

Is the Bible Inspired?



Christianity promotes many false doctrines. But the most popular of all is the teaching that the 66 canonized books known as the Holy Bible is "God's word" because it is "inspired". Not only is the definition of inspired ambiguous and confusing, but the doctrine itself is actually untrue and very misleading. Those who insist on it, are coercing you, to accept three separate presumptions, all of which are false. The three presumptions are:

- (1) That the Bible is historically accurate in every detail.
- (2) That every word in the Bible is the Creator's communication to humanity.
- (3) That the Creator somehow endorsed all decisions about which writings should be included or excluded from the canon.

HISTORICAL ACCURACY

Those who tell us that the Bible is inspired, insist that the original manuscripts were precisely accurate in every detail. When reading history, it would be nice if we could be certain of its accuracy, but often we cannot. Not even when reading the Bible. Not only do we lack means of proving the Bible's inerrancy, but we can show clear examples of numerous errors. **2 Sam 6:23** says Michal had no child, but **21:8** says she had five sons. **2 Chron 36:9** says Jehoiachin began to reign at age 8; **2 Ki 24:8** says age 18. **Mat 1:16** says Joseph's father was Jacob; **Luke 3:23** says Heli.¹ For more examples, see: The Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy by C. Dennis McKinsey. Christian leaders and teachers come up with apologies and

¹ For the surprising reason for this contradiction, see our article titled, The Davidic Messiah Fallacy.

excuses for these errors, but they bend the rules of reasonable logic trying to defend their doctrine of Biblical inerrancy. The purpose of this tract is not to malign the Bible, but rather to expose the errors of false doctrines.

The Bible is basically a cumulative history written by several human authors, all of whom were a little less than perfect. It would be pure superstition to suppose that by some mystical means, their writings are 100% free and immune from every kind of error. This does not mean those authors were deliberate liars, nor does it mean that the Bible has no historic or religious value. You may say that if the Bible contains errors; then how can we trust any of it? But that would be an overreaction. We have books on the American civil war, but which of them is 100% accurate? Does that mean the civil war never really occurred? Hardly! We should use a common sense approach when studying any history, whether sacred or secular.

Accurate history is certainly a thing to be desired, but it *is not the primary issue!* If I would write a precisely accurate history of everything I did last week, would that make it the Creator's word? *Certainly not!* Accurate history is one thing, but communication from the Creator is quite another!

THE CREATOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Some insist that the entire Bible is inspired, and that every word of it is from the Creator. This implies for example, that when Paul wrote someone a letter, that his words, in some mystical way, somehow became the Creator's words. Christians often treat Paul's words as authority, while ignoring or rejecting some of the commandments of Yahweh.² If you think Paul's words came from the Creator, then maybe you should obey **Col 4:16**. The Bible is *not* "God's word", but it does contain communications purported to be from Yahweh, the Creator. Insisting that every word of the Bible is from the Creator, actually distracts you from focusing on those portions which really are the

² To learn who Yahweh is, consult a good dictionary, or get our tract, The Creator Knows You By Name.

Creator's communications. It seems incredible that there is so much misunderstanding about a subject that is so simple! Even Judaism falsely teaches that the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy were dictated word for word by Yahweh to Moses. But nowhere does the Bible indicate any such thing whatsoever!

These books are humanly written history which tells of occasions when Yahweh communicated to Abraham and to Moses, and on one occasion, to the Israelites collectively. If these divine communications really occurred, then indeed this is a most unique and valuable history, and we all should be interested to learn exactly what Yahweh said. In pursuing this, it would be helpful to have a red letter edition of the Old Testament, with Yahweh's words printed in red. Such Bible is available.³ But even without such red letter edition, the careful reader can easily tell which words came from Yahweh and which did not. But without this understanding, Bible readers will never correctly understand its message. We do not suggest that only the words of Yahweh (the red letter portion) should be preserved, and the rest discarded. Yahweh gave His communications in a historical setting, and part of their meaning would be lost if those communications were removed from their historical context.

BY WHAT AUTHORITY WERE THE WRITINGS CANONIZED?

Those who say the Bible, and the Bible only, is inspired, try to reinforce an artificial arbitrary boundary between those writings which were included in the canon, and those which were not. The history of the canonical process gives no indication whatsoever that Yahweh somehow intervened or revealed His choice of which writings should be included.⁴ Contrary to popular doctrine, the development of the canon was merely a human process, and to believe otherwise is pure unfounded superstition!

³ The Sword Study Bible, by Global Bible Society, P.O. Box 6068, Asheville, NC 28816, Phone 800-252-8896

⁴ History of the Canon Of The Holy Scriptures in the Christian Church, by Edward Reuss, Edinburg, 1891

Nowhere does the Bible reveal that Yahweh ever promised to supervise the preservation of His divine communications, and it is not surprising that they have suffered some degree of corruption throughout the centuries. Instead of expecting the Bible to be a complete and perfect book, we should understand that when He speaks to someone, Yahweh's part is finished. From that point on, what people do with it, is our responsibility. People do sometimes corrupt things, and Yahweh would expect us to be smart enough to not blame Him for the mistakes of humans.

The Bible tells that people persecuted and even killed some of Yahweh's prophets.⁵ The words of those prophets are not preserved in our Bible, because they suffered corruption of the worst kind, being totally destroyed! Should we be so presumptuous or arrogant as to assume that those murdered prophets had no prophetic messages from Yahweh which could be of any value to us? Shall we persist in the false doctrine that our Bible canon is now perfect and complete?

ADDITIONAL REVELATION NEEDED

The Torah contains some very important instructions from Yahweh, which cannot be obeyed without having current communication from Him.⁶ This fact itself is proof that the Bible alone does not give enough information so that we can totally obey Yahweh. The popular doctrine that the Bible, and it alone is "inspired" may seem like a harmless teaching, but it is fraught with error, and it is the root of some very serious false doctrines.

5 See 1 Ki 18:4 & 19:10; 2 Chron 24:19-21; Neh 9:26; Jer 26:20-23; Mat 23:31 & Luke 13:34.

6 See our tract titled, Do You Obey the Torah?