

# Biblical Inerrancy & Infallibility Debunked

The Bible is fallible, not infallible—and that's okay, because God is not

## 1. DEFINITIONS

**Inerrancy:** Bible has ZERO errors in ALL matters (theology, history, science, geography)  
**Infallibility:** Bible is trustworthy for FAITH & PRACTICE only (may have peripheral errors)

Aspect	Inerrancy	Infallibility
Scope	ALL statements	Faith/practice ONLY
Errors?	ZERO in originals	Possible peripheral
Science	Scientifically accurate	Not science text

## 2. EVANGELICAL EXCUSES DEBUNKED

**"Original autographs were inerrant, we just don't have them"**

→ Makes inerrancy UNFALSIFIABLE. We only have fallible copies. Claiming perfection of non-existent documents is intellectual dishonesty.

**"Proper interpretation resolves contradictions"**

→ Requires ADDING details not in text, REDEFINING words against scholarship, SPECIAL PLEADING. If Bible is clear, why convoluted explanations?

**"Just minor copyist errors"**

→ Mark 16:9-20 (snake handling), John 7:53-8:11 (adultery woman), 1 John 5:7-8 (Trinity proof) are NOT minor. Plus internal contradictions aren't copyist errors.

## 3. TEXTUAL TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS

**150,000-400,000 variants** among NT manuscripts  
"Difficult to find a sentence for which rendering is consistent in every manuscript" (Ehrman)

**Mark 16:9-20:** Absent from earliest MSS (Sinaiticus, Vaticanus). Contains unique teachings (snake handling, poison drinking) not elsewhere. LATER ADDITION.

**John 7:53-8:11:** Woman in adultery story NOT in earliest Greek MSS (P66, P75). Beautiful story, but NOT original Scripture.

**1 John 5:7-8:** "Father, Word, Holy Ghost: these three are one" NOT in ANY Greek MS before 15th century. Strongest Trinity proof = later fabrication.

## 4. INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS

### A. Judas's Death

Matthew 27:5	Acts 1:18
Judas hanged himself	Fell headlong, burst open
Priests bought field	Judas bought field
"Blood money"	"Judas's blood"

### B. Paul's Conversion (Acts 9, 22, 26)

Element	9:7	22:9	26:14
Heard voice	YES	NO	—
Saw light	NO	YES	YES
Fell down	NO (stood)	—	YES (all fell)

**Greek case harmonization FAILS:** Daniel Wallace (NT scholar) finds genitive/accusative argument "inconclusive" with "more exceptions than examples." F.F. Bruce agrees.

### C. Thieves on Cross

- **Matt 27:44 & Mark 15:32:** BOTH thieves mocked Jesus
- **Luke 23:39-43:** ONE mocked, ONE defended & received paradise promise
- Harmonization ("both mocked, then one repented") NOT in any gospel, requires speculation

### D. Creation Order

Element	Genesis 1	Genesis 2
Plants	Day 3 (before humans)	After man (2:5-9)
Animals	Day 6 (before man)	After man (2:19)
Humans	M & F together	Man → animals → woman

**Scholarly consensus:** Two SEPARATE creation accounts from different sources (P source vs. J source, centuries apart). Different authors, different theologies.

## 5. CONTRADICTIONS ON CORE THEOLOGY

### Salvation: Faith Alone or Faith + Works?

**Paul (Faith Alone):**

"A man is justified by faith WITHOUT the deeds of the law" (Rom 3:28)

"By grace are ye saved through faith...NOT OF WORKS" (Eph 2:8-9)

**James (Faith + Works):**

"By works a man is justified, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY" (James 2:24)

"Faith without works is DEAD" (James 2:26)

**If Bible is infallible for "faith and practice," it shouldn't contradict itself on HOW TO BE SAVED—the central Christian doctrine!**

### Can Humans See God?

**YES:**

- Gen 32:30 – Jacob: "I have seen God FACE TO FACE"
- Exod 24:9-11 – Moses, Aaron "SAW the God of Israel"
- Exod 33:11 – "LORD spake unto Moses FACE TO FACE"
- Isa 6:1 – "I SAW also the Lord"

**NO:**

- Exod 33:20 – "No man shall see me and live"
- John 1:18 – "NO MAN hath seen God at any time"
- 1 Tim 6:16 – "Whom NO MAN hath seen, NOR CAN SEE"

### Does God Change His Mind?

**YES:** Exod 32:14 ("LORD repented"), 1 Sam 15:11 ("It repenteth me"), Jonah 3:10

**NO:** Num 23:19 ("God...should not repent"), 1 Sam 15:29 (same chapter!), Mal 3:6, James 1:17

1 Samuel 15 CONTRADICTS ITSELF:  
v. 11 – God repents of making Saul king  
v. 29 – God does NOT repent  
**In the SAME CHAPTER.**

## 6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL FAILS

**Exodus:** Zero Egyptian records of 2-3 million slaves, 10 plagues, drowned army. Zero Sinai evidence of 40-year migration. "Long gone are serious scholarly attempts to trace Exodus archaeologically" (Finkelstein/Silberman)

**Conquest:** Jericho destroyed ~1550 BCE (150 yrs too early). Ai uninhabited. Pattern: cities already ruins or unoccupied. Archaeology shows GRADUAL assimilation, not swift conquest.

**Census of Quirinius:** Luke 2:2 (Jesus born during Quirinius census, 6 CE) vs. Matt 2:1 (born during Herod's reign, died 4 BCE) = **10-YEAR GAP**

## 7. IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED INERRANCY...

**You would have to believe:**

### 1. Flat Earth with Solid Dome

- **Firmament (raqia):** Solid sky dome separating waters above/below (Gen 1:6-8). Hebrew *raqa* = "beat out, hammer"
- **Pillars:** "Pillars of earth" (1 Sam 2:8, Ps 75:3), "Foundations" (Job 38:4-6, Ps 104:5)
- **Four corners:** Rev 7:1, Isa 11:12 (circle has no corners)
- **High mountain seeing all kingdoms:** Matt 4:8 (impossible on sphere)

### 2. 6,000-10,000 Year Old Universe

- Bishop Ussher: Oct 23, 4004 BCE
- Contradicts geology, astronomy, biology, physics
- Egyptian civilization predates Ussher's flood

### 3. Global Flood ~4,400 Years Ago

- **Water problem:** Need 4.5B km<sup>3</sup> to cover Everest, Earth only has 1.4B km<sup>3</sup>
- **Kangaroo problem:** Fossils ONLY in Australia, no trail from Middle East
- **Koala problem:** Eat ONLY eucalyptus (only in Australia)

- **Biodiversity:** Would need ~400 new species PER DAY since flood
- **No genetic bottleneck** in human/animal DNA from that period

### 4. Scientific Errors Are True

- **Pi = 3** (1 Kings 7:23: 10 cubits diameter, 30 circumference)
- **Rabbits chew cud** (Lev 11:6 – they don't, biological error)
- **Insects have 4 legs** (Lev 11:20-23 – they have 6)
- **Bats are birds** (Lev 11:13-19 – they're mammals)
- **Snakes eat dust** (Gen 3:14 – they're carnivores)
- **Mustard seeds smallest** (Matt 13:31 – orchid seeds smaller)

### 5. Chemosh (Moabite God) Defeated Yahweh

- **2 Kings 3:27:** King Mesha sacrificed son to Chemosh → "GREAT WRATH against Israel" → Israel RETREATED
- Elisha prophesied COMPLETE victory (2 Kings 3:18-19)
- Israel was WINNING (3:24-25)
- Hebrew *qetsef* (great wrath) = DIVINE wrath 24/28 times
- **Mesha Stele** confirms: "Chemosh drove king of Israel out" → If inerrant, CHEMOSH IS REAL and defeated Yahweh's army

### 6. Morally Abhorrent = God's Will

- Slavery permissible (Lev 25:44-46)
- Beat slaves OK if survive 1-2 days (Exod 21:20-21)
- Genocide commanded (1 Sam 15:3; Deut 20:16)
- Rape victims marry rapist (Deut 22:28-29)
- Stone rebellious children (Deut 21:18-21)
- Women = property (Exod 20:17)

## 8. LDS POSITION: BETTER AUTHORITY

**2 Peter 1:20: "NO prophecy of scripture is of ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION"**  
→ Scripture REQUIRES authoritative interpretation

**Evidence "Scripture Alone" Fails:**

45,000+ Protestant denominations, all claim "Scripture alone," all disagree on salvation, baptism, communion, etc.

### LDS Three-Fold Authority:

#### 1. LIVING PROPHETS

Amos 3:7 – "LORD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto...prophets"  
D&C 1:38 – "By mine own voice OR by voice of my servants, IT IS THE SAME"  
→ God STILL speaks through prophets today

#### 2. ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

- **Book of Mormon:** Second witness, textually purer
- **D&C:** Modern revelations (baptism for dead, 3 degrees glory, priesthood)
- **JST:** Thousands of corrections. Ex: Exod 33:20 – "No SINFUL man...AT THIS TIME"

#### 3. HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRMATION

Moroni 10:4-5 – "Ask God...if these things are not true...he will MANIFEST the truth...by HOLY GHOST"  
→ Personal revelation confirms truth

### Eighth Article of Faith:

**"We believe the Bible to be the word of God AS FAR AS IT IS TRANSLATED CORRECTLY"**  
→ Fallibility is BUILT INTO LDS theology

**1 Nephi 13:26-29:** "Great and abominable church...hath TAKEN AWAY from gospel...many parts which are PLAIN AND MOST PRECIOUS; and also many COVENANTS"  
→ Prophecy explains WHY Bible has contradictions

### Lost Truths (per LDS theology):

- Nature of Godhead (Father has body)
- Pre-mortal existence
- Eternal progression/deification
- Baptism for dead
- Three degrees of glory
- Priesthood organization
- Temple ordinances

Issue	Evangelical Defense	Why It Fails	LDS Solution
<b>Contradictions</b>	"Harmonization possible"	Requires adding details not in text, special pleading	Acknowledge different authors/sources, use modern revelation to clarify
<b>Science errors</b>	"Phenomenological language"	Then Bible reflects ancient worldview = fallible	Bible inspired but reflects limited understanding of authors
<b>Moral problems</b>	"Cultural context"	If culturally bound, not infallible for all practice	Progressive revelation; earlier stages preparatory, not final
<b>Missing originals</b>	"Autographs were inerrant"	Unfalsifiable; claiming perfection of non-existent texts	Accept we have fallible copies, supplement with modern revelation
<b>Unity/interpretation</b>	"Clear teaching on essentials"	45,000 denominations prove otherwise	Living prophets provide authoritative interpretation + Holy Spirit

### THE PARADOX:

Those who defend inerrancy MOST vigorously often trust the Bible LEAST—constantly explaining away, harmonizing, defending the indefensible.

LDS approach: Acknowledge fallibility → trust Bible MORE FREELY  
No need to defend every detail. Use reason + scholarship + additional revelation.

The Bible is fallible. The Bible is not infallible. And that's okay.  
Because God is not.

**Why the Bible Is STILL Reliable:**

- **Testifies of Christ:** Core message intact despite variants
  - **Historical foundation:** Many events verified (David's kingdom, Babylonian captivity, NT figures)
  - **Moral principles:** Ten Commandments, Sermon on Mount, prophetic justice calls endure
  - **Book of Mormon confirms:** "Not to destroy but to BUILD IT UP" (1 Nephi 13:40)
  - **Practical reliability:** Millions find spiritual guidance, transformation, Holy Spirit witness
- Fallible ≠ Unreliable.** The LDS framework: Honors divine inspiration + Acknowledges human transmission + Supplements with modern revelation