

The Verbal Inspiration of the Bible

Outlined by Pastor Arnold

Introduction

No one has presented a solution to the basic problems of sin, forgiveness, salvation and immortality.

The Bible is not simply a good book but is God's book. The Bible does not just contain the Word of God, it IS the Word of God in its entirety. We need to saturate our minds with reliable, incontestable evidences that every word of the Bible is Divinely inspired or "God-breathed" and is fully trustworthy.

Importance of this Lesson

You and I need to be "set for the defense of the faith"

DEFINITION OF REVELATION

Because God is infinite and man is finite, it is not possible for man to know God. **If man is to know God, God must reveal Himself to man.** God has done this in two ways: general revelation and special revelation.

General revelation means that God has shown Himself to all men at all times and in all places. Special revelation means that God showed Himself supremely in Jesus Christ and His Word. **The WORLD AND THE WORD.**

A. General Revelation

Through nature man can know that there is a God, although man cannot know God personally (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20).

B. Special Revelation

This means that God has revealed Himself through the incarnation of His Son Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1,2) and His Word, the Bible. The work of Christ was to reveal the Father and His Word, the Bible. Secondly Christ came to bring salvation to mankind (Luke 19:10). As a man, Jesus Christ was the most complete revelation of God because He was God (1 John 1:1).

DEFINITION OF INSPIRATION

Inspiration was the influence of the Holy Spirit on the writers of the Scriptures which enabled them to write an accurate record of what God had said. What these men wrote actually resulted in the Word of God (2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 3:16). The words of the Scripture came from God like the breath of God as God breathed His breath into man (Genesis 2:7). **The Lord put life into his WORD as when He breathed life into the first man.**

AUTHORITY

Authority of the Scriptures means that in it we find the expression of God's will for man. It has the right to tell us what to believe and practice. The Bible is the believer's authority for both faith and practice. A person in

authority has the right to command those under his supervision. Doctrines taught in the Bible have unquestionable authority over the believer.

INERRANCY AND INFALLIBILITY

This means that the Scriptures are free from all errors. Inerrancy and Infallibility can be said to be **two sides of the same coin** and both are connected to the doctrine of inspiration. The very character of God means that the Scriptures are true (John 3:3).

Several witnesses to the Inerrancy of the Bible

THE WITNESS OF CHRIST

The Lord Jesus believed in and taught the inerrancy of the Old Testament.

Read Matthew 15:17,18. Here Christ states clearly that He had not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill them. He said that not one jot (the smallest Hebrew letter) or one tittle (a tiny mark over a Hebrew letter) would pass away until all were fulfilled. Christ taught inerrancy of even the minute markings in the Old Testament.

Christ authenticated the Old Testament characters, and the stories associated with them, all of which are denied and ridiculed by critics

Lot's wife – pillar of salt (Luke 17:32)

Jonah – the big fish (Matthew 12:39-41)

Noah – the great flood (Matthew 24:37-39)

Adam and Eve – creation (Matthew 19:4-6)

Satan – our adversary (Luke 11:18)

Of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, Deuteronomy is the most maligned and rejected by the skeptics. Christ defeated Satan by using three quotations from the book of

Deuteronomy in (Matthew 4:3-11)

Deuteronomy (8:3; 6:16 and 10:20)

Christ testified repeatedly that He Himself was the theme of the Old Testament (Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39)

Critics deny the authorship of Daniel claiming he could not possibly have known of the events that took place hundreds of years later. Christ, however, stamps Daniel as authentic by quoting his prophecy (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14). We must conclude that the inerrancy of Scripture is irrevocably associated with the absolute Deity of Christ. If the Scriptures are not inerrant, Christ must be branded a deceiver and forger of lies.