



Lecture # 8 Part 2

THE CHARACTER AND CONTENT OF INSPIRATION

THE NATURE OF INSPIRATION

2. The scientific (factual) and spiritual truths of Scripture are often inseparable.

(a) For example, one cannot separate the spiritual truth of Christ's resurrection from the physical fact that His body permanently vacated the tomb ([Matthew 28:6](#); [1 Corinthians 15:13-19](#)).

[Matthew 28:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

[1 Corinthians 15:13-19 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

¹⁵ Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

The resurrection of Christ is more than a physical event ([Romans 4:25](#))—it is also a spiritual victory ([1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#))—but it is not less than a physical event.

[Romans 4:25 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁵ *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

[1 Corinthians 15:50-58 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying



Lecture # 8 Part 2

that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Thus, if one does not accept the truth of the physical resurrection, then there is no basis for spiritual salvation. As Paul put it, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" ([1 Corinthians 15:17](#)).

(b) Likewise, the virgin birth of Christ cannot be merely a spiritual truth. If Christ were not born of an actual virgin, then He is not the sinless Son of God He claimed to be. Although the virgin birth did not cause His deity, it was an indication of it. It was not the source of Christ's divinity, but it was a symbol of it ([Matthew 1:23](#)).

[Matthew 1:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³ "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

For if He were not virgin-born then He is no different from the rest of the human race, on whom the stigma of Adam's sin rests ([Romans 5:12](#)).

[Romans 5:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Here again the physical and the spiritual dimensions of the truth go hand-in-hand so that to deny the biological reality is to deny the spiritual truth.

(c) The same is true of Christ's crucifixion. It is not merely physical blood that saves, but "without the shedding of [physical] blood there is no forgiveness" ([Hebrews 9:22](#)).

[Hebrews 9:22 \(NASB\)](#)

²² And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Likewise, Adam's existence and fall cannot be a myth. If there were no literal Adam and actual fall, then the spiritual teaching about inherited sin and eventual or physical death ([Romans 5:12](#)) are wrong.



Lecture # 8 Part 2

Romans 5:12 (NASB)

¹²“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

The historical reality and the theological doctrine stand or fall together. The inseparable relation between the physical and the spiritual is evident in the nature of man, who is made up of soul and body. Man is made in the image of God, but an attack upon the body (murder) is considered an attack on the image of God and worthy of capital punishment in the Old Testament (**Genesis 9:6**)

Genesis 9:6 (NASB)

⁶“Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”

There, too, one cannot negate the physical dimension of man without also rejecting the spiritual aspect.

3. Moral truths of Scripture are often based on or are inseparably connected with scientific or factual truths.

(a) The depravity of man and his consequent physical death is based on the truth of a literal Adam (**Romans 5:12**).

Romans 5:12 (NASB)

¹²“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

(b) The doctrine of the incarnation is inseparable from the historical truth about Jesus of Nazareth (**John 1:1, 14**).

John 1:1 (NASB)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(c) Jesus' moral teaching about marriage was based on His teaching about God's joining a literal Adam and Eve together in marriage (**Matthew 19:4-5**).

Matthew 19:4-5 (NASB)

⁴And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,
⁵and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?"