

3 • The Holy Spirit, the Bible, and You

In previous studies, we've marveled at the fact that the Bible is...

- ❖ A library of ____ different books
- ❖ Written over a period of about _____ years
- ❖ By ____ different authors
- ❖ Using ____ different languages

...but all telling one **BIG** story. And the only way that's possible? A divine mind had to be behind and guiding it all.

Two Big Words to Understand

- ❖ _____: to uncover or unveil something (Eph 3:8-10)
- ❖ _____: to breathe or blow into (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Let's open our Bibles back to **1 Corinthians 2:3-16** and listen carefully to how clearly and carefully the apostle Paul identifies the real source of his letters...

...and the Spirit's work of inspiration and revelation didn't begin with the apostle Paul.

- ❖ **Exodus 35:30-31**: the skilled _____ who built the tabernacle
- ❖ **2 Samuel 23:1-3**: _____, the sweet psalmist of Israel
- ❖ **1 Kings 4:29-32**: _____, wiser than all other men
- ❖ **1 Peter 1:10-12**: the _____ who predicted the sufferings of Christ, or were sent with words from the LORD of hosts (**Zech 7:12; Heb 1:1**)

...and the Spirit didn't stop in the days of the Old Testament.

- ❖ **Acts 2:14-17**: _____ on the Day of Pentecost
- ❖ **John 16:13**: the _____, sent as ambassadors of the gospel
- ❖ **Acts 7:55**: _____, preaching to people who were resisting the Holy Spirit
- ❖ **Acts 21:8-9**: the four daughters of _____ the evangelist
- ❖ **Acts 21:10-11**: a prophet named _____

...these things God has revealed to us _____ the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the _____ of God. (**1 Cor 2:10**)

So let's open our Bibles back to **Ephesians 3** and kick off our class discussion there. Clearly, God has given us a lot to talk about...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Let's read **Ephesians 3:1-6**, words written by the apostle Paul, carefully together.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

- ▶ In your own words, what is “the mystery” Paul is talking about?
- ▶ Why had it been a “mystery” for a very long time?
- ▶ How did Paul know anything about “this mystery”?
- ▶ What did Paul do about 2,000 years ago that helps us—even today—understand “this mystery”? Maybe drawing a diagram in the space below of the process Paul is describing would be helpful...
- ▶ Let's open our Bibles together back to **1 Corinthians 2**. According to **2:4-7**, how is the “wisdom” Paul is sharing different from “the wisdom of men”? And how did Paul know anything about this “secret and hidden wisdom”?
- ▶ Paul's conclusion in **1 Corinthians 2:16** sounds really, really important. In your own words, what is he saying, and what does it have to do with the work of the Holy Spirit?