

Your Word Is Truth:

Exploring the Inerrancy of Scripture



SUMMARY:

“We believe the Scripture is God's Word. We believe it is verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible, totally sufficient and trustworthy, and the sole authority for the church.”

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a library of 66 books, written by around 40 different authors over a period of about 1500 years. The Bible is divided into two parts: Old Testament and New Testament. The Old Testament is the collection of 39 books written *before* Jesus Christ. The New Testament is the collection of 27 books written *after* Jesus Christ.

The Bible is God's self-disclosure to mankind written through human agency. God carried along human authors, seeing to it that what they wrote was His word.¹ Therefore, the Bible is God's Word. Because it is God's Word, it is authoritative², without error³, and sufficient for all things pertaining to salvation⁴. To disobey the Bible is to disobey God Himself.

VERBAL, PLENARY INSPIRATION

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture. This means God moved upon the human authors of the Bible such that the what they wrote were God's own Words and therefore are without error in all they affirm.

Verbal means God spoke to His people in words. Human authors wrote down what God spoke to them.⁵ Jesus believed every word of the Scripture was inspired.⁶ *Plenary* means “full” or “complete”. The Apostle Paul wrote, “**All Scripture is breathed out by God...**”⁷. Every word of the Bible was inspired by God. By *inspiration*, we mean it is God's own words breathed out.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2TIMOTHY 3:16-17

The inspiration of scripture does not mean that it was mechanically dictated to man. The divine direction under which the human authors

wrote was not physiologically controlled. Rather, it allowed for the authors to retain their personality, character, and cultural conditioning.

THE BIBLE IS INERRANT

The Bible is without error of any kind in the original autographs. Nothing that it affirms is contrary to fact.

¹ 2Ti. 3:16; 2Pe. 1:21; 1Th. 2:13; Heb. 6:18; Tit. 1:2

² cf. 2Sa. 23:2; Mt 1:22 cit. Is. 7:14; Many more citations would include the dozens of passages of Old Testament verses attributed to God.

³ Num. 23:19; Ps. 12:6; Pro. 30:5; 2Ti. 3:16; 2Pe. 1:20-21; Jn. 17:17; Mt 5:18;

⁴ 2Ti. 3:15; Jas. 1:18; 1Pe. 1:23

⁵ Ex. 24:4; Is. 30:8; Eze. 3:27; 2Sa. 23:2; Jer. 26:2

⁶ Mt. 5:18; Lk. 16:17

⁷ 2Ti. 3:16a

Since the Bible is God's word and God cannot lie, God's Word is true.⁸ Jesus testified to the Word of God as "truth".⁹ Proverbs 30:5, "**Every word of God proves true...**"

The Bible can speak in the ordinary language of the day and remain without error. For example, "**the sun rises, and the sun goes down**" in Ecclesiastes 1:5 does not mean the Sun revolves around the earth. It means, in the ordinary language and perspective of the author and reader, the sun moves. A similar consideration applies to approximations of measurements. It is perfectly acceptable to say 5000 people were present even if there were only 4995. In cases where large rounded numbers are employed, exact precision is not implied by the author or expected the reader.

THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE

The Bible is the sole authority for the church. It is the final authority of matters pertaining to doctrine and practice. The Bible is the final and supreme authority for testing all matters pertaining to what is true and right. The Bible does not address every issue faced by every believer. But it does provide enough to make us wise unto salvation and to equip us to every good work.¹⁰ Colossians 3:23, "**In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**" It is the responsibility and pleasure of every follower of Christ to search it out.

THE BIBLE IS PERFECT; TRANSLATIONS ARE NOT.

Finally, no translation of the Bible is perfect. Only the original autographs are perfect. As the Bible has been copied thousands of times, some copy errors have likely occurred. However, biblical manuscripts across the centuries are in 99% agreement with one another. The 1% differences are matters of punctuation, word endings, minor grammatical differences, and word order. No theological matters are thrown into question because of copyist error. The Bible student can be confident that modern word-for-word translations are accurate.

"Sanctify them in the Your truth;
Your Word is truth."
John 17:17

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

For more information on the inerrancy of Scripture see

these resources:

- *The Origin of the Bible*, J.I. Packer
- *The Authority and Inspiration of Scripture*, B.B. Warfield
- *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem
- *Taking God at His Word*, Kevin DeYoung
- *Defending Inerrancy: Affirming the Accuracy of Scripture For a New Generation*, Norman Geisler & William Roach

⁸ Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18; Num. 23:19

⁹ Jn. 17:17

¹⁰ 2Ti. 3:15, 17