

Broken Cisterns - It's Not Rocket Science! The SBC & the *Biblical & Historical* Doctrine of Inerrancy

"Has there ever been a time when a nation's moral center shifted as rapidly as it did in America from 1960 until today? We went from "Leave It to Beaver" to "[Married with Children](#)."

"It is interesting that traditional Southern Baptists criticize the hipster churches for their attempts at being culturally relevant today. There has likely never been a church as culturally relevant as the SBC was in the post-war era, especially in the South and in more conservative areas. That is why there were SBC presidents and SBC senators and SBC judges. We fit the culture perfectly. We were industrious, patriotic, family-values folks. We believed in right and wrong, God and country, and the supremacy of Christianity. We were what America was.

That is what has happened to us. Yes, the numbers only popped into the negatives somewhere in the middle of the last decade, but our rate of growth was slowing long before that. The problem began in the middle of the 1950s and has continued, fairly consistently, since then. The numbers, at least to me, are pretty clear. Actually, reality is kinda scary. Look at these next two graphics. One takes the red line from the previous graph and extends it out to the year 2050. If the trend continues, the SBC is done as "the largest non-Catholic denomination in America." Our mission force will be decimated and our structure will shrink to levels we could not have imagined a few years ago." ([SBC Voices Southern Baptist News & Opinion](#))

The SBC in 1859, at the founding of our first seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, we decided to forsake the **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of the inerrancy of the Word of God as memorialized in our heritage and the confessions of the saints; **and for what?** In the spirit of the words penned by the prophet [Jeremiah](#); "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water," and [Proverbs](#); "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Now, there are 4 definitions of inerrancy:

- Liberals - the **original** has errors ([Biologos](#))
- Conservatives - the **copy** has errors ([Chicago Statement](#) i.e. SBC)
- Fundamentalist - the **translation** has errors ([The Burgeon Society](#))
- Biblicists - the **original, copy** and **translation** are all without error, inerrant; authentic ([Standard Bearers](#))

At the end of the day, the first three definitions of inerrancy leaves us with a Bible that has errors, however, if you know enough Hebrew and Greek you can spot the spots; foolishness!

So the Holy Spirit was able to pen the Word of God 100% pure in the **original** by the agency of the Apostles, preserve it 100% pure in the **copy** by the agency of the saints, but unable to **translate** it 100% pure by the agency of the King James Boys in 1611.

If the King James Bible boys did not get it right in 1611, then what chance do we have 400 years removed? Less we forget, these men were chosen for their superior linguistic skills in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and many were in the room when their fathers were making the 'Reformation sausage'.

Why in the world do we think God has so greatly blessed America? He gave us His translated Word in 1611 in the English language, then in 1620 sent the [Pilgrims to the new world](#). Then prospered them and made English the world's most widely used language, so as to proclaim His pure, inerrant Word to the nations. It's not rocket science!

Men have tried to express this phenomenon with such terms as; [A city on a hill](#), [Manifest destiny](#) and [American exceptionalism](#). It's best wrapped up in the words of the French philosopher, [Alexis de Tocqueville](#), when after traveling American he observed; "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great," as quoted in the book by [John Stormer](#), *Death of a Nation* (1968):

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"A French philosopher who visited our shores when America was a new young nation left a similar warning. Alexis De Tocqueville said he came to the United States to learn what magic quality enabled a handful of people to defeat the mighty British Empire twice in 35 years. He looked for the greatness of America in her harbors and rivers, her fertile fields and boundless forests, mines and other natural resources. He studied America's schools, her Congress, and her matchless Constitution without comprehending America's power.

Not, until he went into the churches of America and heard pulpits "afire with righteousness" did he understand the secret of her genius and strength. De Tocqueville returned to France and wrote: "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Today, the sin of the pulpit is not commission, but omission. We're ashamed to own His Word, being respecter of persons, and conceal this fact by using the term inerrancy; while qualifying it with nuisances, obscurities and double-speak to the point of oblivion. *"How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"* May we as the Apostles, when after being threaten by their culture to shut up or else, pray; *"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word."*

In conclusion, where was the Word of God before its English translation of 1611? It was providentially preserved in the Hebrew Masoretic text and the Greek text of the [Textus Receptus](#). Where was it before 1522 when [Erasmus](#) completed the Greek text of the New Testament, which later became known as the [Textus Receptus](#)? It was providentially preserved in the Hebrew Masoretic text and Greek text of the Greek Orthodox Church canonical tradition, which traces all the way back to the Apostles.

[Erasmus](#) simply provided for the Protestants a two-fold witness of the providentially preserved text of the Word of God to which the Greek Orthodox Church had given witness for centuries. This is evident, in that the Greek New Testament text of the [Textus Receptus](#) became the Common Text of the Greek Orthodox Church; who were fierce defenders of the Word of God. However, in [1904](#) they, like the Protestants had done in 1881, succumbed to naturalistic textual criticism and changed the textual bases of their Bible which is referred to as the [Patriarchal Text of 1904](#).

In summary, the Biblicists position on inerrant is; the Holy Spirit penned the Word of God 100% pure in the **original** by the agency of the Apostles, preserved it 100% pure in the **copy** by the agency of the saints, and **translate** it 100% pure in the English by the agency of the King James translators in 1611.

Man by nature is given to tradition. God admonishes us through Apostle Paul to be circumspect of this temptation: *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* Perhaps the [words](#) of Dr. Jeffery Khoo, Principal of [Far East Bible College](#) would be appropriate closing remarks:

"May God's people not adore and exalt seemingly great scholars or schools of the past and the present, and deem them infallible and inerrant, for only the inspired and preserved words of God in the Holy Scriptures are infallible and inerrant, pure and perfect in every way, and our sole and supreme authority of faith and life to the glory of God. Amen."

God bless,

Louis
[Standard Bearers](#) ~ Ministry of the Word

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." [Revelation 3:11](#)