Elenctic Theology: Bibliology

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*Justification of Inerrancy & Bible Difficulties*

## Bible Difficulties

### Principles for Resolving Bible Difficulties[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### *Do not assume the Unexplained is Unexplainable.*

##### Natural Scientists did not give up regarding: Earthquakes, Tornados, and other anomalous phenomena.

##### Spiritual Example: Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because no writing existed at that time

###### Now: Tel El-Amarna, Clay Tablets in Babylonian Cuneiform (1420-1380 BC)

###### Now: Serabit El-Khadim, Alphabetic inscriptions in Sinai Turquoise mines (2nd Millennium BC)

#### *The Bible is Innocent until Proven Guilty.*

##### Like other literature, the Bible should have a Presumption of Innocence.

##### This is not a special consideration for the Bible.

#### *The Issue of Fallible Interpretation v. Fallible Revelation*

##### Natural Scientists formerly believed in a Flat Earth, Geocentricity, Ether Theory, and Spontaneous Generation

##### Biblical interpreters are not infallible

#### *People Misunderstand the Context and Misquote the Bible Out of Context*

##### Ps. 14:1 “…There is no God.”

##### Matt. 5:42 “Give to him who asks you…”

##### Does this mean we must give weapons to the Taliban if they ask?

#### *Difficult Passages & The Analogy of Faith*

##### General Rule: Do not build doctrines on obscure passages.

##### When an obscure passage exists, use the analogy of faith.

###### James 2:14-26

###### Cf. Rom 4:5; Titus 3:5-7

###### Matt 6:11- *epousion*

###### I Cor. 15:29

#### *The Bible is a Human Book with Human Traits.*

##### Human sources-Josh. 10:13

##### Different Literary Styles

###### Lamentations-Mournful

###### Isaiah-Exalted Poetry

###### John-Simple Grammar

###### Hebrews-Complex Grammar

##### Illustration of the Person of Christ

#### *A Partial Report is not a False Report*

##### Matt. 16:16 - “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

##### Mark 8:29 - “You are the Christ.”

##### Luke 9:20 - “The Christ of God.”

#### *NT Citations of the OT Need Not be Exact*

##### Zech 12:10 - “Me”

##### John 19:37 - “Him”

##### Acceptable Literary Device: Quotes need not be exact when the essence of the statement is conveyed.

#### *Divergent Accounts are Not False Accounts.*

##### Matt. 28:5-1 - Angels

##### John 20:12-2 - Angels

##### The principle of the greater includes the lesser is employed

##### Matthew did not say “only” one.

#### *The Bible does not Approve of all it Records.*

##### Gen. 3:4 - Lies

##### Ps. 14:1 – Atheism

#### *The Bible Uses Non-technical Language to Communicate.*

##### Joshua 10:12

##### Non-scientific language is not un-scientific language.

##### Today we still use language such as “Sunrise & Sunset.”

##### Phenomenological Language is commonly employed to describe an event.

#### *Round Numbers are Not False Numbers*

##### I Chron. 19:18; 21:5

##### We should not always expect scientific precision in a pre-scientific era when we do not universally expect it today.

#### *The Bible uses Different Literary Devices.*

##### Metaphor – Psalm 91:4

##### Hyperbole – John 21:25

##### Satire – Matthew 23:24

#### *Only the Autographs are Perfect.*

##### There are copy errors.

##### The Principles of textual criticism cover this matter.

##### Reliability?

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#### *Do Not Confuse General Statements with Universal Statements.*

##### Prov. 16:7

##### Prov. 22:6

1. *See* Norm Geisler, *When Critics Ask* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), pp. 15-25; *see also* Gleason Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)