

God's Word – Inerrant

- INTRO: Photo or Fauxto? PPT game
-Sometimes its hard to tell what's real or not. Is it true or is it fake?
-When it comes to God's Word, some people think it's true, some think it's fake. Some think it's accurate. Some think it's filled with errors.
- REVIEW: Last week....Coexist....Takeway...God's Word is God-breathed
-Key Phrase - Inspiration
-Who read a gospel? Give out prizes

Let's look at our statement of faith again.

We believe that the Bible, consisting of both the Old and New Testament, is the inspired Word of God, **without error in the original writings**. It is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and is the final authority for Christian faith and life

What does "inerrant" mean? Defn – it is the truth without any mixture of error

Q1. Why do we believe the Bible is inerrant?

-**Psa. 19:7** - The law of the LORD is **perfect**,

-**Psa. 119:160** - All your words are **true**;
all your righteous laws are eternal.

-**John 17:17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is **truth**.

A1. Because it claims to be without error

...but there's a more important reason

Q2. Why do we believe the Bible is inerrant?

-**2Sam. 22:31** "As for God, his way is **perfect**;
the word of the LORD is flawless.

-**Matt. 5:48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**.

-**Heb. 6:18** - It is impossible for God to **lie**

A2. Because God, it's author, is perfect

Q3. Does the inerrancy of the Bible only apply to the original manuscripts?

A 3. Yes. There is no Biblical promise that copies of the original manuscripts would equally be inerrant or free from copyist errors. As the Bible has been copied thousands of times over thousands of years, some copyist errors have likely occurred.

This deals with the concept of **TRANSMISSION**

EX 1. ISAIAH 53 (Isaiah lived around 700 B.C.)

-Read it in my Grandma's Bible – 1964

-Read it in Browns' Bible – 1832

-Read it in Geneva Bible Leaf – 1599

-Earliest copy of Isaiah (before 1947) was around 1000 A.D.

-Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 – Great Isaiah Scroll – 125 B.C. –They have been called the “greatest manuscript find of all time.” (<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org>) and the “greatest archeological find of our time” (<http://www.biblearchaeology.org>)
 -Over 1000 years earlier...can see how accurately they were transmitted...
 -read quote from p. 51 in A Ready Defense by Josh McDowell

EX 2. Acts 8:37 (Story of Philip baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch)

-No Greek manuscript earlier than the 6th century has this verse in it
 -3rd, 4th, & 5th century manuscripts omit this verse
 -BUT...Worthy of note is that all 5 of these are Egyptian manuscripts.
 -However, early Latin fathers such as Irenaeus and Cyprian knew of the verse:

- Irenaeus (180 AD): [Philip declared] that this was Jesus, and that the Scripture was fulfilled in Him; as did also the believing eunuch himself: and, immediately requesting to be baptized, he said, "I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God." ([*Against Heresies, 3.12.8*](#))
- Cyprian (250 AD): In the Acts of the Apostles: "Lo, here is water; what is there which hinders me from being baptized? Then said Philip, If you believe with all your heart, you may." ([*The Treatises of Cyprian, Treatise 12, Book 3.43*](#))

- also quoted by Tertullian (2nd century), and Augustine (4th century)

Q4. Can I trust the Bible I’m reading today?

Author	Written	Earliest Copies	Time Span	# of copies
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato (<i>Tetralogies</i>)	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 yrs.	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 yrs.	8
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,000	1,400 yrs.	100
Catullus	54 B.C.	A.D. 1,550	1,600 yrs.	3
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,500 yrs.	9
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,400 yrs.	5
THE SECOND RUNNER UP.....				
Homer (<i>Iliad</i>)	750-700 B.C.	200 B.C.	500 yrs.	643
AND THE WINNER IS.....				
God (<i>The N.T.</i>)	A.D. 40-100	A.D. 125	25 yrs.	24,000+

The thousands of biblical manuscripts we have today are in **99% agreement** with one another. Yes, there are some minor differences, but the vast majority of the biblical text is identical from one manuscript to another. Most of the differences are in punctuation, word endings, minor grammatical issues, word order, etc. – issues

easily explainable as scribal mistakes.

A4. Absolutely! The Bible translations we have today are God's Word. The Bible today is just as authoritative as it was in the 1st century A.D. We can completely trust the Bible as being God's message to us today.

TAKEAWAY:

Big Idea – God's Word is true and without error

Key Phrase – Inerrancy

Homework – Read a gospel

Q-Time Discussion Questions:

1. How much of an impact do the hoaxes and frauds in today's have on your ability to believe that something is true and without error.
2. If God's Word is without error and trustworthy, what happens when something the Bible says conflicts with what our culture/experts/scientists says?
3. What questions do you have about the Bible?