

The History of the Bible

NEW TESTAMENT INSPIRATION

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All *scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:20–21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the *scripture* is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

These passages claim inspiration of the Old Testament. How do we know the New Testament is inspired?

The Use of the Term Scripture

Both Peter and Paul use the term “Scripture” which is a technical term. It's the Greek word γραφή (*graphē*) which means “writings.” It's used for the Old Testament writings inspired by God.

Jesus read Scripture publicly:

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Paul commanded public reading:

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.

Peter placed Paul's letters in equal authority as Scripture:

2 Peter 3:15–16 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also **the other scriptures**, unto their own destruction.

Paul put Luke's Gospel into the category of Scripture:

1 Timothy 5:18 For **the scripture saith**, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward. (Quoting Luke 10:7)

Jude quotes Peter's letter as authoritative:

Jude 17–18 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. (Quoting 2 Peter 3:2-3)

The New Testament Contains Self-Authenticating Material

In 1 John 4:1, John said false prophecy could be identified. “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

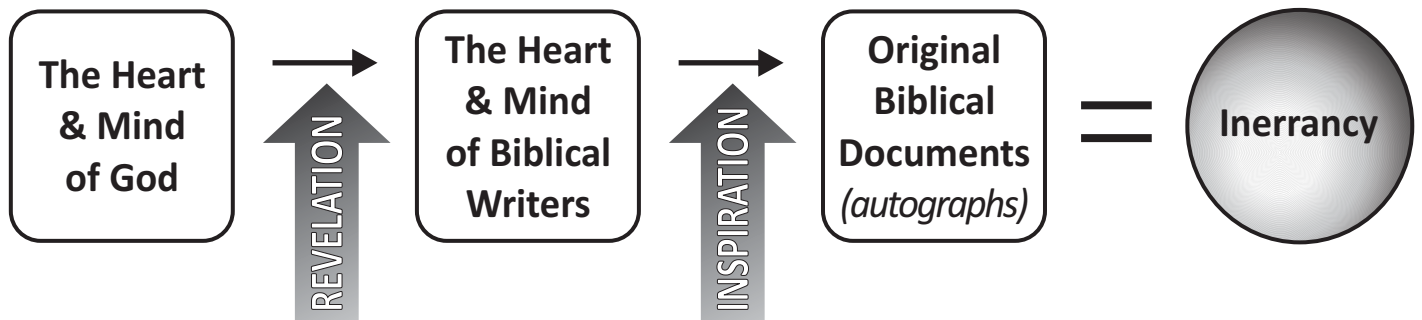
Paul signed letters for authenticity. (2 Thess. 3:17; 1 Cor. 16:21; Gal. 6:11, Col. 4:18, Philemon 19)

New Testament Writers Assumed Authority

1 Corinthians 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; **that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written**, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. (Literally, “that you would learn not to go beyond Scripture.”)

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INERRANCY



Inerrancy: The theological position that the autographs (the original written documents) are without error, mistake or contradiction. The Bible is entirely truthful and trustworthy, and so it is both accurate and authoritative in everything it affirms.

The Logical Argument For Inerrancy

Premise 1: Scripture is God's Word to man.
2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Premise 2: God is truthful and honest.
2 Samuel 7:28; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Numbers 23:19

Premise 3: God is without error.
Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 46:9–10; Isaiah 40:8; James 1:13

Conclusion: Since Scripture is the revelation of God, it is as truthful and without error as God Himself.

The Bible's Distinct Claims To Inerrancy

God Only Speaks What's Right
Isaiah 45:19

The Scriptures Are Unbreakable
John 10:35

Everything Will Be Fulfilled
Matthew 5:17–18

Altering The Word Produces Lies
Proverbs 30:5–6

Four Common Explanations For Challenges To Inerrancy

Explanation 1: Some Biblical writers can give more details than others.
Examples: Matthew 26:34, Mark 14:30 and Luke 22:34; Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49

Explanation 2: Biblical writers record the details that fit their own purpose.
Example: Matthew 27:5 and Acts 1:18

Explanation 3: The Bible leaves room for poetic language and common figures of speech.
Examples: Psalm 104:19; John 10:9

Explanation 4: The Bible uses literary devices to make a point.
Examples: Proverbs 26:4-5