



WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

It is the Instruction Manual from God.

Lesson 4 - GOD ALMIGHTY IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE



Possible Concern #1 - I do not believe in God.

1. Yes No Did you grow up with this belief in your family or community?
2. What has happened in your life that convinced you that God was not present?

3. Yes No Do you know someone who definitely believes in & includes God in their life?
4. What do you see about this "God-thing" that your friend does not see or understand?

5. Yes No Are you turned off by the Bible because the first verse has "God" in it?
6. Are there any parts of the Bible that you have heard and like? Name a few.

7. Yes No Could it be possible for a person to reject God but like parts of the Bible?

A Few Thoughts

- Look at *Genesis 1:1*. "In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth." The Bible does not try to prove the existence of God; It just assumed that God was already there. Isn't that interesting?
- The word "beginning" used to always throw me. It does not mean when God began; it means when God started to create the universe. Doesn't that blow your mind.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now FAITH is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

8. I know you see the word "faith" & think "here comes the religious stuff".
 Yes No Forget religion; Can't someone hope for something to happen or exist?
 Yes No Can't someone believe in something they cannot see?
9. Remember when a relative was really sick in the hospital? What feeling did you have for that person? _____
10. Remember when you turned on your computer and saw the screen? Could you see the signal traveling into your equipment? Yes No
11. The last time you sat in a chair, did you check the wood & the construction? Yes No

Sometimes our faith in something can get shaken.

- You trust a chair & it fails you; did you then decide never to use a chair again? YOU DIDN'T.
 - You rely on your computer & it fails you; did you decide never to use one again? YOU DIDN'T.
 - Something happens in your life & you blame God; You now stay away from a God? WHY?
12. Yes No Your chair did not create you? Did you give chairs a second chance?
 13. Yes No Your computer did not create you? Did you cut computers a little slack?
 14. Yes No God created you. He didn't cause your problem. Give Him another chance? Please.
 - Reading the Bible is a start to giving God a chance to work out His plan in you. Are you willing?
 - You not sure yet? You are a deep thinker - "Somebody" is holding this universe together. (He wrote to you in the Bible.)



Possible Concern #2 – God is a Spirit; He cannot write.

SOME INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

- John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and lived among us. Wow! The "Word" is Jesus.
- In the entire Greek world, "Logos" was the Greek word for "The Word". To them, it meant "the reason or power within me that controls my human nature." [Possibly, a higher ability within.]
- The "reason" really had nothing to do with God; it was the power within us to live life ourselves.

1. What "reason" or "power within you" has run your life without the need of "a God"?

2. ___Yes ___No Would you agree that it looks like mankind has a choice between the man-made "logos", or the "Logos" Who has existed forever?

- With my simple brain, "word" is either a "spoken" item or a "written" item.
- At the beginning of mankind, there was "nothing to write" and "no one to write to".

Genesis 1:3 - Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1:11 - Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass", and it was so.

Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our own image, according to our likeness." So He created man

3. How do all three verses above start? _____

4. Who was God talking to? _____

5. See "Let Us" in Gen. 1:26 above. That's plural ("Us"). Check out John 1:1 above too. Who was there at the time of the creation? ___God (Father) ___Son (Jesus) ___ Spirit of God

- God was expressing His plan to the Son & the Spirit; they were expressing that same plan to Him.
- I don't know how they talked to each other, but the writer used "said" so we would understand.
- God's Word = God sharing His plan & character to man; using "Word" indicates communicating.

6. From Genesis 1:1 - 2:15, had God spoken to man out loud yet? ___Yes ___No

7. God & man were accomplishing things in the Garden; they were definitely communicating; no words are recorded. How do you explain this? Choose any of the following.

- ___ Maybe, they were not communicating?
- ___ Man was created in God's image, in union with God, able to communicate intimately.

8. When God finally communicated using words to Adam (Gen. 2:16-17), how did He do it?
"And the Lord God _____ the man,"

- This verse was Adam's Bible at the time. It's all he had; these words were not written but spoken.

9. How does Genesis 6:13 start? _____

10. How does Genesis 12:1 start? _____

- After Abraham died, the phrase, "God said" [to someone], isn't seen as much. Isaac & Jacob had a few (Gen. 26-35); this phrase did not appear for Joseph. God was with Joseph; Joseph interpreted some dreams - but, "God said to _____" is fairly scarce in the rest of Genesis.
- The next time God speaks is to Moses at the burning bush (Ex. 3:4). He spoke often to Moses.

ALL THAT SPEAKING FROM GOD TO MOSES BECAME GENESIS, EXODUS. LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY. This is the Old Testament Bible so far. It's all they had.

ARE YOU HEARING ME? GOD SPOKE IT TO MOSES - MOSES WROTE IT DOWN.

HOW DID GOD TELL BIBLE WRITERS WHAT TO WRITE DOWN?

Genesis 3:4 - When the Lord saw that Moses had turned side to look [at the burning bush], God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses replied, "Here I am."

John 5:46-47 - Jesus said, "If you believe Moses, then you most certainly will believe me; he wrote about Me. [Moses' writings are just as true as My words]."

Matthew 4:4 - Jesus said to the devil, "It is written [Deut. 8:3], Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

1. Which is true? ___Moses called to God ___God called to Moses.
2. ___Yes ___No According to Jesus, were the writings of Moses true & correct?
3. Where does the "Word of God" come from? _____
4. In Zechariah 7:12, where did the Old Testament prophets get their messages (words)?

5. Why were the Old Testament writings written? (1 Peter 1:11)

6. How do we know where the prophets got their messages?
 - a. Isaiah 1:2 _____
 - b. Jeremiah 1:4 _____
 - c. Ezekiel 1:3 _____
 - d. Zechariah 1:1 _____
- *If God is not involved in writing the Bible, why is that fact mentioned all through the 66 Bible books.*
- *If something is repeated that many times, God does not waste words; they matter to show truth.*
7. How did the Prophet Malachi (1:1) explain it? _____
8. How did King David (2 Sam. 23:2) explain it? _____
9. How did the Prophet Micah (3:8) explain it? _____
10. How did the Apostle Peter (2 Pet. 1:21) explain it? _____
 - *The Bible writers came from all walks of life (farmers, fishermen, priests, exiled Jews, government officials, kings, tax collector, doctor).*

2 Peter 1:20-21 No prophecy (teaching) of the Scripture comes from any private interpretation. For the prophecy (teachings) came not by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 2:7-13 - The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

11. Where did the writings in the Bible not come from?
 - a. (2 Pet. 1:20) Not from any private _____.
 - b. (2 Pet. 1:21) Not by the will of _____.
 - c. (1 Cor. 2:12) Not the spirit of the _____.
 - d. (1 Cor. 2:13) Not by human _____.
12. Where did the writings of the Bible come from?
 - a. Who knows the thoughts of God? (1 Cor. 2:11) _____
 - b. Who guides the writers to write the Bible? (2 Pet. 1:21) _____
- *The word "inspired by God" means "God-breathed". God supernaturally communicated the truths.*
- *The "thoughts of God" (the Bible) were protected as God told the writers the material. The process was protected so that no one would ever pollute (humanize) His perfect, living Word (All the Bible).*