



The Origin of the Bible
Part 7 ~ Introduction to Inerrancy



Series Outline

Canon of the Old Testament

Transmission of the Old Testament

Transmission of the New Testament

Canon of the New Testament

Inspiration of Scripture

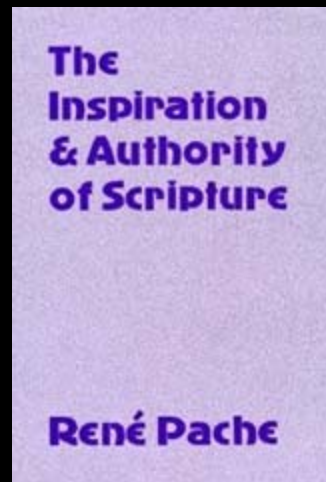
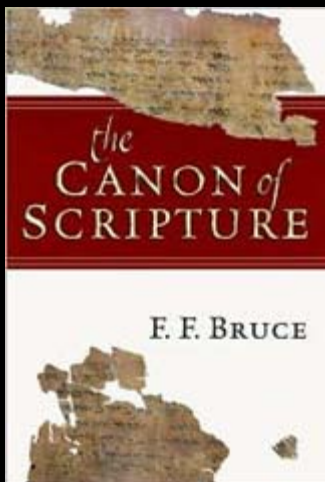
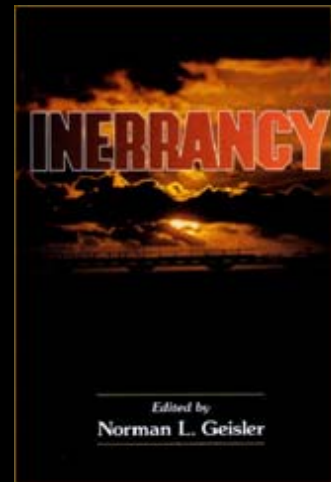
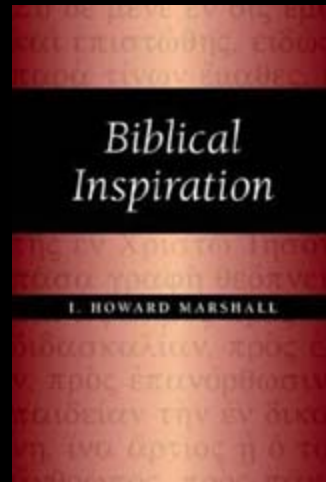
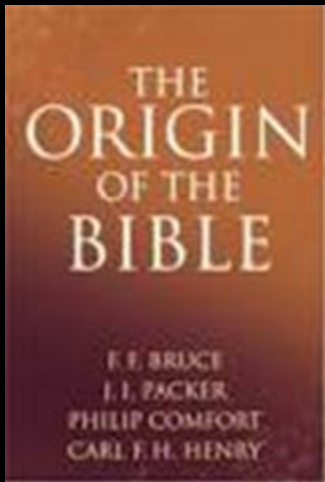
Inerrancy and Infallibility

Translation of Scripture





Series Outline





What Does Theology Add?

“ ” is nothing more than a theological statement.
By itself, it does not do anything.





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Theology = a belief or understanding about God.

“God exists.”

“God is Triune.”

“God is immutable.”

“God is sovereign.”

God exists, or He doesn't.

God is _____, or He isn't.

The Bible is inerrant, or it isn't.





Defining Inerrancy

1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.
2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: It is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.
3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.
4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.
5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.





Distinguishing Infallibility

Some scholars:

“The Bible is inerrant if it makes no false or misleading statements on any topic whatsoever. The Bible is infallible if it makes no false or misleading statements on any matter of faith and practice.”

Other scholars:

“We deny that it is possible for the Bible to be at the same infallible and errant in its asserts. Infallibility and inerrancy may be distinguished, but not separated.”

The confusion:

- Theologians using the terms with variant meaning
- Lay persons who insist on using these terms interchangeably without knowing they are different





How Did the Doctrine Develop?

Inerrancy flows from the Doctrine of Verbal, Plenary Inspiration:

If the Bible is the revelation of God, authored by human authors but sovereignly superintended by the Holy Spirit, there can be no errors in the original manuscripts.

“God is not a man, that he should lie...” (Numbers 23:19a)

“And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.” (Psalm 12:6)

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”

“Every word of God is flawless...” (Proverbs 30:5a)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)





Chicago Statement

Article I:

We affirm that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative Word of God.

We deny that the Scriptures receive their authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source.

Article III:

We affirm that the written Word in its entirety is revelation given by God.

We deny that the Bible is merely a witness to revelation, or only becomes revelation in encounter, or depends on the responses of men for its validity.

Article VI:

We affirm that the whole of Scripture and all its parts, down to the very words of the original, were given by divine inspiration.

We deny that the inspiration of Scripture can rightly be affirmed of the whole without the parts, or of some parts but not the whole.





Chicago Statement

Article VII:

We affirm that inspiration was the work in which God by His Spirit, through human writers, gave us His Word. The origin of Scripture is divine. The mode of divine inspiration remains largely a mystery to us.

We deny that inspiration can be reduced to human insight, or to heightened states of consciousness of any kind.

Article IX:

We affirm that inspiration, though not conferring omniscience, guaranteed true and trustworthy utterance on all matters of which the Biblical authors were moved to speak and write.

We deny that the finitude or falseness of these writers, by necessity or otherwise, introduced distortion or falsehood into God's Word.

Article XII:

We affirm that Scripture in its entirety is inerrant, being free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit.

We deny that Biblical infallibility and inerrancy are limited to spiritual, religious, or redemptive themes. ... We further deny that scientific hypotheses about earth history may properly be used to overturn the teaching of Scripture on creation and the flood





Chicago Statement

Article XVI:

We affirm that the doctrine of inerrancy has been integral to the Church's faith throughout its history.

We deny that inerrancy is a doctrine invented by scholastic Protestantism, or is a reactionary position postulated in response to negative higher criticism.

Article XIX:

We affirm that a confession of the full authority, infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture is vital to a sound understanding of the whole of the Christian faith. We further affirm that such confession should lead to increasing conformity to the image of Christ.

We deny that such confession is necessary for salvation. However, we further deny that inerrancy can be rejected without grave consequences, both to the individual and to the Church





Objections to Inerrancy

1. The Bible contains errors.
2. Human authors are fallible.
3. As we discover more about language and the ancient texts, we see more and more of the problems with saying the Bible is inerrant.
4. Modern science and modern discoveries contradict the Bible.
5. How can we say the original manuscripts are inerrant when we don't even have a single original manuscript.
6. The doctrine of inerrancy leads to "bibliolatry."
7. Inerrancy hinders the exercise of faith and makes the Bible a dead book that is "petrified" in time.
8. Paul himself at times seems to indicate that some parts of His writings were not from the Lord.





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