

Daphlyne Senatus
TH721/ SU 2020
Dr. DeCaro

The Inerrancy of Scripture: 5-3-1 Exercise

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the inerrancy of Scripture not an issue in the Biblical times?
2. How is the belief of Scripture in the early church similar to Martin Luther's view?
3. How is the belief of Scripture in the Middle ages similar to John Calvin's view?
4. How has the European scientific revolution in the 17th Century affected the Christian faith?
5. How is the Mosaic authorship challenged in the modern period?

ANSWERS

1. In Biblical times, there was no attempt to discredit the truthfulness of Scripture. Any word of God was acknowledged as the truth.
2. The early church and Martin Luther embraced the doctrine of inerrancy. They both affirmed that Scripture recounts stories of the reality of people and events. Moreover, all part of Scripture is in harmony and there is no contradiction in any part.
3. The church in the Middle Ages and John Calvin believed in the doctrine of inspiration. They both affirmed that the writers of all Scripture are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, all part of Scripture is free of error.
4. The 17th century begins the countless attempts to discredit the truthfulness of Scripture. Many scholars started presenting reasons why Scripture is not completely true and not free of error, and challenging the writings authorship. All these attacks on Scripture were a direct attack to faith because God's word is the foundation of faith
5. In the Modern period, scholars concluded that Moses is not the author of the Pentateuch because that set of books is written in the third person, not in the first person, and it recounts the death of Moses. An early development of German biblical criticism proposed the documentary hypothesis which challenges the single authorship of the Pentateuch.

TERMS

1. Doctrine of inspiration: theological concept that the writers of all Scripture are inspired by the Holy Spirit which affirms whole truthfulness of all Scripture.

2. Doctrine of inerrancy: the belief that all Scripture is completely true, contains no error and no contradiction to the person of God Himself.
3. Documentary Hypothesis: theory which proposes that the Pentateuch is a collection of documents from different sources (JEDP) which in turn challenges the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.

SUMMARY

1. The chapter on the inerrancy of Scripture explains how the church has come to believe the truthfulness of Biblical Scripture. Like the Jewish people, the early church, the church of the Middle Ages and people during the Reformation and Post-Reformation period believed that the Bible was completely true because it was the word of God written by men inspired by God's Holy Spirit. In the modern world, there have been many debates on the truthfulness of Scripture, whether its content is free of human error and was inspired by God.