

# THINK BIBLICALLY

## Lesson 2: Inspiration & Inerrancy

### Can We Trust the Bible?

In Lesson 1, we addressed the development of the Canon – the list of all books or writings that properly belong in the Bible. But even accepting that the 66 books of the Bible should all be a part of the Bible, and no other books or writings should be part of the Bible, the question remains whether these books and writings are reliable. There are two ways to approach this subject. First, what does the Bible claim for itself? In other words, we can look at the internal evidence within the Bible. Does the Bible claim for itself that it is true? Does the Bible claim for itself that it was in some way inspired by God and not merely human writings? Second, we can consider external evidence. In other words, do other lines of evidence (e.g., archaeological discoveries, historical records, scientific discoveries) affirm or undermine what we read in the Bible. Our purpose in this lesson is to do a high level overview on the first approach, looking to what the Bible has to say about itself. In particular, we want to hear Jesus' viewpoint about the matter.

1. **Inspiration:** The Bible claims for itself to be the inspired Word of God. *See* 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:13

— 2 Tim. 3:16, all Scripture is inspired (breathed out by God) and profitable

— 2 Peter 1:21, God used human writers as the Holy Spirit bore them along in the writing

— 1 Cor. 2:13, God's revelation came to us in words

— numerous statements that God said or commanded (e.g., thus saith the Lord)

— **Formal Definition:** God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings. (Charles Ryrie)

— What if only parts of the Bible are inspired?

2. **Inerrancy:** In simple terms, to say the Bible is "inerrant" means it has no errors. Wayne Grudem **defines** inerrancy as follows: "the inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact." Inerrancy flows from inspiration. If the Bible is God-breathed, and God knows all and tells the truth, then the Bible is without error.

3. **What Did Jesus Say?:** Jesus repeatedly affirmed that the Old Testament was true and authoritatively God's Word, not just in principles, but in its history, in its entirety, and even in the minutia of single words and letters.

— Matt. 4:1-11, man lives by every word from God

— Jesus acknowledged Adam and Eve created by God (Matt. 19:3-5; Mark 10:6-8), the flood and the ark (Matt. 24:38-39; Luke 17:26-27), the destruction of Sodom (Matt. 10:15; Luke 17:28-29), historicity of Jonah (Matt. 12:40), Isaiah (Matt. 12:17), Elijah (Matt. 17:11-12), Daniel (Matt. 24:15), Abel (Matt. 23:35), Zechariah (Matt. 23:35), Abiathar (Mark 2:26), David (Matt. 22:45), Moses and his writings (Matt. 8:4; John 5:46), and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Matt. 8:11; John 8:39)

— Matt. 5:17-18, the "Law and the prophets" (the entire OT) will be fulfilled to the jot and tittle

— John 10:24-38, appeals to Psalm 82 use of "gods"

— Matt. 22:23-33, appeals to verb tense of Exod. 3:6

— Matt. 22:41-46, appeals to Psalm 110:1, pronoun "my"

4. **Isn't the Bible Full of Contradictions?:** No! But numerous resources address the seemingly endless lists.