

Has God Spoken?

That's really the only question worth starting with. It opens up the door to all the other important questions:

- Are we here just by ourselves with no help at all?
- Is there really a God in heaven Who is watching? Someone Who started it all?
- And if so, has He spoken to us?
- Has He given us any clues as to Who He is and What He is like? Does He want to speak to us?
- Does He want us to speak to Him?
- Does He want to have a relationship with us?
- And if He has spoken, has He spoken clearly? Can we understand what He has spoken?
- If God has **not** spoken, then we're on our own, and we just have to do the best with what we receive in this life.
- But if God **has** spoken....if He **has** spoken....then run as fast as you can to get a copy of His Words. Sell all you have to get just a chance to read them. Read all of His words...don't miss a thing!

I Believe God Has Spoken. And I believe the Bible is what He has spoken.

- **Dual Authorship** - God spoke through men. He used their personalities and experiences and used their very hands to write out His words, but those words are, word-for-word, His very words.-

"The apostle Paul wrote carefully reasoned treatises, often betraying his own disappointments, encouragements, or even anger. Mark, in his account of the life of Jesus, used the vivid present tense when he described Christ's walk throughout the land. His Greek was so rough that he even appears to have used odd grammar, no doubt reflecting his own speaking habits. Sometimes New Testament authors just paraphrased the Old Testament, not quoting it word for word. When they reported the

number of people who died in a plague, they used round numbers, just as reporters do today.” - Irwin Lutzer, “Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible”.

The book of Song of Solomon is an excellent example of dual authorship. Solomon spoke of real, human feelings and emotions. He described human love, as a picture for future generations to be able to picture the great, powerful, priceless love of God.

Dual Authorship means: Totally divine, and also human.

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” **II Peter 1:21**

- **Inspired** – God inspired men to write the words He wanted them to write. They were not their own thoughts. They are totally trustworthy to be directly from God. Therefore, they apply directly to our lives today, even though they may have been written 6,000 years ago. And not only were the words inspired, but also the men who decided which books would make up the Bible were inspired, too. They were led by God to determine, in a logical and normal way, which letters and writings to include in the canon of the Bible, and which to exclude.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **II Timothy 3:16&17**

- **Sola Scriptura** – There is no other book like this one. There is no other authority which competes with this one. The Book of Mormon does not. The Koran does not. There is no other word from God which would negate anything in the Bible. If you ask a Catholic educated in their own belief system, if they believe in Sola Scriptura, they will tell you no. They believe that the Bible is the Words of God, yes. But they also believe that the writings and proclamations of the Church Fathers of the past carry more weight than the Bible. They believe church fathers decided what books should be in the Bible, therefore church fathers have more authority than the Bible. I disagree.

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” **Revelation 22:18-19**

- **Infallible (inerrant)** – We believe that the Bible, as written in its original manuscripts, is free from error .

“...the scripture cannot be broken” **John 10:35**

- **Eternal** – The Bible lasts forever. It always was the Word of God. It always will be. There is no end to its truth or authority.

“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” **Psalm 119:89**

- **Life-Changing** – The Bible, because it is the very words of the only One, True, God, is not just for our understanding, and not just a moral code. The very words of God are life-changing. They will open our eyes, and give us the right desires, and draw us into a relationship with the One, True God. The Bible was not meant to just sit and be. It is meant to explode into life!

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” **Psalm 1:1-3**

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” **Hebrews 4:12&13**

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.” **Psalm 19:7-11**

...and all of **Psalm 119**

In “Seven Reasons You Can Trust the Bible”, by Erwin Lutzer, Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, gives the following reasons why you can trust that the Bible is the very words of God:

1. The Bible claims to be God’s Word
2. History Confirms the Bible’s Reliability
3. Bible prophecies Prove its Truthfulness
4. Jesus Himself affirmed the Bible’s Authority & Truth
5. Science supports Biblical Creation
6. God People, by His Providence, Recognized the Canon
7. The Bible has Power to Change Lives

Therefore.....This is What We Do Because of What We Believe about the Bible:

Learn about it... “Bruce and Stan’s Guide to the Bible” is a great place to start. – Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz, Harvest House publishers – just stuff about the Bible - take the little test below.

*Preach it....*Verse-by-verse

*Teach it....*not just stories....verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter....all ages

*Read it....*Every day - three times a day, maybe.

*Live it....*unflinchingly. This is really, really hard. It hurts. It makes us unpopular. It is the first thing we tend to avoid. It’s the last thing we admit we are not doing when all falls apart.

*Memorize it....*oh, yes, you can

*Speak it....*why say meaningless things? Speak scripture and speak the name of Jesus. Often.

A Little Test of Facts About the Bible

(These are the answers...what are the questions?)

66

40

1500

1189

33,173

39

27

1

4,000

100

1455AD

6 Billion

2,000

Christ

Answer Key on back

66	How many books in the Bible?
40	How many human authors of the Bible?
1500	How many years did it take to write the Bible?
1189	How many chapters are in the Bible?
33,173	How many verses are in the Bible?
39	Number of Old Testament books?
27	Number of new Testament books?
1	How many Bible authors were not Jewish?
4,000	Time period covered by Old Testament?
100	Time period covered by New Testament?
1455AD	When was the printing press invented?
6 Billion	How many copies of the Bible have been printed since then?
2,000	Different languages the Bible is published in today?
Christ	What is the theme of the whole Bible?

A Few More Things:

- If your house catches on fire, grab your Bible. It is the most valuable thing you own.
- I use the New King James Version of the Bible, but I don't think that's the only good version. I would also recommend the King James Version, the ESV, and the New American Standard Bible.
 - I don't recommend the NIV – either the old or the new.
 - Reading your Bible every day is essential
 - Reading your Bible every day is simple.
 - But reading your Bible every day is not easy.
 - Here's how to do it: Every day, read a passage, then ask:
 - What does it say? (observe)
 - What does it mean? (ask questions)
 - What does it mean to me? (come to conclusions)