

How Can We Trust the Scriptures? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: How do we know we can trust the Scriptures?

REPLY: The Scriptures, themselves, prove their truthfulness and reliability when predictions made hundreds of years before, happen as accurately as they were originally written! And, this also shows how precisely the prophecy was worded, how exactly it had been copied and preserved, and how detailed were the events described! No other book in the history of mankind can so clearly show it came from God!

Paul argued from this "verbal inspiration" of the Bible regarding the "seed" promised to Abraham:

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. (Galatians 3:16)

God's original promise to Abraham is recorded in **Genesis 21:12**: "in Isaac your seed shall be called;" also in **Genesis 22:18**: "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." There is no argument about the Old Testament Hebrew word for "seed" that can make that promise apply to the Israelites, Levites, or anyone before Jesus Christ.

There is no argument from Hebraists (pronounced "he-bray-ists") that could countermand the inspired Greek of the New Testament! No one better knows what the prophecy said or meant, than the original author, God, Himself!

There is no such thing as a "double fulfillment" of the promise to Abraham, allowing it to be "fulfilled" at some time prior to the coming of Jesus, for then Paul would be in error in giving exclusive fulfillment to "Christ." Either:

- 1. the promise and the fulfillment are both in error;
- 2. both are absolutely accurate or else; or
- 3. there is no case to be argued here.

Regarding (3), one part must be in error (either God did not state the promise accurately, or Paul did not state the fulfillment accurately) for "dual fulfillment" to be true, and the contention is born of a denial of the inspiration of the Word of God! **If both parts are in error** (1), then all Scripture is not of God, and we are left to the mercy of the whims of merciless mankind for faith and morals. If both parts are absolutely accurate (2), then no commentary, article, publication, or writer, past or present, is teaching truth who contends to the contrary. The inspired writer of

Galatians 3:16 makes an inspired interpretation of **Genesis 21:12**; **22:18** and shows the inspired fulfillment as recorded in **Matthew - John** to be perfectly accurate to truth! God knew what He intended to say in the promise, and certainly knew when events had transpired that "filled full" (or "fulfilled") what He meant for men to believe.

Jesus had put His confidence in the copies of Old Testament Scriptures when He said:

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45)

Let the Bible interpret the Bible!

— JTPII May 19, 2019