

## **BIBLE READERS**

2 Timothy 3:16 ... “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...”

When you pick up your Bible from the shelf on which it has been gathering dust – if you can find it – do you imagine that the persons who wrote those books and chapters, did it for us? Parts of your Bible were written by Moses out of obedience to God, not because he knew you and I would read it thousands of years later. David wrote his poetry and songs as praises to God. He could never have imagined we would read them long after he was dead. The Apostles who wrote the Gospels of the New Testament felt strongly that Jesus was coming back in their lifetimes. They did not think of us reading their records more than 2,000 years later. And, the Apostle Paul certainly did not believe that we would be reading his private letters to the churches he founded across the Mediterranean region.

The Bible’s writers could not know that their writings would be compiled into the greatest book ever published and be studied by hundreds of millions of readers. And, it is that thought that I want us to consider today. The Bible’s authors wrote under the inspiration of God, which means their content was exactly what God wants us to know. If you write a novel to be published and sold, you can create and imagine any character and story that pleases you. Even if you write about an historical event, you might embellish the truth to make your book more interesting, which translates to more sales and more money.

Since the Bible’s authors wrote under the inspiration of God, they were not at liberty to embellish the story, or add fiction to make it more interesting. They wrote down what they saw, heard, learned and believed. Most were simply journaling; recording their experiences for their own personal use. Therefore, without the expectation of selling their manuscripts and earning money from the sale of books, they had no motive for embellishing the truth. They wrote what happened as accurately as they knew how.

God carefully selected the writers of the Bible and instructed them what to record. No creative embellishments of the stories. No false narratives or invented experiences. Just the plain, simple truth. When you open your Bible you are reading truthful information from the mind and heart of God. If God had allowed his writers to know that their manuscripts would be published and read by hundreds of millions of people, they might have been tempted to be more creative and add to what God wanted them to write. Had that happened, the Bible might have been twice as thick as it is today. But God protected us from their natural creativity so that we can read his words just as he wants us to read them. So, why not read it? Today!

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