

Is The Bible True?

Is The Bible True?

Future Topics



Is The Bible True?

This Topic



Is The Bible True?



GRAY · AREAS

HONORING GOD WHEN
IT'S NOT BLACK & WHITE

Is The Bible True?

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. [2 Timothy 3:16 NLT]

ΘΕÓΠΝΕΥΣΤΟΣ

Theopneustos

'God-Breathed'

(not dictated)

Is The Bible True?

History

Is The Bible True?

Moderism

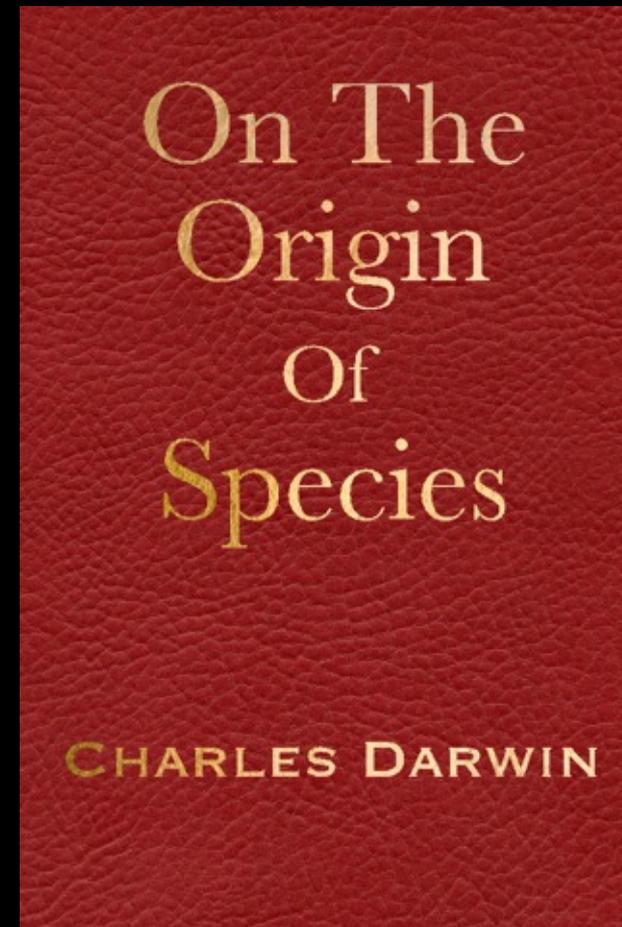
Towards the end of the 19th century there were three complex factors that forever changed the course of American theology:

- Biological Evolution
- Higher Criticism
- Study of comparative religion

Is The Bible True?

1859

- Charles Darwin
- “On The Origin Of Species”



Is The Bible True?

Charles Briggs

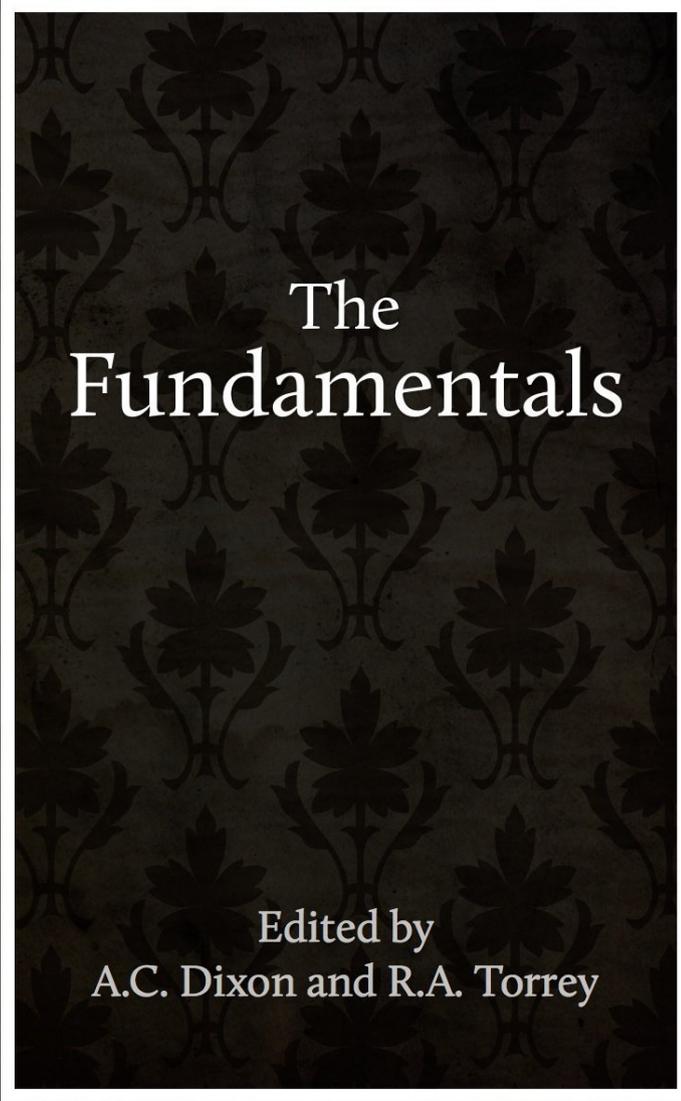
- Presbyterian pastor and seminarian
- *“Men cannot shut their eyes to truth and fact. The Bible itself nowhere makes the claim that it is inerrant. Nor do the creeds of the Church sanction such a theory. Indeed, the theory that the Bible is inerrant is the ghost of modern evangelicalism to frighten children”*
- 1892 heresy trial (acquitted)
- 1893 suspended from Union Theological Seminary



Is The Bible True?

1909

- R.A.Torrey and others
- *"The Bible as we now have it, in its various translations and revisions, when freed from all errors and mistakes of translators, copyists and printers, (is) the very word of god, and consequently wholly without error"*

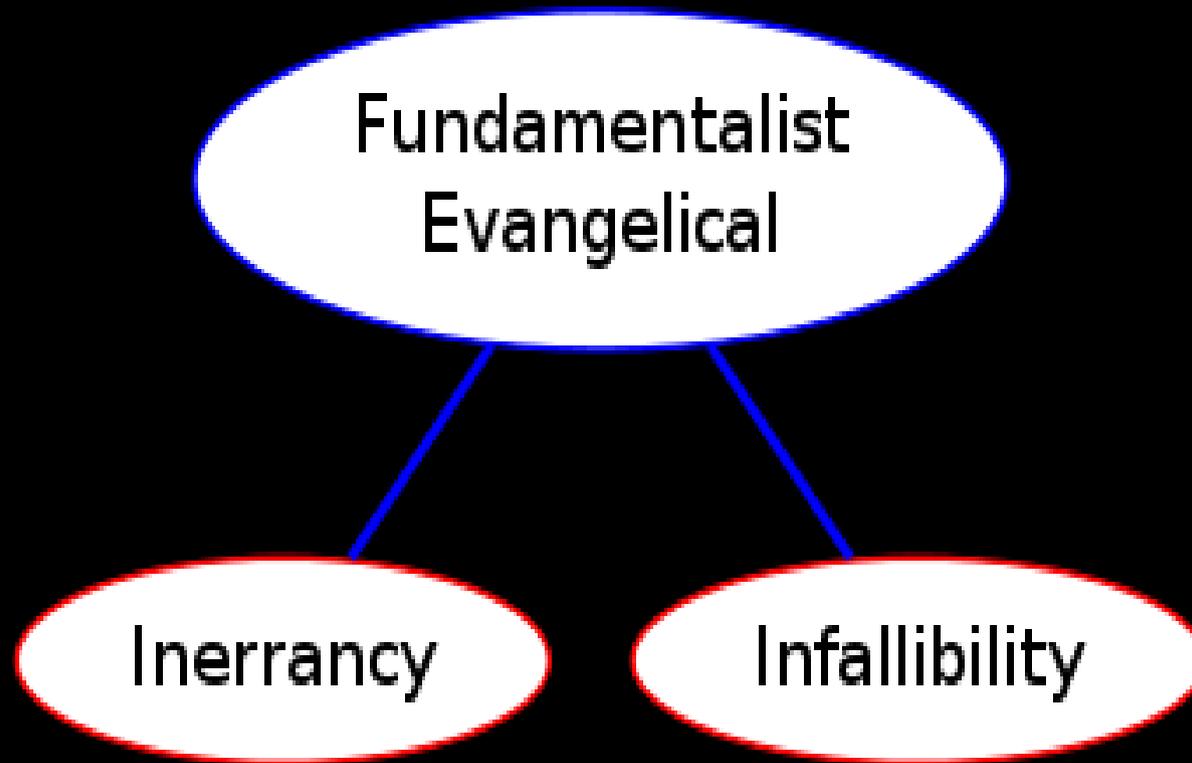


The Fundamentals

Edited by
A.C. Dixon and R.A. Torrey

Is The Bible True?

~1880 – 1950



Is The Bible True?

1941

- American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)
- *“We accept the divine inspiration, trustworthiness and authority of the Bible in matters of faith and conduct”*
- [inerrancy not mentioned]



Is The Bible True?

1942

- National Association of Evangelicals
- *“We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God”*
- [inerrancy not mentioned]



Is The Bible True?

1947

- Fuller Theological Seminary
- *“The books which form the canon of the Old and New Testaments as originally given are plenary [fully] inspired and free from all error in the whole and in the part”*



Is The Bible True?

1949

- Evangelical Theological Society
- *“The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs”*
- Norm Geisler left in 2003 due to Clark Pinnock & “Open Theism”



Is The Bible True?

1952

- Talbot School of Theology (BIOLA)
- *"The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are without error or misstatement in their moral and spiritual teaching and record of historical facts. They are without error or defect of any kind."*



TALBOT

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BIOLA UNIVERSITY

Is The Bible True?

1971

- Fuller Theological Seminary
- *“All the books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, are the written Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice”*



Is The Bible True?

Jephthah captured the shallow crossings of the Jordan River, and whenever a fugitive from Ephraim tried to go back across, the men of Gilead would challenge him. "Are you a member of the tribe of Ephraim?" they would ask. If the man said, "No, I'm not," they would tell him to say "Shibboleth." If he was from Ephraim, he would say "Sibboleth," because people from Ephraim cannot pronounce the word correctly. Then they would take him and kill him at the shallow crossings of the Jordan. In all, 42,000 Ephraimites were killed at that time. [Judges 12:5-6 NLT]

שִׁבּוֹלֵת

Shibboleth

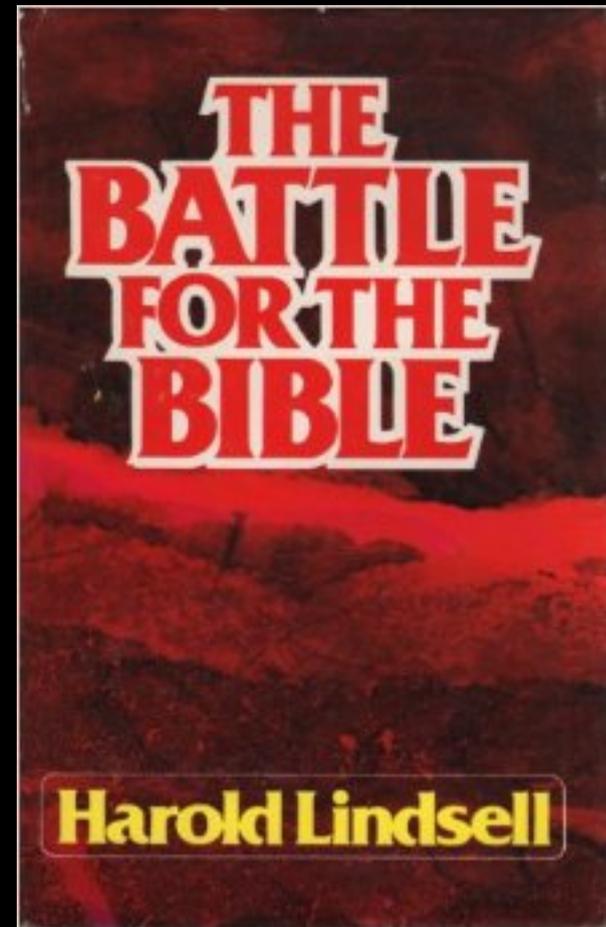
סִבּוֹלֵת

Sibboleth

Is The Bible True?

1976

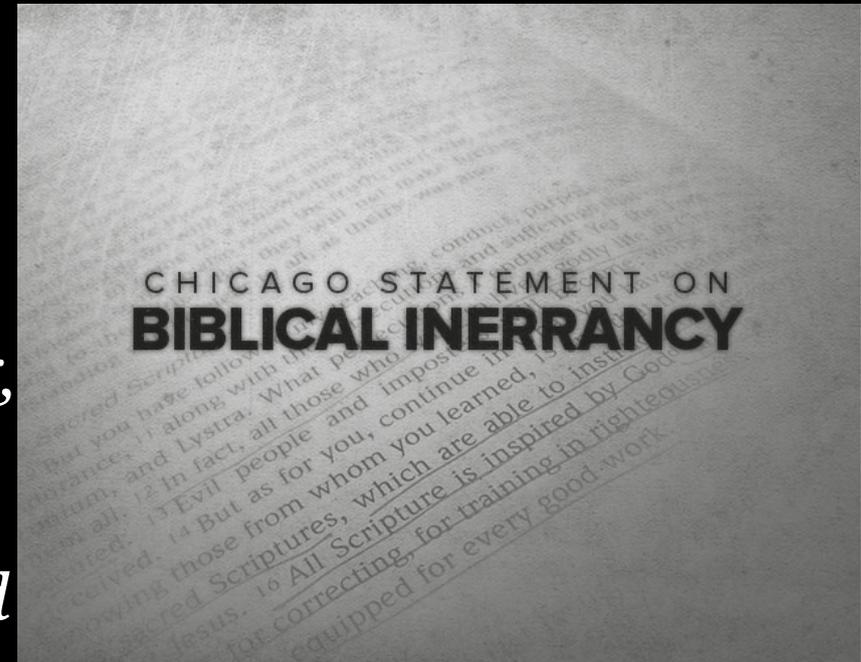
- Harold Lindsell
- *“Embracing a doctrine of an errant Scripture will lead to disaster down the road. It will result in the loss of missionary outreach; it will quench missionary passion; it will lull congregations to sleep and undermine their belief in the full orbed truth of the Bible; it will produce spiritual sloth and decay; and it will finally lead to apostasy”*



Is The Bible True?

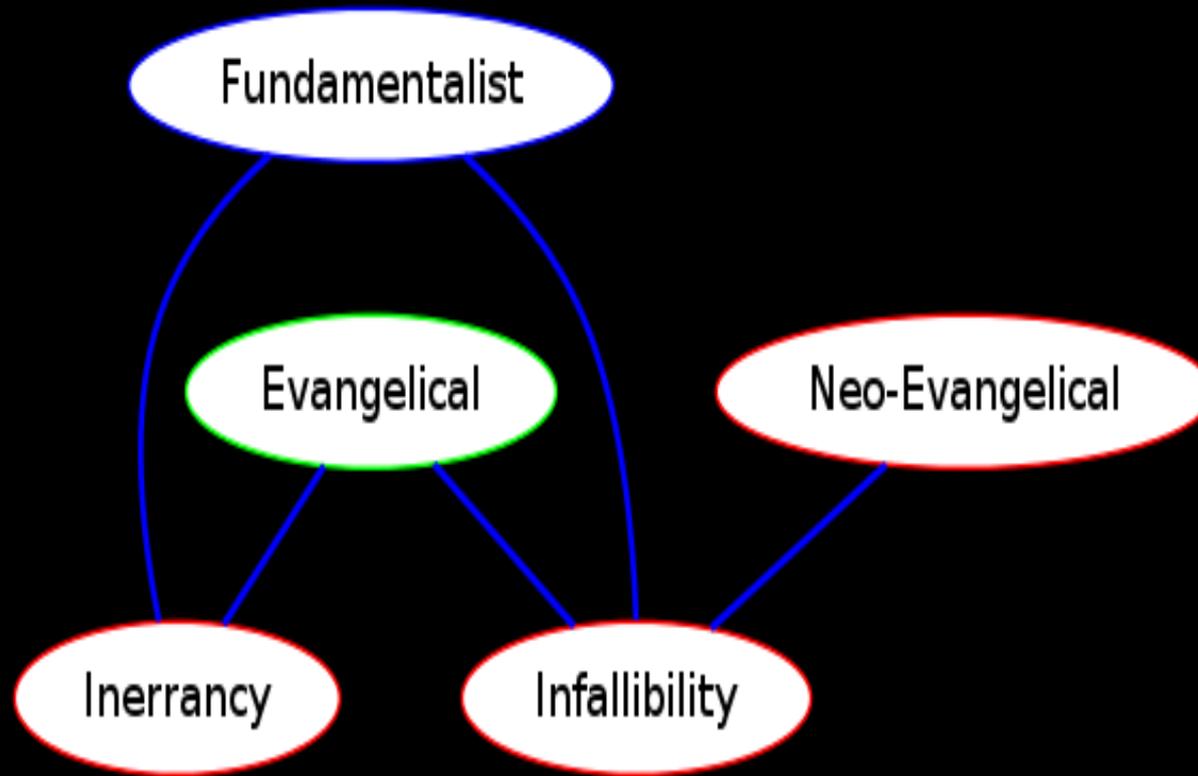
1978

- The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (by ICBI)
- *“Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives”*



Is The Bible True?

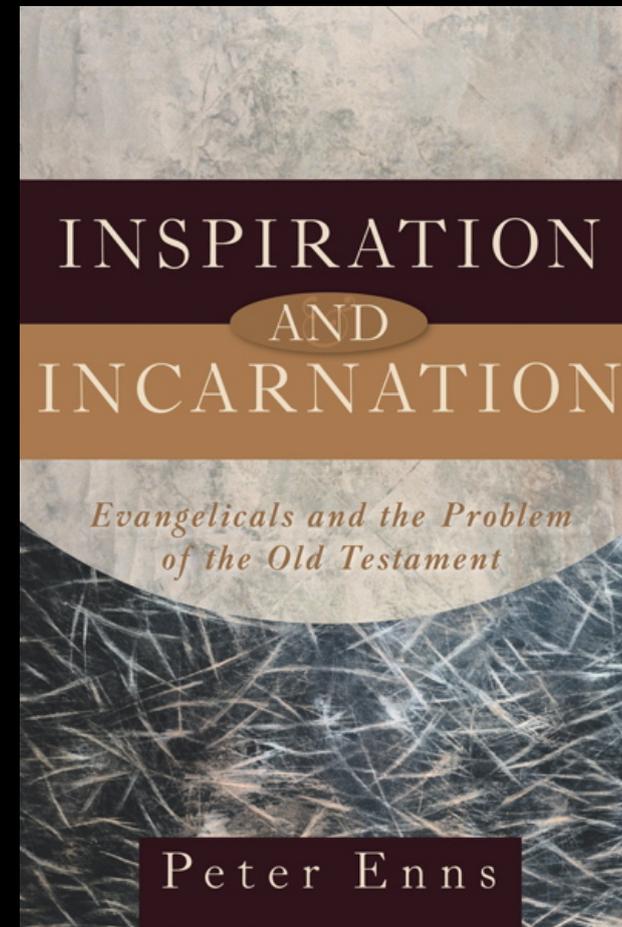
~1950 – 1980



Is The Bible True?

2005

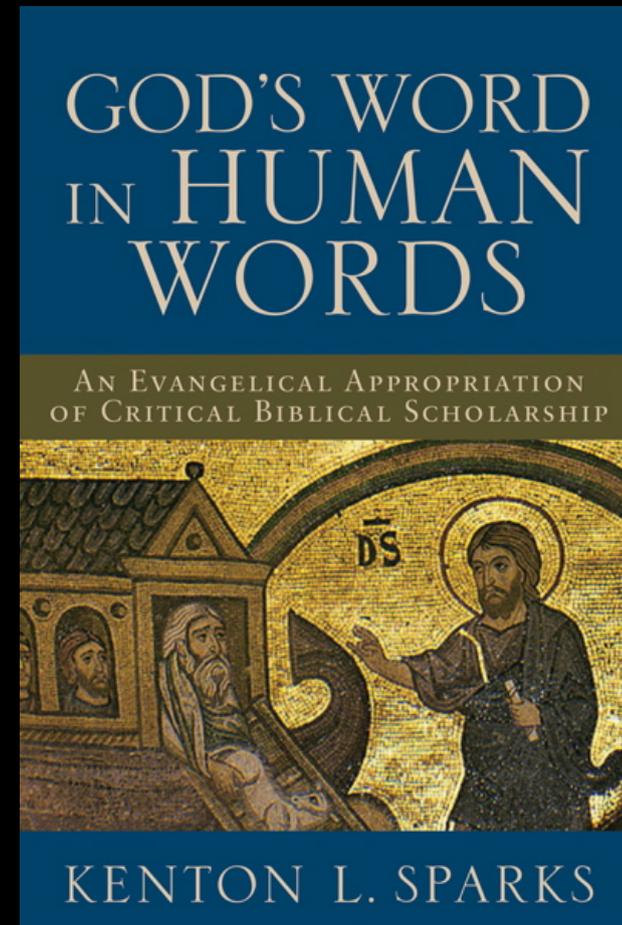
- Peter Enns
- *“Inerrancy, however defined, does not describe what the Bible does”*
- Dismissed from Westminster Theological Seminary in 2008
- Contract not renewed with Biologos in 2011



Is The Bible True?

2008

- Kenton Sparks (BioLogos)
- *“Many Evangelicals would like to include Biblicist inerrancy in any list of dogmatic assumptions, but this dogma is neither a standard view among Christians at-large nor is it theologically sensible in light of the strong evidence against it.”*



Is The Bible True?

2010

- Michael Licona
- *“I always regarded the entirety of Matthew 27 as historical narrative containing apocalyptic allusions”*
- Dismissed from Southern Evangelical Seminary in 2011

The Resurrection of Jesus
A New Historiographical Approach

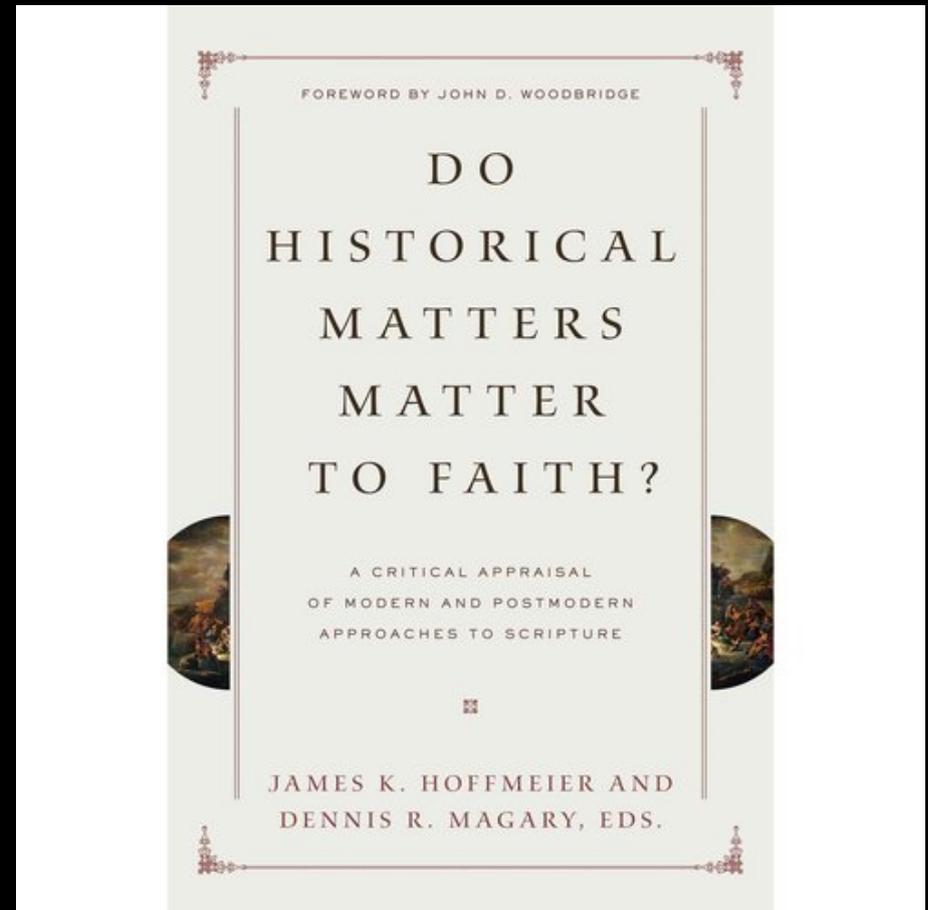


MICHAEL R. LICONA

Is The Bible True?

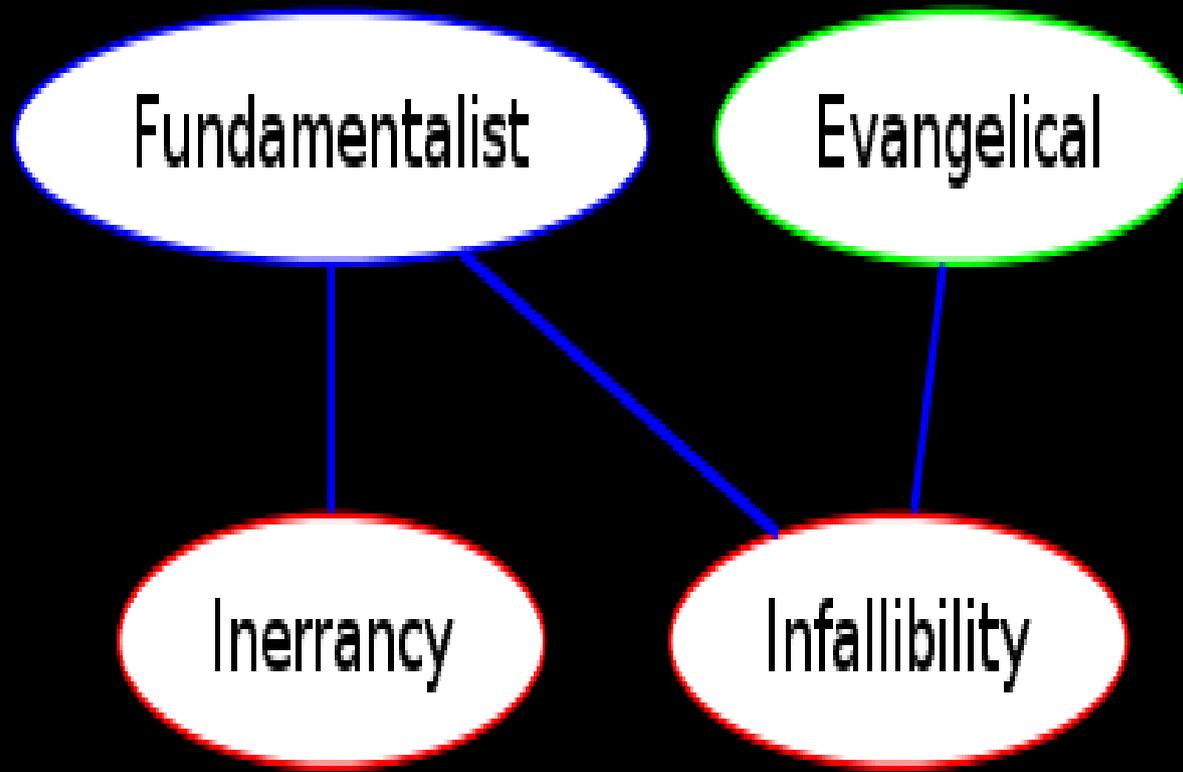
2012

- Darrell Bock and others
- Re-affirmed inerrancy



Is The Bible True?

~1980 – Present



Is The Bible True?

Surprises?

Is The Bible True?

C.S.Lewis

- *“I have been suspected of being what is called a Fundamentalist. That is because I never regard any narrative as unhistorical simply on the ground that it includes the miraculous. Some people find the miraculous so hard to believe that they cannot imagine any reason for my acceptance of it other than a prior belief that every sentence of the Old Testament has historical or scientific truth. But this I do not hold, any more than St. Jerome did when he said that Moses described Creation after the manner of a popular poet (as we should say, mythically) or than Calvin did when he doubted whether the story of Job were history or fiction.”*



Is The Bible True?

C.S.Lewis

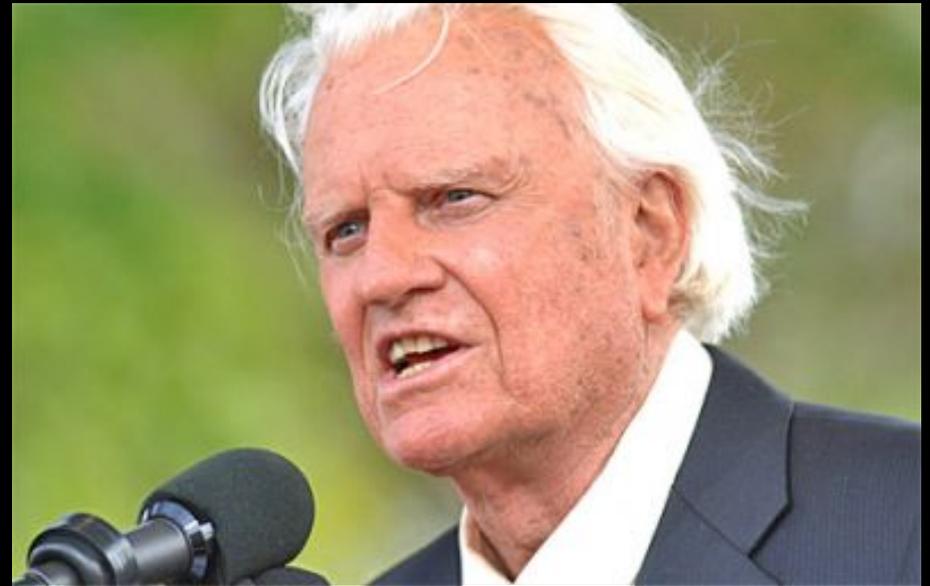
- *“The human qualities of the raw materials show through...The total result is not “the Word of God” in the sense that every passage, in itself, gives impeccable science or history.” [1958]*



Is The Bible True?

Billy Graham

- *"I believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative word of God but I don't use the word 'inerrant' because it's become a brittle divisive word"*
[1982]



Is The Bible True?

Mark Hughes

- Church of the Rock
- *“The scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are inspired of God, and comprise the infallible and authoritative Word of God to mankind”*

CHURCH
OF THE
ROCK



Pastor Mark Hughes

Is The Bible True?

Mennonite Brethren Church of Canada

- *“We accept the Old and New Testaments as the infallible Word of God and the authoritative Guide for the faith and life of Christian discipleship.”*
- *“We accept the Bible as the infallible Word of God and the authoritative guide for faith and practice.”*



Is The Bible True?

Inerrant

- Bible *contains* no error:
 - Theology
 - History
 - Science

Infallible

- Bible *teaches* no error:
 - Faith
 - Life & Practice

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. [2 Timothy 3:16 NLT]

Is The Bible True?

Challenges

Is The Bible True?

Transcription/Copy Errors

But again the Arameans fled from the Israelites. This time David's forces killed 700 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers including Shobach, the commander of their army.

[2 Samuel 10:18]

But again the Arameans fled from the Israelites. This time David's forces killed 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers, including Shobach, the commander of their army.

[1 Chronicles 19:18]

Is The Bible True?

Transcription/Copy Errors

- *“We affirm that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic (original) text of Scripture” [Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy]*
- *“The biblical manuscripts we have today are in 99% agreement with one another...the vast majority of the biblical text is identical from one manuscript to another. Most of the differences are in punctuation, word endings, minor grammatical issues, word order, etc. – issues easily explainable as scribal mistakes. No important theological or biblical issue is thrown into doubt by any supposed error or contradiction” [http://www.gotquestions.org]*

Is The Bible True?

Transcription/Copy Errors

- Some KJV-Only believe only the *Textus Receptus* (TR) has been supernaturally preserved and inspired and is therefore inerrant (NOTE: there are over 30 editions of the TR, none 100 percent identical!)
- Most KJV-Only believe the KJV translation *itself* is an inspired and inerrant text – the original source documents are corrupt and not inerrant (!)

Is The Bible True?

Text Consistency

- *A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." [Matthew 27:37 NLT]*
- *A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." [Mark 15:26 NLT]*
- *A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." [Luke 23:38]*
- *And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." [John 19:19]*

Is The Bible True?

Text Consistency

Solution: *“This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”*

Is The Bible True?

Science

- *Then Hiram cast a great round basin, 15 feet across from rim to rim, called the Sea. It was 7 1/2 feet deep and about 45 feet in circumference. [1 Kings 7:23 NLT]*
- *But among the winged insects that walk on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs above their feet, with which to leap on the ground. Of them you may eat: the locust according to its kind, the bald locust according to its kind, the cricket according to its kind, and the grasshopper according to its kind. But all other winged insects that have four feet are detestable to you. [Leviticus 11:21-23 NRSV]*

Is The Bible True?

Science

- Solution: Approximations are OK; accuracy is not the same thing as precision! 45 foot (30 cubits) circumference is approximately 47 feet (31 cubits).
- Solution: Jumping insects use 4 legs for walking, but also have 2 additional legs for jumping. Also, everyone knows (and *knew*) that there were 6 legs. It is just a common idiom to talk to “walking all on fours”.

Is The Bible True?

History

- *David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he saw him. “Why are you alone?” he asked. “Why is no one with you?” “The king has sent me on a private matter,” David said. “He told me not to tell anyone why I am here. I have told my men where to meet me later. Now, what is there to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have.”...Since there was no other food available, the priest gave him the holy bread—the Bread of the Presence that was placed before the Lord in the Tabernacle. [1 Samuel 21:1-3,6]*
- *He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions.” [Mark 2:26]*

Is The Bible True?

History

- Solution: alluding to the *days* of Abiathar, which was true.

NOTE: According to Ehrman, in his research paper, he developed a “long and complicated argument” to explain away the apparent mistake. But when he received his graded paper his professor had written, “Maybe Mark just made a mistake.” When Ehrman read the professor’s note, “the floodgates opened.” If there could be a mistake here, then there could be mistakes in other parts of the Bible. Ehrman’s doubts about the truth of Christianity snowballed and today he is an agnostic, no longer able to believe what the Bible says.

Is The Bible True?

Alternatives

Is The Bible True?

“...making compromises with biblical inerrancy is extremely dangerous, and why the evangelical community should not embrace, but quickly distance itself from any such positions. It will prove that inerrancy is the foundation for Christianity. Take away inerrancy, and we cannot be certain of anything about Jesus Christ, salvation, whether there is a heaven, hell, or any prophetic future events. In short, everything falls apart and we cannot be certain of anything...”

OR

“I do not affirm the word inerrancy because it compromises the Christian faith to the standards of secular scientific thinking. It takes our devotion and worship away from Christ and substitutes a second-rate god that breeds fear and paranoia, threatening to crumble our faith in God with every scientific report, literary device, or historical discrepancy.”

Is The Bible True?

Questions?

Is The Bible True?



That's all Folks!

Is The Bible True?

BONUS

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Take the Bible on its own terms
- Appreciate Divine accommodation
- Distinguish ancient vs modern literary techniques
- Understand fictional content in the Bible
- Understand the way NT authors handle the OT

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Take the Bible on its own terms:

e.g. Creation account in Genesis 1

“...not expecting more from the culture that produced it than is fair. I don't think it's fair for us to judge Scripture by standards foreign to the people who produced it...God wasn't trying to teach us science in the Bible precisely because he wasn't teaching its authors science. They wouldn't have understood it, and even if correct science was dictated to them, their readers wouldn't have understood it” [http://michaelsheiser.com/TheNakedBible]

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Appreciate Divine accommodation:

e.g. human reproduction theory references in 1 Corinthians 11

While God certainly knows how to use human language, does the human language in question have the vocabulary that would allow God to communicate scientific truths to the original recipients? ...do the human recipients have the capability to understand what is being said? God isn't lying when he dilutes information and allows the human writers to think poorly about science. We wouldn't understand it anyway.

[<http://michaelsheiser.com/TheNakedBible>]

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Distinguish ancient vs modern literary techniques:

e.g high census counts in Numbers 1 & 26

“If the numbers are simply reflective of a rhetorical device common in ancient Near Eastern literature, however, one may no longer question the integrity of the record by use of this argument. The large numbers are often simply figures of speech employed to magnify King Yahweh, King David, or others in a theologically-based historiographical narrative”

[A Defense Of The Hyperbolic Interpretation Of Large Numbers In The Old Testament by David M. Fouts]

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Understand fictional content in the Bible:

e.g. recorded conversation differences in the Gospels

“All of the dialogue in the gospels or any given passage may be simply recalled by the writer (in different ways) in a manner sufficient (to God) for giving us a faithful representation of a conversation that occurred...each writer is using whatever words that seemed best to communicate the conversation.”

[<http://michaelsheiser.com/TheNakedBible>]

Is The Bible True?

Bible Inerrant If We...

- Understand the way NT authors handle the OT:

e.g. NT writers quoting either MT or LXX verses in the OT

“This issue...has nothing to do with the integrity of the NT authors. They are free to quote whatever text they want...did the Spirit guide the NT author to a BETTER reading since MT was mistaken – and if so, how do we frame that with respect to inerrancy?”

[<http://michaelsheiser.com/TheNakedBible>]

Is The Bible True?

Tough Stuff

Is The Bible True?

- If the current manuscripts used for our Bible translations are *not* inerrant, does it really matter if the originals were?
-

Is The Bible True?