

WHEN THE BIBLE QUOTES ITSELF

DOES THE BIBLE MISQUOTE GOD BY SAYING IT DIFFERENTLY

“ Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.”

~ Jeremiah 1:9

1. Is the Bible Accurate When It Quotes Itself

- a. The Bible contains many repetitions and quotes of itself (NT has 800+ quotes of OT)
- b. The OT copies other books. The NT record the same things. The Bible quotes itself.
- c. What if these repetitions and references do not match word for word? (*Aghast!*)
- d. The Bible’s accuracy is under constant scrutiny, question, attack, subtle undermining
- e. Since God is true, it behooves us to understand the inspiration of this book. 2 Tim 3:16

2. A Matter of Inspiration

- a. Inspiration ~def. God’s use of men to write a book.
- b. Preservation ~def. God’s use of men to keep the words of His book.
- c. The Bible is 66 books *each* given by inspiration of God thru prophets - Jer 1:9, 2Pe 1:21
- d. Bible inspiration does not require novelty: 1 Sam 31 and 1 Chr 10 essentially the same.
 - i. Half of Obadiah is found in Jeremiah 49; Ps 14 and 53 are nearly identical.
 - ii. Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 both include the 10 commandments.
- e. Bible can reference other books, philosophers, false prophets - Titus 1:12, Acts 17:28
- f. When one book quotes/repeats another, it is also inspired (not a preservation matter)
- g. When God is writing the words, they can differ. When we are keeping them, they can’t.

3. Repeating with Variation is Good

- a. Writing the same things again is good for the hearer - Phi 3:1
- b. Referencing each other shows connection between books – human instrumentation.
- c. Eph 4-6 and Col 3-4 say similar things differently. Both read word for word – Col 4:16
- d. The purpose of inspiration is not to provide a transcript, but to teach (repetition excels)
- e. Harmonizing the inspired texts can be useful for study but damages the function.
- f. Variation in repetition provides explanation, understanding, more information, genuine, definition, emphasis, cross-references, individual testimony.

4. God Can Speak More than Once

- a. God does not need to quote himself exactly - 1 Cor 2:9 vs Isa 64:4
- b. A summary is profitable, though not a direct quote - Jer 9:23-24 in 1 Cor 1:31
- c. Which prophet said it can differ from who wrote it - Matt 27:9 (Zech 11:12-13)
- d. Not every prophetic quote was written - Matt 2:23 (where is this? Jdg 13:5?)
- e. Some quotes include different references combine - Matt 4:10 vs Deu 6:13/10:12,20
- f. Some references are allusions w/o attribution – 2 Tim 2:19 cf. Num 16:5,26
- g. The Holy Spirit can speak the same thing twice - Acts 2:16 vs Joel 2:28-32

5. Writing About Jesus' Words

- a. The apostles wrote about the words of Jesus, but did not always transcribe.
- b. Did Jesus say Matt 17:11-12 or Mark 9:12-13? ← One spoken. Both inspired.
- c. Luke is writing not from an audio recording - Isa 61:1 in Luke 4:18.
- d. Not everything Jesus said was written down - John 21:25, Acts 20:35, Mk 1:39, Gal 2:2
- e. What was said on the cross? Matt 27:46 vs Mark 15:34 - different telling, both inspired
- f. Searching for the "historical" spoken words of Jesus denies this point of inspiration.
- g. Which words were spoken does not matter, what words were written does.

6. Different Words Do Not Damage God's Inspiration

- a. Different accounts may be provided with different descriptions.
- b. The differences are not contradictions, mistakes, failures in preservation.
- c. God used men to write what he wanted in a book – each book has those words.
- d. God's book is not purposed to "remove all doubt", but to give faith by hearing.
- e. We can trust every word of the Bible as what we need for 2 Tim 3:17