

Biblical Inerrancy - Part 3 *Authority and Accuracy of the Bible (Cont.)*

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Introduction.

- A. Historic Christianity has upheld the accuracy and inerrancy of the Bible.
- B. Are there good reasons to hold to this conviction of the early church fathers?

I. Archaeology helps us affirm the accuracy of the word of God.

A. Many scholars believe that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because men during his time could not write.

1. In Mari on the Euphrates River and in Ugarit in Mesopotamia and in Ebla great libraries were found with ancient writings.
2. These writings were recorded on clay tablets in cuneiform writing.
3. Most of this contained legal documents and religious texts.
4. Many of these texts date to 2500 B.C.
5. The Exodus occurred in 1446 B.C.
6. Egyptian writing also predates Moses by at least a thousand years and Moses was educated in Egypt.
7. This evidence debunks the scholars who claimed Moses could not have written the Pentateuch

B. The cities of the plain, Sodom, Gomorrah, Bela, Admah, and Zeboiim have been discounted by many scholars as fictitious. (Genesis 15)

1. But an archaeological dig at the Wadi Terah by the Dead Sea unearthed several cities.
2. A Wadi is a stream bed with no water much of the year.
3. Also, city was found at Tel Mardik in Syria where Ebla flourished 2000 years before Christ.
 - a. Tablets from this area in Ebla referred to the cities of the plain mentioned in Genesis 15. This confirms the biblical account.
 - c. Also the cities of the Wadi Terah seem to have been destroyed by fire around 2000 to 2200 B.C. the time of Abraham when the Bible describes the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

4. These archaeological finds corroborate the Genesis account of the cities of the plain without question.

C. The Hittites were a people questioned by scholars for many years.

1. Archaeology has discovered the existence of the Hittite nation.

2. They were a people sweeping down from the north into the Land of Promise.

D. The book of Daniel is fascinating.

1. Daniel is dated at 500 years before Christ.

2. Scholars have debated this in light of its many prophetic predictions, claiming it was written in the Maccabean period, after the events recorded in it.

3. The Qumran scrolls revealed copies of Daniel, which indicate that Daniel must be old enough to have been copied by the scribes at Qumran. Thus Daniel may have been written when it purports to have been written, in the 6th century B.C.

4. One remarkable vision of Daniel is in Chapter 7 where he sees

a. A lion representing Babylon.

b. A Bear representing Medo-Persia.

c. A leopard with four wings and four heads, representing Greece with its four generals of Alexander the Great.

d. A dreadful, fourth beast representing Rome.

5. Daniel mentions Belshazzar in chapter 5 of his book.

a. Belshazzar was defeated by Media-Persia, yet there was no mention of Belshazzar in the annals of Babylon.

b. Since then inscriptions have been discovered with Belshazzar's name on it; his father was Nabonidus the real king of Babylon who was absent from Babylon during Daniel's account.

c. Belshazzar promoted Daniel to third position in the kingdom because he was himself the second ruler in Babylon.

II. Fulfilled prophecy is a second area of evidence that the Bible is infallible, and inerrant.

A. Micah 5:2 prophesied of the birth of Messiah in Bethlehem of Judah.

1. Micah prophesied that this one would rule over Judah.

2. Micah also said that this one would be from of ancient times, from the days of eternity.

3. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem for Jesus to be born there.

4. Micah's prophecy was given more than 700 years prior to Jesus.

B. Zechariah 9:9 prophesied that Jesus would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt.

1. This came true when Jesus rode into Jerusalem at his Triumphal entry.

2. Zechariah 11:12 even prophesied the price of Jesus' betrayal, 30 pieces of silver.

C. Psalm 22 spoke of a forsaken man who was described as crucified.

1. His bones were out of joint.

2. His tongue cleaved to his jaws.

3. This psalm was written before anyone used crucifixion.

4. Verse 16 talks of piercing the hands and feet of the one killed long before this practice was used.

5. The psalm also speaks of some casting lots for the garments of the one killed.

III. The evidence of changed lives demonstrates that the Bible is true.

A. John Chrysostom was a great preacher in the 3rd century who was exiled yet stood on the rock of the word of God.

1. He feared not poverty.

2. He feared not death.

3. He feared not to trust the word of God because his life had been changed by Christ.

B. Martin Luther nailed his 98 Thesis on the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral in 1517.

1. He had discovered the importance of depending on the word of God completely.

2. In opposing the Pope he stood on the revelation of the word only.

3. There were many relics in the Vatican yet Luther made the word of God his mainstay and not the relics of the church.

IV. Summary.

A. Paul wrote to Timothy to continue in the things he learned. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

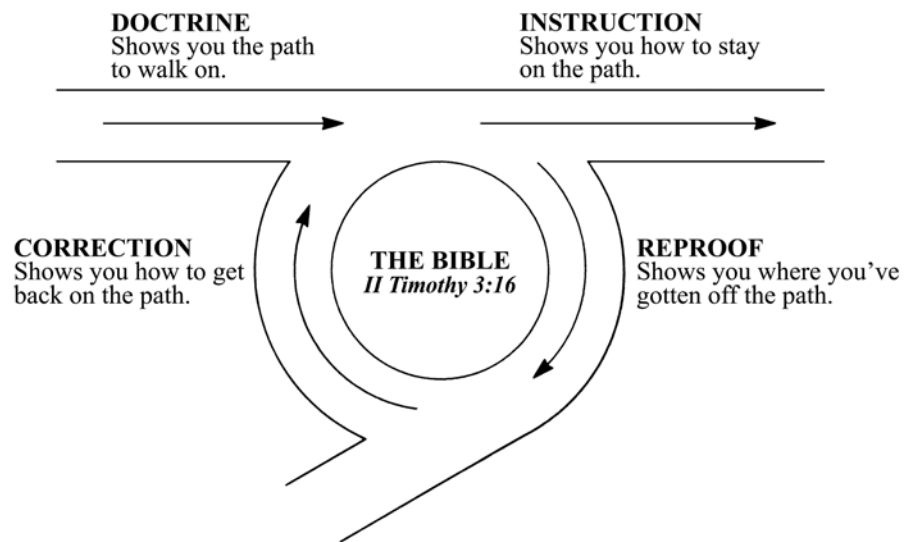
1. All Scripture is profitable and given by inspiration of God.

2. Inspiration means the word of God is God breathed.

3. The profitability of Scripture makes one wise unto salvation in Christ.

- a. The Bible does not save us for only Christ saves.
- b. The Bible tells us how to approach God to receive forgiveness of sin.
- c. If the Bible contains a canon within a canon how could we know what parts are reliable?
- d. If some parts are untrue then it is unreliable.
- e. Paul tells us all the Bible is profitable for salvation through faith in Christ.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; II Timothy 3:16



- f. This results in maturity for the man of God.

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:17

B. How extensive is God's involvement in the writing of Scripture?

1. The Decalogue was written by the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)
2. Moses carried these stone tablet down the mountain and God himself chiseled these words into the stone. (Exodus 32:16)
3. An anthropomorphism is involved here but it represents the writing of God himself.
4. God warns Israel to not add or diminish any word from the revelation given at Sinai. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

a. When critical scholars remove parts from the word of God they diminish the word of God.

b. They are at fault.

5. Is it possible for the Bible to be both the word of man and the word of God?

a. The Holy Spirit warns not to resist the word of God by hardening the heart, quoting Psalm 95:7. (Hebrews 3:7)

b. Hebrews also says that David said we should not harden our hearts against God's voice. (Hebrews 4:7)

c. Thus, the Bible attributes Psalm 95 to both David and to the Holy Spirit.

6. Paul commends the Thessalonians for receiving the word of God not as the word of men but for what it really is, the word of God. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

C. How did Scripture come about?

1. Peter writes that Jesus told him he would die a martyr's death and desired to remind his readers of the truths of God's word. (2 Peter 1:12)

a. Peter says he had not followed cunningly devised myths, contrary to Bultman.

b. Peter claimed that he was an eyewitness of the glory of Christ whom he saw on the holy mount of transfiguration.

2. Peter claimed that his testimony is based on personal experience of inductive evidence, yet he claims the more sure word of prophecy is even more important than his experience.

3. Peter maintains that no word of prophecy is of a private interpretation because prophecy came not by the will of men but by the will of the Holy Spirit.

a. Fallible, errant men can write infallible truth only as the Holy Spirit of God bears them along.

b. Men of God were born along by the Holy Spirit to write Scripture.

4. Peter also applies inspiration to New Testament as well as Old Testament Scripture. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

a. Peter refers to the writings of Paul as Scripture, though sometimes difficult to understand. Difficulties in the Bible do not mean it is not infallible and inerrant.

c. Peter refers to those who twist the Scriptures as unlearned and unstable to their own destruction.

d. The word of God endures for ever and ever, and we defend it for the sake of the church.