

THE CYCLE OF LIFE (4): 3 IMPULSES

Hebrews 1:1 **GOD**, who **at sundry times** (Πολυμερῶς) and **in divers manners** (πολυτρόπως) **spoke in time past** (πάλαι) unto the fathers **by the prophets**, **Hebrews 1:2** **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

We find in this passage 3 fundamental impulses of the Biblical writers (ultimately God Himself). We do not choose just one, we choose all three!

Flow of ideas:

1. God spoke / has spoken

2. God spoke **by** / **through** the prophets

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken **of** (ὕπὸ τοῦ κυρίου) the Lord **by** (διὰ τοῦ προφήτου) the prophet, saying,

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written **by** (διὰ τοῦ προφήτου) the prophet,

Matthew 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Matthew 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken **of** (ὕπὸ τοῦ κυρίου) the Lord **by** (διὰ τοῦ προφήτου) the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. **Matthew 2:16** Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

The significance is not the specific Greek propositions but the concepts:

- The **source** of Scripture is God
- The **means / channel** is the Prophets
- The **process** is **varied**, the **product / result** is **one!**

3. God has spoken **in** / **by** His Son

4. God's revelation in &/ by His Son is final, complete

Gospels & Acts:

Epistles:

Revelation:

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of** (περὶ ἐμοῦ) **me: John 15:27** And ye also shall bear witness, **because** ye have been with me **from the beginning.**

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**

5. God spoke at sundry times (Πολυμερῶς)...in time past (πάλαι) → **many, different times**

6. God spoke in divers manners (πολυτρόπως) → **many, different ways**

7. In all the ways and times God spoke!

3 impulses:

Theological → an a theologian

Historical → as an historian

Literary → as an artisan

Theological: obvious

Historical:

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea **in the days of Herod the king**, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Matthew 3:1 **In those days** came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass **in those days**, that there went out a decree from **Caesar Augustus**, that all the world should be taxed.

Luke 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**, **Pontius Pilate** being governor of Judaea, and **Herod** being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother **Philip** tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and **Lysanias** the tetrarch of Abilene, **Luke 3:2** **Annas and Caiaphas** being the high priests, the word of God came unto **John** the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Acts 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. **Acts 11:28** And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass **in the days of Claudius Caesar**.

Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; **Acts 18:2** And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that **Claudius** had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

Literary:

This is almost endless. The Bible is filled with different forms of literature – **deliberately** by God's choice!

1 Kings 15:1 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah. **1 Kings 15:2** Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom. **1 Kings 15:3** And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

2 Kings 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. **2 Kings 12:2** And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. **2 Kings 12:3** But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23:3 He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Proverbs 1:1 **THE proverbs of Solomon** the son of David, king of Israel;

Proverbs 10:1 **The proverbs of Solomon.** A wise son maketh a glad father: But a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 25:1 **These are also proverbs of Solomon,** which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

1 Corinthians 1:1 PAUL, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, **1 Corinthians 1:2** **Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,** to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, **with all** that in **every** place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

2 Corinthians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all** the saints which are in **all** Achaia: **2 Corinthians 1:2** Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) **Galatians 1:2** And all the brethren which are with me, **unto the churches of Galatia:**

Philippians 1:1 PAUL and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, **to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi,** with the bishops and deacons: **Philippians 1:2** Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, **Colossians 1:2** **To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse:** Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:1 PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; **1 Timothy 1:2** **Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith:** Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Is this historical?

Is this theological?

Is this literary?

Every text is:

- **History**
- **Story**
- **His story**