

# THE MEN WHO SPOKE FOR GOD

**God having spoken** in many parts and in many ways **formerly** to the fathers in the prophets, at the end of these days **has spoken to us** in *the person of the Son*, whom he has established heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being *the effulgence* of his glory and *the expression* of his substance, and upholding all things by the word of his power, having made *by himself* the purification of sins, set himself down on the right hand of the greatness on high, taking a place by so much better than the angels, as he inherits a name more excellent than they. **Hebrews 1:1-4 N. T.**

... for prophecy was not ever uttered by *the will* of man, but holy men of God spake under the power of *the Holy Spirit*. **2 Peter 1:21 N. T.**

Every scripture *is* divinely inspired, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, fully fitted to every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16, 17 N. T.**

From these scriptures, and many others that could be recorded, we see that the holy scriptures are the inspired message of God to us about His beloved Son. He used at least 8 different men to record His message in the New Testament. It is remarkable and I believe very instructive to see which men He chose to record the Word of God. God used their essential genetic makeup, their experience in life as well as lessons that they had learned through failure.

**Matthew** recorded the first gospel which emphasizes ***what Jesus said*** and in it there are 60 OT quotes, more than in any of the other gospels. The Lord Jesus is the Fullfiller of the Old Testament prophecies. Matthew was a Jew and a tax collector who sat in the seat of customs. He knew the law well and was able to present the Son of God as the King of Israel and the Son of David. He immediately followed Jesus when called and it is this obedience which characterized the One who he would write about.

**John Mark** recorded in this beautiful gospel, the Lord Jesus as the perfect Servant of God and the emphasis is on ***what Jesus did*** and how He did it. Details are given in this chronologically arranged gospel that are not seen or emphasized in the other gospels. John had failed as a servant to Paul and Barnabus and his being used to pen this gospel displays the grace of God and how God can and will use a person who learns from their failure, their nothingness and His all sufficiency and grace.

**Luke**, a physician, emphasizes ***what Jesus felt*** in this gospel. The Lord Jesus is seen as the perfect Man often in prayer and His agonies are described in a way that no other records. "He sweat as it were great drops of blood to the ground." Luke was a beloved and faithful physician, who knew the feelings of men. He works in the background and is hardly seen. May we learn the meekness and gentleness of Christ and enter into His feelings about things and be sensitive to the feelings of others. Luke travelled by ship a lot and appears to have the extensive knowledge of a seafaring man. He was thus very well suited to be used of God to record the book of the Acts.

**John** in the gospel of John records the most profound acts of the eternal Son of God in the simplest language which emphasizes *who Jesus is*. John had layed on Jesus' bosom and had a deep sense of who Jesus was and thus in simple monosyllable words tells of the love of God. Here we see Jesus presenting Himself to a religious leader, a sinner woman, an impotent man, and a blind man and many others. Oh that we may have this intimate communion with our Lord that we may be suited to tell others of His love in the simplest of terms.

**Paul** the apostle recorded 14 of the 27 New Testament books. He had persecuted the Church of God and yet was used to write these many letters to the local churches that were profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Paul naturally was a strong and zealous person who was educated but in order to be used of God had to learn his nothingness and was constantly aware of the fact that he had persecuted the Church of God which was so precious to Christ. His thorn in the flesh kept him low and dependent a trait so necessary for one who was to record **the Heavenly character of God's Assembly** and pronounce **the unsearchable riches of Christ**. He stands as a blazing testimony to God's power and infinite grace.

**Peter** like John also was a fisherman and his natural personality was one of impulsiveness and self confidence. He had a terrible fall and denied the Lord Jesus three times. Could he ever be used of God? Peter records in two epistles the precious and very important ministry of **God's governmental ways** in the house of God and in the world and in almost every verse there is a sense of warning that the reader should not fail as he did. In all of these recorders we see the grace of God but perhaps none more than with Peter.

The recorder of the epistle of **James** may have been James the son of Alphaeus or James the brother of Jesus but either one was chosen of God to record this letter of God to the twelve tribes. This is the earliest letter written in the transition period as recorded in the Acts. God's message was to warn the recently save Israelites who were still zealous of the law the **practical Christian instruction** of one who had divine life. James was close to the Lord Jesus and knew the Life that was in Jesus displayed in all of its perfection and thus was able to tell others of what he heard and saw.

**Jude** records the fearful **description of apostates**, those who had turned away from the profession they had made. It is mentioned that Jude was sent out at the beginning of the Lord's ministry together with Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor (Luke 6:16). How solemn to think that dear Jude during this time was exposed to one who would apostatize.

Can we be used of God? The above teaches us that we can be and that God in His grace will use our inherited makeups, our education, our experiences in life and even our failures if we have been restored and learned His lessons. We must be empty of self, walking close to Him, familiar with His feelings as seen in His Word, obedient to His command, and dependent in prayer to discern His mind. We must have an ardent love for Him, for His people and those that He came to set free.