

## **NG Study Guide: Hebrews 4:12-13 Bible: How did we get it Apologetics Series Pt.3 [7.29.18]**

### **Love God + know the Bible better:**

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. *Leader note: Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.*

### **The Study**

**Thesis:** As Christians we should believe that the Bible is true and that there are no errors or contradictions in it. If we believe it is in fact true, it is important to also be able to defend and know how we received it from God. We believe it is the divine and inspired word of God. Which He himself, through His spirit gave to men to pen. Through the ages God has revealed Himself to man through the scriptures and through His inspiration He continues to speak in and through this living breathing book we call the Bible. So, How did we Get it?

### **Misconceptions**

There are many misconceptions about the Bible and many of them are often accepted as truth, by unbelievers and believers alike. Here are a few:

1. Many people including proclaiming Christians believe that the Bible was written by man. While it was transcribed, or penned by men, it was authored by God through His Holy Spirit. 2. Skeptics theorize that the Bible was conceived by a select few men in an attempt to gain control over people or establish superiority in society. This couldn't be further from the truth when we look at the persecution the early church faced. There was not much superiority, rather death and hardship. 3. There are other inspired Books and Gospels which they believe should be part of the Bible. The Bible is a finished work and cannot be added to it [Prov.30:6]. The process in which God ordained his word to be orchestrated is called canonization and is very important to the integrity of the Bible. 4. The Bible was written all at once. The Bible is comprised of 66 books, written on 3 continents in 3 languages, by 40 writers, over 2,000 years.

### **Inspired:**

**2 Timothy 3:16** *“All scripture is God breathed, profitable for doctrine reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness”.*

The term God breathed literally means just that, God's words from His Mouth. In Latin the term is inspired means “to breathe into”. God spoke and men wrote it down. The Bible is real people, real stories, about a real God. The Bible is the inspired words of God and that should be inspiring to us. Let us be encouraged to read our Bibles with the sense that God is speaking directly to us, Because He is.

### **Canonization:**

Since the Old Testament is the Hebrew Bible also known as the Tanakh. Since God's people the Israelites have already accepted it and its authenticity is verified through the rich history of the Jewish people is not an issue for canonization. The New Testament however is different. How did they choose what books were worthy of the Bible?

1. Rule of faith: The document has no contradictions to Main doctrine or Theology of Christianity/ teachings of Christ.
2. Apostolicity: The writers must have had direct contact with or have been apostles of Jesus.
3. Acceptance: A consensus amongst church leaders with a widespread understanding and acceptance. No division or contradictions.

### **Transmission and Translation:**

Transmission is the process in which translating and copying from Hebrew to Greek. This is called the *septuagint* (2nd century BC). The strength of the transmission the case of the Bible is astounding. The amount of copies of a document of antiquity will allow scholars to check the accuracy of one document to another. The New Testament has the most amount of copies of any other manuscript in existence. Praise God, the Bible today has been translated into over 300 languages! But the three languages the Bible was originally written in had to be translated from one to another. Around 380 AD the Bible was translated into Latin from Greek, this is known as the Vulgate. Through the years because of God's protection over His

word and the conviction of devout believers the Bible has been translated and maintains incredible accuracy.

### **Study Guide Questions:**

- 1. *What are some ways we fail to see the value in God's word?***
- 2. *How can we individually become more dependent on God and his Word?***
- 3. *How has the Bible personally impacted your Life?***
- 4. *How would you like to grow in your Bible learning?***

### **Digging deeper:**

- 1. *Make a Bible reading a priority (if you don't already) Check out [CalvaryNexus.org/daily-reading-plan](http://CalvaryNexus.org/daily-reading-plan) for a plan to guide you through the Bible in a year. Commit and stick with it!***
- 2. *Find ways to share and encourage your friends family with the things you have read in your personal devotional time.***
- 3. *Read, consider, and meditate on Deuteronomy 11:18-23  
What does this look like implemented in your life?***

### **Love your neighbor outside the group better:**

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationship with their neighbors where they live, work, study, or play this past week?
2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbor outside the group?
3. Here is a neighboring idea(s) for us to consider for the week(s) ahead:  
Ask a neighbor that you have befriended what they believe about God and the Bible, and why they believe it. Pray, listen to them well, and look for Spirit-led opportunities to share your faith with them.

### **Love your neighbor inside the group better:**

1. Are there some needs in our group that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbor within the group?
2. What might we do about that need to help?

### **Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:**

***Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer.*** Encourage each participant to pray, but don't force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

### **Leader Notes:**

1. Seek to involve as many group participants as possible. A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.
2. Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.
3. The "Digging Deeper" section provides some optional or alternative study and discussion activities. As a group leader, you can choose to focus on the "Digging Deeper" section, include part of that section in your group meeting, or not use it at all. Try to give the group sufficient notice so they can be prepared for the meeting.
4. Every time you meet consider asking:

a. What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing? If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don't hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.