

The Infallibility and Reliability of the Bible

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2 Timothy 3:16-17- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- The Bible in its entirety is God’s word to man.
- **Hebrews 1:1-2- “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”**
- It is free of error in its original autographs.
- It is wholly reliable in history and doctrine.
- “Infallible”- cannot teach deception.
- “Inerrant”- will not be proven false and will always stand as true.
- **1 Peter 1:22-25- “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass, the grass withers and the flower falls off but the word of the Lord endures forever’ And this is the**

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- "Inspired"- God breathed
- "Plenary"- Wholly
- "Verbal"- words themselves are inspired and not merely the thoughts
- **I Corinthians 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."**
- "Confluent"- inspiration involves both human and divine.

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What the Bible Claims for Itself

- All Scripture is God-breathed (**2 Tim. 3:16**); it comes from God.
- The Scriptures cannot be broken or pass away. (**John 10:35, Matt. 5:18-19, 24:35, 1 Peter 1:23-25**)
- Scripture represents the very words of the Holy Spirit (**Heb. 3:7, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 1 Cor. 2:13**)
- The very words of God we put into the mouths of His servants the prophets (**Jer. 1:9, 1 Cor. 2:13**)
- God cannot lie (**Heb. 6:18**)

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The Testimony of Jesus Christ

- **Matthew 22:42-43- ““What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘Then how does David in the Spirit call him Lord..””**
- He answers the temptations of the devil with Scripture by saying, **“It is written”, “the Spirit says”, “God says”, “hear the word of the Lord”**.

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The Original Autographs

- Inspiration is the spoken and written word of men moved by the Holy Spirit.
- **II Peter 1:20-21- “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”** Inspiration does not refer to the scribal copies made from the originals. Someone may ask, **“Does this mean that what we have from copies and translations are unreliable?”**
- ***“We can be assured that we possess the Word of God in our present Bible because of God’s providence; He does not allow His aims in revealing Himself to be frustrated. Indeed the results of textual criticism confirm that we possess a biblical text that is substantially identical with the autographs.”- Greg L. Bahnsen, “The Inerrancy of the Autographa”***

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Verbal Inspiration

- The very words of Scripture were inspired and not just the overarching thought of Scripture.
- ***“Words signify and safeguard meaning; the wrong word distorts the intended sense. Since God inspired the biblical text in order to communicate His Word, it was necessary for Him to ensure that the words written were such as did in fact convey it.. If the words were not wholly God’s, then their teaching would not be wholly God’s.”- Neil Lightfoot, “Know Why You Believe”***
- The words in Scripture are the very words of God and can be understood by man. **Ephesians 5:17- “So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”**
- **If the Biblical writers were liable to error in one specific point, then who is to say they would not be in error in another?** This means that we would have no basis for trusting Scripture. Inerrancy of the entire Bible must be the conclusion of

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Difficulties or Errors?

- Difficulties can be justified and shown to be harmonious.
- A contradiction only exists if two differing statements negate each other because they are mutually exclusive. It cannot be reconciled.
- **History**- All perceived discrepancies have credible explanations and solutions. Bible history is accurate in what it conveys. It was not intended to be an exhaustive historical reference for all nations.
- **Science**- The Bible is not meant to be a modern scientific textbook.
 - *“The Bible is not a textbook on science. Its purpose is not to explain in technical terms the technical data of the natural world, but to explain God’s purpose and relation to man, to deal with spiritual things. It is definitely not a textbook for scientists.”*
 - **But what about miracles in the Bible?** Science is the study of repeatable events. The evidence for a miracle, as for any other historical event, is the testimony of those who witnessed it. The Bible is not a science book.
- **Language**- The Bible uses both figurative and symbolic language in many places.

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- **Synoptic problems** (synoptic means a general view of the same series of events)

Different details are included, a different audience may be written to, a different mode of

• **Moral Blemishes** The Infallibility and Reliability of the Bible
(cont'd)

- We see both judgment and long suffering in the Old Testament

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3 basic tests that are used to determine whether an ancient writing is reliable:

- **The Bibliographical Test: How reliable are the copies we have? Do they accurately reflect the originals?**
 - 1.) It is not considered a major handicap that the originals of something are not present (example: no one has seen the original “Romeo and Juliet” manuscript)
 - 2.) It is not a problem that a more than 1000 year time span separates the first copy from the originals. In fact, only a handful of manuscripts are needed to determine what was actually written.
 - Fragments of the New Testament manuscripts have been found that date within 25-50 years of the originals. No other book of antiquity compares. The closest is Homer’s Iliad, which has over 500 years between the original and the copies. The works of Aristotle have some 1400 years between the copies and the originals. No one doubts the reliability of these works.
 - There are over 5300 portions of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Add to that over 10,000 Latin Vulgate and at least 9300 other early versions. We have more than 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence. In contrast, Homer’s Iliad has only 643 manuscripts and the works of Aristotle have no more than 49 existing manuscripts.
 - **What about textual corruption?** There is no basic doctrine of our faith that rests upon a disputed reading in the Bible. Only about 40 lines (or 400 words) are in doubt, which means only one half of 1% is in question. That is compared to over 5% in the Iliad.

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HOW DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT MEASURE UP TO OTHER ANCIENT BOOKS?

Title of the Book	Date It was Written	Earliest Manuscripts	Number of Manuscripts
<i>Homer's Iliad</i>	700 B.C.	Unknown	
<i>History of Herodotus</i> <i>aka</i> <i>(The father of modern history)</i>	450 B.C.	A.D. 900 (1350 years time span since written!)	8
<i>Josephus' Jewish Wars</i>	A.D. 70	A.D. 400 (330 years time span since written!)	9
<i>Histories of Tacitus</i> <i>(Roman Historian)</i>	A.D. 100	A.D. 900 (800 years time span difference since written!)	2
	A. D. 50-100	A.D. 125 (ONLY 25 years time span difference since written!)	

The New Testament enjoys FAR more historical documentation than ANY other ancient volume EVER KNOWN

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- **The Internal Test: Are the Biblical claims for itself true?** The ability to tell the truth is related to the writer's nearness to the events recorded. The men who recorded the life and teaching of Jesus were first hand eyewitnesses! Statements include "**We saw**" or "**We heard**". They also appealed to common knowledge of others (including critics) by saying, "**You know this**" and "**You saw this and know about it**". Even critics would admit that they

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1. Babylonian Talmud (collection of writings by Jewish Rabbis; 70 A.D. to 200 A.D.)- *"On the eve of the Passover [redacted] was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'H [redacted] Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf. But since nothing was brought forward in his favor, he was handed on the eve of the Passover.'"*
Yesu is the Hebrew spelling of Jesus.
2. Josephus (Jew who fought in the Jewish army against the Romans; captured by Vespasian the Emperor of Rome-allowed Josephus to write the history of the Jews)-
"Ananus brought before the Sanhedrin a man named [redacted] and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and condemned them to be stoned to death."
3. Josephus- *"And there arose about this time [redacted] the man if indeed [redacted] for he was a doer of marvelous deeds, a teacher of men who received the truth with pleasure. He led away many Jews, and also Greeks, [redacted] the Christ. And when Pilate had condemned him to the cross on his impeachment by the chief men among us, those who had loved him at first did no cease; [redacted] the divine prophets having spoken these and thousands of other wonderful things about him: [redacted]"*

Reasons To Accept Josephus' Statements Regarding the Existence of Christ

- A. They are found in ALL surviving manuscripts. There is no textual evidence against it!
- B. Josephus mentions many other Bible characters and events that are not in dispute! (Such as John the Baptist)
- C. [redacted] Christians added favorable passages to [redacted] Josephus still mentions [redacted]