

Bible Shortcomings

Many believe that the Bible is the authentic word of God, written by those whose names appear on the books inside it. This however is not the case.

Firstly, God did not directly inspire each word, but allowed the many and diverse writers over fifteen centuries to express concepts in their own words, reflecting their understanding, background, as well as the culture and political situation of their time. Using a range of literary genres, they compiled legal precepts and histories, recorded their joys, sorrows, frustrations, and praises addressed to God, recounted stories, wrote epic poetry, and verbalized dramatic symbolic dreams and visions. New Testament writers interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures in light of the life of Jesus and their own experiences.

Jesus didn't leave any written records of his teachings and his disciples passed them on by word of mouth as they taught and preached. It was several decades after Jesus' death, when the disciples realized that he was not imminently returning, that they started writing down Jesus' teachings as they understood them, by which time, due to limitations of human memory, certain truths may have become distorted.

In the Old Testament, many events were recorded long after the time they are said to have occurred. Some of the stories and events never happened. Tradition, imperfect memory, and imagination all played a part in formulating the texts as we now have them.

Further, in the numerous hand copying and recopying of manuscripts, original information was left out and/or other things not in accord with the truth were inserted. In the process, many of the truths that Jesus had taught became veiled through reinterpretation or simply lost. Even in the epistles of Paul, which theologians claim to be the earliest and closest to the time of Jesus and thus to have more authenticity than the gospels or other epistles, many changes were made between the times of their writing and when they became a part of the biblical record.

Within one hundred and fifty years, the truths of Jesus' spiritual teachings had become largely lost to those reproducing the original writings. This happened because these writers had become less spiritual, and focused more on building the church as an institution than on preserving and rightly developing the great spiritual truths that Jesus brought. The moral precepts became dominant in their writings as they were more easily understood than Jesus' teaching regarding soul development and at-onement with God.

Even in the canonization process, there were bitter disputes among the Christian fathers as to what should be accepted and what rejected from the emerging "sacred text". Many manuscripts were rejected because they did not agree with what the church officials – who disagreed among themselves – in their human knowledge and reason accepted as God's word.

Because of the many changes to the original texts, that themselves were written quite some time after the events they describe, the authenticity of the Bible cannot be established as the word of God, as it contains many statements contrary to God's truths and Jesus' teachings. One of the greatest errors is the teaching about God's plan of salvation through the vicarious atonement, which was influenced by Judaism. It substitutes Jesus' sacrifice for animal sacrifices, and projects the image of God as understood by the Jews onto the Father of all humanity. The Jewish God, to be appeased and satisfactorily worshipped, demanded blood, and so the God, that Jesus declared became understood as one who demanded the sacrificial blood of His dearly beloved son.

Despite the fact that the present biblical writings contain many things which the original authors did not write, and that it is not easy to separate truth from falsehood, the Bible does contain many truths, and enough to enable humans to reach the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, Jesus stated that until the truths of the Padgett messages become widely known, nothing in existence can supply important spiritual truths as much as the Bible. This is because despite being a flawed source of truth, it contains much that can show humans how to attain moral perfection – which was one of the objects of Jesus’ teachings on earth, though not the main one. Applying just moral truths in one’s life brings one closer to a unison with God’s laws that is necessary for regeneration and achieving perfection. As a person progresses in their regeneration, they will find it easier to learn by soul perceptions the great truth of the New Birth. It is a fact that through the message of the Bible, people from all levels of society in various parts of the world have been led from darkness to light, received new life, and become transformed.

References:

Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. 1, Chapter 18, and Vol. 2, Chapter 3 and 13

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