

## Introduction to the Bible - **Discussion Questions** – March 2010

1. How can we use the categories of General and Special Revelation in our ministry? What do these ideas do for the understanding and encouragement of believers? How can these ideas help us in sharing the Good News with unbelievers?
2. Some people believe we must only emphasize our personal relationship with Jesus and not bother with 'divisive and debatable words'. Thus, for them, the Bible is a useful reference but not an authoritative standard. Consider both the subjective and objective nature of God's revelation to us.
3. Some boldly claim the Bible is 'inerrant' – free of any error. However, a careful look at Scripture reveals some discrepancies. Google "contradictions in the Bible" and many pages of web sites will pop up. Some are by unbelievers eager to destroy our faith in God and His Word. Other sites are from believers who seek to explain these. Either way, we have some explaining to do about the claim of inerrancy. What are the main lines of this explanation?
4. Can we really view the Bible as an accurate historical document? Or, would it be more honest to admit that our Bible is great literature with an unclear, and perhaps even inaccurate, historical foundation? What difference would it make if the Bible were not true history? How can a person be confident in the historical reliability of the Bible?
5. What is the relationship between Biblical history and the interpretation of Scripture? Is every verse of the Bible equally and fully applicable to our situation today? How can we know which, if any, verses directly speak to us as God's people today? Can't this be a dangerous policy which allows people to avoid facing all of God's truth?
6. Consider the relationship between Jesus and the Hebrew Scriptures. Respond to the statement, "Jesus defines the meaning of the Old Testament, and the Old Testament defines the meaning of Jesus."
7. Non-Christians, especially our Muslim friends, are quick to point out that there are 'holy books' from the Christian era which are not included in the Bible. Our Roman Catholic brothers and sister have an entire section of books (the Apocrypha) which are not included in most 'Protestant' Bibles. Can we really be sure we have the right books inside of our Bibles?
8. "Words, words, words....always fighting about words!" Many sincere people have great affection for Jesus but are not very interested in Bible study, and especially not arguing and correcting from the Bible. Can a person truly know Jesus as Savior and Lord without an understanding and allegiance to the Bible?
9. How can a person hope to understand a book as big and complex of the Bible? Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of Israel for failing to understand the Bible. Yet, they studied the Bible more than any of the Israelites? What hope do we have to rightly understand the Bible?
10. Understanding and applying the message of the Old Testament prophets in the church today is one of the most difficult tasks in Bible study. What are the various possibilities in how to understand this important part of Scripture? What interpretative principle(s) do you think are most correct? Why? \*\*\*\*