

Inerrancy - Because of the Source

Inspiration of God

2Ti 3:16 KJV All scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

- Gk = *theopneustos*.
- Made up of two words
 - God (*theos*, as in theology)
 - Breath or wind (*pneustos*, as in pneumonia and pneumatic)
 - The word is in the passive tense meaning God did not “breathe into” (inspire) all Scripture, but it was “breathed out” by God (expired)...placing the importance on “**where it came from**”

2Pe 1:20-21 NIV Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. (21) For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, **but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

1Co 2:13 NIV This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, **explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.**

Heb 6:18 NIV God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

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OT writers believed God was the source

- Deu 18:18 NIV I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and **I will put my words in his mouth.** He will tell them everything I command him.
- Jer 1:9 NIV Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “**I have put my words in your mouth.**”
- 2Sa 23:1-2 NIV **These are the last words of David:** “The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel's songs: 2 **“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.**”

NT writers believed God was the source

- Act 4:25 NIV **You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant**, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?"
- Act 28:25-26 NIV They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "**The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:** (26) "Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."
- Rom 9:17 NIV **For Scripture says to Pharaoh:** "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."
- Gal 3:8 NIV **Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles** by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

Last week we spent a lot of time talking about how Jesus viewed the scriptures

NT Copies / Manuscripts

Since all Greek manuscripts of the New Testament prior to Erasmus' first printed Greek New Testament [AD 1519] were copied by hand scribal errors or **variants** could have crept into the texts.

When these Greek New Testament manuscripts are compared with each other we find evidence of scribal errors and places where the different manuscripts differ with one another.

Textual criticism is the method used to examine the vast number of manuscripts to determine the probable composition of the original autographs.

Textual variants and the integrity of the New Testament text

1. Westcott and Hort, in the 1870's, state that the New Testament text remains over **98.3 percent pure** no matter whether one uses the **Textus Receptus** or their own Greek text which was largely based on **Codex Sinaiticus** and **Codex Vaticanus**.
2. Scholars Norman Geisler and William Nix conclude, "The New Testament, then, has not only survived in more manuscripts than any other book from antiquity, but it has survived in a purer form than any other great book-**a form that is 99.5 percent pure.**"¹

When it comes to the New Testament, **it's not the number** of variants that's important, **it's the nature** of the variants. **It's not the quantity** of the differences; **it's the quality** of the differences. Most variants are trivial, affecting nothing. In fact, more than 99% fall into this category.

¹ <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/bibleorigin.html>

The Nature of Variants

Viable = a good possibility of being part of the original wording

Meaningful = if it changes the meaning of the text

Not Viable Meaningful	Viable Meaningful (1%)
Not Viable Not Meaningful (70%)	Viable Not Meaningful

1. **Not Viable and Not Meaningful** - most fall into this category (70% variants are spelling)
2. **Viable, but Not Meaningful** - could be part of the original, but make no change to the meaning
 - a. Example - did John's name have 2 n's or 1?
3. **Meaningful, but Not Viable** - These are variants that do change the meaning of the text, but they could not possibly be in the original.
 - a. Example - a single 11th century manuscript leaves out the phrase "**on account of the Son of Man.**" in Luke 6:22
4. **Viable and Meaningful** - these have a good chance of being original and they change the meaning... This group accounts for less than 1% of all textual variants. We gave a few examples last week, here is another.
 - a. 1 Jn 1:4 in some manuscripts says "that **our** joy may be complete" and other manuscripts say "that **your** joy may be complete"

It is this small subset of variants that is a legitimate cause for concern. However, no major doctrines depend on any meaningful and viable variants.²

² <https://www.str.org/articles/textual-variants-it%E2%80%99s-the-nature-not-the-number-that-matters#.WAEZNugrKUK>

In Summary

- The original autographs were inspired
- We no longer have the originals
- We have copies transmitted by scribes and copyists
- They made typical errors that all scribes and copyists make
- Textual criticism attempts to recover the originals

Have textual critics succeeded?

- By any reckoning, we have 95% of the inspired words, and some scholars place the number as high as 99%

What does that mean for us?

- While it is only the original autographs that are inspired
- We have confidence that our current versions are pure to the original in issues of doctrine and practice, and where uncertainties remain, they do not overturn New Testament doctrine, which is supported by other verses
- We should have no concerns to say our bible is the inspired Word of God [understanding the nature of translations and such] - Teach it as such, and submit to its teachings in our lives as authoritative
- Our goal as teachers, preachers and makers of disciples is to gain an understanding of the original as much as we can so that we are truly preaching the word

I would encourage study in the original languages as you can using reference tools such as Strong's Concordance, or Interlinear Greek Concordance, or using other tools like Vine's Expository Dictionary...The closer we can understand the original meaning, the better we will be.

I also encourage inductive bible study and proper exegesis in the study of scripture.

Ezr 7:10 NIV For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.