

## **REVELATION**

**2**

## **INSPIRATION**



## **ANIMATION**



## **COLLECTION**



## **TRANSLATION**



## **ILLUMINATION**



## **INTERPRETATION**



## **APPLICATION**



## **COMMUNICATION**

## **THE WRITTEN WORD**

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, April 26, 2009

### **The Necessity of Written Revelation**

*God has graciously revealed truth about Himself to mankind. But He has not ordained that this revelation be preserved only by man's memory, or passed by word of mouth. He has preserved its integrity forever by putting it into writing.*

#### **I. OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO PUTS TRUTH INTO WRITTEN FORM.**

- A. We can see this in the fact that God Himself wrote the law He gave to Moses. He wrote this law in tablets of stone with His own finger (Exodus 31:18; 32:16). Moses said that it constituted a written record of His "words" which He had "spoken" (Deuteronomy 9:10; 10:4).
- B. We can see this also in the fact that God has commanded that written remembrances be kept for Himself (Psalm 56:8; 139:16; Malachi 3:16). This is not because God "forgets"; but rather, it serves as an 'anthropomorphism' (a man-like picture) of God's commitment to "remember".
- C. He has commanded that some of His prophets put His words into writing.
  - 1. Not all of the prophets we find in the Bible were "writing" prophets. Some spoke a message only to be heard in their day; such as Deborah (Judges 4:4), or Nathan (2 Samuel 7:4ff), or Agabus (Acts 11:28, 21:10-11), or the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8-9).
  - 2. But some were commanded to commit the words He gave them into writing (Jeremiah 36:1-4, 32; Daniel 12:4; Revelation 1:19; see also the Major and Minor prophetic books of the Old Testament).

#### **II. THERE ARE IMPORTANT REASONS WHY GOD HAS ORDAINED THAT SOME REVELATION OF HIMSELF BE COMMITTED TO WRITTEN FORM.**

- A. He wants it to be accurately obeyed (Joshua 1:7-8), remembered (Psalm 119:11), and taught (2 Timothy 2:14-15).
- B. He wants it to be looked into and learned from repeatedly (Joshua 8:34-35; Psalm 1:1-3).
- C. He wants it to be accurately passed on from one generation to another (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Psalm 78:1-8; 102:18).
- D. He wants it to be preserved from neglect (2 Chronicles 34:14-21), or from alteration (Revelation 22:18-19), or from deliberate acts of destruction (Jeremiah 36:27-32).
- E. He wants mankind to have clear proof that He is a God who keeps His promises (Joshua 21:45; 23:14-15; Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17).
- F. He wants His revealed truth to be objectively distinguished from falsehood (Isaiah 8:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Jude 3).
- G. He wants to preserve a clear testimony of the one way of salvation for people throughout all generations (2 Timothy 3:14-15).