

# Overview of the Bible (Lesson #3)

Tonight's topic: The Bible: God-Breathed (Inspired Word of God)  
Recommended Reading: Chapters 9 - 16 of Ryrie's *Basic Theology*

1. In tonight's study of our *Overview of the Bible* series we'll be in Lesson #3:

- Lesson #1: Basic overview and Authority of the Bible
- Lesson #2: A study of God and His Defining Attributes
- **Lesson #3: The Bible: Inspired Word of God**
- Lesson #4: Angels
- Lesson #5: The Devil
- Lesson #6: Demons
- Lesson #7: Mankind
- Lesson #8: Sin
- Lesson #9: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior of the World
- Lesson #10: Salvation overview (Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification)
- Lesson #11: The Holy Spirit
- Lesson #12: The Church
- Lesson #13: End Time Prophecy
- Lesson #14: Wrapping it all up and putting it all together...

2. In tonight's lesson we'll cover topics taken from Chapters 9-16 of *Basic Theology* relating to the Bible as the Inspired Work of God, or God-breathed. Consider the following statement comparing *infallibility* and *inerrancy*.

- a. Using the text below, how would you plain the difference between these two terms?
- b. Are these important concepts? Why or why not?

*From dictionary definitions, Frame (2002) insists that "infallibility" is a stronger term than "inerrancy". "'Inerrant' means there are no errors; 'infallible' means there can be no errors." ... The Bible is infallible if and only if it makes no false or misleading statements on any matter of faith and practice."<sup>1</sup>*

3. Jesus provides for us important insights related to inerrancy (this section taken from Section 13 of Ryrie's book)

- a. Read **Matthew 4:1-11** that tells of Jesus' temptation from Satan.
  - i. What did Jesus quote from Deuteronomy 8:3 and how does it relate to the concept of inerrancy?
  - ii. If Jesus used the Bible to refute Satan, does that communicate something?

b. Read Matthew 5:17-18 (provided below, NIV):

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical\\_infallibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_infallibility)

- i. What’s the first statement that Jesus makes? What is the significance of this statement in light of inerrancy and trusting in the Bible as true?
  
- ii. What does verse 18 tells us about the level of details we can trust in the Bible in terms of “small” details.

I saw the following on a t-shirt in an airport several years ago:

**PUNCTUATION MATTERS**  
**Let’s eat, Grandma.**  
**Let’s eat Grandma.**

- c. Jesus referenced the Old Testament a lot. Consider some of the following examples and identify an important fact about at least one.
    - i. Adam & Eve
    - ii. Noah
    - iii. Jonah
    - iv. Moses and his writings
4. Ryrie goes into great detail on the concept of hermeneutics, which he defines as the principles of interpretation. In other words, the approach we take in studying the Bible will ultimately determine what we believe it says. This involves interpretation that’s allegorical, literal, or a combination of both. Consider the Principles of Normal Hermeneutics:
- a. Interpret grammatically
  - b. Interpret contextually
  - c. Compare Scripture with Scripture
  - d. Recognize the progressiveness of revelation

Read Luke 4:16-30. Let’s go through this text and provide commentary related to the above.

<b>Interpret grammatically:</b>	
<b>Interpret contextually:</b>	
<b>Compare Scripture with Scripture:</b>	
<b>Recognize the progressiveness of revelation:</b>	

- 5. Why do you think people question the inerrancy (or authority) of Scripture?
  
- 6. NEXT BIBLE STUDY: We’ll study Section IV – Angels: Ministering Spirits.