

## THE BIBLE INSPIRED.

Only the Old Testament was completed and a few books of the New Testament, when Paul wrote, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." Objectors to inspiration claim that the different authors write in the exercise of their own faculties, in the use of advantages within their reach, and with the same diversities of style as is common with other writers, and that the discrepancies with which they abound are inconsistent with the idea of their inspiration.

The apparent discrepancies, however, vanish, as we carefully examine them, and as to diversities of style, and the use of advantages within their reach and the exercise of their own faculties, it is claimed that the correct conception of inspiration embraces all these things. It does not override, neither does it neutralize or destroy, but makes use of the individuality and even the idiosyncracies or mental peculiarities of the writer, in expressing the Scripture given by inspiration of God.

We might reasonably expect our Heavenly Father would thus impart saving knowledge to the race placed here on probation and created for an immortal existence. His heart from eternity has yearned for our welfare. His compassion flows towards us, and his intervention in our behalf appears again and again. He does care for us and tells us so. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him, and the angel of his mercy encampeth round about them. He hears the cry of the poor and the needy; he breaks the arm of the oppressor; he punishes the transgressor and rewards the obedient. In emergencies, extraordinary men appear to administer justice and judgment in his name; and prophets come forward from age to age, endowed with miraculous power, foretelling future events, and writing down important communications respecting the final triumph of the Church of God on earth, and its eternal blessedness and glory in the kingdom of heaven.

These communications are bound up in this one volume of the Old and New Testaments which contain the complete unfolding of the divine will to man, and the declaration, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," applies to them all.

Here men speak to us with lips touched with live coals from the heavenly altar; here the blessed angels hover over us, take us by the hand and point us to the skies. Here the Son of man, divine and human, the Messiah promised from the beginning, shows us the way of everlasting life, and invites the weary and heavy laden to come to him for rest. Here apostles with holy consecration teach us what we are to believe concerning God, and the duty God requires of man. All assure us, if we lead lives of penitence, humility, trust, filial obedience, and fight the good fight of faith, through the influence of him who gave the inspiration, we shall be presented faultless before the throne of God, and conquerors' robes shall be put upon us and an immortal crown.

Look at the comprehensive range of inspiration and see its completeness. It does not tell us much about astronomy, although it does speak of the sweet influences of the Pleiades and of the bands of Orion, and of Arcturus. It does not tell us much of mineralogy, although it assures us that there is wisdom above rubies, and to be prized above fine gold, and it commands us to seek the spiritual pearl of great price.

In a single sentence—its first sentence—it announces, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and in this one declaration teaches us more about the origin of the world than we could learn from all the libraries of Egypt, Greece or Rome. It tells of the genesis of the human race, of man made in the image of God, of his apostasy, and of the divine method of redemption. It tells us the chief end for which man was made—that he might glorify God and enjoy Him forever.