

dictated by God as I might dictate a manuscript to a stenographer. Christians do not believe this about the Bible at all. The view that the Bible is God's Word, and therefore free from error is not necessarily a view of verbal dictation. It is however, a belief in the inerrancy of the Bible in the original MSS. It is a view that Christians held all through the ages, and it is written in all the great creeds of most of the churches. It does not say that God dictated the Bible. That's a straw man that the liberals like to raise because then they think it is quite easy to destroy. There would be nothing wrong if God chose to dictate the whole Bible, but there is every reason to think this is not what he chose.

The style of Matthew differs from that of Luke and both of them differ from that of John. The style of the Psalms differs from that of Ecclesiastes or of Isaiah. We see the different personalities of different writers in what they wrote. By inspiration we do not mean that God dictated. We believe that the Holy Spirit selected the men whom He desired to have write each portion of Scripture. He caused each man to have experiences that would fit them to have. In some cases he gave direct revelations of truth to the individuals who were to write the Bible. In others he caused them to observe great events that he wished to be described in the Bible. Perhaps in other cases he caused them to study old MSS, and directed them in selecting their materials to include in the portions of the Word of God that they were to write. The most important element in inspiration is the fact that as men wrote the Holy Spirit kept them from error. Some of these men may have had many erroneous ideas in their minds. But the Holy Spirit led them to select from their own vocabulary such words, phrases and sentences that their words did not include any of these erroneous ideas. The result is the Bible is free from error of fact,