

The Word

The Character of the Bible

HOLY
BIBLE
CONCORDANCE

"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night."
(Psalm 1:1-2)

The Character of God's Word...

1. Inspired
2. Inerrant
3. Infallible
4. Sufficient
5. Enduring
6. Illuminating
7. Effective
8. Complete
9. Authoritative
10. Determinative

The Bible is Inspired

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

Theopneustos

"theo" [God] "pneustos" [breathe or blow]
Inspired is perhaps a poor translation; literally the Bible is
"God-breathed"



Inspiration is God's superintending of human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error in the words of the original autographs His revelation to man.

What Inspiration is Not

- Natural – Bible was written by men of great genius
- Dictation – Writers were passive typewriters
- Partial – Only the unknowable parts (spiritual) were inspired
- Conceptual – Concepts but not words were inspired
- Neo-orthodox or Fallible – Is inspired but writers could only produce a record with errors

"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."
(2 Peter 1:20-21)

Epilysis

Literally, 'unloosing'; 'setting free from something'

Pherō

"and when the ship was caught in it and could not face the wind, we gave way to it
and let ourselves be driven along." (Acts 27:15)



The doctrine of Inspiration is one that is verbal and
plenary:

1. It concerns the original manuscripts
2. It extends to the actual words
3. It views God as superintending, not dictating
4. It includes inerrancy

“It is written...”

Most often repeated phrase regarding the Bible being the Word of God – 92 times.

In the Hellenistic world at that time ‘it is written’ was the formula used when people referred to the terms of an unalterable agreement, which is exactly how Paul uses it. What is written cannot be disputed; therefore every quotation from Scripture is a proof from Scripture.

God Himself speaks in Scripture, Scripture was even itself personified, and the principle is laid down: do not exceed what is written.

Inspiration Extends to the Words

“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

(Matthew 22:31-32)

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.”

(Galatians 3:16)

Old Testament References to Inspiration

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.”
(2 Samuel 23:2)

“As for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring’s offspring,” says the Lord, “from now and forever.””
(Isaiah 59:21)

New Testament References to Inspiration

"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."

(1 Corinthians 14:37)

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.""

(Revelation 1:10-11)

New Testament References to Inspiration

"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 14:26)

"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..."
(Acts 28:25)

The Bible is Inerrant



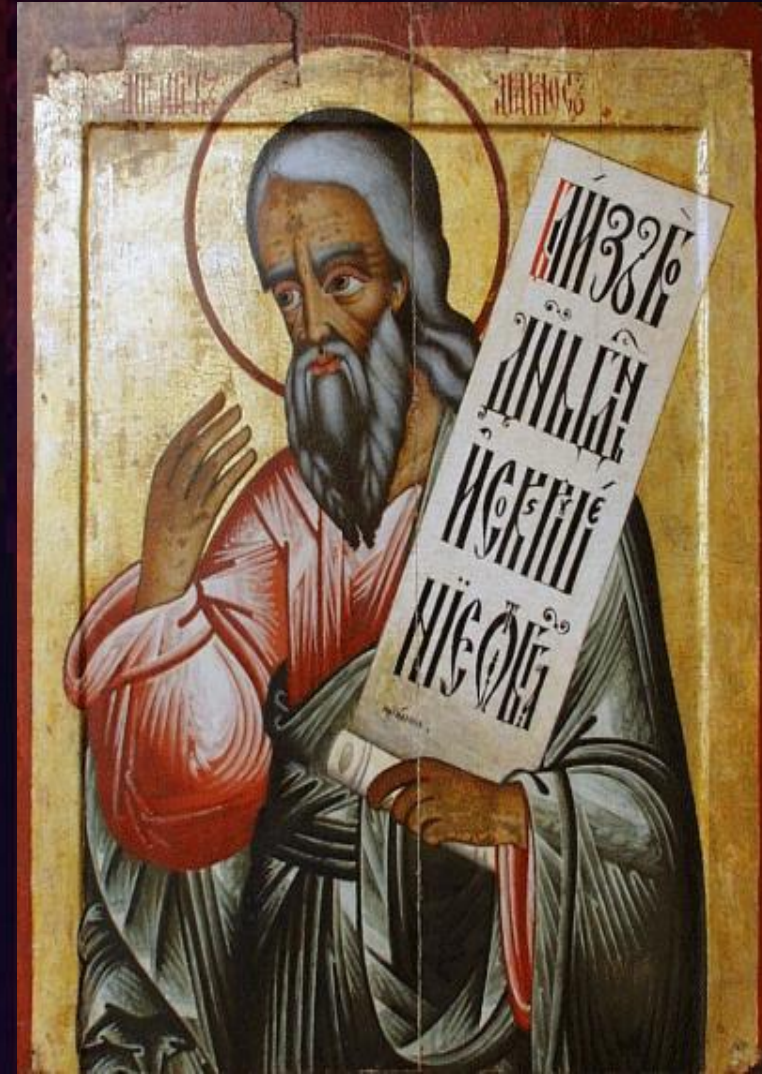
1. God cannot err
2. The Bible is the Word of God
3. Therefore, the Bible cannot err

"The sum of Your word is truth"
(Psalm 119:160)

The Nature of a Prophet

Prophets were only to speak what God put into their mouths. Further, the test of their prophecy was that it was true and without error. If they failed the test, they were put to death.

“... when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then that prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent.”
(Jeremiah 28:9)



An Important Note on Inerrancy

Many people get hung up on the fact that the Bible is inerrant, however it is important to understand that you can have an inerrant book (e.g. a phone book), document, or test that is not divinely inspired.

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Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #1 Confusing fallible interpretations with infallible revelation

Just as scientists can disagree over the observation of scientific data, finite human beings can disagree over Biblical interpretation.

Mistake #2 Failing to understand the context of a particular passage

Psalm 14:1 says, “there is no God”, so the Bible must teach atheism.
But the context says, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God’”.

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #3 Not interpreting difficult passages in light of clear ones

Paul may have said, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” but he was not endorsing salvation by works, which is clear by a multitude of other passages in his works and others.

Mistake #4 Basing a teaching or practice on an obscure passage

Paul referred in 1 Cor. 15:29 to those who were “baptized for the dead”. There are some 40 interpretations of this passage, which appears only once, and yet the Mormons have instituted a practice of baptizing proxies for those who have died.

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #5 Forgetting the Bible exhibits human characteristics

God did not erase the Bible writer's personalities when they wrote His Word. There are various literary styles, and human traits present such as memory lapses (1 Cor. 14-16), and more.

Mistake #6 Assuming a partial report must be a false report

Matt. 16:16 has Peter saying "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." whereas Mark has Peter saying, "You are the Christ", and Luke records, "The Christ of God". All are correct; a diversity of expression is allowed.

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #7 Quotations used in the NT from the OT must be exact

It was perfectly acceptable during first century days to convey the essence of a verse without the exact same words as long as the meaning was not lost.

Mistake #8 Assuming that divergent accounts are false accounts

Matt. 28:5 says there was one angel at Jesus' tomb whereas John says there were two in 20:12 of his work. Matthew did not say there was only one angel, but just highlighted the one; further were there are two there is always at least one...

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #9 Presuming that the Bible approves of all it records

There are many accounts of sinful activities committed by Biblical personalities that go against the teaching of Scripture; the Bible simply records them but does not endorse them.

Mistake #10 Forgetting the Bible uses everyday language

The Bible uses observational, non-technical/scientific language many times such as the sun 'rising', which is something even modern meteorologists utilize to describe the earth's rotation.

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #11 Assuming that round numbers are not factual

There were likely not exactly 5,000 men Jesus fed with the fish and the loaves, but giving the approximate number does not invalidate the truthfulness of Scripture.

Mistake #12 Forgetting that the Bible uses various literary devices

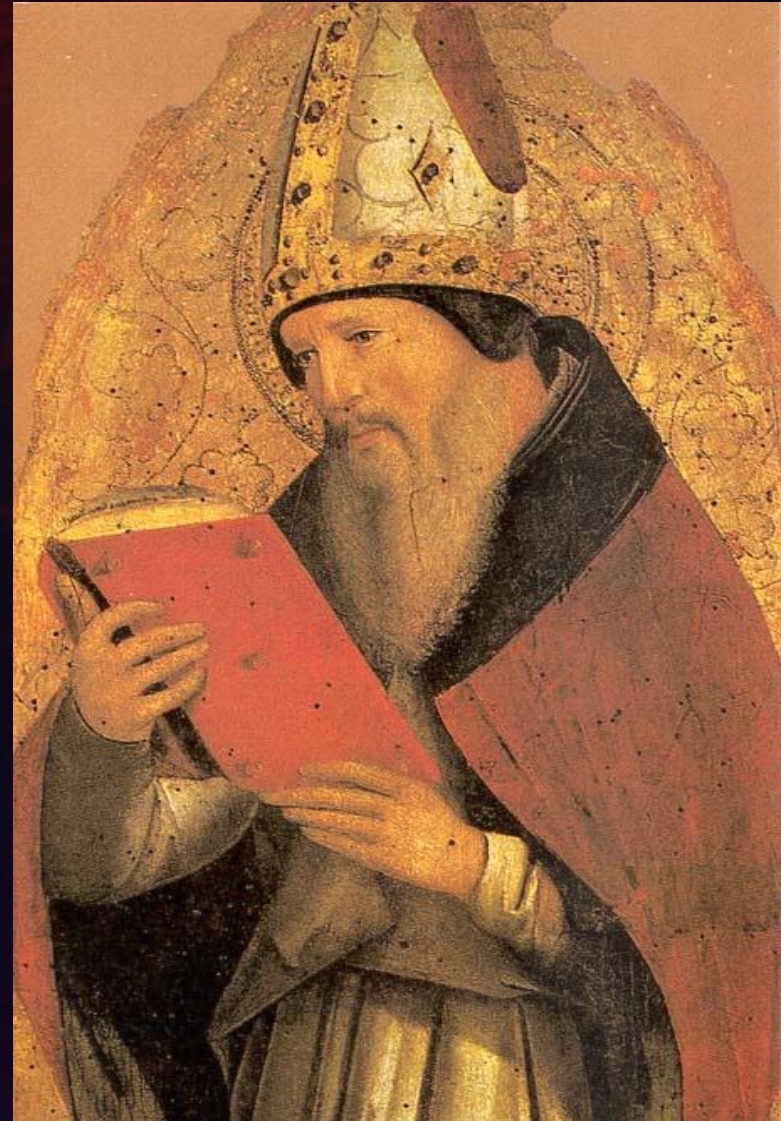
The Bible is full of allegories, metaphors, hyperboles, figures of speech, similes, and more. So when it speaks of says God “awakes” (Ps. 44:23) it isn’t saying God is sleeping, but is referring to prior inactivity.

Common Mistakes about Biblical Inerrancy

Mistake #13 Forgetting that not every copy of Scripture is error free

Inerrancy extends only to the original autographs and not to the copies of those autographs. However, by comparing copies it becomes easy to deduce where copyist errors crept in. For example 2 Kings 8:26 says Ahaziah was 22 years old when he began to rule, but a copy of 2 Chronicles 22:2 says he was 42. But comparing other copies and other sections of Scripture spell out that he could not have been 42 or he would have been older than his own father.

“If we are perplexed by any
apparent contradiction in
Scripture, it is not allowable to
say, ‘The author of this book is
mistaken’; but either the
manuscript is faulty, or the
translation is wrong, or you
have not understood.”
— Augustine



Comparison of Science and the Bible



- Both have difficulties
- Both assume explainability
- Both find many explanations
- Both continue research

The Bible is Infallible



"The law of the Lord is perfect"
(Psalm 19:7)

Inerrancy says the Bible does not err; infallibility says the Bible cannot err

The Bible is Sufficient



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

Sufficiency says that the Bible is comprehensive and all we need in matters of salvation and understanding the will of God. Nothing else is necessary.

The Bible is Enduring



"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."
(Isaiah 40:8)

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."
(Matthew 24:35)

“One hundred years
from my day there will
not be a Bible in the
earth except one that is
looked upon by an
antiquarian curiosity
seeker.”

— Voltaire (1694-1778)



And the bestselling book of 2008 is. . .

Posted Dec 25th 2008 11:00AM by [Zac Bissonnette](#)
Filed under: [Books](#)

not Harry Potter.

Not *Twilight* or even the latest thriller from James Patterson. The bestselling book of 2008 is, just like every other year, The Bible. 90% of U.S. households already have at least one copy, but slick marketing and endless procession of new editions with new translations, new illustrations, and new limited edition leather bindings helps The Bible sell about 25 million copies each year.



Flickr: [Wonderlane](#)

A fascinating [piece](#) in the December 23 *Wall Street Journal* (subscription required) looks at the brilliant niche marketing that keeps people who already have Bibles coming back to buy more each year: there are special editions for surfers, golfers, fashionistas, alcoholics and anime fans.

Bibles have been big business as long as they've been around: It was the first book to roll off of Gutenberg's printing press and, according to scholars, there's probably never been a year since then when it didn't sell more copies than any other book. In the first half of this century, it was a business dominated by door to door salesmen immortalized in [this classic documentary](#) from 1968.

[According](#) (PDF File) to religious publisher Thomas Nelson, 38% of Bible buyers already own between three and ten copies of the book, and most Bibles are bought as gifts.

The Bible is Illuminating



The Bible serves as an illuminating mechanism and acts as a truth-bearer in matters of God, ethics, salvation, eternity, and much more.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path."
(Psalm 119:105)

"But prove yourselves doers of the word,
and not merely hearers who delude
themselves."
(James 1:22)

The Bible is Effective



"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for
which I sent it."
(Isaiah 55:11)

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword,
and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and
able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
(Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is Complete

“This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that “Scripture alone” is our guide. It sounds nice but it is not true... When people say that all we need is the Bible, it is simply not true.”

-Rob Bell

Velvet Elvis: Repainting The Christian Faith,
67-8



The Bible is Complete



" All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible is Authoritative



The Bible is not a book of suggestions from God; it is His revelation to mankind and contains His divine decrees and commands for His creation.

"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven."
(Psalm 119:89)

"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."
(1 Corinthians 4:6)

The Bible is Determinative



The Bible is the single determining factor of whether someone has been regenerated by the Spirit and born again.

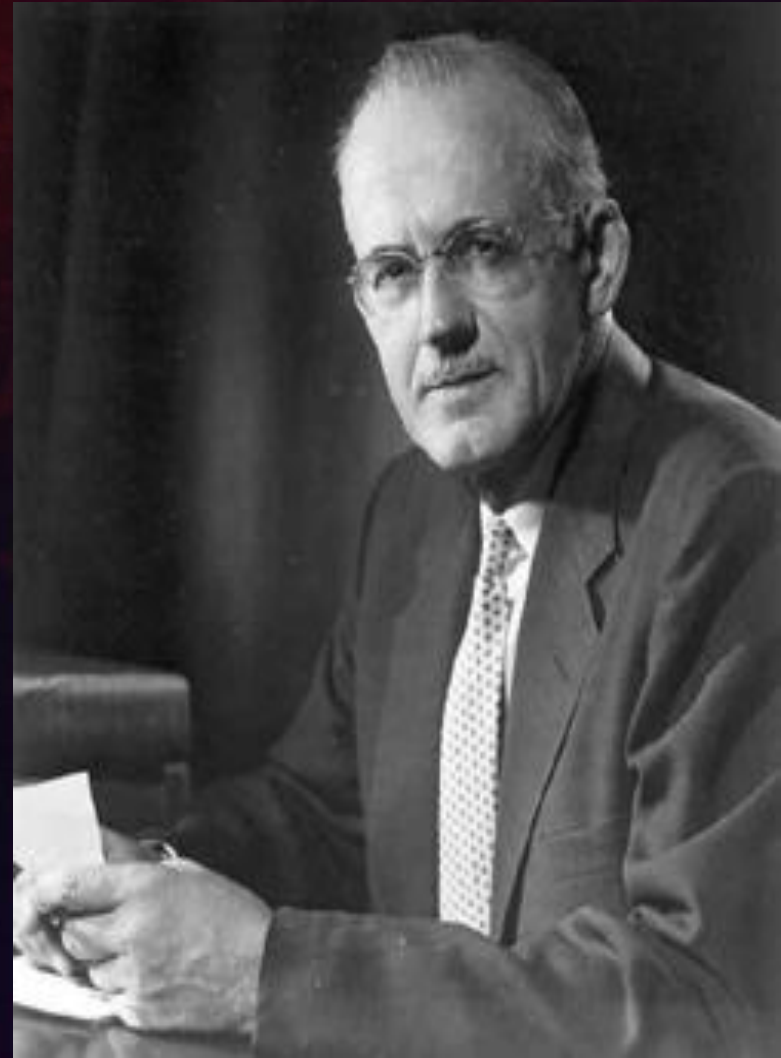
"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."
(1 Corinthians 2:14)

“He who is of God hears the words of God;
for this reason you do not hear them, because
you are not of God.”
(John 8:47)

“The Bible is not addressed to just anybody. Its message is directed to a chosen few. . . . As the pillar of fire gave light to Israel but was cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, so our Lord’s words shine in the hearts of His people but leave the self-confident unbeliever in the obscurity of moral night.”

-A. W. Tozer

Why People Find the Bible Difficult



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““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.”

(Joshua 1:8)

"I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word."
(Psalm 138:2)

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