

LESSON # 30
HARD QUESTIONS SERIES
“WASN’T THE BIBLE WRITTEN BY PEOPLE?”

(I) 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed (*inspired according to some translations*) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”

A) The Greek word for “inspired” means “*God breathed.*” God inspired or **revealed** to men what to write, so when we read the Bible, we are literally reading the words of God.

B) John MacArthur explains, *Men were in the process but it didn't originate with them and it didn't come from their desire and their will, they were used as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit and enabled to speak from God. They spoke divine words. God used them. It was their personality. It was their background, some of their insights, their experiences, their perceptions, but every word was the word of God. That's the miracle of inspiration. Men...they were used...carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. That's what the Scripture says.*

C) There is only **ONE Author** of the Scripture: God, but many ‘writers’ those that penned the scripture

D) The claim is not made that those that penned the scriptures were perfect human beings, only that God used them and directed them while they were penning the scriptures.

1) The apostle Peter Made many errors in his life and his speaking

2) The apostle Thomas doubted

3) The apostle Paul expressed anger at John mark

4) Those used to “pen” the scriptures were not perfect in any sense of the word, but God nevertheless used them and guided the process through them in the formation of the scripture.

5) While there may have been faults in their lives, when penning scripture, God **preserved** them **miraculously** / **supernaturally**.

E) **Biblical inspiration** is the doctrine in Christian theology that the authors and editors of the Bible were led or influenced by God with the result that their writings may be designated in some sense the word of God.

F) Charles Ryrie says it this way: *“God's superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs “*

G) Larry Thiel, for InterVarsity, outlines some assumptions and talking points. For this session have the students work through his talking points.:

Assumptions People Have

- The Bible is not trustworthy, because it was written so long ago.
- Men (and not God) wrote the Bible for their purposes.
- All religions claim to have their own truth.
- It is arrogant to place the Bible above other religious texts.
- Books like The Da Vinci Code disprove the Bible.

Talking Points

- If there is a God, do you think God has to remain silent, or could God communicate if God wanted to? (Most will grant that God can do anything that God wants; otherwise we aren't talking about God)
- How would you feel if your professor never told you how to succeed in your class and left up to you to figure out, and that you only found out when you received your final grade? Do you think God would want to communicate something of Himself to His creation? Do you think it's reasonable that God would want to help us flourish in this life and know how to get to the next one? (Most grant that this sounds reasonable)
- Then the real question becomes...where has God shown up? Or, where and how has God communicated with us? It also seems reasonable that God would commit his story to written language so all people could have access to God.
- To answer this question one can study various religious texts (revelations) to determine which ones have the ring of truth to them.

- I'm drawn to Jesus because he appears to be God's ultimate answer to the question of number 3. Instead of men and women pointing to God, and speculating about God, Jesus is the opposite. God coming to us. Thus, if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.
- If you have not studied this Jesus that would be a good next step. When you see the way he lived, the things he taught, the way he died, and the way he came back to life, you may decide that He can be trusted and followed.
- If you decide that He is God speaking to you, then, you can trust his view of the Bible which is that God moved humans to write down God's words for humans to flourish.
- This does not mean that everything that others have said about God is false. People can sometimes get things correct. Like caring for the marginalized is valued in virtually all religions. But if you come across a contradiction between Jesus and someone speculating about God, then you should stick with Jesus as the final authority.

