

The Bible-- The Written Word of God



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The Bible Is a Unique Book

The Bible is a singular work, inspired by a sole God--the Trinity--made up of three personalities, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. According to it, there exist no other sources of insight into the inner character of God other than the information contained in the Bible. Likewise, God never did, never does, and never will express Himself to mankind by anything which disagrees with His written Word. Even His Son used It exclusively as the foundation to be able to get through His life as one of us--a true human being--here without sinning once and separating His thoughts, speech, and actions from God the Father's.

All misunderstandings about the Bible stem from our human lack of knowledge in certain areas, and never due to mistakes in the Scriptures. It is like people coming out of a first year physics class trying to decipher a textbook designed for a graduate course. They do not yet possess all of the required knowledge to comprehend the book. However, the students' lack of understanding does not change the validity of the more complex information. Therefore, if they challenge ideas that they cannot interpret they are wrong, not the source of the knowledge.

As an illustration, over the centuries many previously accepted hypotheses in the scientific community have been debunked once new information has been discovered. For instance, even leading scientists, after years of believing that other substances--like diamonds--are the strongest things on the earth, now assert that light--a laser--is the most powerful. Look at *1 John 1:5*, "... God is (or, equals) light...." Interesting. Possibly without intending to, are physicists actually beginning to corroborate the accuracy of the Bible as they continue to study our physical world?

In order to fathom and truly learn from the Bible, after we acquire new revelations it is important constantly to reread and re-process citations that previously we considered to be unintelligible. When we have discovered how to decipher them we are then able to fit those pieces into the total puzzle of our existence. It is similar to the tale of the four blind men attempting to describe an elephant. The first man, holding the trunk, states that an elephant is like a big snake. The second, touching an ear, disagrees, announcing that the animal is like a huge fan. The third, grasping onto a leg, is positive that an elephant is

exactly like a tree trunk. And, the fourth, by the tail, says that the others are quite incorrect: an elephant is like a reed.

They all are right; yet also wrong. Why? They merely have categorized the knowledge that is available to them individually as accurately as they are able. However, each believes that he possesses complete information about the subject of inquiry when he does not. They must not conclude their investigation until they have done at the very least, three more things: (1) not assume that the others are in error just because their findings differ, (2) realize that the object, or theory, requires additional examination, and (3) work together, in order to reach a closer analysis and description of the subject matter.

We should approach the Bible and its contents together in the same manner, ever studying, and ever sharing in order to increase in our knowledge, understanding and wisdom about our lives.

Why the Scriptures Were Written and Assembled

"The Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to respect the Lord our God always that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord, our God, as He has commanded us." (Deuteronomy 6:24-25)

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night so that you may observe to do all that is written in it, for then you will have success.... Do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:8-9)

The Bible maintains that its entire contents have been given to humanity by God Himself so that we might draw near to Him, fellowship with Him, and become increasingly like Him. The Scriptures claim to show us God's personality, how He views everything, and reacts to it all. They were designed as a sort of "road map" to help guide our lives. They contain knowledge sharing God's love, wisdom, knowledge, forgiveness, faith, health, endurance, authority and power.

In order to accept any idea as being absolutely true its source also must be believed to be unequivocally correct. In this book we will explore many Scriptures about what the Bible says about itself and its authenticity. Whether we decide to receive anything from it personally is completely up to us. God gave us freewill; so, only we can elect precisely how much of our existence to let Him direct, as well as how often. He never will invade any of our territory no matter how much He might want to. This applies every single time that we hear something at all from His Word.

We may decide that an idea appeals to us and accept it; whereas, we possess the same liberty to disregard anything that conflicts with what we desire or do not understand at any given moment. This design constantly affects us whenever we make any choice whatsoever, no matter how seemingly trivial at the time; and the consequences do multiply. God's desire is that each of us be free to make all of our individual choices without His or anyone else's control, regardless of the results. When we do approach Him sincerely, He will do everything that is possible to help us get out of a bad situation, whether we have caused or been a victim of the circumstance. How He handles everything will depend on what events surround the predicament, as well as our perseverance.

According to the Scriptures, God created only *good* things. Diseases, poverty, crime, and every other harmful element that plague this planet were not made nor forced upon us by Him. They were the result of the outgrowth of sin when His enemy (Satan--the devil) influenced and perverted this planet when he took command of everything on it, including mankind. (*Isaiah 54:16*) Every single negative thing that we can sense is a consequence of the imperfection now rampant on the earth now, as well as in every one of

us in varying physical, emotional, mental, social, and economic degrees. All adverse conditions in existence sprang from one human being disobeying God's strict commands, in favor of another, and opposing, voice. (*Romans 5:12*)

Only God Composed Its Manuscripts

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the (person) of God be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Is all Scripture really determined by God Himself, or is it not? Without doubt many people wrote the entire assembled work over many, many years. However, did God direct it Himself as stated, or did He not? If He did guide the manuscripts, was He able to direct every transcript and consequent translation enough to keep His Word uncorrupted? Is He really as powerful as He maintains? Correspondingly, if God is accountable only for certain passages, then which ones, and why? How can we form an opinion about what information is right and what is distorted? As well, how essential is the knowledge contained therein? Is the Bible merely a storybook with no genuine function other than poetry, history, or legend? Or, are the Scriptures exactly what they claim to be--the only pathway to eternal Life (versus, physical "life") for every single human being ever born?

Likewise, was Jesus of Nazareth really the Son of God, the sole means for us to reach God the Father in Heaven? The historical existence of a man with such a name is indisputably documented; but was He a charlatan, psychotic, or precisely Who the Bible asserts that He was? How important are His teachings for us today? Do they still have any validity for our lives now?

The Bible declares that it was written for everyone, at any time. Supposedly, absolutely every single thing contained therein was communicated directly from God's Spirit. It was designed to guide us to become closer to and increasingly know His nature. It has several objectives; among them are: (1) primarily, leading us to choose Jesus of Nazareth as our Savior personally, so that when we die we will live with Him in Heaven, throughout eternity instead of being separated forever, (2) teaching us God's will for our lives, as well as (3) gently correcting and disciplining us when we are out of His will so that we can modify our behavior.

These teachings all have been presented so that we might live the most perfect lives possible; and, with God's help and direction are ready to handle every emergency that arises in conflict against these goals. The Bible demonstrates over and over that God sees humanity as His much loved children and treats us as such

"God deals with you as with sons (and daughters)." (Hebrews 12:7b)

"There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither slave nor free. There is neither male nor female. For, you are all one in Christ Jesus, and if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:28-9) (Genesis 13:14-16 and 15:1-6)

God Never Lies

The Bible teaches that God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit never lie, deceive, nor cause bad things to happen, ever. When any tragedy strikes it is not Their fault, nor was it ever Their desire for it to occur. We can depend on everything that They say or do only works toward our benefit.

"It is impossible for God to lie." (Hebrews 6:18b)

"Your Word is Truth." (John 17:17)

"The Scriptures cannot be broken." (John 10:35)

"There are six things that the Lord hates.... a lying tongue...." (Proverbs 6:16-17)

"Every (human being) is a liar." (Romans 3:4)

"God is not the instigator of confusion." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

By using as evidence His Own Scripture, if God could or ever did lie He would be obligated to hate Himself at those times. In addition, the Bible asserts that He is the One accountable for seeing that His will is done. Therefore, all responsibility for sustaining or breaking His Word rests with Him alone

"When God made a promise to Abraham, because He could find no one greater He swore by Himself." (Hebrews 6:13)

If God the Father could lie He possibly would have to hate His Son at times, too. Why? Because, according to the same Bible He is His exact image. Therefore, if One of Them lied about anything the Other would do likewise. By using the elementary algebraic equation if $A=B$ and $B=C$ then $A=C$, the following could be possible:

$A=B$ > If God lied, and
 $B=C$ > God hates a lying tongue, then
 $A=C$ > If or when God lied He would hate Himself.

and,

$A=B$ > If God could lie, and
 $B=C$ > His Son is exactly like Him, then
 $A=C$ > Then, His Son could lie also.

and,

$A=B$ > If God's Son ever lied, and
 $B=C$ > God hates a lying tongue, then
 $A=C$ > Then, God would hate His Son if or when He lied.

The more we read and examine the Scriptures the more evidence we can find that the above scenario never will take place. The ramifications of this can be proven even by just one verse, which God's Son Himself taught:

"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation." (Matthew 12:25a)

Keep this verse in mind because we will discuss how it constantly affects everything that God or we ever think, say, or do. Jesus spoke about any kingdom whatsoever. So, it had to include God's, as well as Satan's, or He would have limited His teaching. Jesus did not ever refer to either as being under any special judgments though; nor, did He exclude them from this sweeping pronouncement. Therefore, if God were capable of not being

100% true then He and Jesus could at times be divided against themselves. As a result, by Jesus' Own words, Their Kingdom could not stand. (*Luke 11:17*) Similarly, if Satan's were not completely deceptive inside, it also would be brought to desolation.

This notion of the interdependence between God the Father and His Son Jesus is a key factor in decoding the information presented to us in the Bible. If any of the above negative scenarios is even remotely possible then the entire Bible is indeed a distortion, in effect worthless, except as fiction. Either God the Father is an impostor or He is not, and whatever He is Jesus is.

"If Christ is preached that He has risen from the dead how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But, if there is no resurrection then Christ is not risen and if Christ is not risen then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ Whom He did not raise up, if in fact the dead do not rise, for if the dead do not rise then Christ is not risen, and if Christ is not risen your faith is futile, you are still in your sins! Then, also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are, of all men the most pitiable. But, now Christ is risen from the dead/Dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep for since by man came death by Man also came the resurrection of the dead/Dead, for as in Adam all die/Die even so in Christ all shall be made alive/Alive." (I Corinthians 15:12-22)

The consequences of God's lying even one time would be disastrous. The chain effect it would initiate would be like throwing even the tiniest pebble into a still lake; its entry disturbs much more water than its own mass. If even one thing in the Bible is wrong how can we believe the rest of it? Where are the flaws if any? (By the way, if you insist that God can and does lie then you'd better stop reading here; the remainder of this book will be useless to you.)

Untruths Found in the Bible

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that within the context of the Bible there are indeed some untruths; but they did not originate from God. Either people or Satan said them. Therefore, we must be careful to notice the source before we accept an idea as being in line with God's will. There are instances where others are stating their own beliefs that contradict what God Himself has declared.

The first lie:

The first deception took place in the Garden of Eden. God had instructed the first man and woman, the Adams that they had free rein within their new home except for one tree, which they never were supposed to touch.

"The Lord God commanded the man saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may eat but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die/Die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

Satan, on the lookout to harm anything that God had created, shortly appeared on the scene to cause a division between mankind and their Creator. Although the couple was standing together, Satan only addressed the woman, the younger and less experienced of the couple at being in God's company. Satan reminded only the female what God had said concerning the fruit of the Garden. When he had her attention focused on himself, he tricked her into using her new and very limited human scope of the world to con her into

following his wishes in favor of what she knew were God's. We know that she was indeed cognizant of committing an act not sanctioned by Him because she told Satan about His instructions to her and the man before she deliberately broke them

"The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the Garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the Garden God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you (even) touch it, lest you Die (spiritually).' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely Die.'" (Genesis 3:2-4)

Then, she persuaded her husband do follow her disobedience, even though he, too, recognized that they were deliberately opposing what God had commanded. The Bible says, that although the female Adam was deceived by Satan's lies, male Adam was not. He reacted to his wife's urging in favor of God's commands. (It appears to have been the first case of "peer" pressure.) The Bible clearly records what Satan said to deceive the woman; and, although his words are recorded in the Bible, everything he said was a lie. All of *his* statements was, and still are premeditated to contradict God's, and draw mankind away from Him and His protection. Even when Satan is quoting God, he is deliberately misrepresenting Him in some way.

How should the male Adam have reacted? He should have responded to Satan's temptation exactly as Jesus Christ, the Second Adam did. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he also used the God's words, but he used them out of context, lying and attempting to create deception out of truth. The citations were accurate in that God had said those exact words in that precise order. However, the meaning of the testimony was altered to become the opposite of the one intended so that the true message disappeared. Satan tried to tempt Jesus only by quoting the Scriptures for he does know them. However, he did not quote God's Word to help Jesus with His mission, rather to obstruct it. When Satan tried to sway Him away from His Father with (fake) promises, Jesus counteracted his deceptions with other Scriptures and finally told him to leave His presence.

False testimony against Jesus being the Messiah:

The religious leaders in prominence when Jesus was alive were quite offended at His preaching; for, they considered Him to be an affront to God. They even hated Him so much that they tried many times to trip Him up and expose Him as a dangerous fraud. However, Jesus message of Godly love and restoration was accepted by many people, so the leaders finally had to arrest and try Jesus covertly for what they thought was blasphemy. In order to condemn Him, they had to locate witnesses to testify falsely at His secret trial. What these men quoted Jesus as saying was a mixture of truth and lies, due to their misunderstanding exactly Who He was and what He preached

"Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death but found none, for many bore false witness against Him but their testimonies did not agree. Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him saying, 'We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another made without hands,'" but even then did their testimony agree." (Mark 14:55-59)

Jesus had said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.", but not the rest. He was referring to Himself, however--His Own body--not the temple building in Jerusalem. What these men imagined was inaccurate because they had not comprehended what Jesus actually meant. Therefore, whether they did it maliciously or not, when they reported what Jesus did say they also added some ideas of their own and their embellishment made His statement seem like a lie. Jesus did not deceive them; they twisted His words to suit their own realities.

*"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you?"
(I Corinthians 6:19)*

Following the precise moment when the first man and woman decided to believe in what Satan said to them over God's directions, he usurped His divine supremacy over them. Satan did not only supplant God's Lordship over themselves and their descendants but the entire earth as well. Since God had given the Adams dominion over this planet, when they sinned against His Kingdom this world also became part of the spoils of the war that Satan already had instigated between himself and God.

As a direct outcome of the Adams' single bad decision and subsequent action all of creation became subject to Satan's will. Therefore, mankind led by him, not God any longer. Although the Adams did not die physically, they did spiritually. The Holy Spirit that God had breathed into them was forced to leave when they severed their connection. Humanity no longer was a part of God's Kingdom any longer; they had committed treason and changed allegiance.

People become sick because we live in a polluted world that was the outgrowth of that first act of disobedience. The influences of that one transgression have kept expanding so that presently everything on this entire planet is contaminated in some way. Some diseases even have been able to take root in families and continue from one generation to the next--like heart trouble. Even fetuses who have not sinned of their own volition automatically are affected by mankind's imperfections upon conception. In order to obliterate the tainted seeds that cause abnormalities of any kind, the Bible tells us that we must come to the Lord and allow our spirits to be regenerated by Him. His help is the only assistance powerful enough to crush Satan's strongholds over us.

The Bible: Leave It or Believe It

There are four possible choices as to what to do anything. We can: (1) accept, (2) reject, (3) attempt to change, or (4) simply ignore it. The Bible is cryptic, not merely due to the fact that God revealed certain aspects of Himself over long periods of time, but He often imparted different things to separate people. Therefore, often it is necessary to search numerous places for answers to questions. Too often we tire of exploring the Bible for answers and give up our quest. It addresses this issue of faith versus unbelief in Him by stating often and emphatically that true knowledge and wisdom are acquired only when we follow *His* guidance. Correspondingly, it defines anyone who does not accept Him as a fool.

"A fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psalm 14:1)

"The awe of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

The Bible states repeatedly that there is only one way to salvation: following His plan--His Son Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah (Hebrew)/Christ (Greek). God likewise asserts that when we cannot get out of trouble that comes to us it is because we have not followed His will closely enough. We not only have to hear, read, study, and communicate His Word, but put what He commands us to do into regular practice. When we do follow the directions we will see good results, either instantly, or, most likely gradually, as any tangible seed grows. But, the Bible also teaches that when we become lax in our obedient behavior we will not perceive any good changes at all, rather only fossilization or even decline.

"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.... And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:7-9)

Before the earthly appearance of His Son as a man, God's people only anticipated the arrival of their Savior. They were counted as being in right standing before God by their faith in Jesus' future birth, death and resurrection. Although they never saw Him with their physical sight they had to be confident that God truly was in Covenant with those who followed after Him and that His bargain was unbreakable.

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." (Hebrews 11:13)

God's entire outline for the ransom of His Church never was completely revealed to them but imparted little by little. What was revealed of His strategy was clouded so that Satan would not perceive exactly how He would bring about the prophecy concerning his complete downfall. Even though it had been foretold to him in the Garden of Eden, Satan did not have the mind of God in order to fully comprehend it.

"So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this.... I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.' (Genesis 3:14-15)

Additionally, since Satan always distorts the truth or else completely lies, it is quite possible that he either cannot or does not recognize it either. However, now that Jesus has accomplished His mission, we have a *complete* account of God's game plan. Now, we are privy to His thoughts, as well as being accountable for our obedience to them.

"What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and is himself lost or destroyed?" (Luke 9:25)

Until the ministry of Jesus, there are not many specific references to Satan in the Scriptures, maybe due to the fact that until His life mankind had no way of really knowing how to resist his voice. After all, he was the ruler of this world; and, therefore at that time was the "god" of the earth. Therefore, our most natural impulse would be to listen to and follow his wishes, not God's. Only by being born "again", this time in spirit by accepting Jesus as a replacement in our lives for Satan's lordship, can we ever be freed from his control forever.