

SPIRITUAL HUNGER & GOD'S WORD

Part 6 of THE PURPLE BOOK. Various.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 13, 2022.

INTRODUCTION

- Standing firm on the authority and truth of the Bible is one of the most important decisions a Christian can make.

WHAT JESUS BELIEVED ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. Jesus believed the Bible is useful - Luke 4:1-13.

Luke 4:4 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "It is written ..."

- Quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3

Luke 4:8 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "It is written ..."

- Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13

Luke 4:12 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "It is said ..."

- Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16

- Jesus not only knew the Bible well enough to quote it, he trusted it deeply enough to live by its teachings.

2. Jesus believed the Bible is God's word.

Matthew 22:41-46 (ESV) Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 44 "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet""? (Quote from Psalm 110:1) 45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" 46 And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

- Jesus trusted the Bible., He knew it well enough to teach from it. He believed the Old Testament had authority to settle theological arguments.
- The phrase, "written by David in the Spirit" is referring to inspiration, the process by which the Holy Spirit worked with and through David (and other biblical authors) to write down God's word.

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God ...

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus believed the Bible is the Word of God and, as such, it is true and trustworthy.

3. Jesus believed the Bible is forever - Matthew 5:17-19.

Matthew 5:17-18 (ESV) Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (**that's a shorthand way of talking about the whole Old Testament**); I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes 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 does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- One commentary reads: "Here Christ was affirming the utter inerrancy and absolute authority of the entire OT as the Word of God—down to the least jot and tittle. A "jot" refers to the smallest Heb. letter, the yohd, which is a meager stroke of the pen, like an accent mark or an apostrophe. The "tittle" is a tiny extension on a Heb. letter, like the serif in modern typefaces."
- Jesus believed the Bible is forever. It is God's word for every generation.

Psalms 119:89 (ESV) Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

CONCLUSION: BELIEVE WHAT JESUS BELIEVED

- Jesus believed that the Bible is true and trustworthy, inerrant and infallible, and absolutely relevant today and always. Believe it!
- Homework:
 - Review today's teaching.
 - Discuss the authority, trustworthiness, and relevance of the Bible in your small group.
 - Study chapter 6 of the Purple Book: Discipleship & Leadership.

TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERMS: INSPIRATION, INFALLIBILITY, INERRANCY

Inspiration. God initiated the disclosure and revelation of himself to mankind (Heb. 1:1) and this was captured in the writings of Scripture by means of inspiration. All Scripture is God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Zechariah describes the process of inspiration, casting Scripture as “the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets” (Zech. 7:12).

Inerrancy means literally “without error.” Since the written words are the words of the God of truth, they must be truthful and without error in the original autographs. Jesus affirmed this (John 17:17). It is therefore free, when properly interpreted, from affirming anything that is untrue or contrary to fact.

Infallibility means unable to mislead or fail in accomplishing the divinely intended purpose. The Bible is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.

Old Testament. The recurrent declarations of “thus says the LORD” create an atmosphere in which inerrancy is assumed throughout the Old Testament.

The New Testament writers universally assume the absolute truthfulness of the Old Testament. For Paul, the Father is the “God who never lies” (Titus 1:2). In John’s Gospel, the Son is not only the way and the life but also the truth (John 14:6). Likewise, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6). God’s Word is truth and it is fixed forever in heaven (Ps. 119:89, 160). If God is the author of Scripture, how can there be errors in what it affirms? If there are errors in what it says, how can God be the God of truth?

The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978) provides a comprehensive summary of the biblical/evangelical understanding of inerrancy. Download: https://www.etsjets.org/files/documents/Chicago_Statement.pdf.

Adapted from *Biblical Doctrine* by MacArthur and Mayhue.