

## Inerrancy & Infallibility

### What Jesus had to say about the Bible and why it is important

From Yvon Prehn

#### What we're going to do today

- Define "Inerrancy & Infallibility"
- Discuss problems with a limited view
- How did Jesus view the Scriptures?
- How did He live based on His view?
- Why this is important to us
- More of Jesus' view next week

#### Inerrancy defined

in·er·ran·cy—noun 1. lack of error; infallibility.  
2. the belief that the Bible is free from error

[www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)

Biblical inerrancy is the doctrinal position that the Bible is considered accurate and totally free of error. . . .that the Bible is without error in every way on all sorts of matters: chronology, history, biology, sociology, psychology, politics, physics, math, art, and so on.

Another (one we DO NOT HOLD ) is that the Scriptures are always right (do not err) in fulfilling their purpose: revealing God, God's vision, God's purposes, and God's good news to humanity. [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

#### Infallibility defined

Biblical infallibility is the belief that that the Bible cannot "fail", or mislead. In this sense it is seen as distinct from [Biblical inerrancy](#), but always accompanying it. The [Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy](#) uses the term in this sense, saying, "Infallibility and inerrancy may be distinguished but not separated."[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

#### Current view: "limited inerrancy & infallibility"

This is the view that limits the Bible's inerrancy to matters of faith and practice, particularly soteriological (ones that deal with spirituality and salvation) issues.

Stephen T Davis reflects this tendency when he gives a this definition for infallibility: the Bible makes no false or misleading statements about matters of faith and practice. (This is a wrong definition).

## Two clarifications before we counter the limited view

*Inerrancy applies equally to all parts of the Bible as originally written.*

This means that no present manuscript or copy of Scripture, no matter how accurate, can be called totally inerrant.

The issue of inerrancy only in "original documents" will be handled by these topics:

- We don't have the originals, so how do we know?
- History of how we got our current Bible
- Canonicity, do we have the correct books in our Bible?

#### Inerrancy and hermeneutics

- How to interpret what is written
- Hermeneutics is the science of biblical interpretation, e.g.
- Must properly interpret history, parable, poetry
- You cannot have "wooden inerrancy" e.g. Jesus does not become a piece of bread when he says, "I am the bread of life."
- Hermeneutics (how we study and interpret the Bible correctly) will be covered after all the historical foundation is in place.

#### Problem with limited inerrancy

- Limits inerrancy to the idea that the Bible makes no false or misleading statements about matters of faith and practice.
- "Slippery slope" is the biggest problem because it puts man in the place of determination
- Once you start, where do you quit?
- Jesus Seminar an example of falseness: e.g. voting if various words of Jesus are true or not

#### How then to deal with questions

- Internally as well as externally
- Not with trying to disprove every tiny question
- Though there are website answers to most
- Will be looking at
  - History
  - Manuscripts
  - Canonicity
- Trust before distrust, wait & study
- What did Jesus think of the Bible?

## Jesus view of the Scriptures

- Expressed by his life
- The Scriptures permeated his life
- Constantly quotes, applies, relies on, refers to
- Look at in detail
- Relied on their truth in the most challenging times of life, death, and resurrection

## Review: He believed in its Divine Inspiration

Matthew 22:43 43He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

44" The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies

under your feet." 45If then David calls him 'Lord,'

how can he be his son?" 46No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

## At the beginning of His ministry

1Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:4,7,10

## "it is written"

it is written= gregapti

γέγραπται

"it stands written"

Perfect tense in Greek

## Perfect tense

- The perfect tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English
- The perfect tense describes an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated.

## Great example of the use of the perfect tense

- Jesus' last cry from the cross:
- TETELESTAI "It is finished!"
- "It [the atonement] has been accomplished, completely, once and for all time."
- So when Jesus said
- "it stands written" he was saying the action was repeated and the effects continue, once and for all time.

## Jesus didn't only use the Scripture when in crisis

- He wove the Scriptures throughout his teachings
- Used as true history to illustrate his teachings and as a picture of future events
- Emphasized the details
- Never replaced OT Scripture by his teachings

## Scripture as History & Example

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you."

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. Matthew 12:38-42

## History and an illustration of future: Story of Noah

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. 37As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will

be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Matt. 24:37-41

### Emphasized importance of “details”

“Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:19

- There are no “little” or “unimportant” parts of Scripture.
- Things should be culturally understood, never culturally discarded.
- Ask God to help you see value in all.

### His teaching did not replace OT

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Matthew 5:17-18 Critics say that Jesus was contradicting the previous law, or that progressive teaching negates former, God of anger in OT, etc.

- Jesus was fulfillment, never negation
- C. S. Lewis: Grace more than Sinai, but not less.

### Application to Jesus' view of the Bible to us.....

- The world values Jesus
  - Share his view of the Bible in discussions with those who do not believe
  - Trust God and the power of His Word
- The Christian faith is a relationship
  - If Jesus is Lord, study what he says about the Bible
  - Follow his example

## Discussion Questions

**Ice-breaker: Give your name and share what was your first job and how you liked it**

### Discussion questions

How important is it that we believe the Bible is “Inerrant and Infallible?”

Are there limits to these terms?

What was Jesus view of the Bible?

Which was most meaningful to you?

## Closing: Our Great Assurance

- **“It stands written”**
- An emphasis on the eternal truth and trustworthiness of the Scriptures
- True when written
- True when Jesus used Scripture
- Continuing true for us today and forever