

WHY WE BELIEVE IN THE INERRANCY OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Stark Road Gospel Hall

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I. Claims of Scripture

A. Revelation from God.

1. General revelation - testimony to all men through creation (Rom 1:18-21; Ps 19).
2. Specific revelation - direct communication from God to man.
 - a. God speaks through men and ultimately through Christ (Heb 1:3; John 1:14).
 - b. God speaks through words (1 Cor 2:13; Mt 4:4) – not simply in concepts.

B. Inspiration of the Scriptures

1. **Truth of Inspiration** - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim 3:16)
 - a. Definition: Greek word means “God breathed”. Every word came from the mouth of God.
 - b. Scope: “all scripture” – “scripture” - always refers to portion of Bible (51x).
2. **Method of Inspiration** - “holy men ... moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21)
 - a. Superintendence of the Holy Spirit: God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings.
 - no human origin – “not by will of man”
 - “moved” by the Holy Spirit – carried along so words written were God’s words.
 - Spirit brought to remembrance teachings of Christ (John 14:26; 16:13-15)
 - b. Use of “holy men” - God used the character and the experiences of the men to shape the message they recorded resulting in different forms of revelation
3. **Implications of Inspiration**
 - a. Permanence – Words of God abide forever (1 Pet 1:23-25; Isa 40:6-8).
 - b. Inerrancy – word means freedom from error of any kind: factual, moral or spiritual.
 - c. Infallibility – the quality of neither deceiving nor being deceived - trustworthy.

C. Sufficiency of Scripture - It is the sole repository of God's truth

“All scripture is given ... that the man of God may be complete ...” (2 Tim 3:17).

1. **Sufficiency to meet every human need** (2 Tim 3:17; Tit 1:9)
 - Able to thoroughly equip the believer for every good work (1 Tim 3:17)
 - Able to defend against false teaching (Titus 1:9).
2. **Completeness of the Scriptures**
 - The faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).
 - Warnings against adding to the Book of Revelation (Rev 22:18).
 - Permanence of the Gospel message (Gal 1:9).
 - Necessity of teaching future generations (2 Tim 2:2; 2 Thess 2:15; 2 Pt 1:12-15).

II. Statements of Christ regarding the Scriptures

- A. Permanence** of the Scriptures – Matt 5:18 “Not one jot or tittle to pass ... until fulfilled”.
“jot” – smallest Hebrew letter. “tittle” – only part of a Hebrew letter.
- B. Infallibility** of Scripture - “Scripture can not be broken” – (John 10:35)
Importance of fulfillment of Scripture (Matt 26:54,56; Luke 22:37; 24:25, 44; John 13:18; 15:25; 17:12; 19).
- C. Inerrancy** of Scripture – “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4).
 - Based arguments on the written words of Scripture and on the tense of verbs.
 - “I am the God of Abraham” not “I was the God” (Matt 22:32; Luke 20:37-38).
- D. Authenticated O.T.** events as truth – Jonah, Adam/Eve, Flood, Babel, Sodom, David, ...

III. Claims of N.T. writers regarding the O.T.

- A. Recognized divine authorship** - O.T. called the oracles of God (Rom 3:2; Acts 7:38).
 - Apostles cited texts from prophets as utterances of God or the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:16; 3:21; 4:24-25; 7:51; 13:33-35, 47; 28:25; Heb 3:7; 10:15).
- B. Recognized the abiding authority** of Scripture – spoke in present tense of what Scriptures said in past. What the Holy Spirit “says” not what He “said” (Heb 3:7; see also 10:15).

IV. Claims of the Apostles regarding their own writings

- A.** Paul understood his writings to be the “commands of the Lord” – (1 Cor 7:10; 14:37; 2 Cor 13:10) and the “word of the Lord” (1 Thess 2:13).

- B. Peter states that the epistles of Paul are Scripture (2 Pet 3:16).
- C. Paul refers to quotations from both Duet. and Luke as Scripture (1 Tim 5:18).

V. Practice of the Apostles

- A. Use of Scriptures** - Paul reasoned from the Scriptures in the synagogues (Acts 17:2).
 - Used fulfillment of O.T. Scriptures as proof of divine origin of Christianity (Acts 2; 3:18).
 - Bereans searched the Scriptures to determine validity of Paul's message (Acts 17)
- B. Exhortations toward Scriptures**
 - "study to show rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).
 - "give attention to reading, exhortation, doctrine (1 Tim 4:13).

VI. "Evidence that demands a Verdict"

- A. Unity of the Scriptures**— although written over 1600 years, in three languages, in widely divergent circumstances by men from varied backgrounds and cultures in styles of writing ranging from personal letters to poetry, the Bible displays perfect unity regarding God's character, man's condition and God's plan of redemption.
- B. Accuracy and fulfillment of the Scriptures**
 - Accuracy of its recorded history, geography, science.
 - Hundreds of fulfilled prophecies regarding secular history, Israel and the Person of Christ.
- C. Its Unique Focus** – historical events, persons, objects and prophecies all fulfilled in Christ.
- D. Concepts of the Scriptures** - beyond human invention.
 - Concepts of God: Eternal, infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, immutable, holy
 - Concepts of Salvation: That God would become a Man in order to die as our Substitute.
- E. Honesty of its writers**
- F. Its Indestructibility**
- G. Its life changing influence**
 1. Its influence on man's achievements – laws, music, arts, architecture, civilization.
 2. Its influence on individual lives – ability to radically change people's lives.

VII. Inspiration affects Interpretation

- A. Exegesis**— Necessity of understanding the writer's perspective.
 1. External factors – culture, language, historical events, geography.
 2. Internal factors – what was the writer's purpose, aim, scope, audience, presuppositions.
- B. Synthesis**— Necessity of harmonizing truths within the teaching of all Scripture.
If Scriptures are "God-breathed" they can not be inconsistent – no contradictions
- C. Application** – Importance of applying the truth to ourselves.

VIII. Canon of Scripture (Which writings are inspired?)

- A. Expectation of written N.T. Scriptures (Jn 16:13; 2 Tim 2:2).
- B. Authority of N.T. writers – identified either by name or by relationship.
- C. Omnipotence of God.
- D. Testimony of historical records.

IX. Translations

- A. Inspiration extends only to the words of the original revelation – translations not inspired.
- B. Accuracy of translations
- C. Use of translations – Lord Jesus and apostles quoted from Septuagint.