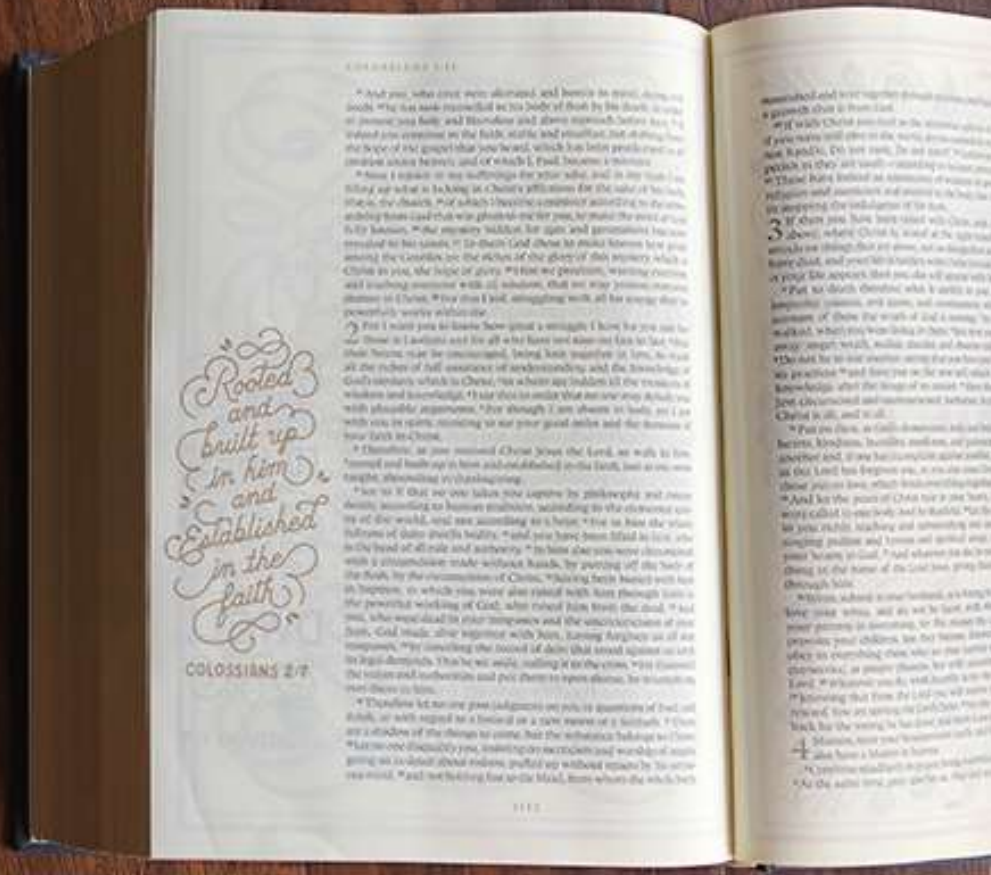
IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY?

REV DR NG SWEE MING

19 JAN 2020



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

OUR VISION

TRANSFORMING
LIV
EXPA
KINGDOM

OUR MISSION

W ISCIPLES,
e other
RIST
bring
DOM into
RES OF LIFE*

*Sphere of Life: the 7 Mountains / Realms Of Arts & Entertainment, Business, Education, Family, Government, Media, Religion

2020

"You always quote your Bible John chp 3 verse 16 that 'God as loved the world that He sent His Son...' BUT HOW DO I KNOW YOUR BIBLE IS TRUE ?"

"How many angels at the tomb of Jesus – Matt & Mark says 1 but Luke & John says 2. Who is right ? How can the Bible be God's Word ?"

"I am told the Catholic Bible 73 books, Orthodox Bible 79 books while your Bible only 66 books. Basic things you Christians cannot agree, how can it be the Word of God ?"*

"I saw Da Voinci Code. It says Jesus did not die but married Mary Magdalene but the Bible says otherwise. Who to believe ?

Is The Bible Trustworthy?

"You Will Know The Truth & The Truth Will Set You Free"
Jn 8:32

Biblical Inerrancy & Canonicity

Intro : INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

NOT by DICTATION

KEY VERSE : 2 Tim 3:16

- *ALL SCRIPTURE is GOD-BREATHED and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,...*
- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... (KJV)*

Literally "God-breathed" into the 40+ human-writers of the Bible
His Word, His Thoughts, His Plans ....

Not part of it, Not some of it BUT ALL OF IT

Why is this important ?

- the Word of God...
- Unique from all other books ...

Intro : INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

VERBAL PLENARY INSPIRATION

- Key VERSE : 2 Peter 1:20-21

  Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man,....

  BUT MEN SPOKE FROM GOD AS THEY WERE CARRIED ALONG BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- Verbal : Inspiration extends to the very words themselves - not just concepts or ideas, from Genesis to Revelations...
- Plenary : Inspiration extends to all parts and subject matters of Scripture...

Intro : INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

VERBAL PLENARY INSPIRATION

Key Verse : Matt 5:17-18

- *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."*

Jesus Himself reaffirmed the VERBAL PLENARY INSPIRATION of the Scriptures/Bible...

HOW ?

By emphasising the accuracy of the Bible down to the smallest detail and punctuation mark, because ....

IT IS GOD's WORD.

Intro : INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

Quote:

A CORRECT VIEW OF HIS WORD

will lead us to a

CORRECT VIEW OF GOD…

A CORRECT VIEW OF GOD

will lead us to a

CORRECT VIEW OF HIS WORD.

Is The Bible Trustworthy?

"You Will Know The Truth & The Truth Will Set You Free"
Jn 8:32

Biblical Inerrancy & Canonicity

INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE

INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

- Jn 8:32 *"You Will Know The Truth & The Truth Will Set You Free"*
- Pilate asked in John 18:38 *"What is truth?"*
  - John 18:37 Jesus answered, *"... for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH. EVERYONE ON THE SIDE OF TRUTH LISTENS TO ME."*
  - Jesus declared in John 14:6 *"I am THE WAY and THE TRUTH and THE LIFE...."*
  - John 17:17 *"Sanctify them by the truth; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH."*

TRUTH is in ...

- a Person – Jesus ...
- His WORD – the Bible

INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE

INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Defn: “the belief that the Bible is without error or fault in all its teaching"

- ❖ 'Inerrant' : there are no errors...
- ❖ 'infallible' : there can be no errors...

*Autographs

- INERRANCY applies - ORIGINAL BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS...

Q: Do we still have the Original Bible Manuscripts written thousand of years ago ?

A: No....

Q: So how can we be sure TODAY that our Bible is INERRANT ?

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Defn: The Bible is without error or fault in all its teaching…

Q: What if it ‘only Contains the Word of God’ is that good enough ?

Q: Is it not alright if the Bible is just - a ‘Good Book’ with ‘Good Stories & Teachings’ by a ‘Good Teacher’ ?

Q: What if it’s only 99% True, is that not good enough ?

Q: WHY does it matter, after all Salvation is by Faith in God, not Faith in the Bible ?

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Q: What Happens If We Do Not Have The Bible ?

What will / can we know about God then ?

Answer ???

- General revelation of God ....

NB: Only possible because God choose to reveal Himself

- Creator God eg Psa 19:1-4 ....
- God of Order & Design eg Rom 1:19-20 ....
- God's Character eg Rom 1:20, Acts 14:17 ..
- Human Conscience eg Rom 2:13-16 ....

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Q: What Happens If We Do Not Have The Bible ?

Without the Bible we will NOT KNOW anything about ...

- God making man in His Image & Sin ...
- God choosing/calling a people unto Himself ...
- God's Plan of Salvation ...
- God's sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins ....
- Hope of eternal life ....

So GOD'S SPECIAL REVELATION is IMPT :

- Jesus Christ - God's Revealed Son &
- Bible – God's Revealed Word

GOD & His Word Cannot Be Separated

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Defn: The Bible is without error or fault in all its teaching

Basis : BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

AND the God Almighty....

- Who INSPIRED the WORD ....
  - Caused it to be written down ...
    - By 40+ Authors ....
    - Over 1,500+ years ....
    - In Three different Languages & Continents ...
  - Telling Only ONE STORY - HIStory
    - for Only ONE PURPOSE - HIS-Glory
- Will / Must also PRESERVE His WORD ....

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Q: How Can We Be Sure ?

Not from what the Bible says…

But from extra-biblical sources …

1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL Confirmation
    - *i. Missing / Misplaced Kings*
    - *ii. Missing People*
    - *iii. Missing Office*
    - *iv. Missing Sites*

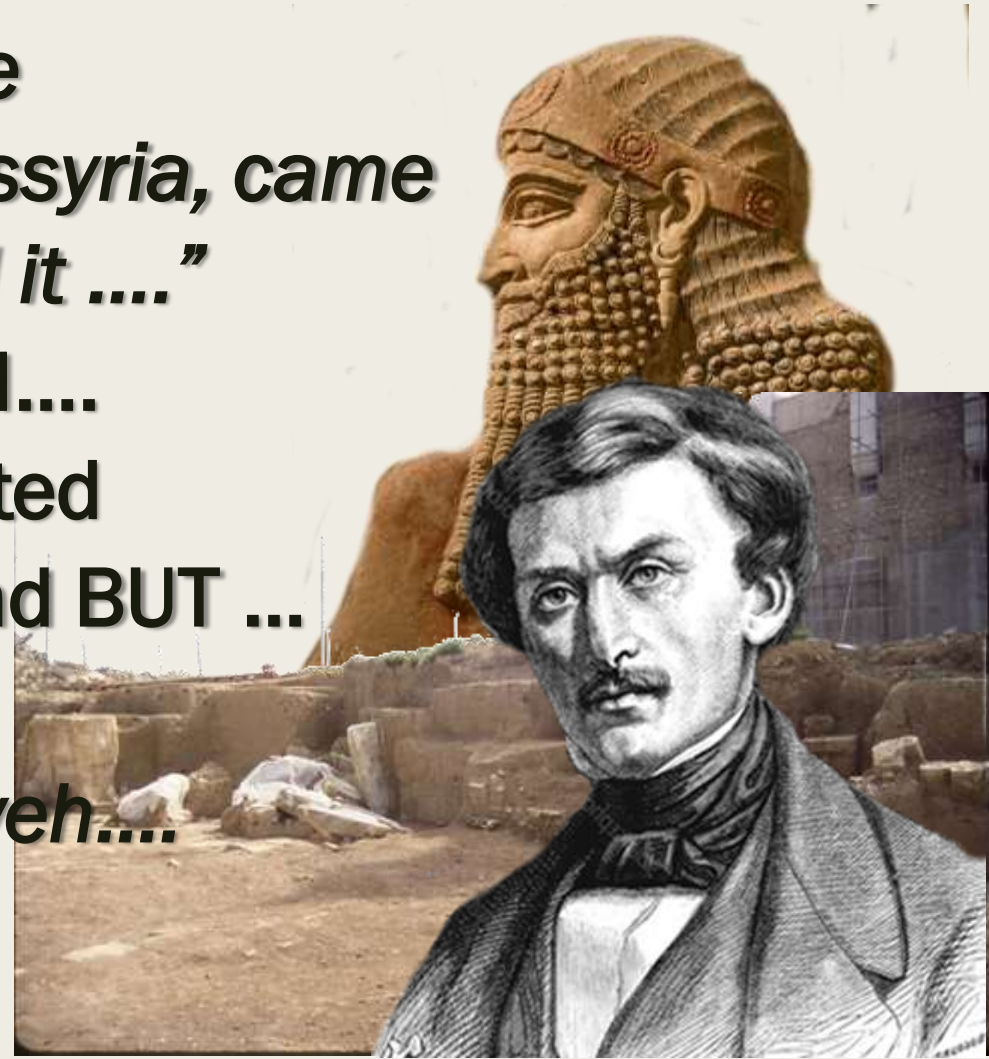
BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

I (a) Missing Kings

Isa 20:1 "*In the year that the supreme commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it ....*"

- KING SARGON of Assyria mentioned....
- Before the 19thC – Nineveh excavated Complete list of Assyrian Kings found BUT ...
- Only in 1843, Paul Botta...
  - *a new capital 12miles NE of Nineveh....*
  - *By King Sargon II dated 717BC*

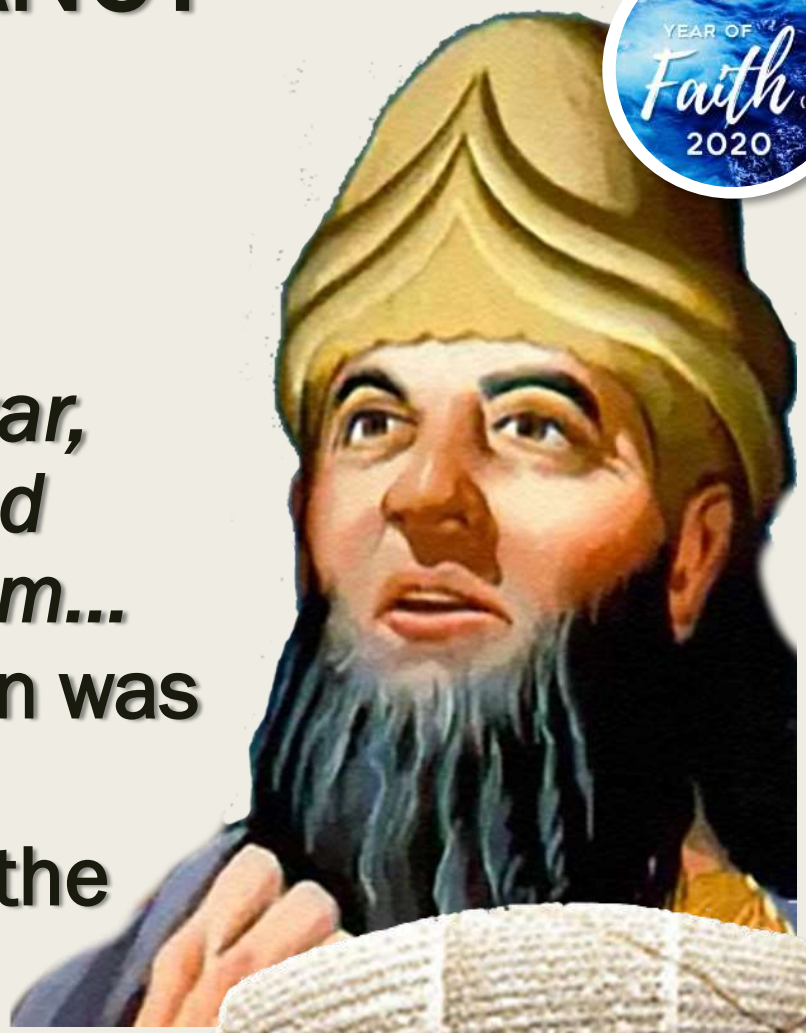


BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

l (b) Misplaced Kings

- KING BELSHAZZAR (Daniel 5)
- Dan 5:30-31 *That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom…*
- Babylonian record: last king of Babylon was Nabonidus
- 1929, John George Taylor discovered the Cylinder of Nabonidus …
- It reads : *"Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon…."*



BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

ii. Missing People – the Hittites....

- mentioned 47 x Old Testament
  - Ephron the Hittite, sold Abraham *the* cave (Gen 23:10-20)
  - Uriah the Hittite, *Bathsheba's husband* (2 Sam 11)
- Prior to the 19thC, no trace of the Hittites ... considered a 'legend'.....
- 1876 Bogazkoy, Turkey ....
- ruins of Hittite empire & capital discovered... >10,000 clay tablets of their history....

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

iii. Missing Office : Pontius Pilate…

- Luke 3:1 *In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar — when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,*
- Up till the 20th C Pontius Pilate was known only from records – Josephus, Philo, Tacitus & the Bible
- 1961 in Caesarea Maritima…..
- Block of stone 82x65cm found dated about 30AD…
- Latin inscription "Pontius Pilate, the Prefect of Judaea…"

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

iv a. Missing Sites

- John 9:7 *"Go," (Jesus) told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam"…*
- Critics of scripture often assume that John's Gospel contains fictional accounts of Christ's actions…..
- Only in 2004 while doing sewerage work…
- Steps to a 1stC ritual pool discovered….
- Plaster of this pool had coins dated before & after Jesus.

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

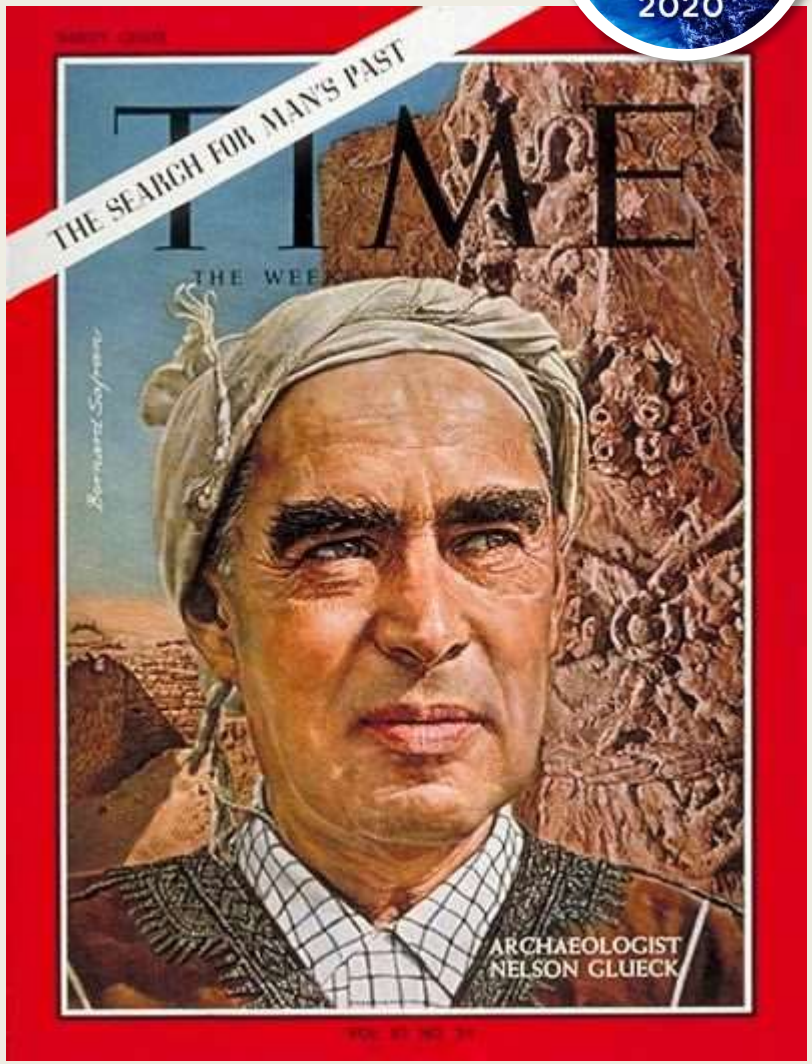
iv b. Missing Sites

- Sodom & Gomorrah Gen 18 & 19
- Bible skeptics viewed it as a 'legend' to communicate moral principles …
- Referred to Isa 13:19 & Jer 49:18 & even by Jesus (Matt 19:15)…
- 1965-73 site was found …Bab edh-Drha
- Fortified cities … destroyed by fire buried under many feet of ash, charred roofs, posts, and bricks turned red from heat….grave with thousands of skeletons…

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

- Biblical Archaeology has been able to further the cause of the reliability of the Bible, even though that was not in its mission, nor was it one of its stated or necessary goals.
- ***"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever contraverted a biblical reference"***
  Nelson Glueck Rabbi, academic, archaeologist & President of Hebrew Union College, US

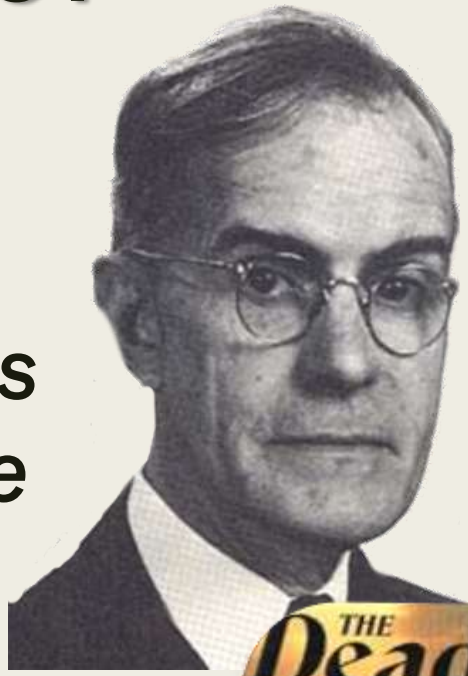


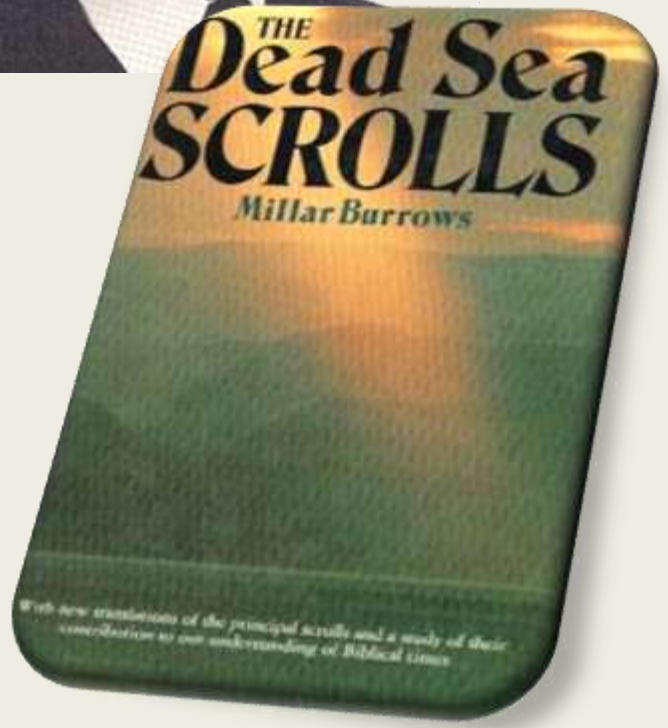
BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1. ARCHAELOGICAL Confirmation

- Millar Burrows, Prof of Archaeology, Yale Uni

  "On the whole … archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine. Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics."





BIBLICAL INERRANCY

The Bible is NOT A SCIENCE TEXTBOOK but ....

2a. BASIC Sciences

- Ancient Believes ...
- Job 26:7 (written 3,500 years ago): *"He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing."*
- The Bible proclaims that the earth freely floats in space.

An 1876 drawing of the world supported on the backs of four elephants, themselves resting on the back of a turtle

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

2b. BASIC Sciences

- It was once commonly believed the earth was flat….
- Isaiah 40:22 (written 2,800 years ago):
  "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth."
- Christopher Columbus inspired by Scriptures to sail around the world, wrote: "***It was the Lord who put it into my mind…There is no question the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures…"***

(from his diary, in reference to his discovery of "the New World").

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

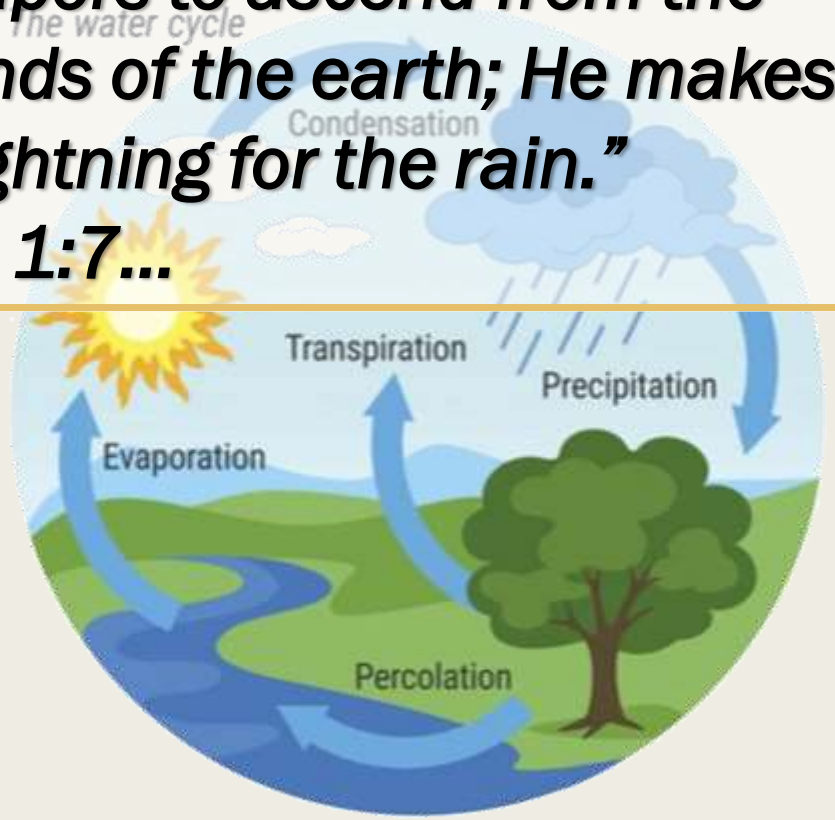
2c. BASIC Sciences

- **The hydrologic / water cycle**
- The ancient Greeks thought that rivers were fed by underground ocean water, and this idea persisted into the 17th C
- Amos 9:6 (written 2,800 years ago): *"He…calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth…"*

Ecc 11:3 "if the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth."

Psa 135:7 "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain."

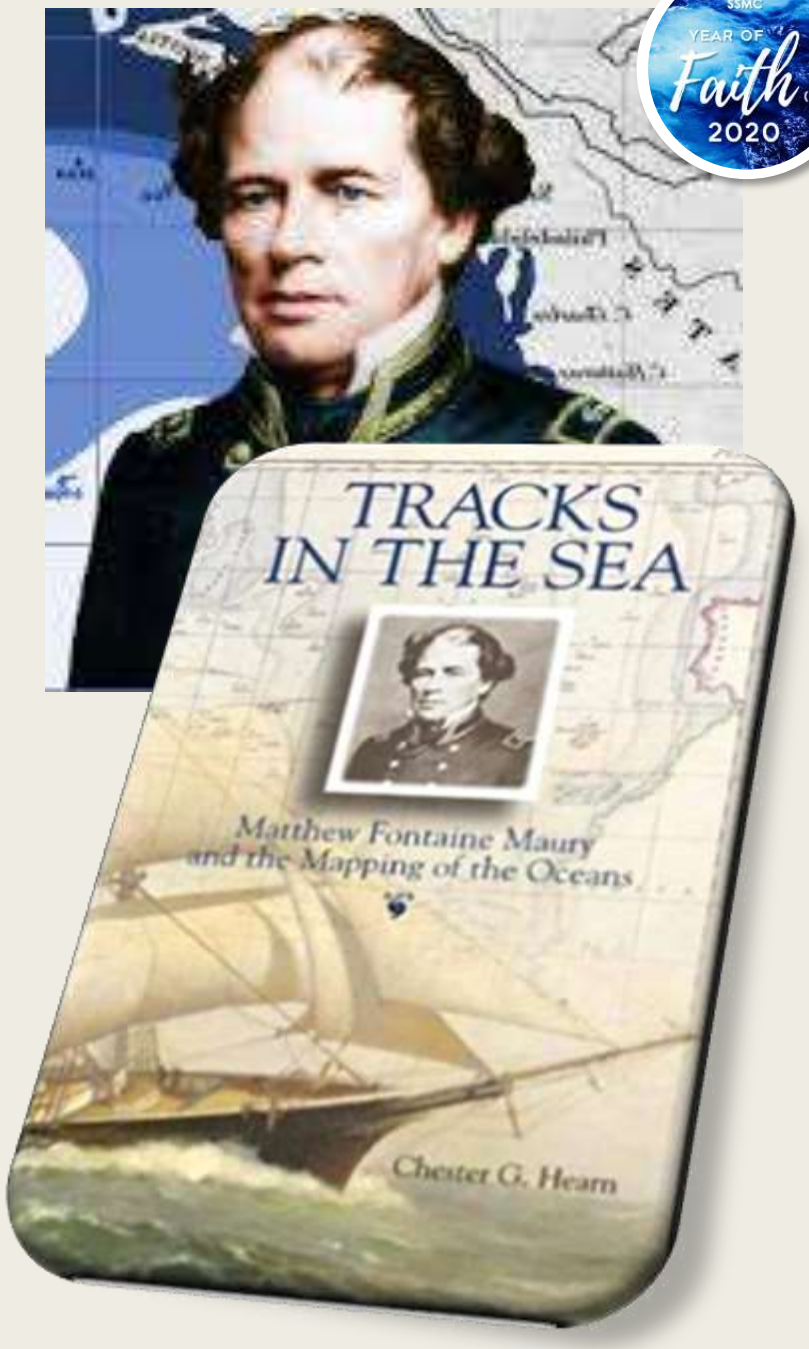
Ecc 1:7…



BIBLICAL INERRANCY

2d. BASIC Sciences

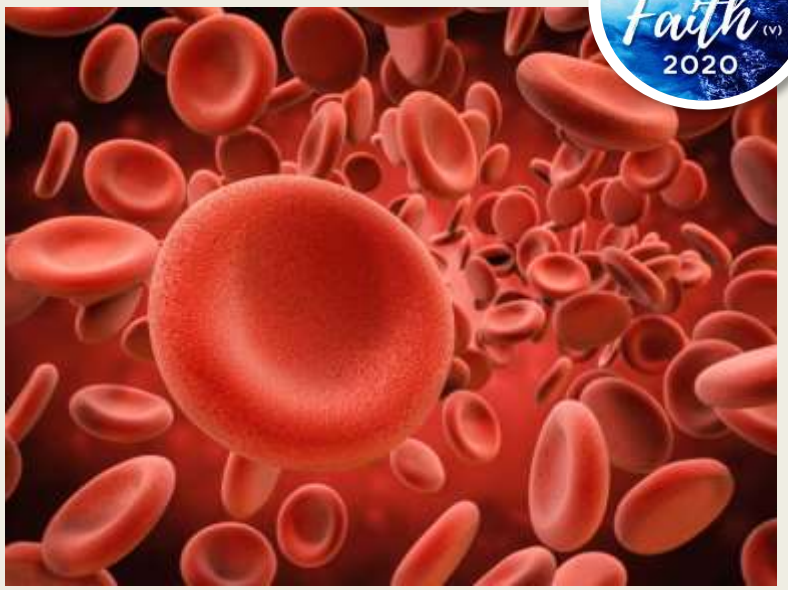
- **The science of oceanography**
- Psalm 8:8: *"…and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas."* (written 2,800 years ago)
- The sea is just a huge mass of water; how could it have "paths"?
- Matthew Maury (1806–1873) noticed the expression *"paths of the sea"* in Psa 8. Taking God at His word he went looking for these paths and….
- He became known as the **father of oceanography,**



BIBLICAL INERRANCY

2e. BASIC Sciences

- **Blood is the source of life**
- Up until 200 years ago, sick people were “bled,” and many died because of the practice.
- Leviticus 17:11 (written 3,500 years ago): ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”***
- We now know that blood is the source of life as declared in God’s Word.



BIBLICAL INERRANCY

3. COPYIST Standard

- Babylonian Exile - 586 B.C
- Babylonian Return - About 70 years later,
- Ezra 8 : read aloud the Law to the whole nation....
- Jewish scribal system...

  copying the Torah...

  and eventually other books in the Old Testament.

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

3. COPYIST Standard

The Talmud lists the following rules for copying the Old Testament.

i. They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and to bind manuscripts.
ii. Each column of writing could have no less than 48, and no more than 60 lines.
iii. The ink must be black and of a special recipe.
iv. No word or letter could be written from memory; the scribe must have an authentic copy before him, and he had to read and pronounce aloud each word before writing it.

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

3. COPYIST Standard

v. They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time....

vi. There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.

vii. The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other. The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

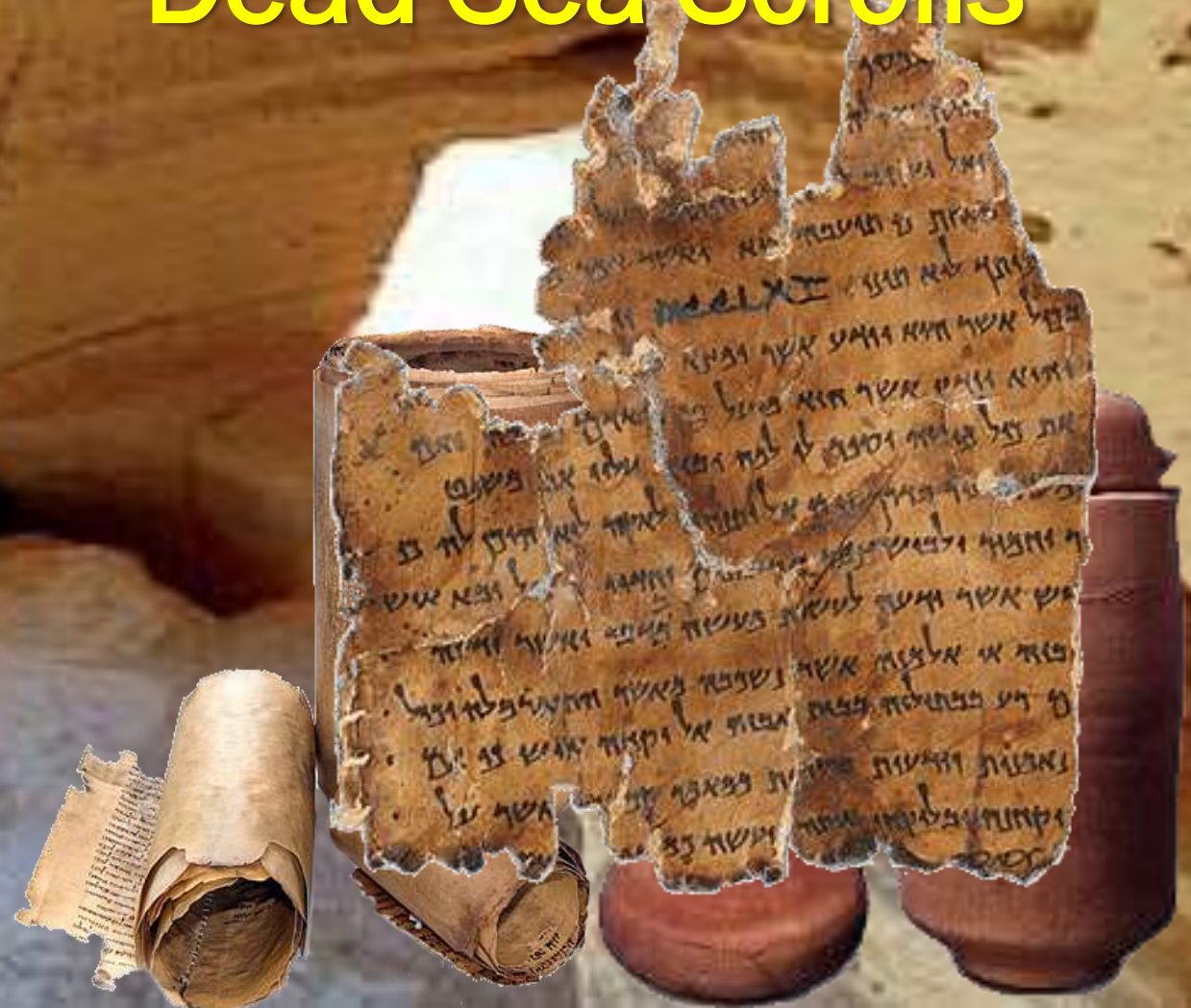
Original Autographs

BC 1450 BC 400

Masoretic Manuscripts

AD 900-1000

Qumran Caves 1947 Dead Sea Scrolls



- All the OT books except Esther…
- Isaiah best preserved….
- 95% similarity

Original Autographs

BC 1450

BC 400

Dead Sea Scrolls

BC 100 ??

Masoretic Manuscripts

AD 900-1000

1500 years

1000 years

2500 years

Septuagint (Greek OT)
BC 282

HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

Biblical Inerrancy

TEXTUAL CRITICISM

“the scientific investigation of literary documents in regards to such matters as origin, text, composition, character, or history, with the purpose of ascertaining the original text.”

Textual Criticism

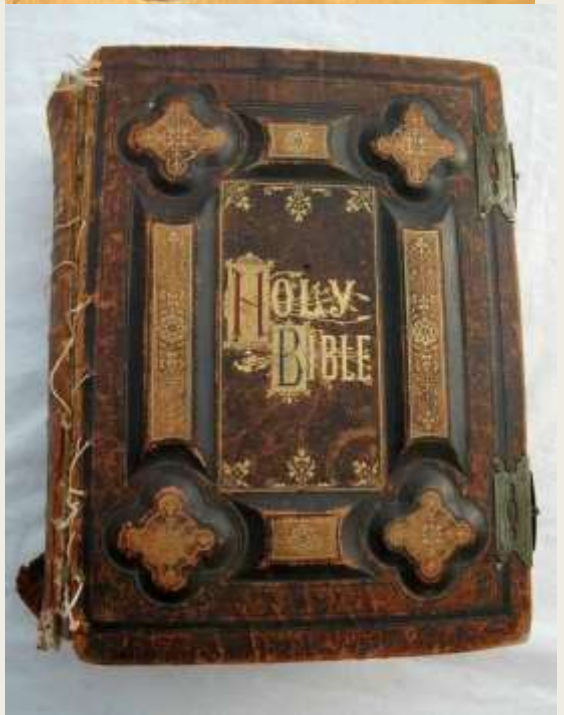
Author	Written…	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No of Mss

Textual Criticism

Author	Written…	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No of Mss
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	10-44 BC	1000 AD	900 yrs	251
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC	900 AD	1,200 yrs	210
Aristotle (Poetics)	384-322 BC	850 AD	1,400 yrs	1000
Pliny (Natural History)	23-79 AD	1000 AD	900 yrs	200
Tacitus (Greek History)	100 AD	850 AD	750 yrs	33
Homer (Iliad)	800 BC	400 BC	400 yrs	1757
New Testament	40-95 AD	117 AD	25-50 yrs	25,000
Old Testament	1450-400BC	100 BC	300 yrs	42,000

CANONICITY of the Bible

- “canon” - Greek : rule, measuring stick
- ‘collection of writings that constitute the authoritative and final norm, rule, or standard for faith and practice’.
- the Bible Canon therefore ….
  - comprises both Old and New Testaments books….
  - is the objective rule for measuring, or judging, all matters of doctrine and life…



CANONICITY of the Bible

- Inspiration….
  - *God's Word given to man…*
- Transmission…
  - *How God's Word is transmitted over the generations…*
- Preservation…
  - *How God's Word is kept and preserved over time ….*
- "Affirmation"…
  - *God's Word to be Recognised & Brought Together …..*

INSPIRATION

INERRANCY

CANONICITY

CANONICITY of the Bible

Old Testament Canonicity Criteria....

1. Is It AUTHORITATIVE ?

   With regards to the author ...

2. Is It AUTHENTIC ?

   Is it in agreement with the other books of the Bible ....

3. Is It ACCEPTED ?

   How did the Jews view it ?

4. Is It ACKNOWLEDGED ?

   Was it quoted or alluded to in the NT esp by Jesus

Council of Jamnia
AD 90

CANONICITY of the Bible : Old Testament

What about …
the APOCRYPHA books ?

- Gk:“obscure” or “hidden”
- 7 Books: Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach & Baruch,
  + chps to ‘Esther’ & ‘Daniel’
  ++ 3 Esdras & Manasseh
- Written - Intertestamental period
- Good for reading but ….
- Catholic Council of Trent 1545

1. Is It AUTHORITATIVE ?
   NO…
2. Is It AUTHENTIC ?
   NO…
3. Is It ACCEPTED ?
   NO…
4. Is It ACKNOWLEDGED ?
   NO…

CANONICITY of the Bible

New Testament Canonicity Criteria ....

1. Is It AUTHORITATIVE ?

   Who was the author ?

2. Is It AUTHENTIC ?

   Is it in agreement with the other books of the Bible ?

3. Is It ACCEPTED ?

   How did the Early Church view it ?

4. Is It "ALIVE" ?

   What affect has it got on the people ?

- AD 170 Muratorian Canon, all NT books EXCEPT Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter and 3 John
- AD 363 Council of Laodicea 26 books EXCEPT Rev.
- AD 393 Council of Hippo affirmed all 27 books

CANONICITY of the BIBLE

Closed Canon

Jude 3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL entrusted to the saints.

Rev 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone ADDS ANYTHING to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone TAKES WORDS AWAY from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

"You always quote your Bible John chp 3 verse 16 that 'God as loved the world that He sent His Son...' BUT HOW DO I KNOW YOUR BIBLE IS TRUE ?"

"How many angels at the tomb of Jesus – Matt & Mark says 1 but Luke & John says 2. Who is right ? How can the Bible be God's Word ?"

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INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE

INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

- Inspiration….
  - *God's Word given to man…*
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  - *How God's Word is transmitted over the generations…*
- Preservation…
  - *How God's Word is kept and preserved over time ….*
- Affirmation…
  - *God's Word to be Recognised & Brought Together …..*

INSPIRATION

INERRANCY

CANONICITY

“God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.”

“No, God said it and that settles it, whether we believe it or not.”

INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE

INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

It's man who wrote the Bible ... it's just another book...

The bible is full of errors... cannot be the Word of God....

It's man who decided which books to include in the Bible ... some were left out like...

After so many years of copying, surely it's corrupted, cannot be trusted...

INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE
INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

It's man who wrote the Bible ... it's just another book...

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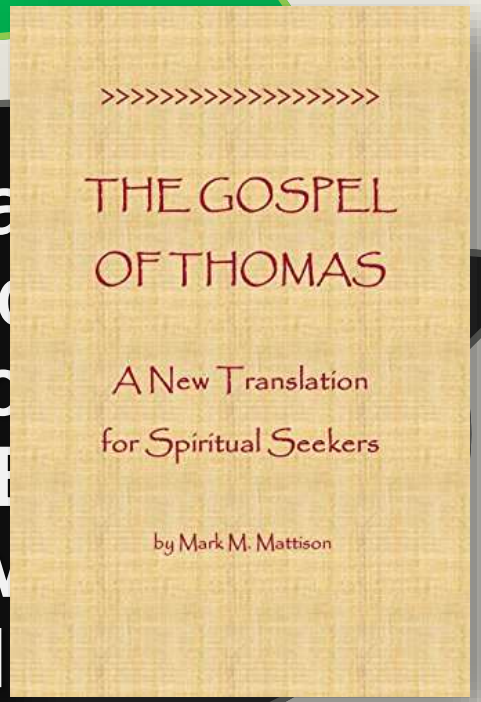
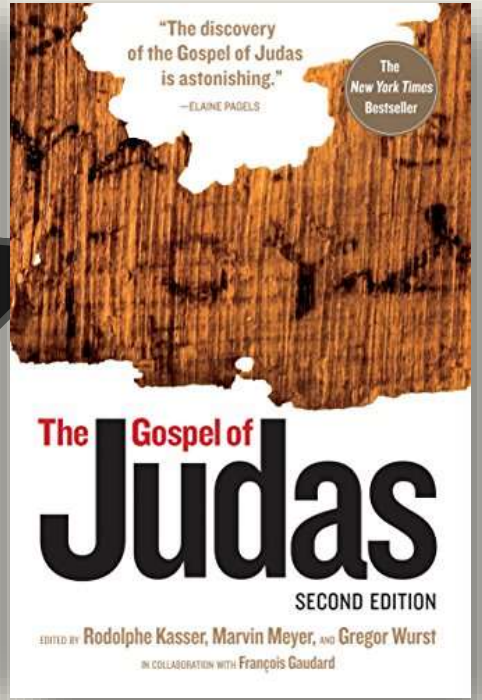
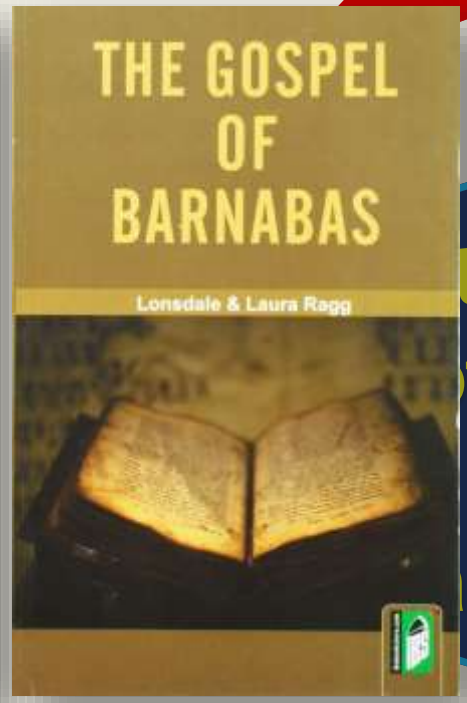
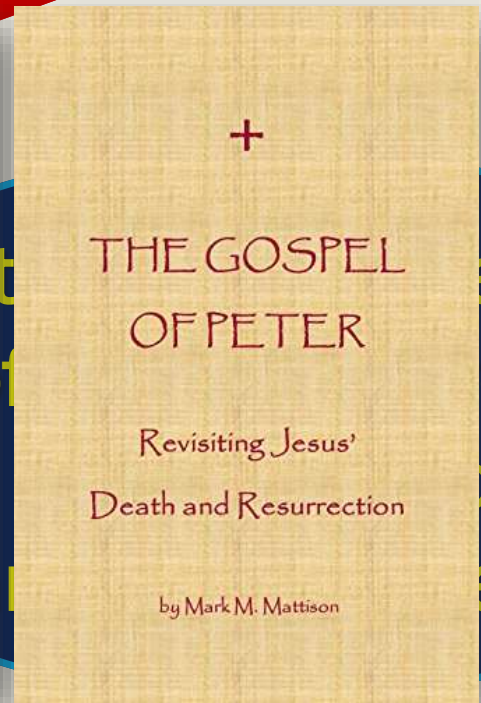
It's ma... decided... books to... in the B... some w... out I...









...ears ...ely ...d, ...ed...

INERRANCY & CANONICITY of the BIBLE
INSPIRATION of the BIBLE

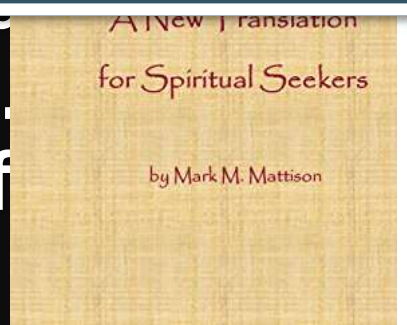
It's man who wrote the Bible ... it's just another book...

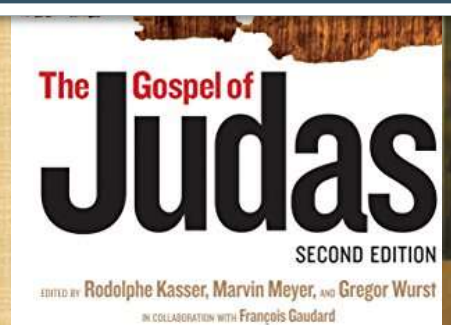
bible is full of rs... cannot be Word of God....

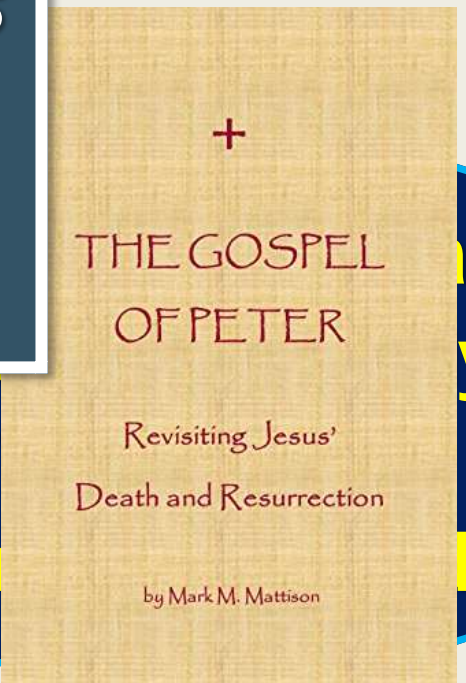
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

It's man who decided which books to include in the Bible ... some were left out like...







INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

2 Tim 3:16-17

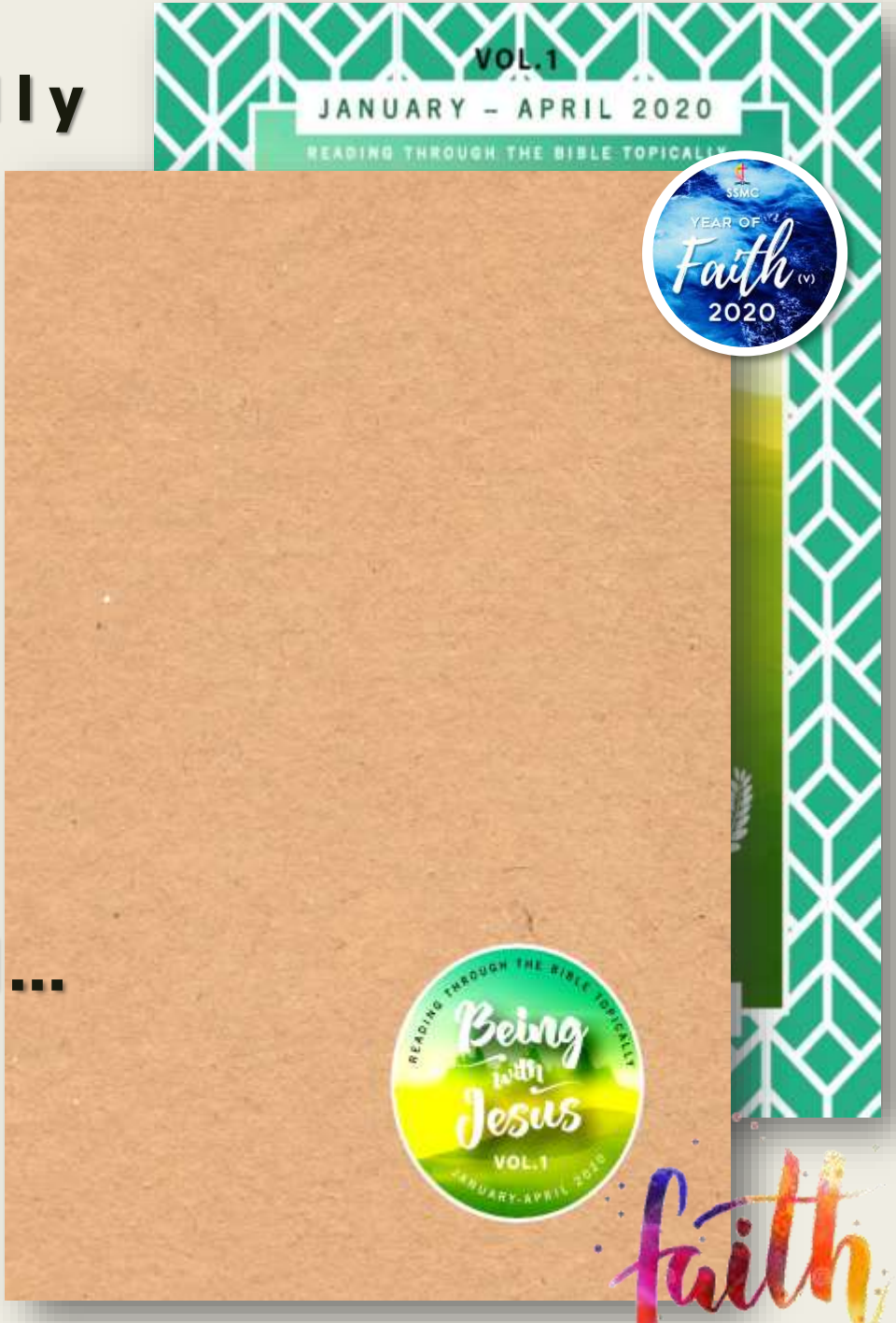
16 All Scripture is God-breathed ....
and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

- **TEACHING – what is right**
- **REBUKING - what is wrong**
- **CORRECTING – how to get right**
- **TRAINING in RIGHTEOUSNESS - how to stay right**

17 so that the man (and woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

BWJ 2020
Reading Thru The Bible **Topically**

Aim:

- To **K** N O W Our FAITH…
- To **W** A L K Our FAITH…
- To **S** H A R E Our FAITH…
- To **P** R O T E C T Our FAITH…

KWSP
EPF