

Explaining Some Questions About The Bible

'Do not pay attention to myths and legends and endless genealogies, which promote useless speculations and causes disputes rather than acceptance in faith of God's administration, and the divine training that is in faith. The goal of this command is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience with unfeigned, genuine faith' (1 Timothy 1:4 & 5). 'How great are your works Lord! Your thoughts are very deep' (Psalm 92:5). 'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His ... He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep and secret things. He knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells within Him' (Daniel 2:20 to 22). 'God revealed knowledge through the Holy Spirit for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God ... No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God' (1 Corinthians 2:10 & 11). Every Word was 'God-breathed', inspired by God Himself (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is a very complex, Spiritual book that can only be fully understood by those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. 'God is a Spirit, a Spiritual Being and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth' (John 4:24). To the unbeliever, the fact of Jesus' divine birth, the cross and His resurrection from death all seem absurd and foolish. 'The message of the cross is sheer absurdity and foolishness to those who are perishing (the unbelievers) but to us who are saved, it is the manifestation of the power of God' (1 Corinthians 1:18). We need to focus our attention on what God has told us in the Bible and not believe the useless speculations written about the Bible or about the Bible characters, who were real people just as we are. Most certainly the Bible is for everyone, and anyone who is able to read can read the Bible. The simple things in the Bible can be understood by anyone who reads it but the deeper Spiritual meanings are hidden from unbelievers unless God Himself opens their Spiritual eyes so they can understand. 'He opened up their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Luke 24:45). Unless God opens our Spiritual eyes and ears we cannot fully understand what is written. Many Christians have trouble understanding what God is really saying, as did the twelve apostles. 'They understood nothing of these things. His words were a mystery and were hidden from them and they did not comprehend what He was telling them' (Luke 18:34). There are thousands of allusions in the scriptures that can only be understood by 'reading between the lines' of what is written within the pages of the Bible. Some of the explanations of the allusions can be found in other chapters of the Bible. These are not hidden secrets, they are hints we are to seek out by studying the Word of God and by revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Question: What was the first ever Book in the Bible?

Answer: The Book of Enoch and Noah was written before Noah's flood and was taken onto the Ark for future generations. It was initially included in the Bible but was removed by early church 'fathers' because they believed it was too 'Spiritual', however it was regularly quoted by all of the prophets, by Jesus Himself and by the apostles. The ancient Book of Enoch proves there was written expression thousands of years ago when Enoch was on earth (Genesis 5:23 & 24). Ancient texts were etched into stone tablets (Exodus 31:18), on parchment, papyrus, leather, on rock or lead with an iron nib (Job 19:23 & 24) and some writings have been found on stele's, silver, copper, gold, pottery, wood, clay, on the occasional sarcophagus and other ancient materials. It is well known, Hebrew is the original of all languages. Their alphabet is the oldest and remains almost the same as it was thousands of years ago. Many ancient peoples would have been able to read and fully understand the Paleo-Hebrew (ancient Hebrew) writings and understood the Semitic language of the Hebrews. Hebrew and Aramaic are both Semitic languages and are closely related. Proof the Hebrew language was learned by repetition by school aged children, is the archaeological evidence of part of their alphabet found scratched on a wall in Israel by a school child that has been dated to about 800 BC. An ancient calendar written in Hebrew was found in Israel. It was dated to between 500 BC and 500 AD. The Bible was composed in a literal environment with well developed methods of recording what God dictated to His prophets and scribes.

Question? Who wrote the Bible? Godly prophets and scribes did.

How did the writers receive the information they wrote in the Bible? God told them what to write.

Were the Scriptures handed down via word of mouth? No.

How could Moses have written the last two chapters of Deuteronomy after he died?

Answers: Everything written in the Bible was given to Godly prophets who were told by God Himself, what to write down. Sometimes the information was told to the prophets by holy angels. Whether the Lord God or His holy angels gave the information, it all came from God. Our Creator God did at one time speak to His people on a regular basis. He spoke to Adam and Eve every day. He spoke to Moses face to face like a friend (Exodus 33:11). Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, but the Lord told him exactly what to write (Exodus 17:14; 24:4; 34:27; Numbers 33:2). Moses did not write his own thoughts, he wrote God's thoughts. God told Moses what to write down so Moses did write the last two chapters of Deuteronomy before he died. Some people believe Moses could not have written those words because he was dead by then but the Holy Spirit revealed to Moses all the details of what was recorded in Genesis so he could write it all down before

his death. The Lord revealed to Moses in Deuteronomy 32:49 & 50 where and when he would die. Before Moses died, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit he wrote where he would be buried and other features about himself, and those details are written in Deuteronomy 34:5 to 12. Moses was a prophet, he knew the heart of God and he knew more than most of us. 'Your king (or leader) will write a copy of this law in a book from the book which is before the priests, the Levites. The book will be with him and he will read it all the days of his life so he may learn to fear the Lord God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them' (Deuteronomy 17:18 & 19). What those men of God wrote down became our Bible. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, also called the Torah.

After Moses, Joshua wrote everything down (Joshua 24:26), then Samuel (1 Samuel 10:25), King Josiah had the Book of the Law of Moses read out to him hundreds of years after the death of Moses (2 Kings 22:8 to 11 and 2 Chronicles 34:15 to 19), then Shemaiah the Levite scribe recorded some details (1 Chronicles 24:6); Ezra wrote the book of Ezra, Nehemiah wrote down his words (Nehemiah 1:1). By the time of Ezra, the five books of the Torah were several hundred years old yet Ezra still had the books and used them (Ezra 7:6). It is unclear who wrote the Book of Job but when we consider the personal details written in this book, it is likely his wife wrote down the intimate details only a wife would know about (Job 19:23). The collective Book of Psalms was written by several authors. Solomon wrote most the Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1), Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 1:1) and the Song of Solomon (Song Of Solomon 1:1). Isaiah was told to write on a stone tablet (Isaiah 30:8), then a scribe named Baruch wrote with ink on a scroll, everything Jeremiah told him to write (Jeremiah 36:4, 18, 27 & 32; 45:1). Later Jeremiah himself wrote in a book (Jeremiah 51:60). Jeremiah also wrote Lamentations. Ezekiel drew the design and wrote down precise measurements of Jerusalem (chapters 40 to 48). Daniel was told to seal up the words of his book (Daniel 12:4). The prophets named Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi all wrote and recorded the events surrounding real people as they occurred. None of this information was handed down by word of mouth. The history of births, deaths, marriages and the ages of each man were carefully recorded (Genesis chapters 5, 10 and 11; Matthew 1:1 to 17; Luke 3:23 to 38). Jesus read from the written words of Isaiah (Luke 4:17 to 20) and Jesus quoted the written Word when He overcame the devil with the Words from Deuteronomy using the prefix, "It is written" (Matthew 4:4, 7 & 10; Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16 & 6:13). John was told to write down what he saw (Revelation 1:11).

God has books in which He records everything we say and do (Malachi 3:16; Revelation 20:12). The Lord has a Book of Life that He has written since the foundation of the world. In that Book of Life, He has a list of names of every genuine believer (Exodus 32:32) and there are some people whose names were never written in the Book (Revelation 13:8; 17:8). That would be because, in the divine foreknowledge of God, He knew they would never turn to Him. Those who believe in Him and are worthy of heaven, have their names in that Book of Life (Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 21:27). Those who reject God, have their names blotted out of the Book of Life (Exodus 32:33; Deuteronomy 9:14; Psalm 9:5; 69:28). If those same people repent and turn back to God, He rewrites their names back into His Book of Life, or 'grafts' them in again (Romans 11:23). On Judgement Day these books will be opened to reveal everything we have done and said, both good and bad (2 Corinthians 5:10) and whether or not we are to be accepted into heaven (Revelation 20:12 & 15).

Question: Have the deeper meanings in the Bible been lost in translation?

Answer: Not altogether. The Lord is the Author of the Bible and He is the Author of all languages on earth and in heaven. He would not allow too many discrepancies to occur in His spoken Word. There are nuances within the Hebrew language that are meaningless in other languages, but the truth of the Scriptures, and the promises in the Scriptures are clear for everyone to see. For an unbeatable translation of the Bible, it is better to go back to the original language – Hebrew. We can buy a Bible translated directly from Hebrew to English – and of course that would be the best one to study. Other translations are good, but logically, not as good as the language in which the Scriptures were originally written.

Question: What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Answer: The Dead Sea Scrolls were not a book in themselves, they were a collection of copies of the original Bible hidden inside the clay pots, inside the caves for safe keeping about forty kilometres from Jerusalem during the Roman occupation. The scrolls were discovered by a young shepherd boy in 1947. The lad tossed a stone into a cave and when the stone struck a clay pot he went in to investigate and found many clay pots filled with Hebrew Scriptures. From eleven different caves, 972 hand written texts and manuscripts were found, all written from about 300BC to 70AD. Scriptures from every book in the Old Testament were there except the Book of Esther. Sadly, many scrolls were burned before people realised their importance and before they could be rescued so it is possible the Book of Esther was destroyed. The scrolls revealed what the earliest and original Scriptures looked like and the language in which they were written. Although the Hebrew texts had changed slightly, they were still written in Paleo-Hebrew (ancient Hebrew). The scrolls also revealed the accuracy of even the most ancient Scriptures. The Scriptures had

been faithfully and accurately copied word for word for thousands of years. Included in the scrolls were ancient prophecies regarding the Messiah, which were all fulfilled by Jesus, so we have hand written evidence, the prophecies about Him were true and wholly accurate.

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' (Genesis 1:1). Question: In the beginning of what? Answer: The Lord God has always been there and He is self-existent so the beginning of God Himself never occurred. We need to seek the answer in another chapter, which reveals the 'beginning' was before God created time, days, months, years, seasons and before the start of the creation of the earth to make it habitable for flesh and blood creatures to thrive. 'You Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the works of Your hands' (Hebrews 1:10).

Question: Were Adam and Eve created on the same day?

Answer: No. Eve was created weeks after Adam. 'In God's image He created him, male and female He created them' (Genesis 1:27). That was a very brief account. There is a more detailed account of their creation in the next chapter. God created Eve to be a human companion for Adam but only after Adam had obediently named every animal on earth which would have taken weeks. 'God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul' (Genesis 2:7). Sometime later, after Adam had fulfilled God's will regarding the naming every animal, bird, fish and every other living thing He then created Eve from Adam's rib making her a human person made from flesh and bone. 'Adam gave names to all livestock, to the birds of the sky and to every animal of the field but for Adam there was no companion suitable for him. God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam and as he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. God made the rib, which He had taken from Adam into a woman and brought her to Adam who said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:20 to 23). Adam and Eve had to live within the realm of complete obedience but Adam disobeyed and as we know, the rest is history. These two chapters lets all humanity know we were created by the hand of God and not from some non-existent 'big bang' which was simply made up in the mind of a staunch atheist, an unbeliever who did everything he could to stop people believing in God and thus salvation. The wicked lie of evolution has led more people away from God than anything else on earth. God created people and animals, male and female to reproduce after our own kind and this initial pattern has not changed. Although Adam and all of the animals were created out of clay, dirt, soil, mud or whatever was on the ground (Genesis 2:19), Eve was created from Adam's rib and nothing else was ever created in that particular way. Adam and Eve were created to be 'living souls' but animals were not given a soul. A soul is the realm of humanity. Mankind and only mankind were created in the form, shape, image and likeness of God. God created millions of animals but only Eve was created as a companion for Adam and they remained faithful to each other for nine hundred and thirty years. This was the original marriage, designed by God (Genesis 2:24). One adult man with one adult woman, faithful to each other for life and excluding all others is God's definition of marriage and it has never changed. God's definition of marriage excludes same sex marriage, multiple partners, polygamy, de facto relationships or forced child-bride marriages. God also hates violence towards women and children within a family situation where they should feel safe, protected and loved. God created only two genders, male and female. Gender change is never acceptable to God. If anyone is struggling with a gender issue, they need to turn to God and obey His Word.

Question: Are there other planets with life on them?

Answer: No. God created all of the planets, suns and moons, which we see as stars, but only earth was created to be habitable. 'I (God) have made the earth and created man on it. My hands have stretched out the heavens (the entire universe) ... Thus says the Lord Who created the heavens, God Who formed the earth and made it, Who established it and did not create it a waste, Who formed it to be inhabited, "I am God and there is no other"' (Isaiah 45:12 & 18).

Amen and God bless you.

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