

Tough Questions about the Bible

Some facts....

1. *The Bible claims to come from God thru men of God who wrote down the very words of God....*2Timothy 3:10...
2Peter 1:21....2Samuel 23:2

2. Who wrote the Bible? The Bible was written by prophets of God....2Peter 1:21, Deuteronomy 18:18

3. What do we mean when we say the Bible is “inspired”?....2Timothy 3:16....Matthew 4:4

A. **The words, not just the ideas, are inspired.**

1. Sometimes God choose to emphasize even the **verb** tenses (Matthew 22:31-32)...‘I am (not was) the God of Abraham’.
2. Paul based his argument on a **singular** noun versus a **plural** noun in Galatians 3:16.
3. Jesus went so far as to declare even **parts** of a letter are inspired....Matthew 5:18.
4. This doesn’t mean that God just used the writers as a ‘typewriter’ where He just dictated words to them.
5. God allowed the writer’s personality & writing style to shine through. So while the very Words are inspired by God, the writer’s personality clearly comes thru. It’s not just dictation.
6. This could be one reason why there are 4 gospels. Each gospel is written by a different person with a different agenda in mind.
 - A. Matthew quotes more Old Testament prophecies than the other 3 gospels do, so it’s clear he’s writing to the Jews.
 - B. Luke compiled his gospel from 1st hand eyewitness accounts to present an orderly, accurate gospel. Luke is considered to be the historians favorite gospel. Luke 1:1-4&2:1-2
 - C. John focuses on the relational aspects of Jesus. His gospel & his 3 epistles (letters) talk more about the love of God than anything else. He is often called “the Apostle of Love”.
 - D. Mark is sweet, short, concise and to the point. He talks a lot about the miracle working power of Jesus.
7. Because the writers have different writing styles & different agendas, this is why they often describe the same event from different perspectives. If their accounts were all the same, we’d think they were guilty of collusion.

B. **All of the Bible is inspired, not just part of it.**

1. All scripture is inspired...2Tim 3:16
2. Jesus verified historical & scientific matters
 - A. **Adam** & **Eve**...Matt 19:4,5
 - B. The **Flood**....Matt 24:37-39
 - C. **Jonah**....Matt 12:40-42
 - D. All that Jesus spoke of....John 3:12

C. *Some misunderstandings....*

1. The Bible uses figures of speech, like hyperbole(exaggeration)...**Psalm 6:6**
2. The Bible uses round numbers....**1Chronicles 19:18**

D. **Summary....**

1. The ORIGINAL text of the Bible (which we don’t have in our possession) doesn’t Contain any errors....historical or otherwise.
2. There are some very minor copyist errors in the Bible manuscripts, but they are very rare and don’t affect any doctrine at all. It’s been suggested that the Bible is 99.9% accurate, which is far more accurate than any other book of antiquity by a long shot.

In essence and for all practical purposes, we have the very words of God.