

The Josiah Initiative: The Assault upon and the Defense of the Inerrancy of the Word of God

How are the Mighty Fallen and the Weapons of War Perished!

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the ongoing attack which denigrates/denies the Inerrancy of the Word of God as being **100%** pure in its copy. This battle is being fought on three fronts (or arenas) as outlined below. For a fuller presentation see my paper, *The Fear of the Lord - Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy*, and the book by Dr. Floyd Jones, *'Which Bible is the Word of God?'*

1. **Frontal attack** – Main Arena, the Beach Head

The frontal attack is upon the **divine authorship** of the Word of God. It is aimed at the very foundation of its divine **authenticity** and thereby authority. The strategy is to assault the **copy** of the original text and not the original text itself; otherwise it would be immediately rejected. The focus of this attack is in the area of naturalistic textual criticism as accomplished through the efforts of Westcott-Hort in 1881. However this was only possible due to the departure from the doctrine of **divine preservation** 50 years earlier, led by Princeton, as articulated by Dr. Jeffery Khoo, Principal of Far East Bible College in his article, *'Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles' Heel Of Princeton Bibliology'* @ http://www.febc.edu.sg/BBVol13_1c.htm.

Standing in defense of this front is the "**Josiah Initiative**" lead by Louis Kole and Dr. Floyd N. Jones, Th.D., Ph.D. The paper by Louis Kole, *The Fear of the Lord - Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy*, and the published work of Dr. Jones, *'Which Bible is the Word of God?'*, articulates a coherent and conclusive presentation of the **Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy** as taught in the Word of God, memorialized in the Confessions of the Reformers and recorded in our Baptist heritage in an unbroken chain of witnesses to our early ancestry. These are the 'bread crumbs' the saints left as their witness to future generations, to lead them back to the truth and by them they, "...being dead yet speaketh...".

The mission of the Josiah Initiative is to articulate the Biblical doctrine of Inerrancy anew. This begins with a high view of scripture rooted in its divine authorship, realizing that its authenticity and authority lies in the Biblical and historical understanding of Inerrancy; of a **100%** pure Word of God given so by Him in its original by Divine Inspiration and kept so by Him in its copy by Divine Preservation.

2. **Right Flank** attack – Right Arena

The right flank attack is upon the **divine accuracy** of the Word of God. This complements the frontal attack in attempting to demonstrate scripture does not stand up to the scrutiny of '**science**', thereby garnering credence and support from the formidable institutions of academia and media. The focus of this attack is in the area of creationism and evolution, of which most are aware. Standing in defense of this front is **Dr. Henry Morris III**, CEO of [Institute for Creation Research](#). (God bless Dr Morris.)

3. **Left Flank** attack – Left Arena

The left flank attack is upon the **divine accuracy** of the Word of God as well. It also complements the frontal attack in attempting to prove scripture does not stand up to the scrutiny of '**history**' as well as science, again to gain credibility and support. This assault is in the area of **Biblical chronology** and its supposed 'errors' as stated by Dr. Roger Olson, Professor of theology at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary, in his 2006 article in *The Baptist Standard* entitled, *Why 'Inerrancy' Doesn't Matter*, where he states (emphasis mine):

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*“Think about this: If the Bible’s authority depends on its inerrancy but only the original manuscripts were inerrant, then only the original manuscripts were authoritative. The logic is impeccable and irresistible. And if “inerrancy” is compatible with **flawed approximations, faulty chronologies, and use of incorrect sources by the biblical authors, it is a meaningless concept**”.*

Standing in defense of this front is [Dr. Floyd N. Jones](#), Th.D., Ph.D. the foremost authority today on Biblical Chronology with his published book, *‘Chronology of the Old Testament’*, including exhaustive charts, which addresses all of the challenges of critics like Olson.

Let me say a few more words regarding Dr. Jones. Floyd is by gifting, a genius with the capacity to focus and conduct original research, with few peers. Academically he is a *magna cum laude* who has a panoramic view and understanding of the battlefield, having mastered all three disciplines of the current attacks upon the Word of God. Biblically, he is faithful and has an unwavering commitment to the inerrant Word of God, **100%** pure, without error, for which he’s prepared to defend without respect of persons. I think you would agree this is a rare combination, and by the grace of God, is more than equal to the challenge. He has a comprehensive defense for all three fronts of attack.

- The frontal attack on the **divine authorship** and authenticity of the text of the Word of God - Dr. Jones gives a defense from his published work, *‘Which Bible is the Word of God?’*
- The right flank assault on the **divine accuracy** of the Word of God from **‘science’** - Floyd is a scientist, paleontologist and ex-evolutionist who has developed and taught a defense of the scriptures and creationism on television.
- The left flank attack questioning the **accuracy** of the Word of God from **‘history’** – Dr. Jones’ expertise on Biblical Chronology with his published book, *‘Chronology of the Old Testament’* (with exhaustive charts) addresses all of the challenges against accuracy.

What I am suggesting is God has raised up a champion for the defense of the **100%** pure, inerrant Word of God for such a time as this, in Floyd Jones, to reinvigorate the saints in their defense of the **100%** pure Word of God and to slay the Philistine giant of naturalistic textual criticism. God took a pagan, genius and scientist steeped in evolution and gloriously saved, called and taught him and turned his gifting on the enemies of God’s Word.

The only thing lacking now are troops to join the battle who love the Word of God, in order to resource and publish the message God has been preparing through Floyd these last 30 years as he quietly labored below the radar - until the church finally awoke to the smoke from the fire of the ‘emerging church’ heresy. This issue has been smoldering for over 100 years starting with the ‘wood’ having been gathered by Princeton, ignited by Westcott and Hort, fanned by the naturalistic textual critics eclecticism until it finally burst into the flames of the ‘emerging church’ heresy. We will suffer greater loss unless these flames are put out - and the only extinguisher is the **doctrine of Biblical inerrancy**.

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As I say in my paper, *The Fear of the Lord*, the ‘conservative insurgence’ picked the ‘**fruit** of the error’ of inerrancy by saving our **institution**. Now, may we all join in putting our hand on the axe and laying it to the ‘**root** of the error’ and **replace our flawed doctrine of inerrancy with the Biblical and historical one**, thereby saving the hearts and minds of those who study within the walls of these institutions. In so doing, I believe it will aid the battle on all fronts, since the challenges are all ‘joined-at-the-hip’ in either their flawed doctrine of inerrancy or their lack of understanding of the same; in either case it would be solved by the solution set forth in the **Josiah Initiative** featured presentations of *The Fear of the Lord* and [Which Bible is the Word of God?](#)

In my paper, *The Fear of the Lord*, I ‘tee-up’ the presentation given by Floyd from his published work, [‘Which Bible is the Word of God?’](#). His PowerPoint presentation from his book focuses on the ‘**seed** of the error’ of inerrancy and documents its historical beginnings, which are critical to our understanding as to how to correct this problem. In my paper, *The Fear of the Lord*, I focus on the contemporary ‘**fruit** of the error’ of inerrancy, as articulated in the *Chicago Statement* and manifested in the ‘emerging church’ heresy, which is needed to help us appreciate first-hand the danger that lies ahead if we continue rowing our boat down river. In order to turn the boat around and head back upriver we must restore the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy to our [Baptist Faith and Message](#) and education curriculum, **which teaches the Word of God, is 100% pure** as contained in our Baptist heritage.

If my thesis is [correct](#), we stand at the crossroads in the SBC of having [won](#) the battle but lost the war, unless we act decisively. We must move forward now, while those who led us in ‘reclaiming our convention’ are still in a position to coach us in ‘reclaiming Biblical inerrancy’; by having the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy preserved in our [Baptist Faith & Message](#) and taught in our curriculum. All the resources of curriculum and people necessary to do so are already published, prepared, ready and standing outside the doors of our Convention and Seminary, waiting for the doors to be opened by those who hold the key – and to that end Floyd and I are their servants.

In closing, while Dr. Morris has faithfully guarded the right flank, the attack has been enveloping around him on the left flank and the frontal assault. **The frontal attack is the head and the flanks are its limbs, therefore if we sever the head, we will advance on all fronts.** To my knowledge no one has mounted an assault on the **head of naturalistic textual criticism** since it gained acceptance - which explains how it has been able to mature unmitigated into the most recent heresy, the ‘emerging church’ one. To that end we have prepared these presentations, and to which the efforts of Floyd and I are dedicated.

Dr. Patterson reflects upon the motivation that put into motion his decision that eventually launched the ‘conservative insurgence’ in his book, [Anatomy of a Reformation](#)¹. It’s appropriate for us today as we join the initiative to re-establish the Biblical doctrine of Inerrancy of a **100% pure** Word of God to review his remarks:

*“In the final analysis, we did not attempt a reformation movement because we thought it would succeed but because we sincerely believed that we were right about the inerrancy of the Bible and because **we did not want to tell our children and grandchildren that we had no courage to stand for our convictions.**”*

¹ http://www.paigepatterson.info/documents/anatomy_of_a_reformation.pdf

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In closing, this initiative is not a ‘knee–jerk’ response to the ‘emerging church’ movement, although it will effectively address this heresy. There have been heresies since the age of the Apostles and they will continue to the ingathering of the saints to glory. Not all doctrinal differences rise to the bar of **being heretical**. For instance, views on the following topics do not:

- Baptism
- Security of the Believer
- Speaking in Tongues
- Partaking of Communion
- Events surrounding the Second Coming
- Salvation for everyone or just the “Elect”

On the other hand there are ‘beliefs’ that are heretical; crossing the threshold of Christian orthodoxy. Those which **assault the central doctrines of the faith**, either by **denial or denigrating** them such as:

- The Inerrancy of the Word of God - the Bible is **100%** pure in its copy, as in its original; therefore ‘authentic’ using the term from the Reformers Confessions; meaning ‘as the original’ (heretical i.e. [The Chicago Statement](#)², [Evangelical Theological Society](#)³ hold the Bible has errors)
- The Deity of Jesus - sinless; born of a virgin (heretical i.e. Jehovah Witnesses claim Jesus is not God)
- Jesus is the Only Way of Salvation –
- The Depravity of Man – a sinner separated from God in need of salvation
- Salvation by Grace Alone - not by works; sacraments including Baptism (heretical i.e. Roman Catholic Church)

Perhaps you may be surprised that the first thing I listed as heretical is the denying or denigrating the Inerrancy of the Word of God and not the Deity of Jesus. It’s because it is the foundational doctrine **central** to our faith since all the other doctrine securely rest, **only** upon the Biblical doctrine of inerrancy of the Word of God; meaning it is **100% pure** having been given and kept by the promises and character of God Who cannot lie; therefore it is **authentic and authoritative**. If it falls all the others doctrines, given time will, and is the reason it must be taken seriously and defended as the saints have been called to do through the ages, and as the Word of God so charges us:

² Exposition: TRANSMISSION AND TRANSLATION: “...Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired...” [100% pure, i.e. therefore the Bible is not 100% pure] (brackets, comment & emphasis mine).

³ ARTICLE III: DOCTRINAL BASIS: “The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs [originals].” (i.e. not its copy, our Bible – brackets, comment & emphasis mine).

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“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” [Jude 1:3](#)

The issue before is obvious and should not require further explanation to those who love the Word of God. May it be our vision and prayer that God will bring healing to our homes and land as we returned to Him in repentance for so lightly treating⁴ and obeying His Word, **which He has magnified above His name**⁵.

God bless,

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

Louis Kole
Standard Bearers

[We Rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender!](#)

For more information please go to my website: [Standard Bearers](#)

See my papers in defense of the Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy:

- [Divine Preservation? How We Lost the Doctrine of the Divine Preservation of the Word of God 3 Centuries of Sound Doctrine ~ Eradicated in 3 Generations of Neglect](#)
- [The Lost Doctrine: Can A Doctrine ‘Die’ which Is a Fundamental Truth of the Faith? The 1000 Year Death and Rebirth of the Doctrine of Justification by Grace Alone](#)
- [God’s Standard Bearers: Witnesses to THE Word of God In Defense of the 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God](#)
- [Retaking the Hill of Biblical Inerrancy The Next Reformation](#)
- [The Fear of The Lord: Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy The Fear of Man verses the Fear of the Lord](#)
- [The Josiah Initiative: The Assault upon and the Defense of the Inerrancy of the Word of God How are the Mighty Fallen and the Weapons of War Perished!](#)
- [A Call To Revival: Restoring the Foundations If the Foundations Be Destroyed What Can the Righteous Do?](#)

⁴ Does the Church have a perfect Bible? Yes, based on God’s promise that He would preserve it 100% pure to all ages: Psa 12:6-7; 119:89,111,152,160; Eccl 3:14; Matt 5:18,24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; John 10:35; 1 Pet 1:23-25; Rev 22:18-19.

⁵ Psalms 138:2, “...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” Gesenius Lexicon says magnified means “to be greatly valued”. Do you think telling God, He lied when He said he preserved His Word 100% pure is ‘greatly valuing His Word’? Consider the responses of God: Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie;...”; Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?”; Numbers 11:23 “Is the LORD’S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.”