

# myBible

Inspiration

The Anchor MBC – F.A.I.T.H. Night

# What is the Inspiration of Scripture and Why does it Matter?

*“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.”*

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- **The Question we must answer:**

“Is the Bible accurate? If so, how accurate?”

# What is the Inspiration of Scripture and Why does it Matter?

The Enemy is a Successful Archer (Eph. 6:16)

## What is at stake?

- Faith
- Salvation
- Church Unity



# Revelation – What is it?

Revelation – the intervention of God into human life and history...



# Revelation – What is it?

- What do the following accounts have in common?
  - Genesis 3:6-9 – God and Adam & Eve
  - Genesis 6:8-14 – God and Noah
  - Genesis 12:1-3 – God and Abram
  - Genesis 28:10-16 – God and Jacob
  - Exodus 3:1-5 – God and Moses

**Men did not discover God; He revealed Himself to them.**



# Revelation – What is it?



- Buddhism vs. Judaism/Christianity
  - Read [Romans 1:18-25 and 3:11](#)



# The Two Types of Revelation

- Natural Revelation - the witness of God's creation to His existence and the demonstration of His attributes



Special Revelation - God's direct communication with mankind

# The Two Types of Revelation

- Examples of Natural Revelation:
  - Read **Job 38:1-41** and discuss **what we learn about God** from the examples He gives Job.





# The Two Types of Revelation

- Examples of Special Revelation:
  - Visions ([Gen. 15:1](#), [Num. 12:6](#), [24:4](#))
  - Dreams ([Gen. 20:3](#), [31:11](#), [1 Kings 3:15](#))
  - Theophanies - God taking on a human likeness and appearing to men ([Gen. 18:1-3](#), [Jos. 5:13-15](#))
  - The direct control of the Holy Spirit ([Num. 11:25-26](#), [1 Sam. 10:6-11](#))
  - Songs and works of poetry ([Ex. 15:20-21](#), [Pr. 1:1-6](#))
  - Study of prophetic writings and historical works ([Dan. 9:1-3](#))

# The Two Types of Revelation

- Examples of Special Revelation:
  - Prayer ([Dan. 9:4-6ff](#), [2 Chron. 6:12-14ff](#))
  - A disembodied hand appearing and writing on a wall ([Dan. 5:5-6](#))
  - Historical accounts ([Luke 1:1-4](#), [Acts 1:1-5](#))
  - Letters written to individuals or churches ([Phil. 1:1](#), [2 Peter 3:15-16](#))
  - The collection of various forms of special revelation in a book ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#))
  - God Himself coming in the flesh and appearing to men ([John 1:14-18](#), [Heb. 1:1-2](#))

Time for Group Discussions

**Inspiration**  
**Handout No. 1**

# 4 Types of Special Revelation

*“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 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; 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;”*

- Hebrews 1:1-3

# 4 Types of Special Revelation

1. External Manifestation

2. Internal Suggestion (Direction)

3. Concursive Operation

4. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

# External Manifestation

the giving of revelation from a source outside of man Himself (i.e. someone or something else is talking to him).



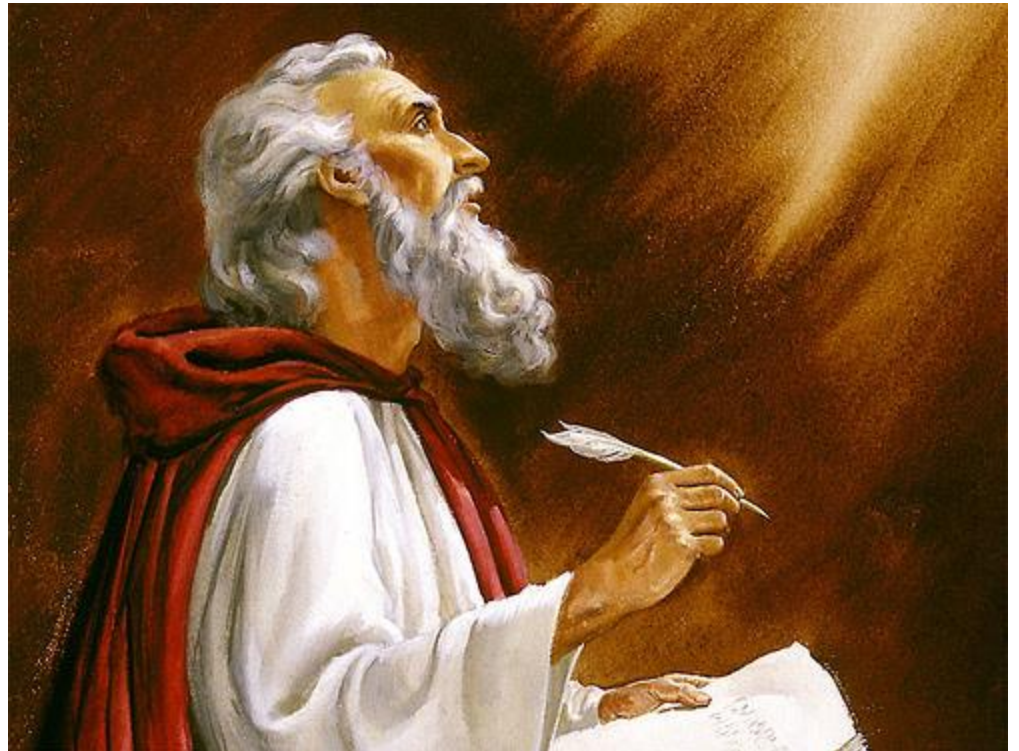


# Internal Direction

the giving of revelation internally to man, typically by means of a vision or a dream.

See:

- **Numbers 12:6-8**
- **2 Peter 1:20-21**



# Concursive Operation

concursive - derived from “concourse”, which is a moving, flowing, or running together of two or more different things.



# Concursive Operation

Concursive operation refers to the joint operation of man and God in the process of revelation.

“We are to think of the Spirit’s inspiring activity, and, for that matter, of all His regular operations in and upon human personality, as (to use an old but valuable term) *concursive*; that is, as exercised in, through, and by means of the writers’ own activity, in such a way that their thinking and writing was both free and spontaneous on their part and divinely elicited and controlled, and what they wrote was not only their own work but also God’s work.”

- J.I. Packer

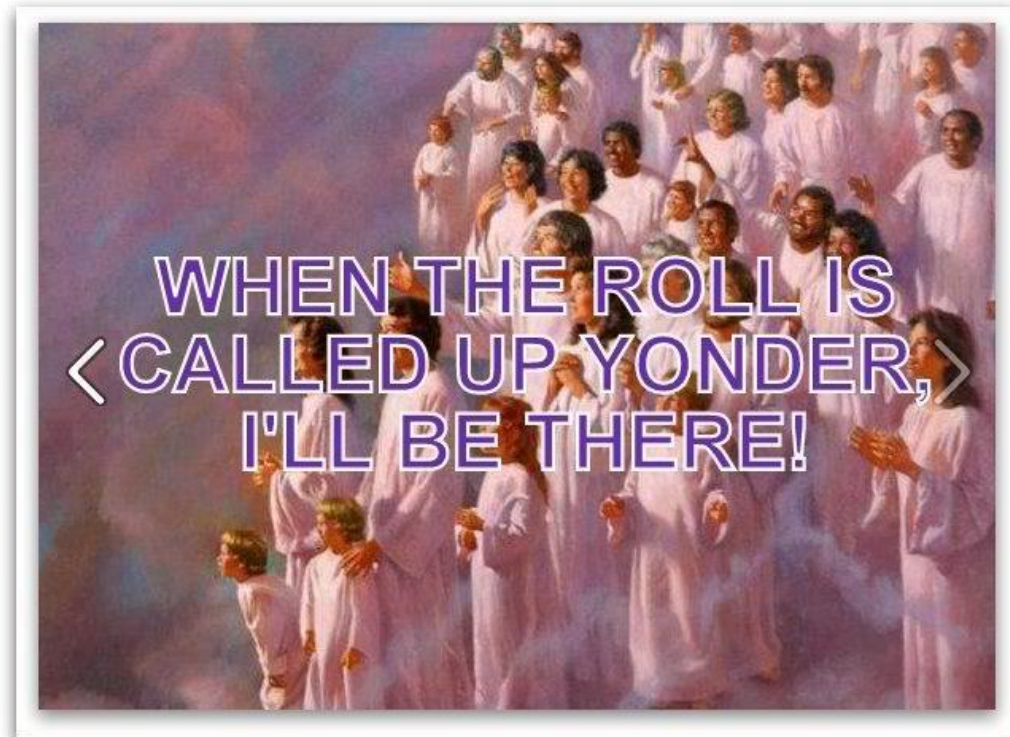
# Concursive Operation

An Example: Paul's Letters

- 1 Corinthians 5:9
- 2 Corinthians 10:10

Another Example: Our future glory...

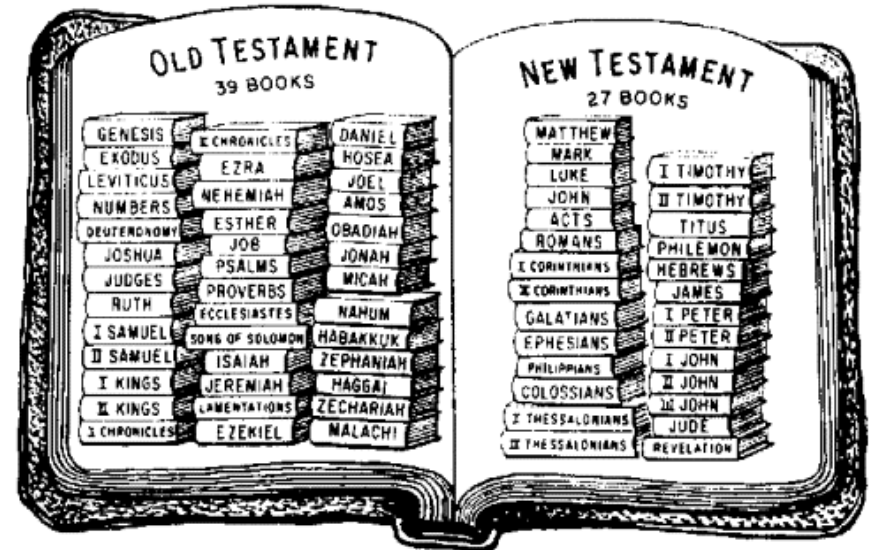
**Did Paul always know when a letter he wrote was inspired?**



# All 3 Modes in Biblical History

“There is no age in the history of the religion of the Bible, from that of Moses to that of Christ and His apostles, in which all these modes of revelation do not find place. One or another may seem particularly characteristic of this age or of that; but they all occur in every age. And they occur side by side, broadly speaking, on the same level.”

– B.B. Warfield



# All 3 Modes in Biblical History

## 1. External Manifestation

- Old Testament: Gen. 18, Ex. 3:2-5, Num. 22:28-30, Dan. 9:21-22
- New Testament: Luke 1:11-13, Luke 1:26-28, Acts 1:9-11

## 2. Internal Suggestion (Direction)

- Old Testament: Isa. 1:1, Zech. 1:1-3
- New Testament: Acts 9:10-16, 10:9-16, 21:10-11,



# All 3 Modes in Biblical History

## 3. Concursive Operation

- Old Testament: Job, Gen. 49, Psalm 62, Psalm 88, Some of Lamentations
- New Testament: 1 Thess. 1:1-2, 3:1-2; Acts 15:23-29; Acts 6:1-6

# What about Special Revelation Today?

**Does God still communicate with us by  
Special Revelation today?**

## Testing Revelation Today

- External Manifestation – Gal. 1:8
- Internal Direction – 1 Thess. 5:19-22
- Concursive Operation – 1 John 4:1

Time for Group Discussions

**Inspiration**  
**Handout No. 2**

Time for Group Discussions

**Inspiration**  
**Handout No. 3**

# Inspiration - Overview

## The Question we must answer:

“Is the Bible accurate? If so, how accurate?”

- Satan’s attack, “has God said...” – [Gen. 3:1](#)



# Inspiration - Overview

- Verbal Plenary Inspiration

Verbal – relating to or in the form of words.

Plenary – without qualification, absolute.





# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## **Defense 1: The Character & Nature of God**

*“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”*

- Psalms 12:6



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 2: Understanding of Writers & Interpreters of Scripture

*“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*

- 2 Peter 1:20-21

- Example 1: The Exile of the Jews in Babylon  
(Jer. 25:11-12, Daniel 9:2-3)
- Example 2: The Raising up of a Heir to Abraham  
(Gen. 22:17-18, Gal. 3:16)

# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 3: Authority of Jesus Christ



*“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle (the smallest letter or stroke) shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

- **Matthew 5:17-18**

*“Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? “If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),”*

- **John 10:34–35**

# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 4: The Intent of Scriptures

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

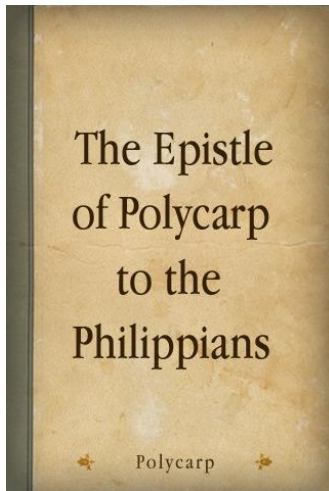
## Defense 4: The Intent of Scriptures (cont.)

- Earliest Christian Creed: **1 Corinthians 15:3-7**
  - Creed - from the Latin *credo* (first word of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds), from *credere* to believe, trust, entrust; a brief authoritative formula of religious belief
- Necessity of faith in the word: **Rom. 10:17**
- The beginning & end of Scriptures: **Gen. 1:3** and **Rev. 22:18-19**

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 5: The Perception of Ancient Jews & Christians

- The Masoretes



- Polycarp's letter to the Philippians



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 6: The Preservation of the Word

“We do not have the original manuscripts, called ‘autographs,’ of any book of the Bible. These were lost, mostly during the persecution of the early church. Roman emperors felt that if they could destroy the church’s literature, they could eliminate Christianity. Others were lost due to ‘wear and tear.’ The fact that some early churches did not keep these autographs, but made copies and used them, demonstrates that they were more concerned with the message, than the vehicle of the message. God in His wisdom allowed the autographs to vanish. Like the relics from the Holy Land, they would have been venerated and worshipped. Surely ‘Bibliolatry’ (worship of the Bible) would have replaced worship of God.” – *Elmer Towns*

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 6: The Preservation of the Word (cont.)

Did God want the early church to copy the letters?

Read **Colossians 4:16**, **1 Thessalonians 5:27**, and  
**Revelation 1:11**



# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 6: The Preservation of the Word (cont.)

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span (years)	No. of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1,000	10
Plato ( <i>Tetralogies</i> )	427-347 BC	900 AD	1,200	7
Tacitus ( <i>Annals</i> )	100 AD	1,100 AD	1,000	20
Pliny the Younger ( <i>History</i> )	61-113 AD	850 AD	750	7
Thucydides ( <i>History</i> )	460-400 BC	900 AD	1,300	8
Suetonius ( <i>De Vita Caesarum</i> )	75-160 AD	950 AD	800	8
Herodotus ( <i>History</i> )	480-425 BC	875 AD	1,300	8
Sophocles	496-406 BC	600 AD	1,000	100
Cattullus	54 BC	1,550 AD	1,550	3
Euripedes	480-406 BC	1,100 AD	1,100	9
Demonsthenes	383-322 BC	1,100 AD	1,100	200
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1,100 AD	1,100	5
God ( <i>New Testament</i> )	35-90 AD	125-200 AD	35-165	18,000*

\* This includes 5,000 Greek Manuscripts and 13,000 manuscript copies of portions of the N.T.<sup>1</sup>

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 7: Harmony Across the Ages

- Scriptures complement; they do not conflict
  - Read **Matthew 5:31-32** and **19:7-9**
  - How do these passages complement?

*‘For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.’*

- **Malachi 3:6**

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 8: The Brutal Honesty of Scripture

- Scriptures record the inconvenient truth
  - Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David, Peter...
  - Read **Daniel 4:1-3, 34-37**



“It [the Bible] is not such a book as man would write if he could, or could write if he would.”

- *Lewis S. Chafer*

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 9: The Unique Message of the Gospel

- Consider various world religions
  - Hinduism
  - Buddhism
  - Islam
  - Mormonism
  - Catholicism
- Where do these religions find their origin? What do they have in common? Read [1 Timothy 4:1](#)

# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 9: The Unique Message of the Gospel

*“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”*

- Isaiah 14:12-15

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- Isaiah 14:12-15



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 9: The Unique Message of the Gospel

There really are only two religions in the world: the religion of human achievement and the religion of Divine achievement.



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 10: Fulfilled Prophecy

*“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

*- Isaiah 46:9-10*

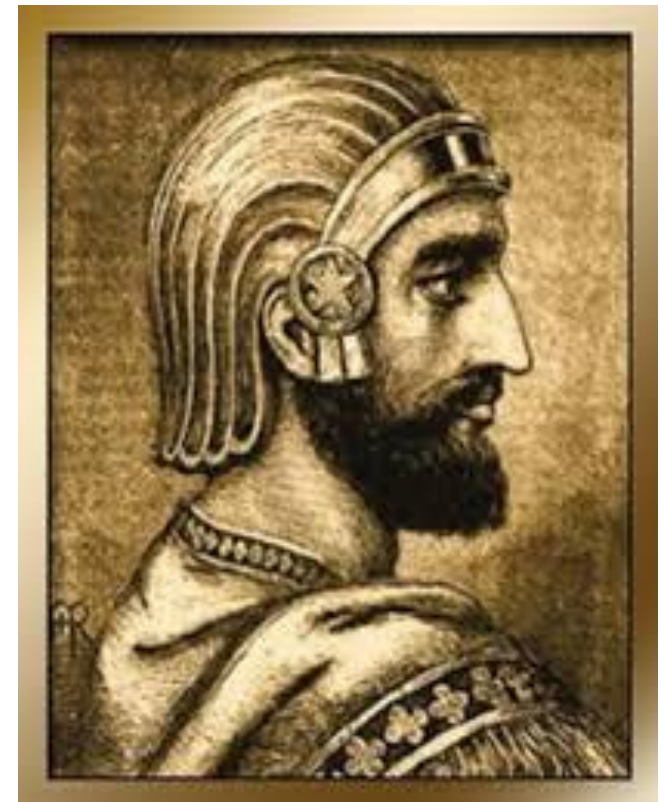
- Also consider [Deuteronomy 18:20-22](#)

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 10: Fulfilled Prophecy

### Example 1: Cyrus the Great

- Read [Isaiah 44:28-45:4](#)
- Read [Ezra 1:1-8](#)



# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 10: Fulfilled Prophecy

### Example 2: Jesus Christ

<b>Old Testament Reference</b>	<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>New Testament Fulfillment</b>
Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1
Jeremiah 23:5	Born of King David's Lineage	Matthew 1:1
Isaiah 35:5-6	Had a Miraculous Ministry	Matthew 11:1-6
Zechariah 9:9	Rode a Donkey into Jerusalem	Luke 19:35-37
Zechariah 11:12	Sold for 30 pieces of Silver	Matthew 26:15
Psalms 34:20	His bones were not broken in Death	John 19:32-33
Isaiah 53:9	Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb	Matthew 27:57-60
Psalms 16:10	Resurrection	Acts 2:29-32

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## Defense 10: Fulfilled Prophecy

### **Example 2: Jesus Christ**

“We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in  $10^{17}$  [(10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power). That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeros after the one).... [If] we take  $10^{17}$  silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas... [t]hey will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting one right one?”

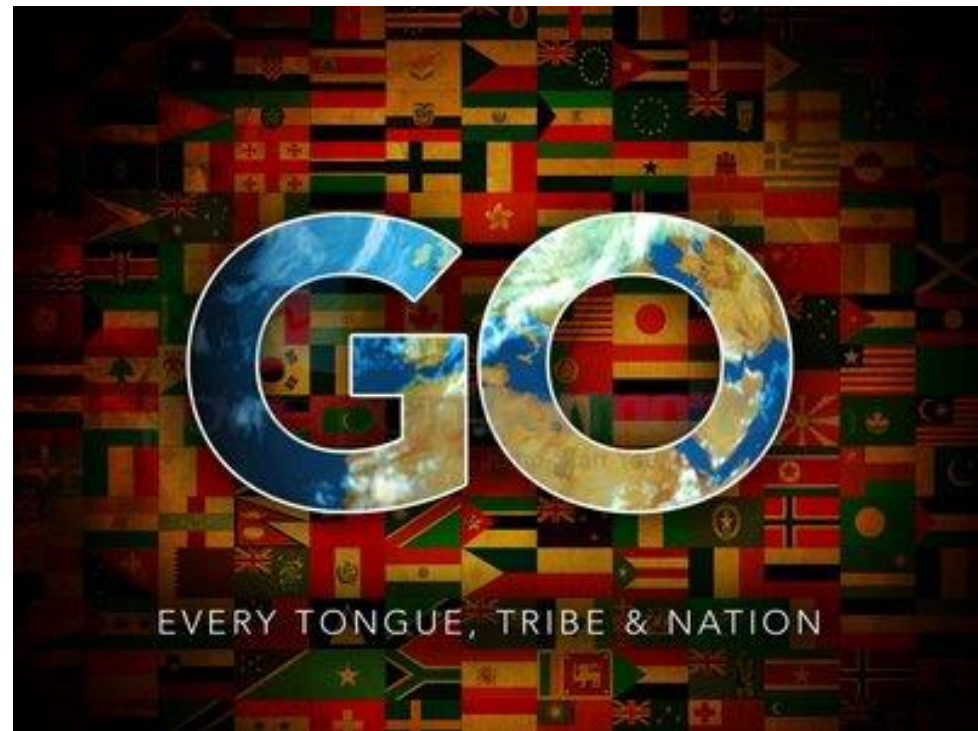
- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*

# *Verbal Plenary* Inspiration

## **Defense 11:** Transcultural Appeal of the Message

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

- Acts 1:8





# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 11: Transcultural Appeal of the Message

*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

- Revelation 7:9-10



# Verbal Plenary Inspiration

## Defense 12: The Power of the Word in You



*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

**- Hebrews 4:12**