

The Bible: Origins & Answers

Session 2: The Reliability of the Bible

Review – The Authority of the Bible

Biblical Inspiration as: *The supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon the Scripture writers which ensured that what was written down was an accurate record of what God wanted humanity to know and which resulted in what they wrote actually being the Word of God.*

Three very important implications of Biblical Inspiration:

- 1) The Sufficiency of Scripture to addresses all our needs in this life.
- 2) Inspiration is necessary for the Scriptures to be fully reliable.
- 3) If the Scripture is inspired then what is written is the actual Words of God. Then to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture evidences a lack of faith and disobedience to God Himself.

The Reliability of the Bible

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 – *The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.*

Defining Error

Usually what is meant is that there are things that seem to be in conflict or contradictory

Matt 10:9-10 - *"Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support."*

Mark 6:8-9 – *"and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belt — but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics."*

Luke 9:3 – *"And He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not even have two tunics apiece."*

What we must believe ... if we believe God is all powerful – is that what appears to be an error will, when all the data is in, be satisfactorily resolved.

Biblical Inerrancy & Infallibility

Biblical Infallibility - Bible teachings will not change nor lead its readers astray

1. Inerrancy pertains to what is affirmed or asserted rather than what is merely reported.
2. We must judge the truthfulness of Scripture in terms of what the statements meant in the cultural setting in which they were expressed.
3. The Bible's assertions are fully true when judged in accordance with the purpose for which they were written.

2 Chron 4:2 says – *“Also he made the cast metal sea, ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits and its circumference thirty cubits.”*

4. Reports of historical events and scientific matters are reports of how things appear to the eye rather than in technical language.
5. Difficulties in the biblical text should not be prejudged as indicators of error. It is better to wait until the evidence is in to make a final declaration of error.
6. Biblical Infallibility and Inerrancy Applies Only to the Original Works.

Biblical Inerrancy: The Bible, when correctly interpreted in light of the level to which culture and the means of communication had developed at the time it was written, and in view of the purposes for which it was given, is fully truthful in all that it affirms.

The Importance of Biblical Infallibility & Inerrancy

1. It Affirms the Power of God.
2. It Affirms the Historical View of the Bible.
3. It Affirms the Bible as the Basis for Christian Truth.