

Week 2 | Bible

Aren't there mistakes in the Bible?

Are there mistakes in the Bible? If the Bible does contain errors, then it can no longer be t_____ and r_____ for our faith.

There are two key words to understand about the Bible in today's study. It's the belief that the Bible is _____ and that the Bible is _____.

The International Council on Biblical Inerrancy defined Biblical inerrancy this way...

"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."

Here is a simple definition of Inerrancy: The Bible is "_____."

Psalms 12:6 says... *"The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times."* Proverbs 30:5a says... *"Every word of God proves true..."*

The Bible is inerrant. It is without error. The Bible is also in_____. These two words are very similar but there is a slight difference.

The simple definition of infallibility: The Bible is "_____."

Infallibility literally means "not able to fail." It means the Bible is never_____, it has never failed to be _____ or failed to come _____.

Let me put the meaning of infallibility another way... *"The Bible unfailingly*
_____."

Isaiah 40:8 says... *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."*

Psalms 19:7 says... *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*

And in the New Testament, Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24:35...
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."



Whole Group Discussion

What are some "mistakes" people have tried to claim are in the Bible?

What are the hardest parts of the Bible to believe? How so?

What are the implications for our faith if there is even one error in the Bible?

So the Bible claims to be the inerrant and infallible Word of God. But is there any other _____ for the reliability and accuracy of the Bible?

Let's take a look at "The 3 E's of the Bible". (1) E_____ & I_____ Evidence. External evidence is that which is found _____ and internal evidence being that which is found _____.

External Evidence #1: H_____ of the Bible.

When historians test the veracity of any historic writing they use a number of tests. First, the _____ of manuscripts or copies found.

Second, the _____ in the manuscripts. Third, the _____ of time between the original literary work and the first copies found. So how does the Bible stack up to these tests?

Homer's Iliad vs. The Bible...

There are _____ copies of Homer's Iliad that have been found (all consistent with each other). The gap of time was _____ years. This clearly passes the historical accuracy test.

The Bible? _____ copies found. All consistent. And the gap of time? Only _____ years. There's not even a close 2nd place when it comes to the tests used to determine historical reliability of the Bible.

External Evidence #2: A _____ discoveries.

There has never been a _____ that has contradicted the Bible.

In fact, Nelson Glueck, considered one of the greatest archaeologists of all time and who appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine, wrote the following: *"No archeological discovery has ever controverted [overturned] a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."*

One of the greatest biblical archaeological discoveries of all time happened in 1947 and was discovered by a goat herdsman in the Middle East. It was the _____.

The significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls...

Internal Evidence #1: Fulfilled _____

The internal evidence for the _____ of the Bible is found in the prophecies that have been fulfilled in _____. In the Old Testament, there are over 300 _____ concerning Jesus written from 500 to 4,000 years before His birth on earth.

Now many of the prophecies made about Jesus have been fulfilled, while some have not because they're still future events. But let's just imagine that only 8 of the prophecies had been fulfilled (even though many more than that have). Scientists say that *"the statistical probability for 8 of those prophecies coming true in one person (Christ) is 1 in 10 to the power of 17, or put another way... one in 100 quadrillion."*

What those probabilities are equivalent to...

It's going to the state of Texas, covering the entire state with silver dollars 2 feet deep, marking one of the coins with a red dot, blindfolding a person, and sending them to Texas to discover the red-dotted coin. If they picked the coin with the red dot, that's basically the equivalent of 8 prophecies about Jesus being fulfilled.

Internal Evidence #2: The amazing _____ found in all the books of the Bible.

As was mentioned in Week 1... The Bible was written by over 40 different authors, over a span of 1,500 years, on 3 different continents. And yet there's consistency from beginning to end.

The second evidence is... (2) Examination. This is known as the c_____. The Canon literally means "_____". The Canon refers to the t_____ the early church fathers used to affirm those books that were from _____ and therefore part of the Bible.

The test for _____ included... A_____.
A_____. A_____. A_____.

Authorship. Was it written by an apostle or one endorsed by the apostles?

Authenticity. Was it a legitimate writing and free of doctrinal error?

Authority. Did it have a sense of *"thus saith the Lord"* to it?

Acceptance. Was it received when it was written, by the early church?

So there is a level of _____, that they got it right. But it's based on these important 4 tests. It's important to remember this... Canonization did not d_____ the Word of God, it c_____ it.

The third evidence is... (3) Experience. There has never been a _____ written that has impacted so many _____ for so many people. Why? Because it's from _____ not man.

"The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself."
Charles Spurgeon

The p_____ of the Word of God itself is the greatest p_____ that it's from God, that it's inerrant, infallible and can be fully trusted in our lives.



Small Group Discussion

Which of "The 3 E's of the Bible" is most compelling to you and why?

Discuss some of the other challenging questions people have about the faith and how you would respond to them.

Go back and re-read the following verses we looked at today: Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 19:7. How are these verses an encouragement for your life?



Prayer Focus

Who is someone in your life that doesn't believe and/or live according to the Bible? Take time praying for them to repent and turn to the God who loves them.

