




God, Can I Really Trust The Bible?

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The Critics

The Da Vinci Code Book:
"Many have made a trade of delusions and false miracles, deceiving the stupid multitude..." (pg. 231).
"Almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false (pgs. 234-235).

The Jesus Seminar: Doubts 98%



82% is not authentic
16% more is doubtful
98% total is in doubt

Three Reasons the Bible Can't Have Any Errors

1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Spirit

Reason 1: God the Father

- God cannot err.
- The Bible is the Word of God.
- Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

The Only Alternatives:

Deny: "God cannot err." Or Deny: "The Bible is the Word of God."

Or Both

But God Cannot Err:

- Jesus said: "Your Word is truth." John 17:17
- The psalmist said: "The sum of Your word is truth." Psalm 119:160

But God Cannot Err:

- Paul said: "The God who cannot lie." Titus 1:2
- Hebrews 6:18 says: "It is impossible for God to lie."

And The Bible is the Word of God



Jesus said so: "If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:34-35)

And The Bible is the Word of God

"Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the traditions of men..., making the word of God of no effect through your traditions." Mark 7:8,13

Paul said so: "All scripture is given by inspiration Of God..." 2 Timothy 3:16

What Scripture Says, God Says

GOD SAYS...

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

"Now the Lord said to Abram" Genesis 12:3

"The Scripture preached to Abraham saying" Gal 3:8

What Scripture Says, God Says

SCRIPTURE SAYS... GOD SAYS...

Author of Genesis said, ..."a man shall leave his father and mother..." Genesis 2:24	"God said, "...a man shall leave his father and mother..."
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GOD SAYS...

Genesis 12:3
Exodus 9:16

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

Galatians 3:8
Romans 9:17

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

Genesis 2:24
Psalm 2:1

GOD SAYS...

Matthew 19:4-5
Acts 4:24-25

THEY ARE INTERCHANGEABLE

Therefore...

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. But God cannot err.
3. Hence, the Bible cannot err.

Reason 2: God the Son

1. Whatever the Son of God affirmed as true, is true.

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2. Jesus affirmed the Bible is the Word of God.

Reason 2: God the Son

3. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God.
4. But the Word of God cannot err.
5. Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

1. Divine authority "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4
2. Indestructibility "I say unto you, 'Until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass away from the Law until all is accomplished.'" Matthew 5:18

Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

3. Unbreakability "...the word of God [came to them]—and the Scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35
4. Ultimate supremacy "For the sake of your traditions you have made void the word of God." Matthew 15:6

Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

5. Historical reliability "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so the son of man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40
"For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:27

Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

6. Scientific accuracy "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female." Matthew 19:4-5
"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" John 3:12

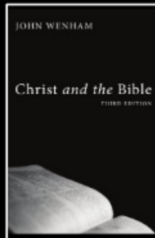
Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

7. Factual inerrancy "You do err not knowing the Scriptures [which don't err]..." Matthew 22:29 NKJV
"Your Word is truth" John 17:17

Reason 2: God the Son.

1. Whatever the Son of God affirmed as true, is true.
2. Jesus affirmed the Bible is the Word of God.
3. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God.
4. But the Word of God cannot err.
5. Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

Christ and the Bible, John Wenham



"...to Christ the Old Testament was true, authoritative, inspired... to him what Scripture said, God said." pg.12

A Bad Argument:

1. The Bible is the words of human beings.
2. Human beings err.
3. Therefore, the Bible errs.

The Mistaken Premise:

1. The Bible is the words of human beings.
2. Human beings [always] err.
3. Therefore, the Bible errs.

The Error:

- Human beings do not *always* err. E.g.,
 - A math book with no mistakes
 - A phone book with all numbers correct
- They did not err when moved by God who cannot err. 2 Peter 1:20-21
- How fallible men can write an infallible book
- "God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick."

Jesus declared: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit...shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26

Peter said: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

Luke wrote: "God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." Acts 3:21

A Good Analogy:

The Living Word (Savior)	The Written Word (Scripture)
Divine Nature	Divine Nature
Human Nature	Human Nature
One in Person	One in Propositions
Without Sin	Without Error

Jesus:

"was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)

"had no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"was without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19)

"is righteous" (1 John 2:1)

"is pure" (1 John 3:3)

Likewise, The Bible:

"is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16)

"is out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4)

"is perfect" (Psalm 19:7)

"is flawless" (Proverbs 30:4)

"cannot be broken" (John 10:35)

Of Course There Are Differences

1. The Bible is not God, as Jesus is.
2. The Bible should not be worshiped.

However, the similarity is that both are the Word of God, and the Word of God cannot error!

Reason 3: God the Holy Spirit The Logic of the Argument:

1. The Spirit of Truth cannot utter errors.
2. The Bible is the utterances of the Spirit of Truth.
3. Therefore, the Bible cannot utter errors.

The Bible is a Spirit Uttered Book:

- "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and his word was on my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:2
- "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

The Bible is a Spirit Uttered Book:

- "How is it when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13
- "...not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but [in words] which the Holy Spirit teaches..." 1 Corinthians 2:13

The Bible is a Spirit Uttered Book:

- "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (i.e., is breathed out by God....]" 2 Timothy 3:16

Conclusion: The Bible Cannot Err Because:

1. The Bible is the Word of God, and-
2. God cannot err.
3. Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

3 Reasons the Bible Cannot Err:

- Reason 1: God the Father cannot err.
- Reason 2: God the Son cannot err.
- Reason 3: God the Holy Spirit cannot err.

3 Reasons the Bible Cannot Err:

- Therefore, an attack on the Bible is an attack on:
 - The authenticity of God the Father
 - The authority of God the Son
 - The ministry of God the Spirit
- In short, it is an all-out attack on the Triune God!

What About Apparent Errors?

St. Augustine's Dictum:

"If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, The author of this book is mistaken; but either: [1] the manuscript is faulty, or [2] the translation is wrong, or [3] you have not understood." (Augustine, Reply to Faustus 11.5)

The Bible *doesn't* err.

But the critics *do* err.

A Scientific Approach

Study of Science

Study of the Bible

Many Difficulties

Many Difficulties

Assumed Explainability

Assumed Explainability

Continued Research

Continued Research

Many are explained

Many are explained

Note: Neither one gives up and stops research!

Error of Overlooking crucial evidence

- Critics Say: Cain married a wife and had children. Genesis 4:17-18
- But there were no women to marry. There was only Adam and Eve and Cain. Abel was dead.

Error of Overlooking crucial evidence

- Overlooked Evidence:
"The days of Adam and Eve after he fathered Seth were 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters"
Genesis 5:4

Error of Assuming that a Partial Report is a False Report

Example: The Inscription on the Cross:

The Inscription on the Cross:

Matthew:

THIS IS JESUS ____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mark:

____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Inscription on the Cross:

Luke:

THIS IS ___THE KING OF THE JEWS.

John:

___ JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Inscription on the Cross:

Mt: THIS IS JESUS ___THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mk: ___THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Lk: THIS IS ___ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Jn: ___ JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Complete:

THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Note:

- Each Gospel has the essential part of it.
- All together gives the whole statement.

Error of Assuming That Divergent Accounts are False Ones

EXAMPLE 1:

- Matthew 28:5 said there *was one* angel at the tomb.
- John 20:12 said there *were two* angels there.

Error of Assuming That Divergent Accounts are False Ones

RESOLUTION:

- Wherever there are *two*, there is always *one*. It Never Fails!

Error of Assuming That Divergent Accounts are False Ones

EXAMPLE 2:

- Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."
- Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

Error of Assuming That Divergent Accounts are False Ones

RESOLUTION:

- Sometime after hanging himself, his body fell to the ground, broke open, and his entrails gushed out.

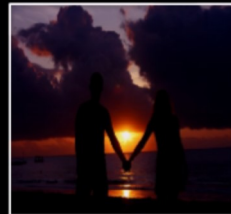
Error of Forgetting That the Bible Uses Non-technical, Everyday Language

- The Bible was written for the common man in common language.
- It uses everyday, observational language.
- This is not **un**scientific; it is merely **pre**scientific.

Error of Forgetting That the Bible Uses Non-technical, Everyday Language

Illustrations: It speaks of the sun "standing still" (Joshua 10:12) and the sun "rising." (Joshua 1:16)

And even contemporary meteorologists speak of "sunrise" and "sunset."



No scientist says:
"Honey, look at the beautiful earth rotation!"

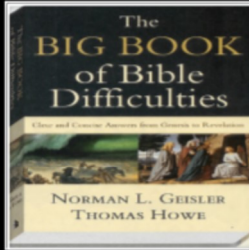
Error of taking a text out of context



The Bible Says: "there is no God." Psalm 14:1

The Context: The "fool" said this.

There are no errors in the Bible, but—
There are many errors in the critics.



For 800 More Error
of the Critics,
See The Big Book
of Bible Difficulties.

Mark Twain on Bible Difficulties

"It is not the part of the Bible I don't understand that troubles me the most. It is the part of the Bible I do understand that troubles me the most."

"You shall not commit adultery"

"You shall not murder"

"Love your enemy"

Pray for those who spitefully use you"

Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

- We should not criticize the Bible.
- We should let the Bible criticize us!

"For the word of God is alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword...and is a discerner (Gk. kritikos, critic) of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

Pray: Psalm 19: 12-13: "Lord, who can discern his [own] errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over me!"

Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

We should not criticize the Bible.

We should let the Bible criticize us!