

## God's Word - Inspired

INTRO: Famous Last Words quiz

**Coexist** – what does it mean?

One explanation stated “COEXIST is a way to demonstrate your support of religious freedom, tolerance and understanding.”

The eight symbols come from various ideologies and religions.

Crescent – Islam

Peace – peace

E with male/female sign – gender equality

Star of David – Judaism

I with pentagram – Wiccan and witchcraft

Cross – Christianity

Tolerance = all religions are equal

**Which religion is true?** Kirk Durston has a helpful process:

- 1) Law of Non-Contradiction** - When we examine the core beliefs of each of the major religions, we discover that every major religion contains core beliefs that contradict one or more core beliefs of each of the others. For example, a core Hindu belief is that there are many gods whereas Islam holds that there are not many gods, only one. The two beliefs contradict each other, therefore they cannot both be true; one or both must be false. Christianity believes that Jesus Christ is the only way, the truth and the life whereas Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and all other major religions say that Jesus Christ is not the *only* way, and many say that He is not a way to God at all. Since the core beliefs of all major religions are mutually contradictory, we can conclude that, at most, only one major religion can be true. We are then faced with the question of which one, if any, might be true.
- 2) What Evidence is there that the Holy Man spoke for God?** We must see if there is some rational justification for believing that a particular founder of a given religion actually represented or spoke for God. If no justification can be found, it does not follow that the religion is false, but it does follow that we have no reason to believe that particular religion.
- 3) What Evidence is there that the Holy Book is from God?** If unusual evidence can be found which supports the belief that the holy book comes from a supernatural source, then since only one religion at most can be true, we may be on the track of the one true religion.

Often the evidence for the Holy Man is found in the Holy Book...so let's start there.

We're going to investigate this last question with our study this fall. Does the Bible claim to be God's Word to man and if so, what evidence is there that it is?

Word Up – Goal – I hope your view of God's Word increases – goes up – in importance and relevance.

**IBC's Statement of Faith**

*We believe that the Bible, consisting of both the Old and New Testament, is the **inspired Word of God**, without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and is the final authority for Christian faith and life.*

We're going to focus on the Inspiration of God's Word.

NOTE: The Bible isn't the only book that claims divine inspiration

- i. The Qu'aran - "(This is) the revelation of the Book in which there is no doubt, from the Lord of the Worlds." (32:2)
- ii. The book of Morman - "Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do" (2 Nephi 32:3).

SO....we're going to look at what the Bible claims to be this week, and then in the coming weeks look at how well it backs those claims up.

## 2. Q. What Does The Bible Claim To Be?

- a. "Thus Says the Lord" – Judges 6:7-10 (NASB) – 418 times in OT
- b. "God said..." – Exodus 3:14 – 48 times in OT
- c. God Spoke Through the Prophets – Zech 7:7
- d. The Spirit of God Spoke To People – 2 Sam. 23:2

### A. The Word of God

## 3. Q. How?

- a. 2 Tim. 3:16 – God-breathed
- b. 2 Peter 1:20-21 – Moved by the Holy Spirit
- c. 2 Peter 3:15,16 – Wisdom from God...Other Scriptures

### A. Inspiration

## 4. Takeaway....So What?

- a. BIG IDEA – God's Word is God-breathed
- b. KEY PHRASE – Inspiration
- c. HOMEWORK – Read A Gospel

How long...On the audio NIV Bible, Matthew (spoken aloud at a reader's pace), comes in at 2 hours 23 minutes, Mark at 1 hour 28 minutes, Luke at 2 hours 26 minutes, and John at around 2 hours. Therefore combined, depending on your pace of course, they would take roughly 497 minutes (Just over 8 hours).

## 5. Q-Time

1. What was your initial reaction when you heard we'd be talking about the Bible? Why?
2. How much of the Bible have you read? What parts made an impact on you? What parts did you find confusing?
3. If the Bible is inspired by God, what implications does that have for your life?
4. What questions do you have about the Bible?

## Scripture To Have Teens Read (From 2 and 3)

Judg. 6:7-10 - When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery....I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

Ex. 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Zech 7:7 - Are these not the words the LORD proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?"

2Sam. 23:2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.

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

2 Peter 1:20-21 - Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 3:14-15 - Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

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