

# THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

## LESSON # 26

### “WASN’T THE BIBLE WRITTEN BY PEOPLE?”



**OBJECTIVE:** We explored this topic in brief in a previous class, this time we’ll look a bit more in depth about the Bible, who wrote it, and is it simply a creation of human beings.

#### (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 \_\_\_\_\_ to men what to write, so when we read the \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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



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- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- E) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (taken from Evangelism by InterVarsity)**

- 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)



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- 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.

### LESSON # 27



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## “DOES GOD EXIST?”



**OBJECTIVE:** We’ve looked before at the idea that God does not try and prove His Existence. We can have some fun however looking at some of the evidence and proofs of a God who created the heavens and the earth and us!

### Genesis 1:1

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

How do I know \_\_\_\_\_

No one has \_\_\_\_\_

I have never seen the North Pole, but is there \_\_\_\_\_

Is it necessary for me to see everything in order for me to believe it is there?

There are at least three reasons to believe that God exists.

(1) There is Something \_\_\_\_\_ that keep leading us to believe there is God

(2) The \_\_\_\_\_ attest to God being there

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ teach us that God is there.

**(I) PEOPLE HAVE AN \_\_\_\_\_ THAT THERE IS A GOD**

A) On October 25, 2004, Time Magazine ran a cover article called the “The God Gene” with a line that asked, “Does our DNA compel us to seek a ‘higher power.’ Believe it or not some scientists say yes.”

B) Wayne Grudem says, “All persons everywhere have a deep, inner sense that \_\_\_\_\_ that they are \_\_\_\_\_ and that He is their \_\_\_\_\_



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C) Romans 1:21 *“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”*

**This passage us what Time Magazine is telling us that people have an internal sense of God. However they reject God, for a variety of reasons. Not the least being that we want to do what we want to do with our lives and not be answerable to anyone.**

D) Romans 1:19 tells us that there are some things about God that are evident to everybody. *“Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.”*

E) Romans 1:18 *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness”*  
This verse says that people “suppress the truth.” This is similar to what we try to do with a beach ball in a pool, when we sit on it and try and keep it under the water. It keeps trying to come out and get around us. It is difficult to keep the knowledge of God at bay and to get him out of our minds.

## (II) THE \_\_\_\_\_ SPEAK OF GOD AS EXISTING AND CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

### Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

### Hebrews 3:4

For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

### Romans 1:18-20

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

### Acts 17:29



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"Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

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### Colossians 1:16-17

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

### John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

### (III) \_\_\_\_\_ ARGUMENTS FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE (Don't worry about remembering the names, but get the concepts)

**A) COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT:** This means that everything that is made is made. That everything that exists has a "first cause." If the Creation which is so vast, so complex and so extensive, it's "cause" must be God.

**B) THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT** says that everything in the universe is orderly. It all has a purpose. There is design. Since these things are true, the conclusion is that there is an intelligent Creator behind everything.

**C) THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT** says that since everything is "great beyond what we could ever, ask, think or imagine," than the One behind it all is greater than the Creation itself. It must be God!

**D) THE MORAL ARGUMENT** is the idea that everybody has some internal sense of right in wrong on the inside. The idea here is if everybody has the same internal compass, it must come from somewhere, and that somewhere is the God Who exists.

**E) CADO** The ministry of Evangelism Explosion uses the acronym CADO

1) \_\_\_\_\_—every time you see a piece of machinery, you see an engine, a motorcycle, a car, even a bicycle, you know it has a creator.

2) \_\_\_\_\_—every time you see a piece of art, you know it has an artist.



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3) \_\_\_\_\_ — every time you see a wrist watch, you know it has a designer.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ —every time you see order, like ten coke cans lined up on a counter, you know it has an “order-er.”

When we look around at the universe, what do we see? We see creation, art, design, and order. If everything else has a creator, artist, designer, and order-er behind it, isn't it reasonable to expect that behind this incredibly intricate, complicated, and marvelous universe there is also \_\_\_\_\_ behind it?

All we're asking for is reason and consistency. Creation/Creator, art/Artist, design/Designer, Order/Order-er: logical, reasonable proof that there is a God behind this universe.

