

Let's Discuss...The Bible

PART 2_How the Bible was Formed



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Scriptures mentioned:

Jesus' immaculate conception
and birth story...
Matthew 1:18-25

The creation story...
Genesis 1 & 2

*All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and
training in righteousness...*
2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

*The law of the LORD is
perfect, refreshing the soul.*
Psalm 19:7a NIV

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Discipleship
project

Episode Summary

In this episode, we talk about the early formation and structure of the Bible. This includes the initial writing of the Bible by different generations over several centuries, and the process of discernment through which the early church formed the collection that we still have today. The conversation begins to explore topics like the authority of Scripture, biblical interpretation, and the mysteries that we may never fully understand.

Definitions

immaculate conception: the miraculous process through which Mary conceived Jesus without human involvement (no hanky panky, all Holy Spirit)

metanarratives: the big picture themes that are woven throughout the narrative of the Bible

The Torah: refers to the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Leviticus) and is central to the Jewish faith (also known as the Pentateuch or the Five Books of Moses)

Let's Discuss...

- 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...*" What are your thoughts around "a perfect God working through imperfect humans" to create Scripture, formed through generations and multiple authors?
- How do you understand Scripture as authoritative in your own life?
 - » If you've ever struggled with believing in the authority of the Bible, you're not alone. Why not take a deeper dive into some of the recommended resources on this topic...see if they help give better grounding to your faith.
- What does the story of Jesus's birth (the conditions into which He chose to become human, i.e. born amongst animals in a stable to two young, poor, ordinary Jews) speak to you about the heart of God? How does this reflect on how you see the Bible?
- When you consider God's willingness to partner with imperfect human beings to divinely inspire the writing of the Bible, how does this make you feel about His willingness to work through you?
- Why do you think the Bible has been a source of so much division, and even violence, throughout the centuries?
- What is the importance of biblical interpretation? How can we do our best to understand the intended meaning in the text, and not twist it to our liking?
 - » Hint: Consider the questions that Rich mentions towards the end of *The Bible 101* to get us off on the right foot.
- Do you feel confident about allowing yourself to ask any questions you might have about the Bible, big or small? Are there other believers in your life who you feel safe to do this with?
 - » This may start by being willing to admit the questions to yourself, then ask God about them, then verbalize them to others. It may be scary, but God can handle them!

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Let's Pray...

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20 MSG

- God wants to work within us all, to grow our understanding and strengthen our trust in Him. As we take a deeper look at how the Bible was formed, invite God to work deeply and gently within you. May the Lord enlighten the eyes of your imagination to see Scripture in a new way today.

Let's Go Deeper...

- *The Bible Explored - A Brief History* by the Canadian Bible Society [video]
- *How the Canon of the Bible was Formed* by Mike Licona [video]
- "Sources for Caesar and Jesus Compared" by Darrell Bock [article]