

The Decision

Internal consistency and inerrancy – assumed by the Scriptures

Moses came and told the people all the commands of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people responded with a single voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has commanded." And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early the next morning and set up an altar and 12 pillars for the 12 tribes of Israel at the base of the mountain. - Exodus 24:3-4 HCSB



Every human must make a decision concerning the nature of the Scriptures.

- **John 10:30 HCSB The Father and I are one.**

Like our Master who clearly taught that He was divine, the Scriptures plainly claim to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

- **Exodus 25:1 HCSB** The LORD spoke to Moses:
- **Leviticus 1:1 HCSB** Then the LORD summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting:
- **Numbers 1:1 HCSB** The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Wilderness of Sinai, on the first day of the second month of the second year after Israel's departure from the land of Egypt:
- **Deuteronomy 1:6 HCSB** "The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough.

Moses told the people that the laws came directly from the Lord and they believed it.

Jesus backed Moses' claim, stating that God spoke directly to Moses

- **Mark 12:26 HCSB** **Now concerning the dead being raised--haven't you read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him: I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?**

For once even the Pharisees agreed!

- **John 9:29 HCSB** We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man--we don't know where He's from!"

Jesus called the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (all of the Old Testament) Scripture and said that the Scriptures could not fail.

- **Luke 24:44 HCSB** Then He told them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- **Matthew 5:18 HCSB** For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.
- **Luke 16:17 HCSB** But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter in the law to drop out.
- **John 10:35-36 HCSB** If He called those whom the word of God came to 'gods'--and the Scripture cannot be broken-- (36) do you say, 'You are blaspheming' to the One the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God?

Note that our Master never said the scriptures *contain* the word of God. He said they *were* the word of God.

Peter later taught that not only Moses but each of the ancient prophets “spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”¹ He then went on to elevate Paul’s writings to the same level as the Old Covenant saying

- **2 Peter 3:16 HCSB** He (*meaning Paul*) speaks about these things in all his letters, in which there are some matters that are hard to understand. The untaught and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures.

- **Colossians 4:16 HCSB** And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

Paul accepted the authority of what he was divinely inspired to write, instructing the churches to pass his letters around and read them publicly and the early church complied.²

We cannot accept this claim of divine inspiration while simultaneously holding that the Bible is characterized by errors. Either we accept the whole or we reject the whole. Either the Scriptures are divinely inspired and thus infallible (free from error) in their original or they contain errors and thus surely not inspired by perfect God.

“Thus says the Lord” occurs over 400 times in the Old Covenant. “God said” occurs 42 times in the Old and 4 times in the New. “God spoke” occurs 9 times in the Old and 3 times in the New.

The Scriptures plainly teach that the Spirit of the Lord spoke through various prophets.

- **2 Samuel 23:2 HCSB** The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me, His word was on my tongue.
- **1 Kings 22:24 HCSB** Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?"
- **2 Chronicles 20:14 HCSB (14)** In the midst of the congregation, the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel (son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite from Asaph's descendants),

If we believe that God cannot make errors then we must assume that His words are equally perfect. To teach that the Scriptures are less than inerrant is to diminish God’s capacity to use humans to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.³ If God could not use these ancient humans then He cannot use us either! To say that is to say that He is not truly God. It is to raise one’s self as judge and jury over the Word of God.

- **1 Corinthians 4:6 HCSB** Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the saying: "Nothing beyond what is written." The purpose is that none of you will be inflated with pride in favor of one person over another.

We must humbly settle ourselves to the idea of “nothing beyond what is written.”

¹ 2 Peter 1:21 cp Hebrews 1:1

² Ignatius [*Epistle to the Ephesians*, 12], Polycarp [*Epistle to the Philipians*, 3.11,12], Clement [*Epistle to the Corinthians*, 1.47]

³ Romans 12:2