

Inspiration: Bible is written by human beings moved by the Holy Spirit; they spoke under the influence of God; God is really present in and through the sacred authors written word, two parties are involved in the writings of Scripture: man and Holy Spirit; Dei Verbum 13: God's Word in human words, a type of incarnation – analogous to a translation into human words

-a human authorship, which remains completely unimpaired, which is permeated, embraced, but not diminished by the Divine authorship; the predefining activity of God precedes and yet includes human action, and further, appropriates the action, so that while genuinely human, it may be attributed to God as something that belongs to Him – **Karl Rahner**

-all the scriptures breathe God – **St. Ambrose**

Inerrancy: the Holy Spirit expresses Himself through what the writer has written, therefore what is written contains no error, a corollary to inspiration, inerrancy doesn't mean infallible, the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching firmly, faithfully, and without error that truth which God wanted put in to the Sacred writings for the sake of our salvation

Author's intent – each author is a unique man with a history and knowledge, with a sociology and a literary level, but also with sin, the authors meant to confuse no one, each did have erroneous beliefs and used standard phraseology

Dead Sea Scrolls

-found in 1947, in a cave at Qumran (northwest shore of Dead Sea), scrolls from 100 BC, all the books of the Bible, all of the books of the Septuagint, all these books were in Palestine at the time of our Lord

Which ones inspired? No definitive list of books

Canonical- books you have in your Bible

Apocryphal- a book in someone else's Bible, but not in yours

Deuterocanonical- Catholics have in their Bible, but Protestants don't have in theirs

Pseudepigraphal- no one has the book in their Bible

Genre- because the human capacity is so far below that of God, sometimes the meaning of words cannot express what God wants us to know, so instead of literal words He uses genre

Ex. Metaphor, similes, parables, hyperbole, sagas, fables, chronicles, visions, standard phraseology

-St. Jerome made a list of Genre to help him translate the Bible, like a tool, because truth is differently presented and expressed in the various types of historical writing, in prophetic writing, and poetical texts, and in other forms of literary expression

Analogy of a Tool- when you do something with a tool you use it according to its nature, the tool you use affects the product, God used a tool – the human author to write the Bible, each author had free will, imagination, limited intelligence...; God didn't change the imperfections He worked through them; that is, free will was not absorbed, extra knowledge was not given

Senses of Scripture

Literal Sense- better thought of as literary sense, it is author's intent, taking into account genre, must be mastered first, mandatory understanding of the Faithful

Spiritual Sense- more than one context, the meaning expressed by the text when read under the influence of the Holy Spirit in light of and within an extension of the literal meaning

a) **Allegorical** (Christological)- reading in context of the Paschal Mystery or incarnation

Church Fathers who used: Clement of Rome, Origen, Irenaeus

Ex. Nazareth – *netser* in Hebrew is shoot or branch, Isaiah 11:1 refers to a shoot from the stump, grafting asexual reproduction, refers to virginal birth

b) **Moral Sense**- behavior flowing from Christ as a way we as Catholics should live

Church Fathers who used: Augustine, Hillary, Ambrose, Gregory of Nyssa

Ex. Nathaniel proud of his high birth, Jesus low birth; Jacob's ladder, Jesus had to come down, Nathaniel needs to also, Israel is another name for Jacob, Jacob was full of guile

c) **Anagogical**- future realizations, heavenly realities mystical or eschatological, context of the last four things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell

Church Fathers who used: Bede, John Damascene

Fuller sense (Sensus plenior)- context of the paschal mystery and Catholic life without literal meaning; same as spiritual sense without continuity with the literal

Church Fathers who used: Pope, Council, Biblical writer himself

Two Philosophies of Translation

- 1) **Verbal Equivalence**- attempt to put words of “original” document into English words as accurately as possible; almost like a computer would do

Ex. X word in Greek = y word in English

Trouble with Verbal Equivalence- there is no 1:1 correspondence – some words in Greek require 4-5 words in English to translate

- 2) **Dynamic Equivalence**- attempt to convey ideas and context of “original” language into English words even if different words appear

Ex. Go from idiom to something direct anger= kidneys love= heart

Trouble with Dynamic Equivalence- the Bible uses many idioms, some ingrained in our culture, but others that won't translate Ex. Heart as the center of things – guy has guts or covering feet – going to the bathroom

Why are there so many translations of the Bible?

- 1) Language changes – modern language is continually evolving
- 2) New Manuscripts become available
- 3) Further understanding of texts – get a better grasp of the language of earlier versions