

Inerrancy

Recently, I heard a program talking out language in the Bible. Not what cultural language they used like Hebrew, but the way sentences are constructed. Opponents of the Bible seem to claim two things. One is that the Bible is Gods word, yet that through the years it has been massaged. Someone has changed the Bible from its original meaning. To further this, they claim that the original writers did this too. They used events in different places to prove a point rather than tell a correct chronological order. It can be called source or literary criticism.

I would begin with saying that there is no language on the face of the earth that is pure. Meaning: it does not always mean what it means. Many ancient words are used in several different ways to describe many different things. This type of language variation can be seen in one generation to another. A group in London will speak a slightly different vernacular than their Northern brothers and sisters yet they are all British. Quebec French is not Pairs French. However, the Bible is not given that type of grace.

Let me go off on a certain word used to describe the Bible. The word is inerrancy. I think that Bible defenders should not have used this word. It comes back to the use of words. I will say “there here” but I mean “their here” or “they’re here.” Talking to me face to face is understood. If I write it down then it is a different story. The word Inerrancy means free from error. Yet, what type of error are we talking about? God does not make mistakes with His word? The spelling and word choice are error free? Are all the facts and figures in the Bible absolutely, correct? Is each event in line with history and all other events recorded in the Bible? Inerrancy is a loaded stick of dynamite in the literary world.

What does God have to say? 2 Timothy 3:16 says “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*” What is missing in this verse is the word error or inerrancy. Yet, learned men of the Christian world have attached inerrancy to this verse. They claim that since it is God breathed then it must be without error. I have no illusions that God does not make mistakes. I get that. Yet, there are a few notations in the Bible that say some verses may have been added later. That some stories may have been repeated. In linguistic circles the word error can mean many things. God gave His correct word. The Spirit will give its correct meaning. Yet, literary devices such as event placement and number of troops might be off slightly.

Those who want to disprove the Bible will look for anything to say the Bible is false. If people claim the word inerrancy, then one error might make the Bible look in error. Yet, the theme of the Bible is not in error. God gave us exactly what we needed to be good Christians. A timeline variation or a troop number does not change the word of God. Genesis and Matthew are written with literary devices. Genesis has structure. Matthew has structure. Similar stories called doublets are used in Matthew to illustrate a point about Jesus. Some claim that any use of literary devices makes the Bible unreliable. Timelines get moved. Yet, the same stories remain.

If you believe the Bible is false then inerrancy is a perfect word. It is just a bad word to choose to claim the Bible was copied perfectly. We have our Bible by integrating thousands of partial manuscripts into one Bible. Some of those manuscripts have missing words or errors. Yet the Bible is an amalgamation of all these manuscripts to make one common set of writings. I would even say free of mistakes or errors. The Bible does admit some verses are not evident in the earliest manuscripts. Some words are not in all manuscripts. The Bible scholars have tried

their best to piece together one Bible from a rather large puzzle. Weeding out errors is part of that puzzle.

There are people who say David and Johnathan are gay. It is because it says they loved each other deeply. Others claim that Jesus is not the Messiah because His name is not Emanuel. Nobody knows where or what the Red Sea really is. Jericho is a mystery because there were many Jericho's. Genesis was written over 4000 years ago. We have so little history written down from 2000 years ago. What was the writer's meaning? Where were those towns? Yet, if we want errors then we will find them. If we want to disprove God then we will find inerrancy. Some even claim Adam or David never existed. Is Noah a real person? Some claim these characters have no proof beyond the Bible. Could the historical Bible make a historical error?

What I am painfully trying to say is that if you want errors then God will give you eyes to see them. Where your heart is, your understanding is. If you hate churches getting money then you will find scandals. God has no problem letting your heart run where it wants to. Yet, there is another side. The truth says Jesus came to save us all. That He died for us. The message of God is one of family. It is one of gathering His people together in one kingdom. A kingdom of love, mercy, and compassion. Those things get lost in inerrancy. The message gets muddied when people claim things that the Bible does not say. Is the Bible created to say what you think or God thinks? Possibly words like inerrancy were created to make you look good. Your use of Gods word is powerful. Your understandings of errors make you look smart. Yet, through the centuries the word remains no matter what you think.

