the acrostic psalms (Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145) or the acrostic book of Lamentations. What masterful works of art! In Psalm 119, for instance, there are 22 stanzas, one stanza for each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the 8 lines in each stanza starts with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet that stanza represents. (In Psalm 119:1-8, all of the lines start with the Hebrew letter aleph; in 9-16, all start with bet; etc.) If you have taken at least a year of Hebrew, you should try reading Psalm 119 sometime and see how inventive the author is in order to make the whole psalm read this way. Just as in English, some Hebrew letters are harder to start sentences with than others. How many times did the psalmist pace the floor, trying to think of a word that starts with a rarer letter? Did he ever call out to his wife, “Honey, what’s another word that means ...?” Or maybe there were a group of godly scribes who collaborated on the project. And then, how did this particular psalm come to be organized in the book of Psalms, so that we have a collection of 150 psalms in the canon in that particular order?

That God used this kind of “occasional” activity to breath out his divine Word is really remarkable. B. B. Warfield comments,

“If God wished to give His people a series of letters like Paul’s, He prepared a Paul to write them, and the Paul He brought to the task was a Paul who spontaneously would write just such letters” (The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, 1948, p. 155).

There are many questions that will remain unanswered. But one thing we do know for certain. Whatever the exact process, whatever the situation, however the men came to write God-breathed Scripture, the Holy Spirit superintended the process so that we would have exactly the Word God wanted us to have.

THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN ADAPTED, READ IT IN ITS ENTIRETY HERE:

<https://seminary.bju.edu/theology-in-3d/the-men-who-wrote-scripture-were-led-by-the-spirit/>

Order of Service

March 6, 2022, 10:40 a.m.

THEME: The Coming of The Holy Spirit

1. **Call to Worship -**
2. **Announcements - Secretary Celeste Porte**
3. **Meditation & Invocation**
4. **Hymn # - There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit**
5. **Hymn #248 - Blessed Quietness**
6. **Scripture Reading - Acts 2: 14 - 24**
7. **Song - O Great God**
8. **Special - Bro. Ryan Bayne**
9. **Prayer & Offertory - Hymn #51 - Blessed Assurance**
10. **Sermon - Pastor Paul Garnes**
11. **Hymn #266 - Breathe on Me Breath of God**
12. **Distribution of Elements**
13. **Hymn #254 - He Abides**
14. **Benediction**

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

- For peace in the Ukraine & Russia
- To stop the spread of COVID and for healing for those ill from the virus.
- For comfort for families who have recently lost loved ones.
- For the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the many Berean Churches in the DR Congo.
- For the friends of Berean - The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For entrepreneurs and those seeking employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.

March Birthdays



5th - Jenny Lynn Francis	13th - Cheryl Paul	24th - Rosalind Conliffe
- Zachary Haynes	14th - Lucy Crichlow	25th - Eartha Skeete
7th - Carl Ward	16th - Cherise Brathwaite	27th - Joyce Belgrave
- Faith Williams	18th - Roselyn Dixon	30th - Kim Bayley
8th - Tiffany Brathwaite	20th - Pearlita Franklin	- Cheryl Branch
13th - Sylvester Branch	- Delores Ward	31st - Ricardo Parris

Anniversaries

8th - Marva & Victor Springer	23rd - Hilton & Jenny Piggott
17th - Patricia & Trevor Scott	31st - Orin & Cheryl Paul