

So it seems to me we are justified in speaking not merely of an inerrant Bible which existed thousands of years ago and has disappeared and no man living has ever seen it, but of speaking of an inerrant Bible that we have today and saying that our Bible today is just as inerrant as the original. If we interpret inerrant as I believe we should as meaning not that every letter, every tense, every particular mark is exactly what God caused to be put there in the first place, but that God caused the writers should be kept from error. Not that he dictated the words to them but that he kept them from error as they wrote down what they had heard and seen. They described a vision He had given them. In some cases they wrote it down in the specific words he had given them.

As they wrote this down they were kept from error by which we do not mean that any word, any verse can be taken absolutely without a context. But that if we compare Scripture with Scripture in the original, we will find that the ideas we get are free from error and that if we take any version honestly made now and we compare Scripture with Scripture not trying to build too much on one sentence or one verse, we will find that no idea that we can draw from it will contain an error.

So I think we can say not that there was an inerrant Bible then which nobody has today, but that God has given us and we still have an inerrant Bible, a Bible which is true and free from error and answers the problems which come to us in life and as we get new problems we find the answer to them. God knew that would happen. God knew if our Lord tarried what would happen a century from now or two centuries from now. God has in that Word got the basis which we can compare and study with the aids available to us and the ideas can legitimately be drawn from it will be free from error and give us the answers to these problems.

So I believe we can truly say we have an inerrant Bible now not merely that once there was an inerrant Bible. I believe that the early MSS == Well now if the scribes == Are you going to say that necessarily nobody ever misspelled a word? in the original text? Maybe nobody did. Maybe every word was correctly spelled. But I don't think we can necessarily say that. I think the important thing is that the ideas that the words == inspiration is words, not ideas but that the words properly studied and compared do not give you an erroneous or false idea. I believe we can properly say that of our Bible today that it is inerrant in the true and proper sense not merely some ancient MSS that we don't possess.

Of course it is true we have more material today to find out what the original was about the Bible than there is of any other Book. It's amazing how some anti-Christian scholars will try to prove an error in the Bible on the basis of some classical MSS which differs from it. In some cases the classical MSS exists in only one copy and that copy made in the 12th century A.D. of something written perhaps in 300 B.C. And during those 1500 yrs. who knows how many times it was copied and recopied and how many errors came in. For our Bible we have more material on which to determine what the text should be. I personally don't think we greatly advance our cause by insisting every letter was exactly right in the original. Maybe it was. I would say there was no error in the original that would cause one to have a legitimate