

Element #2 -- The men who wrote Scripture were borne up, carried along, in their writings, by the Holy Spirit.

This element is found in II Peter 1:21, where we read: "For not by the will of man came prophecy at any time, but being borne up (or carried along) by the Holy Spirit, man spoke from God."

That this does not refer to oral prophetic declarations may be seen from verse 20, where the προφητεία of which Peter is speaking is the written προφητεία, the προφητεία γραφῆς, i. e. the "prophecy of Scripture". Among other things, this verse tells that the initial impulse to set down such events and such interpretation of events in the history of revelation as God wished recorded, and the subsequent enablement and guidance to select such events and such interpretation of events in the history of revelation as God wished included both came from the Holy Spirit of God. On the one hand, prophecy did not come by the will of man; on the other hand, men spoke from God as they were borne up and carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Element #3 -- In one sense the men who wrote Scripture did not write from themselves, but from God.

This element is also found in II Peter 1:21, where we read:

ἐλάλησαν ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἄνθρωποι

- "men spoke from God."

Element #4 -- In a different sense, the men who wrote Scripture did write from themselves.

This element has reference to all those aspects of writing included under the general umbrella, "style". A writer's style marks his writing as peculiarly his. In this regard, the writers of Scripture were no exception. They display various styles, revealing their social, cultural, educational, and vocational backgrounds. They employ distinctive vocabularies, use distinctive grammatical constructions, prefer distinct types of discourse (narrative, descriptive, explanatory, or argumentative), and even display differing degrees of psychological and emotional depth. Thus their writings reveal something of themselves as the human authors, even as they reveal something of the divine Author of Scripture. This element may be supported in many places, in both the Old and the New Testament.