



Problem Passages

Basic Theology #14

Caversham Community Church, Dunedin

Jeff Coleman, 3 April 2022

Upcoming Schedule

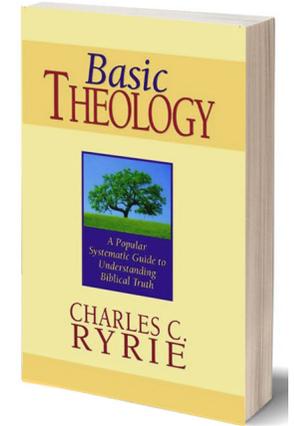
Basic Theology — Sundays @ 9am

Apr 3 - Problem Passages

Apr 10 - Canon of Scripture

Apr 17 - Interpretation of Scripture

Apr 24 - Existence of Angels



Problem Passages

Agenda

Presuppositions

Basic Types

15 Examples

Conclusions

Application

Definition

Inerrancy of Scripture

- The *inerrancy of Scripture* asserts that “all the words in Scripture are completely true and without error in any part.” - Wayne Grudem
- “[T]he *inerrancy of the Bible* means simply that the Bible tells the truth.” - Charles C. Ryrie

Article XIII

The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978)

- “**We affirm** the propriety of using inerrancy as a theological term with reference to the complete truthfulness of Scripture. **We deny** that it is proper to evaluate Scripture according to standards of truth and error that are alien to its usage or purpose. We further deny that inerrancy is negated by Biblical phenomena such as a lack of modern technical precision, irregularities of grammar or spelling, observational descriptions of nature, the reporting of falsehoods, the use of hyperbole and round numbers, the topical arrangement of materials, variant selections of material in parallel accounts or the use of free citations.”

Two Creation Accounts

Did vegetation sprout before or after Adam was created?

- **Ge 1:11-12** 11 And God said, Let the earth sprout (אֲשַׁד) vegetation (אֲשַׁדִּי), plants (לְעֵשֶׂב) yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth. And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
- **Ge 2:5** 5 When no bush (שִׁיחַ) of the field (הַשָּׂדֶה) was yet in the land and no small plant (לְעֵשֶׂב) of the field (הַשָּׂדֶה) had yet sprung up (צָמַח)—for Yahweh God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground — 7 then Yahweh God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Cain's Wife

Where did Cain get his wife?

- **Ge 4:17** 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch.
- **Le 18:9** 9 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.

Wilderness Plague

How do we account for the different numbers?

- **Nu 25:9** 9 Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.
- **1 Co 10:8** 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

David's Census of Israel

Who incited David to carry out the census?

- **2 Sa 24:1** 1 Again the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them saying, Go, number Israel and Judah.
- **1 Ch 21:1** 1 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.

The Killing of Goliath

Did David or Elhanan kill Goliath?

- **1 Sa 17:50** 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.
- **2 Sa 21:19** 19 And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

Differing Numbers in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21

Why do so many numbers differ?

- **2 Sa 24:9** 9 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king. In Israel there were 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000.
- **1 Ch 21:5** 5 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to David. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword, and in Judah 470,000 who drew the sword.

Differing Numbers in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21

Why do so many numbers differ?

- **2 Sa 24:13** 13 So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me.
- **1 Ch 21:12** 12 ...Either three years of famine, three months of devastation by your foes while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of Yahweh, pestilence on the land, with the angel of Yahweh destroying throughout all the territory of Israel. Now decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me.

Differing Numbers in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21

Why do so many numbers differ?

- **2 Sa 24:24** 24 But the king said to Araunah, No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to Yahweh my God that cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- **1 Ch 21:25** 25 So David paid Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site.

Taking a Staff

Should the disciples take a staff or not?

- **Mt 10:9-10** 9 Acquire no gold, silver, or copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, sandals, or a staff, for the labourer deserves his food.
- **Mk 6:8** 8 He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts....
- **Lk 9:3** 3 And he said to them, Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money, and do not have two tunics.

The Mustard Seed

Why does Jesus call a mustard seed the smallest seed when it isn't?

- **Mt 13:31-32** 31 [Jesus] put another parable before them saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

The Blind Men of Jericho

How many blind men did Jesus heal? Where did the healing happen?

- **Mt 20:29-34** 29 And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed [Jesus]. 30 And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David! 31 The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David! 32 And stopping, Jesus called them and said, What do you want me to do for you? 33 They said to him, Lord, let our eyes be opened. 34 And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him. hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. 37 They told him, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. 38 And he cried out, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! 39 And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, Son of David, have mercy on me! 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, 41 What do you want me to do for you? He said, Lord, let me recover my sight. 42 And Jesus said to him, Recover your sight. Your faith has made you well. 43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

The Blind Men of Jericho

How many blind men did Jesus heal? Where did the healing happen?

- **Lk 18:35-43** 35 As [Jesus] *drew near to Jericho*, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. 37 They told him, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. 38 And he cried out, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! 39 And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, Son of David, have mercy on me! 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, 41 What do you want me to do for you? He said, Lord, let me recover my sight. 42 And Jesus said to him, Recover your sight. Your faith has made you well. 43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

The Blind Men of Jericho

How many blind men did Jesus heal? Where did the healing happen?

- **Mk 10:46-52** 46 And they came to Jericho. And as [Jesus] was *leaving Jericho* with his disciples and a great crowd, *Bartimaeus, a blind beggar*, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! 48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, Son of David, have mercy on me! 49 And Jesus stopped and said, Call him. And they called the blind man, saying to him, Take heart. Get up. He is calling you. 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, What do you want me to do for you? And the blind man said to him, Rabbi, let me recover my sight. 52 And Jesus said to him, Go your way. Your faith has made you well. And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Zechariah's Father

Who was Zechariah's father?

- **2 Ch 24:20** 20 Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people and said to them....
- **Mt 23:35** 35 ...So that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Zechariah vs. Jeremiah

Why does Matthew attribute a quote from Zechariah to Jeremiah?

- **Zec 11:13** 13 Then Yahweh said to me, Throw it to the potter —the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of Yahweh, to the potter.
- **Mt 27:9-10** 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah [actually Zechariah] saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.

Abiathar vs. Ahimelech

Who was high priest when David ate the tabernacle bread?

- **1 Sa 21:1** 1 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, Why are you alone, and no one with you?
- **Mk 2:26** 26 ...How [David] entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?

Isaiah vs. Malachi

Why does Mark attribute Isaiah's prophecy to Malachi?

- **Is 40:3** 3 A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of Yahweh. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- **Mal 3:1** 1 Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. And the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says Yahweh of hosts.
- **Mk 1:2-3** 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight....

The Death of Judas

How did Judas die? Who purchased the field?

- **Mt 27:5** 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, [Judas] departed, and he went and hanged himself.
- **Ac 1:18** 18 Now this man [Judas] acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

Stephen's Sermon

Why are Stephen's numbers so off?

- **Ge 46:27** 27 And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.
- **Ex 12:40** 40 The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.
- **Ac 7:6** 6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them 400 years.
- **Ac 7:14** 14 And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all.
- **Ga 3:17** 17 This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

Conclusions

Problem Passages

- Plausible explanations may always be found so that we need never conclude the Bible contains errors.
- Sometimes we simply don't have enough facts to solve a problem.
- People don't believe the Bible usually because they don't want to believe it.
- It is reasonable to believe there will be a perfect resolution of all problem passages once all the facts are known.

Application

Problem Passages

- If someone asserts there are errors in the Bible, ask him or her to show you. Then do a little research.
- Realise every alleged error in Scripture has been dealt with sufficiently by someone.
- Believe in the inerrancy of Scripture—that it is totally truthful historically and doctrinally.

**Next Time:
Canon of Scripture**