

Scriptural inerrancy vs. progressive revelation

For the most part, our view of God today is quite different from that of the ancient Hebrews. Their view of God was a mixture of truth and error. It would be logical to conclude that the history on which their notions about God are based are also a mixture of truth and error, ie. pious fiction. The religious and cultural identity of the Hebrews and, by extension, modern day Christians, is deeply rooted in those ancient legends. Consequently, proponents of Biblical inerrancy must deal with many contradictory and paradoxical religious doctrines. In order to resolve these contradictions, one must break free of the literalism and try to identify the progression of thought that we see in Bible history.

Valuable lessons are often learned through a process of trial and error, and this is evident in the lessons learned by the Nation of Israel and the Christian Church throughout history. Even the teachings of Christ and the Apostles that we find in the New Testament have no doubt been somewhat distorted by a degree of historical revision.

It is unsettling for most of us to realize that the particular religious doctrines that form the basis of our purpose in life, including our final destiny after death, are based on an imperfect document. It is helpful for me to understand that our view of perfection may not be the same as God's. A vessel does not have to be perfectly shaped, and free from surface cracks, to be perfectly suited for holding water. It apparently suits God to accomplish His goals for mankind through imperfect human intermediaries. He does almost nothing directly. We have been given the privilege of being used by God to accomplish His purposes, despite our weakness and imperfections.