

## Doctrine of the Bible

### The Integrity and Authority of the Bible

1. John Calvin argued for the authority of Scripture based on the following points.

- Indicia (in-dick-ee-a). This term refers to the objective evidence that displays the supernatural origin of Scripture. The internal evidence includes the antiquity of Scripture to supplement the general revelation of God.

#### *Special Note.*

Of all the ancient books in the world, no book has been subjected to better care than the Bible. No book from antiquity has been subjected to the careful scrutiny that has been given to the Bible. The Bible remains the number one best seller in the world, meaning it has survived the test of time.

- The Heavenliness of the Matter. There is something remarkable when reading the Scriptures. The pages of Scripture judges the reader, rather than the reverse. This is “the heavenliness of the matter.” The beauty of Scripture, and the clarity of its content is found, so the heart can hear “the ring of truth.”

David heard the “ring of truth”. *2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul.*

Eli heard the “ring of truth” from Samuel. *1 Samuel 3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. 14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever. 15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. 16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. 17 And he said, What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. 18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.*

That truth is the voice of God. Both received messages of judgment. Both knew “It is the word of the Lord.” Even when the message is not wanted, the Scriptures remain the Word of God.

- The Harmony of Scripture. There is a single story in the Scripture, and it is the story of redemption. All the promises, sacrifices, feasts, prophets, and judgment revealed the unfolding of God's plan of redemption through the promised Messiah.
  - The Specific Predictions. The prophesies of the Bible prove the integrity and authority of the Bible.
2. The critics of Scripture argue against it, declaring the Bible authorized immoral practices, such as the slaughter of every man, woman, and child.
- *Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.*

***Special Note.***

No other system of morality found in the Ancient World, the Law of Hammurabi, the ethics of Aristotle, equals that summarized in the Ten Commandments. The truth of the matter is that people hate the morality the Bible sets forth regarding murder, marriage, idolatry, stealing, covetousness, adultery, honoring of parents, and worship. It is dishonest for the depraved heart to stand in judgment on the morality of the Bible.

3. Calvin knew that the objective evidence would not be persuasive to an unbeliever unless there is the subjective ministry of God the Holy Spirit. On this point, Jesus concurred, illustrated in His parable of the rich man and Lazarus.
- *Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*
4. The Holy Spirit will use the objective evidence to cause a person to acquiesce, to surrender, into the indicia. People are not dumb, with regard to objective arguments, they are just hostile to God, and biased against the truth.