

the same time accomplish the purpose of God is not explained, but it surely happened.

Similarly, precisely how men, being borne up and carried along by the Holy Spirit, spoke from God (2 Peter 1:21), while at the same time expressing their distinctive vocabularies and grammar, and employing distinctive types of discourse, is not explained. But that they did so is apparent, both from scriptural teaching and from the characteristics of the biblical materials themselves.

The suggestion that an inspiration which would extend to the words of Scripture would violate man's freedom, frankly raises some serious theological questions. Is God in control of the universe or not? Is God omnipotent or not? If God can truly reveal Himself to man in a meaningful way by the medium of language, can He not also guarantee that man will truly record that revelation in language, without changing any thought or fact or teaching?

This suggestion that verbal inspiration violates man's freedom seems to breathe more of the spirit of human autonomy than the spirit of human freedom! The question must be asked: Who controls the process of God's communication of a knowledge of Himself and His will to man? Is it God or man? For example, does *man* control the manner and extent to which God *reveals* Himself, or does *God* control it? Hebrews 1:1-3a states:

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And he is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Does *man* control the manner and extent to which God's revelation is *recorded* in Scripture, or does *God* control it? 2 Peter 1:20-21 answers:

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.