

Why Do People Find The Christian Bible Difficult To Understand?

I believe that we find the Christian Bible difficult to understand because we try to read it like any other book.

The Christian Bible is not the same as any other book.

The Christian Bible is a supernatural book and can only be understood with supernatural aid.

2 Timothy 3:16 [Amplified Bible] *“Every scripture is God-breathed, given by His inspiration...”*

2 Peter 1:20-21 [Living Bible] *“For no prophecy recorded in scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these Godly men who gave them true messages from God.”*

The Greek word translated “prophecy” is “*prōphētēia*” refers to the words of an inspired speaker, in the reference to all scripture it was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Thus the Christian Bible is a spiritual book **not** a reference, scientific or fictitious book.

1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV] *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*

Just as the human spirit in every human being [**Job 32:8**] gives to a human being the ability to think and plan, so the spiritual book inspired by the Holy Spirit needs the Holy Spirit to open up its true meaning or message. [**John 16:13; John 14:26**]

The Holy Spirit either “*with us or in us*” [**John 14:17**] is the supernatural aid we need to understand God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

John 6:44 [King James] *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

We can only be among those who can receive Holy Spirit inspired understanding of the Christian Bible if God the Father draws us to Himself.

Thus the Christian Bible is **not** addressed to just anybody, its message is directed to a chosen few, at this time.

I said “*at this time*” because the Christian Bible itself reveals that the vast majority who do **not** now and have **not** in the past, understood what is recorded in it, will be resurrected back to physical life and have its message opened up to them – **Revelation 20:11-13**.

Whether these few are chosen now by God in a sovereign act of election or are chosen because they meet certain qualifications I leave to each of you readers to determine by your basic beliefs about such matters as predestination [please download and study our article with that title on this website], free will, the eternal decrees or other related doctrines.

We need to always remember that Christianity and the Christian Bible are God-centred, His will is at the centre of all commands and promises contained in it.

Because much of Christian thought today is centred around humanity, we have a very false image of the Eternal God we should be worshipping.

Exodus 3:13-14 [King James] *“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”*

God introduced Himself to Moses by the name “I am” Hebrew “*ehyeh asher ehyeh*” meaning “*I will be what I will be*” referring to the total sovereignty of the Creator God, self-existent, self-sufficient, unchangeable.

John 8:58 [NIV] *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”*

Jesus Christ identified who He was by the same title. This is why the Jews wanted to kill Him, because they considered it to be blasphemy, not knowing or accepting Jesus as God.

The eternal existence of Jesus Christ is central to our understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible. [Micah 5:2; John 17:5, 24; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 7:3; Revelation 22:13]

John 1:1-5, 14 [NIV] *“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. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The faith that saves us from eternal death, deserved because of our rebellious sins [**Romans 6:23**], is centred on the eternal person of Jesus Christ, leading us to a total commitment to Jesus Christ. [**Romans 12:1**]

Such an act is impossible for a natural human being and to rightly believe and act in this way is as much a miracle as the resurrection of Lazarus at the command of Jesus Christ. [**John 11:43**]

Not only does God address His words of truth to those who are able to receive them, He actually conceals their meaning from those who are not.

Matthew 13:10-17 [NIV] *“The disciples came to him and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’ He replied, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.” But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’”*

Jesus quotes the words that God gave to Isaiah when he offered to be used by God to bring a message of salvation to Israel. [**Isaiah 6:1-10**]

God revealing Himself to Isaiah had shown him his sins then they were atoned for by a live coal from the altar of sacrifice that was before God, this was symbolic of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice.

Isaiah responded in a way we all should. [**Romans 12:1-2**]

We have a similar example of this light to some and darkness to others, in the pillar of fire that guided Israel in the wilderness.

Exodus 14:19-20 [NIV] *“Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long.”*

What was darkness to the Egyptians was light to the Israelites.

Psalms 25:14 [King James] *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”*

The awe and respect for the Creator God is essential to God revealing Himself and His Plan for all humanity.

In natural matters faith follows evidence and is impossible without it.

In the spiritual realm faith in God precedes understanding, it does **not** follow it.

The natural human being must know in order to believe.

The spiritual human being must believe in order to know.

The faith that saves us from eternal death is **not** a conclusion drawn from evidence, it is a supernatural infusion of confidence in Jesus Christ, a very gift of God.

Such faith is a “*fruit*” of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 [King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”*

This is why the Word of God, the Christian Bible, is difficult to understand by the majority of human beings, no indwelling and active Holy Spirit in their lives.