

The Perfect Book: Illumination and Animation

How are the books of the Bible understood and what are their characteristics?

- I. The doctrine of illumination (also relates to pneumatology)
 - A. Definition: Illumination is that supernatural help of the Holy Spirit which enables people to understand and comprehend the meaning of God's revelation.
 - B. Its two aspects
 1. In the case of unbelievers
 - a) The characteristics of the illumination (enlightenment): This is initial enlightenment which enables them to understand the message of salvation (Hebrews 10:32).
 - b) The need for illumination
 - (1) The condition of natural blindness
 - (2) The condition of satanic blindness (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - (3) The condition of judgmental blindness
 - (a) Jews are unable to understand the Old Testament (Romans 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:14).
 - (b) This began in Isaiah's day when God restricted their understanding because of disobedience and continues till the Tribulation (Isaiah 6:9-10; 29:10-14; John 12:37-40).
 - (c) This is partial and some Jews are not blinded today.
 - (d) This is temporary and will be removed before Christ's return when the whole nation is enlightened and converted (Ezekiel 36:24-28; Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:26).
 2. In the case of believers
 - a) The characteristics of the illumination
 - (1) There is one-time enlightenment which gives the believer the basic ability to understand the Bible.

(2) There is an enlightenment which is related to the progressive teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:18).

b) Hindrances to the operation of illumination

II. The doctrine of animation

A. Definition: Power and life exist in the Bible as in no other book.

B. Support and explanation

1. The Bible is a living book (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23).
2. The Bible is an energetic or operative book (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12).
3. The Bible has inherent power or ability (Acts 20:32).
4. The Bible is abiding (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23).

C. Relationship to the Holy Spirit

1. Scripture was authored by Him (2 Peter 1:21).
2. Scripture is used by Him (Ephesians 6:17).
3. Scripture is energized by Him.