

Doctrine of the Bible

- I. Introduction
 - A. Bibliology is the study of the doctrine of the Bible
 - B. Bibliology deals with the credibility, inspiration, inerrancy, canonization, preservation and translation of the Bible
- II. The Credibility of the Bible
 - A. The Bible has been repeatedly corroborated by history and archaeology
 - B. The Bible contains moral teaching that is far superior to other religious texts
 - C. The Bible is the only book in the world with solid evidence of divine origin
 - 1. The Bible contains specific prophecies that have come to pass
 - 2. The Bible has miraculously survived repeated attempts to destroy it
 - 3. The continued existence of the Jewish people is a miracle
 - 4. The resurrection of Jesus is a well-documented miracle
 - 5. The life-changing power of Scripture is an ongoing miracle
- III. The Inspiration of the Bible
 - A. The Bible teaches the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture
 - 1. Inspiration means the recording of the truth under the supervision of the Holy Spirit (2Sam 23:1-2, Matt 22:43-44, John 14:26, 16:13, Act 2:4, 2Pet 1:20-21)
 - 2. Verbal inspiration means that the words are inspired not just the thoughts (Ex 34:27, Jer 36:1-2, Ezek 3:27, Hab 2:2, 1Cor 2:13)
 - 3. Plenary inspiration means that all of Scripture is inspired not just certain passages (2Kgs 17:13, Zech 7:12, Matt 11:13, 2Tim 3:16)
 - B. Biblical authors regarded Scripture as inspired (2Chr 32:32, Dan 9:2, Matt 15:4-6, Act 1:16, 2:16, 4:25, 28:25, Rom 1:2, 1Cor 9:9, Heb 3:7)
 - C. The apostles regarded their doctrine as the authoritative word of God (1Cor 14:37, Gal 1:11-12, 1Th 2:13, 4:2, 8, 15, Rev 22:18-19)
 - 1. Paul cited the Gospel of Luke as Scripture (cf. 1Tim 5:18, Lk 10:7)
 - 2. Peter classified Paul's letters as Scripture (2Pet 3:15-16)
 - D. Inspiration did not set aside human personality or literary style (1Cor 14:32, 2Th 3:17, 1Pet 1:10-12)
 - E. Inspiration extends only to the autographs not to copies or translations
- IV. The Inerrancy of the Bible
 - A. Inspiration implies preservation from error or omission; the Bible is trustworthy (Josh 1:8, Isa 8:20, John 10:35, 1John 5:13, Rev 21:5, 22:6)
 - B. The basic logic of the doctrine of inerrancy
 - 1. Scripture is the word of God (2Tim 3:16)
 - 2. God's word is truth (John 17:17)
 - 3. Therefore, Scripture is truth
 - C. Inspiration does not exclude:
 - 1. The use of figurative or colloquial language
 - 2. Paraphrasing or loose quotations
 - 3. Round numbers or generalizations
 - 4. Variations in spelling or grammar

Doctrine of the Bible

V. The Canonization of the Bible

- A. The Canon is a list of books that are regarded as inspired, authoritative writings
- B. Christians and Jews recognized the 39 books of the OT as Scripture because:
 - 1. They contain a supernatural sign that authenticated the messenger
 - 2. They consistently teach the doctrines of earlier, undisputed books
 - 3. They were quoted as Scripture by later Jewish and Christian writers
 - 4. They contain no discernible factual errors
- C. Protestants and Jews rejected the Apocrypha (“hidden books”) for good reasons
 - 1. There were no prophets in Israel when these books were written
 - 2. They contradict the doctrines of earlier, undisputed books
 - 3. They were not quoted as Scripture by later writers
 - 4. They contain historical errors
- D. Early Christians accepted the 27 books of the NT based on similar criteria
 - 1. Antiquity: written during the first generation of the church
 - 2. Apostolicity: written by an apostle/prophet or a close associate
 - 3. Authenticity: clear evidence verifying authorship and authority
 - 4. Veracity: no discernible errors regarding facts or doctrine
 - 5. Ubiquity: accepted by widely scattered churches

VI. The Preservation of the Bible

- A. God said that He would preserve His Word (Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18)
- B. Widespread copying of the Bible since ancient times guaranteed that the text was not significantly altered by any one group (i.e., too many witnesses)
- C. The unity among the thousands of ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin manuscripts verifies the accurate preservation of biblical texts
- D. Variations in ancient manuscripts are nearly always due to minor copying errors that are, for the most part, easily detected and corrected
- E. The remaining variations are limited in number and scope so they do not affect the overall meaning of a passage or doctrine

VII. The Translation of the Bible

- A. 250-100 BC, Jewish scholars translate the OT into Greek
- B. 200-300 AD, NT is translated into Latin, Coptic and Syriac
- C. 410-435 AD, Jerome translates the Bible into the Latin Vulgate
- D. 1382, John Wycliffe translates the first English Bible from Latin
- E. 1525, William Tyndale translates the NT from Greek into English
- F. 1535, Miles Coverdale publishes the first complete Bible in English
- G. 2023, there are 3,658 full or partial translations (reaching 97% of all people)

Sources

Lectures in Systematic Theology, Henry C. Thiessen

Outlines on Systematic Theology, Robert M. Bowman, Jr.

How We Got the Bible, Rose Publishing, Inc.

Global Scripture Access, wycliffe.net accessed July 26, 2024

Inspiration means the recording of the truth under the supervision of the Holy Spirit

2Sa 23:1 Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse declares, The man who was raised on high declares, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel,

2Sa 23:2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

Matt 22:43 He *said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

Matt 22:44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"?"

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

2Pe 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

2Pe 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Verbal inspiration means that the words of Scripture are inspired

Ex 34:27 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

Jer 36:1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jer 36:2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words which I have spoken to you concerning Israel and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day I *first* spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day.

Ezek 3:27 "But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

Hab 2:2 Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Plenary inspiration means that all of Scripture is inspired

2Ki 17:13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

Zech 7:12 They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

Mt 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

Biblical authors regarded Scripture as inspired

2Ch 32:32 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, indeed they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Matt 15:4 "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'

Matt 15:5 "But you say, 'Whoever says to *his* father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,"

Matt 15:6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Act 1:16 "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

Act 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

Act 4:25 who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?'

Act 28:25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

Rom 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

1Co 9:9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He?

Heb 3:7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

The apostles regarded their doctrine as the authoritative word of God

1Co 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

Ga 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

Ga 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

1Th 4:2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

1Th 4:8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

1Th 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Re 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

Re 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." (cf. Lk10:7)

Lu 10:7 "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. (cf. 1Tim 5:18)

2Pet 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

2Pet 3:16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Inspiration did not set aside human personality or literary style

1Co 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

2Th 3:17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

1Pet 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

1Pet 1:11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

1Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

Inspiration implies preservation from error or omission

Josh 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

Joh 10:35 "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

1Jo 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Re 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

Re 22:6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

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

God said that He would preserve His Word

Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Matt 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Mt 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.