BI202 A General Introduction to the Bible

G. Jorge Medina

- Exploring printing an English edition of “Inspiration”
- Auditing is fine.
- Homework and reading catch up opportunity
- If you haven’t gotten a grade for past homework. Please resubmit to my email
- About last homework… (review)

Our own exploration into textual criticism
So I saw in my dream, that just as Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.

Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart, “He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by his death.”

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*

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**The Bible**

by Robert Chapman

- This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are hly, its precepts binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map...

...the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, test the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, it will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who will trifle with its sacred contents.

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**The unity of the Bible**

- Written in about 1600 years
- 60 generations
- 40 authors (diverse social classes, education, etc.)
- On three continents: Asia, Africa, Europe
- In three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- In contrast, imagine 40 authors graduated from the same university with the same degree
Canon

• ‘Canon’ is the latinization of the Gk. kanôn, ‘a reed’, meaning: rule or standard.
• Canon is the list of books which the church acknowledges as inspired Scripture, normative for faith and practice.

Source: New Bible Dictionary

Canon

⇒ CANONICITY – The character of a biblical book that marks it as a part of the canon of Scripture, namely, the divine inspiration and authority that designate a book as part of the rule or standard of faith and practice.


Old Testament canon comparison

⇒ Jewish: 22 books
⇒ Protestant/Evangelical: 66 books
⇒ Roman Catholic: 73 books (Includes Apocrypha plus additions)

Old Testament canon comparison

⇒ Though the Jewish canon has 22 books, the content of the Hebrew Bible is the same as the 39 books of the Protestant Bibles.
⇒ The difference is due to different ways of counting the books.
⇒ For instance, the 12 minor prophets are only one book in the Jewish Bible, The Twelve
Video on Canon

- Darrell Bock (Dallas Theological Seminary)
- Ben Whitterington (writer or commentaries on books of the Bible)
- Daniel Wallace (foremost Evangelical textual critic)

CATHOLIC

Scripture + Tradition

Scripture + Apocrypha

PROTESTANT

AUTHORITY

“Sola Scriptura” (Scripture alone)

Excludes Apocrypha (Scripture alone) [may be affected by creeds]
The Bible’s testimony

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” (Luke 24:44)

The law gives the foundation for Christ, history shows the preparation for Him. In poetry there is an aspiration for Christ and in prophecy an expectation of Him. The Gospels of the New Testament record the historical manifestation of Christ, the Acts relate the propagation of Christ, the Epistles give the interpretation of Him, and in Revelation is found the consummation of all things in Christ.


The Inspiration of the Bible

G. Jorge Méndez
“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

(2 Peter 1:21)

“Moved”

▶ Greek: φερόμενοι (Pherómenoi)
▶ “Moved, motivated, carried”
▶ The provocation to a determined action

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

(2 Timothy 3:16)

“Inspiration”

▶ Greek: θεόπνευστος (Theópneustos)
▶ “Breathed out by God”
▶ The action of using air to produce words.
“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”

(Psalms 33:6)
What “inspiration” is NOT
- Ideas ("his lightbulb turned on")
- Mechanical dictation
- Limited to theological matters.
  (Unbelieving claim: “Inspiration does not include science, geography, etc.”)

What “inspiration” IS
- Dual nature: A collaboration between God and men. The Spirit guides, moves, supervises. The writer uses terms familiar to him.
- Inspiration extends to every branch touched on by the Bible, even though it is not an exhaustive book on science, geography, history, etc.

Plenary inspiration
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God”
- “Every book of the Bible, every chapter, every paragraph, every sentence, every word, every syllable, every letter… in the original documents.”

Verbal Inspiration
- “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, Lam the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matthew 22:31–32)
Verbal

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” (Galatians 3:16)

The importance of the singular

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)

The Bible is inerrant

Free from errors

Trustworthy

Truthful

Infallible

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”

(Psalm 12:6)

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven… Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

(Psalm 119:89, 160)

The inspiration of the Bible is:

- Plenary (the whole Bible)
- Verbal (the tense, number, words, etc.)
- Inerrant (no errors about any subject)

It is one thing to affirm the inspiration of the Bible, and another, to prove it is inspired.
“I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

(Luke 19:40)

“Archaeology is the science that investigates the ruins of past civilizations with the purpose of reconstructing their history and finding out the truth about their customs and way of life.

Sir William Ramsey

- Atheist, son of atheists
- Archaeologist, Oxford Ph.D.
- 25 years in the Holy Land
- Studying the writings of Luke
Nelson Glueck, Jewish archaeologist:

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”

Professor John Garstang, British archaeologist:

“Now, about the main issue, there is no doubt that the walls [of Jericho] fell outward so completely that the attackers could have walked over its ruins to enter the city.”

“Archaeological excavations continue to unearth new evidences that the Bible is surprisingly accurate in its historical details, much more than past generations of scholars had suspected.”

Time Magazine, Dec. 30, 1974

Some archaeological confirmations

- The existence of the Pool of Bethesda with its five portals (John 5:2).
- Pilate, whose existence was in doubt, has been confirmed as a high ranking Roman official by the discovery of “Pilate’s stone” in Caesarea.
- In Athens an altar to an “unknown god” was found (Acts 17:23).
More confirmations

- More than 25000 sites have been excavated
- They verify the existence of Ninive, modesticated camels in the time of Abraham, writing in the time of Moses, official titles of various leaders in the time of Rome, etc.
- Many of them had been attacked and even ridiculed

The Gospels: Fairy tales?

Once upon a time…

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away…

Luke, the historian

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.” (3:1-2)
Assignments

G. Jorge Medrano

Assignment

Read the Book of Exodus 21 to 40 and Deuteronomy 31 to 34 and Joshua 1 to 4 (2 chapters per day)

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16–17

If there are any readings for next class, they will be uploaded to the Intranet.

Otherwise, please catch up on your Bible and book reading.

Optional reading uploaded: In praise of ancient scribes article.