

Biblical Inerrancy - Part 1

Theology of Inerrancy

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Introduction.

A. Tolstoy wrote of the end of faith years ago.

B. Evangelical Christians have tried to answer the questions he raised about legitimate reasons for belief in God.

1. The Bible tells us what we need to know about God.

2. How reliable is the Bible?

a. Is it the word of men?

b. Is it the word of God?

I. We believe five things:

A. The Bible is verbally the inspired word of God.

B. Its inspiration is plenary.

C. It is infallible.

D. It is inerrant.

E. It is confluent in its nature.

II. We will examine each in turn.

A. Verbal inspiration means the very words of the Bible are inspired, not just its thoughts.

1. Some believe that the Bible contradicts science and thus only its general moral teachings are to be taken seriously.

2. The Bible does not contradict science.

B. Plenary inspiration means all the books of the Bible are true.

C. Infallibility means that the Bible will not lead men astray.

D. Inerrancy means that in the original autographs there is not error.

E. Confluence means that all the streams of the biblical writers are in general agreement.

II. Today it has become fashionable to not put too much emphasis on the Bible.

A. Jesus held to a literal interpretation of the Bible, however,

B. Christians of every generation also believed strongly in the Bible.

C. Jesus said the religious leaders made an error by not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God. (Matthew 22:29)

1. They do not know the Scriptures.
2. They did not experience the power of God in their lives.
3. Jesus emphasized that which was spoken by God in. (Exodus 3:6)
4. Moses wrote this passage, yet Jesus attributes it to God.
5. This passage is the verbally inspired word of God.
6. Jesus believed in the verbal inspiration of the word of God.
7. Jesus also referred to the Messiah as the son of David, quoting Psalm 110:1.
 - a. Since David called his son Lord in this Psalm the son must be greater than David.
 - b. No one could answer Jesus' question about this Psalm.
 - c. Jesus was the greater son of David, born of a virgin yet born of the line of David.
 - d. Jesus believed in verbal inspiration of the word.

D. Jesus also believed in plenary inspiration of the word of God.

1. Genesis to Revelation, Romans and Ecclesiastes are likewise inspired.
2. Jesus explained his death, burial, and resurrection from the Old Testament Bible. (Luke 24:25)
3. Jesus expounded hermeneutically the truth about himself beginning with Moses and the prophets.
 - a. Those who did not believe all the prophets wrote of were called fools and slow of heart by Jesus.
 - b. Believers are to believe all Moses and the prophets spoke of.
 - c. Jesus believed that Moses wrote the Pentateuch.
 - d. Jesus believed in the plenary inspiration of Scripture.

E. Jesus believed the Bible to be infallible.

1. Jesus said the Scriptures spoke of him. (John 5:39)
2. Moses wrote about Jesus.
3. Jesus thought Moses could bring a man to truth.
4. Believing in Moses would result in believing in Jesus.
5. The rich man and Lazarus illustrates that Jesus believed in a literal hell.
 - a. Believing in Moses and the prophets can lead one to salvation.
 - b. Moses and the prophets are the foundation on which Jesus stood.
 - c. I heard an old Baptist preacher years ago tell of a time he was walking through a dark wood and received a pine torch light as a guide. An old man told the preacher to trust the pine torch to see him home.
 - d. If we follow the Bible it will see us home.

F. Jesus believed in the inerrancy of the Bible.

1. The autographs were totally inerrant, theologically, historically, or scientifically.
2. The Bible is not a book of science or history but when it does speak on science or history it is accurate.
3. After years of critical study no provable errors have arisen in the Bible.
4. Jesus said that until heaven and earth pass away not one jot or tittle will pass away. (Matthew 5:18)
 - a. Jesus said verily in emphasizing this truth.
 - b. Jesus used a double negative to emphasize that in no way will a jot of tittle pass until all is fulfilled.
 - c. English does not allow a double negative but Greek does to make a strong negation.
 - d. What is a jot and a tittle?
 1. A jot is a yod in Hebrew, the smallest letter in the alphabet.
 2. A tittle is smaller than a letter; it's a mark of the pen that occurs on certain Hebrew letters, like a stroke that is attached to the letter.
 3. Leaving off the tittle changes the letter and thus affects the meaning of the word or sentence in which it occurs.

4. A tittle is one thirty-second of an inch and it is important to accuracy in the text.
5. Jesus maintained that these tittles are important, thus showing that he believed in the inerrancy of Scripture.
 - e. Some object that the word inerrancy does not occur in the Bible.
 - f. Well, the word Trinity does not appear either.
 - g. A theophany is an appearance of Christ in the Old Testament, yet this word does not appear in the Bible either. (Isaiah 6)
 - h. Jesus did not speak of inerrancy or infallibility or verbal and plenary inspiration but he believed in these concepts.

G. Jesus believed in the confluency of the Bible.

1. The human stream and the divine stream flow together in a harmony.
2. Jesus spoke of the Messiah as David's greater son in Psalm 110. (Matthew 22:43)
3. David is the author of Psalm 110:1 yet the Spirit of God was active in composing this verse because Jesus said David was in the Spirit when he wrote this psalm.
4. The Spirit of God worked through the human authors to write Scripture.
5. This is not a mechanical dictation theory of inspiration.
6. The style of Isaiah is different from that of Amos.
7. The style of Peter is different from that of John.
8. God allowed the human authors to exercise their abilities yet the Lord superintended their writings.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. Jesus believed in the verbal inspiration of Scripture.
- B. Jesus believed in the plenary inspiration.
- C. Jesus believed in the infallibility of the Bible.
- D. Jesus believed in the inerrancy of the Bible.
- E. Jesus believed in the confluency of the Bible
 1. In his temptation Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones to bread but Jesus replied that the Scripture stands eternally written that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

2. In the second temptation Satan told Jesus to throw himself down from a high pinnacle, for angels will protect him, yet Jesus countered that man is not to test the Lord God. (Deuteronomy 6:16)

3. In the third temptation Satan asked for worship in exchange for granting all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, yet Jesus replied that only God is worthy of worship (Deuteronomy 6:13)

a. In each case Jesus emphasized that the Scripture stand written for ever.

b. Apparently Jesus had memorized the entire word of God.

c. Jesus constantly emphasized the Scripture and the necessity of its being fulfilled.

1. Jesus saw his preaching as a fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2. (Luke 4:16)

2. The days of vengeance must be fulfilled. (Luke 21:22)

3. Jesus' arrest and crucifixion had to be fulfilled. (Matthew 26:54)

4. Jesus believed every word of the Bible.

5. As followers of Jesus we must believe every word of the Bible.