

# Inspiration 3

Notes for 20 Jan

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The revelation in the Scriptures is primarily about who God is and what He is about.

The 66 books, are, in the main about His interaction with humanity. By reading through the Scriptures, from beginning to end, and observing His interaction with fallen humanity, I have a much clearer picture of His personal characteristics. Personally, I would have a much more restricted view of God if humanity hadn't fallen. Do you think this interaction between perfection and imperfection provides a better platform on which inspired writers could give a much more comprehensive picture about the nature of God? This doesn't imply I want a fallen creation. Do you think this biblical interaction highlighted the role played by Divine Inspiration?

On the whole, the Old Testament appears to have been stated and/or written by authors that were considered by the inhabitants of Judea to be close to God. The New Testament writers appear to have known Christ, or knew someone who was close to Christ, or lived in the same historical period as Christ. As a result of this they appear by many, to have carried an authority and Divine insights which others wouldn't have carried. Do you think the historical proximity to Jesus of the NT authors and the perceived spiritual closeness of a number of OT writers to God played a significant role in them being regarded as 'Divinely Inspired'. If you were faced with someone who had a growing reputation for being 'Divinely Inspired', what would you look for?

If Scriptures are Divinely inspired, this doesn't imply infallibility. Discuss!

There are 342 instances of quotations in the NT from the OT. The following books are the only ones not quoted:

- Ezra,
- Nehemiah,
- Esther,
- Ecclesiastes,
- Song of Solomon

Jesus quoted from 24 OT books.

Unsurprisingly, the most quoted book is Psalms (56 quotes), followed by Isaiah (37 quotes), followed by Deuteronomy (28 quotes). Considering this interaction, what may this inform you about the quality of inspiration regarding the two, separate Testaments?

I have some problems with a number of passages in the OT.

- [Ps 93:1](#) ~ "The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.
- [Ps 96:10](#) ~ "The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

I think even my most conservative critics may concede the earth rotates around the sun, which rotates around the galaxy etc.

I don't accept the literal interpretation of the 6-day creation story, although my belief in God the Creator is at the core of my religious belief.

I think the flood was a major local event which was extraordinarily destructive. The worldwide flood, which would have been a physical happening, occurring at one time period in our earthly history, would have left indisputable evidence of its occurrence. I can't find such evidence in the scientific literature.

However, I believe the OT has been written by authors inspired by God.

Am I being disingenuous?

In Alden Thompson's book, "[Who's afraid of the Old Testament God](#)", he identifies [Judges 19-21](#) as the worst story in the Old Testament. It is worth reading because it is horrendous, and may even challenge the most conservative scholar to find anything that could be classed as 'Divinely Inspired' in it.

[Please read it](#) and attempt to construct a positive interpretation from lessons it may teach you? We have been studying Paul and the immense contribution which he had been able to make to early Christianity. His authority was greatly enhanced because of his 'Road to Damascus' conversion. Because of this experience, resulting in a complete about face in terms of his belief concerning the Messiah, God was able to use him to convey, undoubtedly, a Divinely Inspired message.

Why doesn't God do something similar with Richard Dawkins? What a vehicle he would be for Divine Inspiration to a modern audience!