

How to Unpack the Bible

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What is it?

- Best-selling book of all time (5 billion)
- Translated into over 700 languages
- A library of 66 books
- Written over the course of 1000+ years
- Written by 35-40 original authors
- Several genres
- It has been on a journey

Who is it for?

- Written to other people, in other times, in other places
- And yet, for us ...

Brief History of Interpretation

- Martin Luther – *Sola Scriptura*
- Pietism
- The Enlightenment
- Biblical Criticism

The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

1. God, who is Truth, inspired Scripture to reveal Himself to humanity through Jesus as Creator, Redeemer, and Judge.
2. Scripture, God's infallible Word, is to be believed, obeyed, and embraced in all it affirms, commands, and promises.
3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's Author, confirms it to us and enables us to understand it.
4. Scripture, entirely God-given, is without error in all its teachings, from creation to history and salvation.
5. If the idea of biblical inerrancy is limited at all, the Bible's authority is

weakened, and will harm the church

Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture is θεόπνευστος (theopneustos) and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Theopneustos

- Greek: Theo (God) – pneustos (breathed)
- Latin: in + spirare = to breath into
- Life-giving

Genesis 2:7, “then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

Christ-centered Hermeneutics

- The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24)
- Luke 24:25-27 - Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.
- John 1:17-18 “The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.
- Hebrews 1:1-4 “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

But How?

- Journey with the Holy Spirit
- Find resources by those in the church practicing this
- Observe Paul