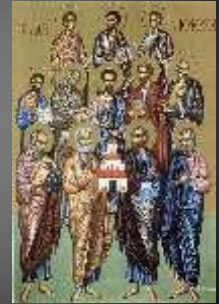


What About the NT?

- Does the NT claim it's own inspiration? Yes!
- Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would bring to remembrance all of the words that Christ taught them.
 - John 14:25-26 – These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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 have said to you.
- Later in life, John the Apostle makes it clear that the apostles are from God, and their word should be listened too.
 - 1 John 4:6 – We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

What About the NT?

- Paul also declared that the words they taught were from the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:13 – And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- Peter declares that Paul's writings are Scripture:
 - 2 Peter 3:15-16 – And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.



Summing up Inspiration

- Many more examples exist in both testaments.
- Add to it scientific accuracy and fulfilled prophecy, there is more reason to accept inspiration.
- God wrote the Bible through human authors by the process of divine inspiration or **theopneustos**.
 - The Bible declares this to us in plain and clear propositional statements.
- The doctrine of the Bible is a doctrine that we must defend with all of our strength.

Infallibility and Inerrancy

- People often confuse infallibility in inerrancy.
- Definitions:
 - Inspiration = God used human authors to write down Scripture as He desired.
 - Infallibility = the Bible contains nothing in it falsely. The human authors added nothing that wasn't from God.
 - Inerrancy = The Bible is truthful in all that it affirms.
- Each of these terms represent a different reality about the Bible.



Infallibility and Inerrancy Under Attack

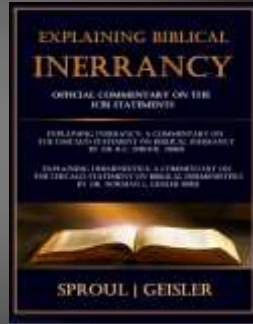
- Sadly, some people say they believe in inspiration, but they deny infallibility and inerrancy.
- Here are some of these wrong ideas:
 - Accommodation Theory: Scripture accommodates itself to human errors and misunderstandings. (e.g. flat earth, inspiration passages, observational language.)
 - Non-Propositional Revelation Theory: The Bible is not an inerrant book of truths, but God's way to speak to people's hearts. It does not need to be inerrant.
 - Limited Inerrancy: The Bible is true in all spiritual matters, but it may be wrong on science or history.
- There is a difference between 1st and 3rd view.

Jesus' View of Inerrancy

- If God did inspire the Scripture, and God cannot lie, then everything in the Scripture must be accurate.
 - The notion of inerrancy demands that every single word is inspired and accurate.
- You can find this teaching internally in Scripture by looking at the way Jesus Himself used the Scriptures.
 - Matthew 22:31-32 – And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: '**I am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."
- Jesus proved the doctrine of the resurrection by appealing to the verb tense of "to be."
 - Thus not only the words are inspired, but the grammar tenses.

The Bible is Inerrant

- It is used by archeologists to find ancient sites (e.g. Nelson Gluek).
- It declared the earth round centuries before secular sources.
- It claims itself inspired, which is also a claim to infallibility and inerrancy.



What About Apparent Contradictions?

- Some parts of the Scriptures seem to contradict.
- It is usually easy to harmonize them.
 - Contradiction is P and non-P.
 - Usually, the Bible has different foci of one event (e.g. Gospel writers, or Judas' death)
- Sometimes it is more difficult (e.g. troop numbers in OT narratives).
 - In these cases, isagogics is key



Full Inerrancy

- Christians should advocate full inerrancy.
 - It allows for observational language, rounded numbers, and untruthful or errant statements (e.g. Satan saying Eve wont die was erroneous, but it was accurately recorded).
- It avoids the pitfalls of Absolute Inerrancy.
 - It demands that every statement of the Bible is literally true (rather than accurate).
 - They have to perfectly harmonize troop numbers, and reject the notion of observational language.
 - What will they do with Genesis 15 (400 years) and Exodus 12 (430 years)? Even God rounded numbers!

Verbal Plenary Inspiration

- We hold to the full verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture as well as the total infallibility and inerrancy of it.
- Everything it teaches is true and everything it records is accurate as far as the purpose to which it was recorded intended.
- Since the Bible is inspired and inerrant, it also is authoritative.



Conclusion

- There are many reasons that Christians hold to the inspiration of Scripture as well as the infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture.
- The Bible is filled with passages that affirm its inspiration, and logic alone necessitates that it be infallible and inerrant.
- Also, the way in which Jesus used the Scriptures Himself demonstrates inerrancy.
- Next time we will talk about canonicity and authority.