

"... The Bible: Fact or Fiction?"

(John 17:17; Deuteronomy 32:47; 2 Peter 1:20-21; etc.)

I. Introduction: Review and Reflect

A. Contrast: Three Major Worldviews

- Naturalism – Nature with no God
- Transcendentalism – Nature = "God"
- Theism – Nature is created by God

B. Compare: Three Major Theistic Religions

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Inception:	ca. 2,000 BC	ca. A.D. 30	ca. A.D. 600
Founder:	Abraham, Moses	Jesus	Muhammad
Scripture:	Old Testament	Old Testament New Testament	Torah, Psalms Gospels, Quran
View of God	Unitarian and relational	Trinitarian and relational	Unitarian and non-relational
State of Humanity:	Morally obliged to Mosaic Law	Morally fallen and incapable	Morally capable of obedience
View of Salvation:	Restoration of Israel	Redemption via work of Christ	Submission to Islamic belief and practice

Chart from *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*, page 47

C. Consider: Three Questions about Biblical Authority

- How can the Bible be true if it is written by fallible men?
- How can the Bible be true when it is full of mistakes and contradictions?
- How can the Bible be true when there are no original manuscripts, but only copies?

II. Exposition: How can the Bible be true when ...

A. ... it is written by fallible men?

1. **Revelation** – 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; John 17:17
2. **Inspiration** – 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. **Canonicity** – Deuteronomy 32:47; Luke 11:51
4. **Illumination** – John 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:14-16

B. ... it is full of mistakes and contradictions?

1. **Parallel** accounts (Gospels, Chronicles/Kings)
 - Collusion - if identical
 - Complementary
 - The blind men at Jericho
 - The death of Judas
2. **Theological** differences
 - Israel under Law (constitution)
 - Church under grace

C. ... there are no original manuscripts, but only copies?

1. **The criticism**
2. **The comparison:**
 - The Iliad
 - The New Testament
3. **The conviction**

III. Conclusion:

- **Fact NOT Fiction**
- **Truth NOT Error**

Questions to reflect on individually and discuss in Small Groups:

1. What stuck out to you from the message? (What's your keeper?)
2. What do the differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam reveal to us about each's view of God?
3. What most impacts you from the answer to the question regarding the Bible being written by fallible men?
4. What most impacts you from the answer to the question regarding the Bible being full of mistakes and contradictions?
5. What most impacts you from the answer to the question regarding the Bible having no existing original documents but only copies?
6. What stuck out to you from the conclusion?
7. Finish this sentence with the primary thing that God is leading you to do: "In light of these passages and this discussion, I will ..." (What is your action point?)