



BIBLIOLOGY

A compact study of how we got the Bible

The Importance of Bibliology

- We believe that the Bible is our *only standard* for knowing Christ.
- Many claim to believe the Bible (e.g., Joel Osteen), yet what they teach is not biblical. And far too often what they tolerate is unbiblical.
- We must not only know the Bible, we must be able to defend why we believe the Bible is our only standard for knowing Christ and doing theology.

The Bible Claims to be Like...

- **A seed that saves us:** *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)*
- **Milk that nourishes us:** *like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation. (1 Peter 2:2)*

- **Meat that satisfies us:** *But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.* (Hebrews 5:14)
- **Water that washes us:** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.* (Eph 5:25-26)
- **A fire that cleanses us:** *“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”* (Jer 23:29)

- **A hammer that shatters us:** *“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?” (Jer 23:29)*
- **A sword that cuts us deeply:** *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. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:12–13)*

- **Medicine to keep us from the sickness of sin:** *Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)*
- **A mirror that reflects us:** *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:23–25)*

- **A light to guide us:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)*
- **A comforting counselor:** *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*
- **An accurate forecaster:** *So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19)*

The Meaning of the Word “Bible”

- The English word for Bible comes from the Greek word biblion which means book or roll.
- It literally refers to the inner bark of the papyrus plant which grew in the marshes and river banks along the Nile River in Egypt.
- Many ancient writings were on rolls of papyrus from which comes our English word “paper.”

The Meaning of the Word “Scripture”

- The English word Scripture comes from the Greek word γραφή (graphe) which means “writings.”
- Our English word “graffiti” derives from this.
- In the Greek NT, γραφή is used over 140 times to denote the Holy Scriptures.

The Divine Origin of the Bible

- The Bible claims within its own pages to be a unique, set-apart book, different from all others.
- **Some 3,800 times** the Bible declares “God said” or “Thus says the Lord.”

God's Special Revelation: the Bible

- The word “revelation” comes from the Greek word ἀποκάλυψις (*apocalypse*) meaning “unveiling” or “revealed.”
- Thus the term revelation refers to the “self-disclosure of God to mankind.”
- God's Bible is a two-volume Book of Revelation:
 - Natural revelation is Volume 1 (inadequate)
 - Special Revelation is Volume 2

Historical Avenues of God's Special Revelation

- **The Lot**—Proverbs 16:33; Acts 1:21-26
- **Urim/Thummim**—Exodus 28:30; Numbers 27:21; Deuteronomy 33:8
- **Dreams**—Genesis 20:3, 6; 31:11-13, 24; Joel 2:28
- **Visions**—Isaiah 1:1; 6:1; Ezekiel 1:3 (emphasis on what is heard whereas dream is on what is seen)

- **Theophanies**—Angel of the Lord (Christ?)—Gen. 16:7-14; Ex. 3:2; 2 Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12
- **Angels**—Daniel 9:20-21; Luke 2:10-11
- **Prophets**—2 Samuel 23:2; Zech. 1:1; Eph. 3:5
 - Are preachers today prophets? Yes & No.
Today, preachers are only proclaiming what has previously been revealed BUT prophesying “Thus says the Lord.”
- **Events**—God’s activity in history is a channel of revelation (e.g., incarnation revealed God)
- **Jesus Christ**—the primary avenue of God’s Special Revelation
- **Scripture**—the Written Word

General vs. Specific Revelation

REVELATION	MANIFESTATION	REFERENCE
GENERAL	Nature	Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:18-21
	Providence	Matt. 5:45; Dan. 2:21; Acts 14:15-17
	Conscience	Rom. 2:14-15
SPECIAL	Jesus Christ	John 1:1-18; Heb. 2:1-4
	Scripture	2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21

Some modern problematic statements about God's revelation...

- God told me...
- I have a word from the Lord...
- God revealed to me...
- I have the gift of prophecy...
- God gave me a prophecy...
- God laid this message on my heart...
- **Because of the subjective nature of these statements, it seems obvious that God only speaks through the Scriptures.**

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION

Inspiration

- Definition: The Holy Spirit's superintending over the writers of Scripture so that while writing according to their own styles and personalities, the result was the authoritative, trustworthy, and inerrant Word of God in the autographs.

- **Ryrie: “Formerly all that was necessary to affirm one’s belief in full inspiration was the statement, ‘I believe in the inspiration of the Bible.’ But when some did not extend inspiration to the words of the text it became necessary to say, ‘I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.’ To counter the teaching that not all parts of the Bible were inspired, one had to say, ‘I believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible.’ Then because some did not want to ascribe total accuracy to the Bible, it was necessary to say, ‘I believe in the verbal, plenary, infallible, inerrant inspiration of the Bible.’ But then ‘infallible’ and ‘inerrant’ began to be limited to matters of faith only rather than also embracing all that the Bible records (including historical facts, genealogies, accounts of Creation, etc.), so it became necessary to add the concept of ‘unlimited inerrancy.’ ”**

Biblical Support for Inspiration

- **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.*
- **2 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.*

- **Proverbs 30:5–6** *Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.*
- **Hebrews 4:12** *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.*

- **1 Timothy 5:18** For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
 - Paul combined an Old (Deut 25:4) and a New Testament (Luke 10:7) reference and designated them both as Scripture.
- To join a quotation from Luke to a canonical Old Testament quote is highly significant, especially in lieu of the fact that only five or six years had elapsed between the writing of Luke and the writing of 1 Timothy.

- **2 Peter 3:16** ...as also in all [Paul's] letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Five Key Elements of Inspiration

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Five Key Elements of Inspiration

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3. The errorless element
4. The written element
5. The autograph element

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False Views of Inspiration

- **Natural Inspiration**—Bible was written by human geniuses but is not infallible. Other books may also be “naturally inspired.”
- **Dynamic/Mystical Inspiration**—Writers were inspired to write by the Holy Spirit but He did not directly oversee what they wrote.

False Views of Inspiration

- **Degree Inspiration**—Some parts of the Bible are more inspired than others. Thus Paul might be “more inspired” than Proverbs.
- **Partial Inspiration**—Some of Scripture is inspired, some is not (e.g., Epistle of Romans inspired but Song of Songs not so much).

False Views of Inspiration

- **Concept Inspiration**—It is the ideas of Scripture that are inspired, not the words.
- **Barthian Inspiration**—to Karl Barth, the Bible is only a means to the true revelation, Christ. Thus the Bible may have errors in it. It is fallible, Christ is not.
 - Yet the only picture we have of Christ comes from the Bible! His willingness to pick and choose what he liked and didn't like is the essence of liberal theology.

BTCP Question

- One page long (but you don't have to interact with three sources on this one)
- What is at the core of various contrasting views of inspiration? Or, why do you think there are so many varying views of the Bible's inspiration?