

Is God a Viable Option? (The God of the Bible)

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I. Introduction.

II. The nature of the Word of God.

- A. It was written over a long period.
- B. Human men were carried away by God. (II Peter 1:21)
- C. All Scripture is inspired by God. (II Timothy 3:16)
- D. God gave us the Old Testament for our learning. (Romans 15:4)
- E. The Bible is a book in which God used humans.
- F. Christians trust that the Holy Spirit passed down the Word of God and helps us understand it.

III. Principles for interpretation.

- A. Interpret the Bible literally, unless there is some obvious reason one should not.
 - 1. Individual words have significance.
 - 2. One should not use the allegorical meaning because there is no way to understand what the Word truly says if one employs it.
- B. Pay attention to structure like sentence structure and Greek grammar.
- C. Look into the historical background. (Matthew 6:19)
- D. Interpret the Word theologically, but one should never build a doctrine on one verse.
- E. The reason God gave us the Word is to change our lives.

IV. Ways God speaks.

- 1. The Bible is clear and direct about many issues of behavior such as child discipline. (Proverbs 29:13, 23:13-14)
- 2. The Bible sometimes speaks to certain issues through principles such as abortion through the sanctity of life.
- 3. God also speaks to us through wisdom in circumstances. (James 1:5)
- 4. God speaks through promises. (Romans 10:13, I John 1:9)

5. Sometimes, God will use the Bible out of context to speak to people but never for doctrine.
(Psalm 50:15)

Application questions:

1. How is it helpful to understand the nature of the Word of God?

2. How would you counsel someone beginning Bible study for the first time? Explain.

3. How have you experienced God speaking to you before? Is there any of the ways the speaker lists that you have not experienced?
