

The Principles of Scripture

By Vicar Jake

Inspired: All of Scripture is God-breathed. While Scripture is written by human writers, every word of Scripture is God's Word, provided either by revelation or by divine providence of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 1:16, 1 Cor. 2:13, 14:37, Gal. 1:11-12, Eph. 3:3-4, 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21)

Inerrant: All of Scripture is true and without error. Scripture is historically, geographically and theologically accurate. In regards to scientific accuracy, science deals with the natural realms and the laws of physics, while the Scriptures contain many miracles which deal with the supernatural realms and metaphysics. Thus, when Scripture deals with the natural realm it is scientifically accurate, however, when dealing with miracles and the supernatural realm Scripture is not scientifically accurate, as these miracles defy science and the laws of physics, but Scripture is historically accurate as these miracles are true historical events.

(Psalm 119:160, John 17:17, 21:24)

Infallible: Scripture is incapable of being false. As Scripture is God's Word and God's Word is true, the Scriptures cannot err. Scripture is not only without error but is incapable of containing error.

(John 10:35, 1 Pet. 1:23)

Clear: Scripture is clear and simple to understand for those who have the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith. God's Word is presented in a simple and easy to understand way. Due to sin man's mind is corrupted and incapable of fully understanding God's Word. While man can understand some (possibly even most) of Scripture, man is incapable of understanding all of Scripture. This lack of clarity is due to man's sin and not God's Word.

(Psalm 119:105, 130, 2 Cor. 4:3-4)

Sufficient: The Scriptures as contained in the books of the Old and New Testament are a sufficient revelation of God. While the Scriptures may not explain everything man would desire to know, Scripture reveals everything man needs to know in order to be saved. Thus the 66 books of Scripture are sufficient for our salvation and we do not need, nor should we expect, any further revelation.

(Matt. 28:19-20, Luke 16:31, John 5:39, 20:31, Gal. 1:8, Eph. 3:3-4, 2 Tim. 3:15, Heb. 1:1-2)

Efficacious: Man is justified by grace alone through faith alone. This faith comes from the Holy

Spirit by means of the Word of God. The Scriptures are a means of grace and are capable of effecting faith in the hearer.

(Roman 10:17, 2 Tim 3:15, John 20:31, Eph. 3:4)

Authoritative: Scripture is the only rule, source and norm for governing the Christian life. God is the Lord and Creator of all and thus possesses all authority to govern His Creation. As Scripture is the Word of God it holds all authority and is profitable for reproof, correction and instruction.

(Matt. 28:19-20, 1 Cor. 14:37, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 4:2)

Human: All of Scripture, as contained in the 66 books of the Old and New Testament, were written by the hands of men, who were inspired by the Spirit of God to write. The Scriptures were written by men, using human hands, minds, grammar and language. However, the limits of human ability and human sinfulness do not affect or remove the inerrancy, clarity or authority of Scripture.

(Exod. 17:4, Jer. 36:2,4,18,28,32, Luke 1-4, John 20:31, 21:24-25, Acts 1:1-3, Rom. 16:22, 1 Cor. 14:37, 16:21, Gal. 6:11, Col. 4:18, Thess. 3:17, Rev. 1:1-3, etc.)