



HIDDEN ASSUMPTIONS

Subtle Assumptions That Can Affect Your Faith

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Assumption No. 4

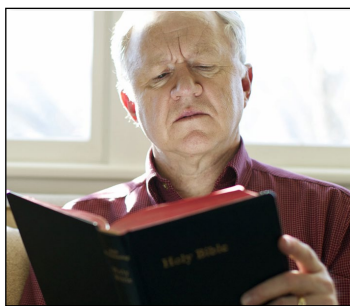
“The Bible is too difficult to understand”

Many people assume that the Bible is simply too difficult to understand.

After all, it was written thousands of years ago in ancient languages and cultures that seem far removed from modern life. Readers sometimes encounter unfamiliar customs, symbolic language, poetry, prophecy, or passages that appear difficult to reconcile. In addition, today’s fast-paced culture often discourages careful reading and reflection, making a thoughtful book like the Bible seem overwhelming.

Because of these factors, some conclude that the Bible can only be understood by scholars, pastors, or trained experts. But is that really the case? If the Bible is God’s message to humanity, would He communicate in a way that ordinary people could not understand, or has He made His truth accessible to those who sincerely seek Him?

A. Case Study: David’s Frustration with the Bible



David became a Christian several years ago and genuinely wanted to grow spiritually. Early in his Christian life, several people encouraged him to read the Bible daily. Determined to do the right thing, David started reading on his own. However, he quickly became discouraged. Some passages seemed confusing, and others appeared to contradict each other. He often encountered unfamiliar customs, strange names, and sections that felt difficult to follow.

At first David assumed the problem was simply his lack of knowledge, so he kept trying. But after several months he began to feel frustrated. He concluded that the Bible was written mainly for pastors, scholars, or people who had studied theology. Eventually, he stopped

reading it regularly and instead relied on short devotional books, sermons, and Christian podcasts to learn about God.

Over time, David noticed something missing in his spiritual life. Although he was hearing about the Bible from others, he was no longer personally engaging with God’s Word. His understanding of Scripture remained shallow, and he sometimes felt unsure about what the Bible actually taught.

B. Discussion Questions

1. What assumptions did David make about the Bible that may not be accurate?

2. What factors could have contributed to David’s frustration with the Bible?

3. How would you explain the following examples of apparent contradictions in the Bible?

Example: Romans 3:28 vs. James 2:24: Are we saved by faith or saved by works?

- Passage 1: Paul: “For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.” — Romans 3:28.
- Passage 2: James: “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” — James 2:24

Example: John 1:18 vs. Exodus 33:11: Has no one ever really seen God?

- Passage 1: “*No one has ever seen God.*” --John 1:18
- Passage 2: “*Then Moses spoke to the LORD face to face, as one speaks to a friend.*” --Exodus 33:11)

Example: Ephesians 2:8-9 vs. 2 Corinthians 5:10: If believers are saved by faith, then why are they going to be judged someday?

- Passage 1: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... not by works.”
— Ephesians 2:8–9
- Passage 2: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due for the things done while in the body.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:10

4. How might David’s approach to reading the Bible be improved so that he could understand it better?