



The Infallibility and Validity of the Bible

Throughout recorded history and the multitudes of preserved artifacts from archaeology we can be very confident God called out and used various men of faith to tell the world about Himself, His ways, and His judgments – from Adam, to Moses and the prophets, to the followers of Jesus Christ. In all of this, God chose and inspired many faithful men to write down, disseminate, and preserve all He taught them. As a result, we have been left with a complete, detailed love letter from God; a spiritual ‘manual’ known worldwide as “the Bible”, “Scripture”, or “God’s Word” interchangeably. Amazingly, most of mankind today – even those who think of themselves as Christians – do not accept it as being wholly valid in the present era, and therefore, make no attempt live by it, believe in it, or even open the pages to simply read it.

Proving the legitimacy and validity of the Bible is a vast subject, and, having been handled very well by many other books and scholarly research, I will not address it deeply here. For more on that subject I can recommend the works of authors such as Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel, Ken Ham, Kent Hovind, Brian Young, Henry Morris, Dave Hunt, Chuck Smith, Arnold Fruchtenbahm, Randall Price, Roger Oakland, and Jacob Prasch. If you are willing to delve into this arena of study and honestly examine the evidence, you will find the Bible is a supernaturally created and divinely preserved book. Only our Almighty God could have used the hearts, minds, words, and pens of so many faithful men over such a vast span of years to create one miraculous, amazingly cohesive book of truth, history, instruction, and wisdom for the entire human race; manuscripts *which flow perfectly*, from beginning to end, using over 40 authors of various lifestyles, education levels, languages, and eras to write what His Spirit urged them to write. It’s inexplicable unless you accept the reality that it is indeed supernatural.

We operate from a foundational premise that we can trust the entire Bible as being God-breathed, God-directed, and God-preserved, despite centuries of attack, misuse, misinterpretation, and a multitude of attempts to malign or even annihilate its writings and teachings. I ask that if you have doubts, please take some time and investigate this subject on your own. There are multitudes of scholarly, academically sound books with enormous amounts of information and research attesting to the validity of Scripture whether you are seeking scientific proof of creation and the global flood; historical and archaeological verification of the named events, places and people in the Bible; or you merely want to know if there has been an uncorrupted preservation and translation of the original biblical manuscripts, both Old and New Testament. The bottom line is, we do not have to check our brains at the door when it comes to the Bible. We can trust the writings of all Scripture as being God’s tangible, yet supernatural source of truth given to mankind. *“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.”* (Psalm 119:89,90)

The Bible is the only genuine, printed source we have which teaches about the faith of Christianity. There are no other valid, authentic, unanimously vetted, verifiable books written on this subject. Christianity is a way of life built upon the foundation that eternal, spiritual salvation is only achieved through one's personal faith in and submission to Jesus Christ, the Son of God and promised Messiah; and what He has accomplished for mankind on the cross with His own blood. There is literally no other book from which we can obtain this information about our Creator, our sin, our Savior, the way to eternal salvation, and how to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible has been proven to be factually correct within the confines of all human history. Museums and archeologists all over the world use it as their most reliable resource for timelines, verification of events, and the location of cities, peoples, and artifacts. The Bible is supernaturally correct in every one of its prophecies to date. We are told all Scripture was written by God through the power and inspiration given to men by His Holy Spirit: *"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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16) *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Peter 1:21)

The Bible declares God has set His Word above His own Name. God's Name is deemed holy, mighty, righteous, exalted, and eternal. It is for His Name's sake God performs His glorious works in the lives of men. Yet God states His Word is to be valued even above His own Name: *"For You have magnified Your word above all Your name."* (Psalm 138:2) God is made manifest (i.e., made evident, visible, or apparent) to mankind by His written Word – again, interchangeably known as Scripture or the Bible. We can know *Who* God is by knowing *what* His Word *says*. God proclaims His Word is eternal (just as He is), so we can trust the power of His Word will never cease nor will those things which He has spoken ever fail to come to pass. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away"*. (Matthew 24:35) If you view yourself as a Christian yet you know little or nothing about the Bible; or you doubt its validity and deny its infallibility, the question must be asked: From what basis are you forming your ideas of who God really is? What sources are you using for truth about Jesus Christ and the faith of Christianity?

Maybe you have always relied upon traditional church doctrines or denominational theology, but is that wise? Multitudes of traditional church institutions are scripturally weakened because they are desperate to gain new members, more money, or be deemed socially acceptable. Such churches typically uphold the personal interpretations and writings of fallible men such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, or the Catholic Catechism as their preeminent source for doctrine, instead of depending on the Bible itself. Additionally, many modernized, nondenominational churches have sprung up over the past 50 years, and while some are decent, Bible-teaching churches, the majority are moneymaking, motivational-speaker-driven, mega-church business enterprises which focus on self-help theology and hip, popular music; instead of on Jesus Christ and the Bible. These approaches to Christianity are skewed and biblically compromised. *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"*. (Proverbs 14:12) *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."* (Colossians 2:8) Division among Christian churches has always existed and will continue to exist, primarily because people so often choose not to accept the texts of Scripture exactly as they were written, or because manmade rules,

philosophies and traditions creep in. God's Word simply gets reinterpreted to mean what people want it to mean, or at the very minimum, what they 'feel' it *should* mean.

We must remember this is exactly how the darkness of evil and all that stands against God fell like a cloud over mankind in the first place. The Bible indicates the devil ushered in our spiritual fall from grace by causing the first woman on earth to covet a life of self-rule rather than a life lived in submission to the God Who created her. How did the devil do it? He merely questioned and doubted the Word of God in her presence, which resulted in her questioning and doubting God's intentions toward her. This shift of trust caused the loss of faith, the spiritual fall of mankind, and brought about the curse of our inherent propensity to choose self-rule over the rule of God. Questioning and doubting God's Word will always result in deception and misdirection. Satan doesn't have many tricks – he doesn't have to. He is quite successful at using the same ploys to deceive men. The packages may change, and the style might be updated, but the basic premises the devil uses to stumble mankind remain the same now as they were in the beginning. It is to Satan's great satisfaction much of the world today has been seduced into ridiculing the Bible as being hateful, or outdated and silly, consisting of 'fables' and historical 'fairy tales'. Our innate self-love and human pride have caused many of us to ignore God's truths so freely given. We reject our Creator and all He wants to show us when we reject His Word without really knowing anything about it.

The following is a specifically strong warning God gives us on the issue of adding to, adjusting or omitting the teachings of His Word: *"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"*. (Revelation 22:18, 19) We are not to add or change meanings, manipulate context, or apply personal opinions and philosophies to the things God says in His Word. God wrote the words within it through the power of His Holy Spirit, and since God is infallible, all of Scripture is infallible, not just certain sections or specific teachings. *All* Scripture is written by the power and leading of God and is to be understood as having just as much value and meaning to us today as it did to those who were alive during the times it was being written. *"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."* (1 Corinthians 10:11) God wrote the entire Book for the entirety of mankind. Everything in the Bible was written for all people to search out, learn from, and live by, regardless of the era. God tells us He does not change. *"For I am the LORD, I do not change."* (Malachi 3:6) Therefore, the whole Bible is God's unchanging truth, not merely bits and pieces of it; and as such, it applies to all of mankind, not just the ancient civilizations of its origins. *"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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 2:16, 17)

Rejecting the validity of the Bible as having come from God will lead one down a slippery slope to a self-created god, a self-created faith, and self-created doctrines. This results in idolatry rather than a biblically sound, soul-saving Christian faith. Not trusting the Scriptures as being written by God will lead a person off the narrow path of Jesus Christ and onto a broad road of destruction. Faith becomes grounded in the ever-changing bastions of personal preference and self-

rationalization instead of in God's truth. We must reach an understanding that rejection of the divine infallibility of the Bible is rooted in a refusal to repent, submit, and walk in accordance with those biblical teachings which are contradictory to one's fleshly desires and lifestyles. The Bible is either from God or it isn't. What is taught within Scripture either consists of all the godly power and wisdom needed for mankind to understand life, death, and eternity, or it holds no valid supernatural power, wisdom and knowledge whatsoever. Christianity is either altogether true, or it is altogether false, because there is no such thing as an authentic Christian faith which acknowledges the truths found in some parts of the Bible while ignoring the rest. Therefore, we must conclude there are no half-truths or errors to be found in the Bible. Thankfully, we *can know for certain* the Bible was given to us by our Creator. We can see the amazing patterns and proofs of fulfilled prophecy across every era of civilization when we study through the pages of Scripture. We have found what can only be described as supernaturally created mathematical codes [gematria] within the texts of Scripture which continue to be impossible for mankind to duplicate even with today's most powerful computers. We have archaeology, history, and science all attesting to the validity of what is spoken of in the Bible. Most importantly, we can attest to millions of miraculously changed lives and civilizations throughout the world, all pointing to Scripture and the truths given to us by God taught within its pages.

If we think of ourselves as Christians, we must know and understand what makes one a Christian. We must learn who God really is, how He created the universe, what He expects from His creation, and why He sees the human race as sinful. We need to study about the Son of God, the promised Messiah; Jesus Christ and learn why He had to become physically born into our world in order to sacrificially die for our self-ruled, spiritually dead, apathetic souls. Finally, we must learn about and embrace what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, i.e., a 'Christian', and then learn to live out what we profess to believe. The place to learn these things is the Bible. Yes, we can listen to pastors, preachers, prophets and popes, but if what they are teaching does not agree with Scripture, they are guilty of false teaching and those of us who listen to them will be deceived. How can we know if such people are disseminating biblical truth unless we study Scripture for ourselves? We are each held personally accountable by God for our spiritual standing with Him. We should act responsibly in seeking a biblically accurate understanding of God on our own and stop carelessly embracing various philosophies, religions, or belief systems as valid without comparing them to what God's Word tells us. We must learn who God is and realize we were created to revere Him and seek His guidance. The beginning of wisdom about this life as well as the next is only found in loving, venerating and worshipping God and His precepts. "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" (Proverbs 9:10)

For those who want 'Bible ala carte', accepting the tenets of God's Word which are agreeable to one's personal opinions and lifestyles and ignoring those which are not; the Christian faith *which eternally saves the soul* doesn't work like that. Faith in God and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross is a faith irrevocably joined and intertwined with God's Word. "*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him*". (John 14:23) To love Jesus Christ is to keep His Word. Where do we find His Word? Every letter in the Bible is His Word, from Genesis through Revelation, and it's all about Him. Jesus makes the following comment to the scribes and pharisees of His day, with regard to their many scrolls of Old Testament writings: "*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*" (John 5:39) The entirety of Scripture testifies

to the sin of mankind, the coming of a promised Messiah – Jesus Christ – and the salvation He offers to mankind by His sacrifice. Scripture proclaims Jesus Christ *is* God made manifest in the flesh, and He is also the *Word* of God, holy and perfect: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:1-14) This passage shows us Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the second Person of our triune Creator, Who became physically manifested in the flesh here on earth in order to dwell among mankind. Clearly, believing in Jesus Christ goes hand in hand with believing in the Word of God. Jesus Christ judges the unbeliever on the last day, as does God’s Word. Jesus Christ and His Word are two sides of the same coin. *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* (John 12:48) Jesus Christ is made manifest (made visible, made known, made evident) through the testimony of God’s Word.

Bible Translations

There are publishing companies today who have altered parts of the Bible or repackaged it in ways designed to appeal to the general public or to the undiscerning Christian. For the sake of accuracy and strength of correct doctrine based on the original manuscripts, the discerning truth-seeker and believer should stick with word-for-word translations, as opposed to thought-for-thought versions. Common word-for-word options include the English Standard Version (ESV), the King James Version (KJV), the New King James Version (NKJV), or the New American Standard Version (NASB). The study of English Bible translations as compared to the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts is an interesting one. It is important to be aware of what is out there and why, and how it all came to be. Of the manuscript evidence in question, 98% of all texts are known as the Masoretic texts, while 2% consist of Alexandrian texts. From a bird’s eye perspective, the extremely few minor differences that can be found from text to text do not affect doctrine. Therefore, it is viable that English translations offer the same biblical truths and doctrines that the original language manuscripts offer, and therefore can lead a person to a correct understanding of God’s plan of salvation and all He wants us to learn.

Translations that are closely aligned with the original languages (word-for-word translations) will ensure God’s precepts, laws, principles and doctrines are less open to question, misunderstandings, incorrect assumptions, and deceptions. It is crucial to understand that a *paraphrase* is not a *translation*. A paraphrase displays unwarranted literary freedom taken by the author(s) and therefore subjects God’s Word to the personal opinions, interpretations, and re-wordings of the author(s). Some examples of paraphrases include The Message Bible, The Passion Translation, or the New Living Translation. God’s truths are weakened or compromised with the subjective input and elucidations of fallible men. Avoid using any paraphrase to learn about God, Jesus Christ, His commands, and His plan of salvation. Jesus Christ said, *“He who is not with Me is against Me”* (Matthew 12:30) Much of Scripture is portrayed in a black and white scenario like this. We are

either with Christ, or we are against Him. We are either walking in the light of biblical truth or unknowingly stumbling in darkness. We are either doing that which is good in God's eyes, or we are doing that which is evil and far apart from Him. We are either loving others or loving ourselves. We are either spiritually born again or we are yet spiritually dead to our Creator. There are no gray areas on these issues, at least not from God's point of view. We are either following Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior or we are living by our own dictates. Logically, if we refuse to accept *all* of God's written Word as true, holy, and infallible, we have in effect rejected the whole of Christian faith and called God a liar. The result of doing such a thing will be a powerless, pseudo-Christian belief system stemming from human philosophies, religious traditions, or personal preferences. Such a faith cannot even change our lives let alone save our souls.

Are we hindered by our own limitations when it comes to reading the Bible? Certainly, we can be. But we know our Creator is not a God of confusion; "*For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.*" (1 Corinthians 14:33). He does not deceptively hide core truths within highly convoluted passages of Scripture resulting in only 'genius level Bible scholars' being able to understand His words. God means what He says and says what He means. Simple, uneducated, hard-working men (fishermen, shepherds, farmers, tent makers, tax collectors) were all meant to understand the teachings of God and thus it is these types of men God used to write His Word. If we read our Bibles within the context which the passages were written, and if we let Scripture define Scripture without adding meanings and without taking away from that which is clearly stated, we can be assured of a correct understanding of God's Word. If there are difficult areas which we cannot seem to comprehend, we can bring those passages to the Lord in prayer and trust Him to reveal an understanding to us in His own time through the leading of the Holy Spirit. A little research into the culture, politics, history, and language of the day in which a passage is written can shed immense light upon its meaning. Keep in mind the Bible is essentially a Hebrew book written by primarily Jewish people saturated in an ancient, God-given culture and language. Therefore it should be read and understood from a Hebrew perspective in order to more fully comprehend the incredible patterns, prophecies, pictures, poetry and typologies embedded throughout. We can trust all Scripture as being God's complete 'truth' and has value and meaning or it wouldn't have been written. "*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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" (2 Timothy 2:16, 17) "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" (Psalm 119:105)