

Is God the Author of Confusion?

The holy God justly blinds and confuses men,
even by the scriptures, when they do not seek or
approach Him properly.

“And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

Genesis 11:5-9

God is the Author of Confusion

1. He confused all the people at the tower of Babel, so they could not communicate and finish their humanistic project for world unity.
2. Just imagining the utter chaos and anger at being unable to achieve even the most elementary communication should humble us.
3. He had told them to multiply and replenish the earth, and they were rebelling with haughty ambitions of unity in their own name.
4. If any person thinks God would not confuse or send a lie to wicked men, you stand in the ignorant rebellion of those confounded souls.

God is Not the Author of Confusion

1. Paul told Corinth God did not approve the confusion in their assemblies as a result of chaotic speaking in tongues (I Cor 14:33).
2. He ordered all things be done decently and in order (I Cor 14:40).
3. God does not want us confusing the orderly things He has ordained, but this does not mean He will not ordain our confusion!
4. The very need to make the division on this page is cause enough to confuse many who think the Bible should be like a child's primer.

God Does Not Owe Men the Truth

Truth is a Blessing, Not a Right

1. We chose a lie in Eden against His true word, so He is only giving us what we want, when He allows and sends lies (Gen 2:17; 3:1-6).
2. There is no truth in a human heart, for we are born liars (Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Prov 22:15; Is 48:8).
3. By our corrupt nature, we follow our moral father the devil, who loves all lies (John 8:44-45; Eph 2:1-3; I John 5:19; Rev 12:9).
4. Our very pretension to be more than creatures is a lie (Psalm 62:9).
5. Men do not want truth; they would rather believe a lie (John 8:45).
6. It is our incumbent duty to be thankful for any truth (Gen 32:10).
7. God is truth; and because He is truth, He will not let you despise Him or His truth without judging you in kind (I Kings 22:1-40).
 - a. He sent His prophet Micaiah to lie first to Ahab (22:15).
 - b. He sent a lying spirit into all of Ahab's prophets (22:19-23).
8. Our glorious Creator deprived the ostrich of wisdom, and He glories in it and expects us to do so as well (Job 39:13-18). Her foolish instincts and lack of understanding are by His holy choice.
9. He owes more to pigs than to man, for they never rebelled against Him nor chose to believe a lie; but He did not show their minds or will or instincts any respect at all (Mark 5:13).

10. A glance at the nations shows that God deprived men of wisdom. Some never had the wheel, a written language, a number system, agricultural knowledge, basic morality, and many other aspects of wisdom, though Noah was the father of us all just 4400 years ago.
11. God allowed men to live ignorantly for thousands of years without giving them much more than the natural creation (Deut 4:5-8; Psalm 19:1-6; Amos 3:2; Acts 14:16; 17:30; Rom 1:18-23).
12. God can shine the light of truth anywhere, but He chooses not to in the holy exercise of His sovereign power (Psalm 147:19-20; Matt 10:5-6; 11:20-24; Acts 16:6-10,14; Romans 3:1-2; II Cor 4:3-7).
13. If acknowledging the truth is only by His gift of repentance, why doesn't He give it to all (II Tim 2:25-26; I Tim 2:4; Matt 13:11)?
14. When His market survey revealed what men wanted to see and hear, He sent them something foolish and offensive (I Cor 1:17-24; Matt 12:38-45; Is 8:13-16; I Pet 2:6-8). He did not adjust to men.
15. When eloquence and presentation would win hearts, the apostle of the Gentiles came in fear and weakness (I Cor 2:1-5; 1:17).
 - a. His presence was weak; his speech despicable (II Cor 10:10).
 - b. Our Lord ordained uneducated fishermen (Acts 4:13).
16. Does a Creator God, Who laughs at men opposing Him, sound like He owes man (Ps 2:1-12; Prov 1:24-32; Rom 9:14-24; 11:33-36)?
17. Does our Lord Christ, Who spoke of ripping up the Pharisees, Who called those learned doctors of the law blind leaders of the blind, sound like He owes them truth (Matt 15:12-14)?
18. God is Jealous; don't play with Him, for He will deal in fury toward those who neglect Him (Ex 34:14; Josh 24:19; Nah 1:2).

God Judges Men by Confusing Them

1. He glories in His ability to confuse haughty men as one of His marvelous works (Job 5:8-14; 12:14-25; Is 44:24-25; I Cor 3:19).
2. He judges men sometimes by giving them their own foolish lusts and requests (Psalm 78:17-33; 81:11-12; 106:15; Prov 1:29-32).
3. He blinds men to basic natural knowledge, when they disregard and disobey Him. He darkens their understanding and gives them over to a reprobate mind, until they do perverse and inconvenient things greedily and viciously (Rom 1:18-32; Eph 4:17-19).
 - a. He darkens their hearts for rejecting creation truth (19-21).
 - b. He hates professors of wisdom i.e. intellectual teachers (22).
 - c. He perverts their minds for choosing their own gods (22-28).
4. God blinds man's reasoning to miss the most obvious fallacies in thinking, even using a leftover third of a tree for a god; He takes away ability on their part to reason and see their folly (Is 44:9-20).
5. God judged Egypt's wise men and princes with blindness and a perverse spirit of madness (Isaiah 19:11-17).
6. God hates hypocrisy and deceived the hypocrites of Israel into gross wickedness of bad laws and profane religious practices, even offering their children to pagan idols (Ezek 20:1-3,25-26,39).
7. God blinded His own people to the truth for their sins (Isaiah 6:9-12; 63:17; 66:3-4; Ezek 7:26-27).
8. God judged those Jews who rejected the Messiah of God with deceived and blinded hearts (Ps 69:20-28; Isaiah 6:9-12; John 12:37-41; Acts 28:23-29; Rom 11:7-10,25).

9. God sends strong delusion and deception to truth-rejecters, so that they will believe lies, and He can damn them with superstition (II Thess 2:9-12; I Kings 22:7-23; II Chron 18:6-22; Jer 4:9-10).
10. He glorifies Himself by hiding truth from the wise and educated and revealing it to ignorant babes (Matthew 11:25-27).
11. He mocks our sciences, or knowledge, and rightly so, describing them as “science falsely so called” (I Tim 6:20). And no wonder!
 - a. It is not science to believe the earth came from an explosion, monkeys from slime, and man from monkeys!
 - b. It is a religion of opposition to God and His word, like Babel.
 - c. Only a deceived idiot could even imagine such asininity!
 - d. Consider also psychology, astrology psychiatry, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, textual criticism!
 - e. Anything contrary to the Bible is profane and vain babblings!
 - f. A liberal arts college education is almost guaranteed insanity!
12. When a people rebel, He takes from them wise and honorable men and leaves women and children to oppress them (Isaiah 3:1-15).
13. In the perilous times of the last days, when men would choose a form of godliness and love pleasures, deception and deceivers would get worse, and truth would be impossible (II Tim 3:6-9,13).
14. Jesus came into the world for judgment: He gave sight to the blind and blindness to the seeing (John 9:39-41; Luke 8:18; 9:24-26).

Is the Bible Confusing?

1. Many Christians claim to use the Bible for their faith and practice, but they end up believing all sort of different things that are contrary one to another even on basic points of doctrine.
2. Peter wrote that Paul's writings contained things hard to understand, which caused men to wrest them to their own destruction (II Pet 3:15-16). If he thought them hard, what of us?
3. The Bible contains many proverbs, parables, and riddles, which are dark and difficult sayings (Prov 1:5-6; Matt 13:10,34-35; John 16:25,29; Ezek 12:22-23; 17:2).
4. Consider a few examples of proverbs and riddles (Judges 14:12-18; Prov 20:30; 26:2; 30:15; Ezek 18:2; John 16:16-18; etc.).
5. Consider a few examples of parables and riddles (Judges 9:7-21; Matt 13:36; Luke 5:36-39; 16:1-9; 18:1-8; etc.).
6. Why did the Lord put seven verses in the Bible that surely sound like baptism saves us (Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Cor 15:29; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)?
7. Why did the Lord put at least nine verses in the Bible that surely sound like we can lose our salvation (Matt 12:31; 24:13; Gal 4:5; Col 1:23; Heb 3:6; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; Rev 3:5; 22:19)?
8. Why did the Lord hide the five phases of salvation? Why didn't He lay it out plainly like a handbook? By using words and concepts of salvation loosely, there is much confusion of the doctrine of our own redemption. Are there differences between Prov 23:14; Matt 1:21; I Cor 15:2; Titus 3:5; and Rom 13:11?

9. Did He know Mormons would stumble over I Cor 15:29? William Miller over Daniel 8:14? Arminians over John 3:16? Charismatics over Acts 2:17? Catholics over John 6:53-61? JWs over Matthew 5:33-37? Primitives over Daniel 3:25; John 13:1-17; Acts 18:1-3?
10. The numerous and obvious apparent “contradictions” lead many to deny the integrity of the Bible. There are many internal discrepancies that require extensive study to resolve satisfactorily.
11. The first rule of Bible interpretation causes many to quit studying, because they don’t want to read the whole thing (II Pet 1:20).
12. Ministers are told to rightly divide the word of truth or come to shame (II Tim 2:15). For there are many words and concepts that must be divided, separated and pulled apart, which appear similar.
13. The truth of the gospel is a mystery and a great mystery, which can only be revealed by faithful men to faithful men (I Tim 3:16). See the sermon outline “Mysteries of Hidden Wisdom” from Aug 01.
14. Why did God use the pronoun *he* in Daniel 9:27, when He knew that unbelieving men would grab Titus the prince from 9:26 as the antecedent, rather than Messiah the Prince from 9:25-26?
15. Why did God allow the chronologies of the Persian Empire to be destroyed by Alexander and others, so that men would reject the decree of Cyrus as the starting point for the 70-weeks of Daniel?
16. See the outline for Bible Hermeneutics to have hundreds of examples of confusion resulting from misinterpreting the Bible.
17. Everyone claims to use the Bible for their faith and practice, but they end up believing all sort of different things that are contrary one to another even on basic points of doctrine.

Could God Write a Plain and Simple Bible?

1. Yes, of course! He has infinite foreknowledge to know *which* verses would be misunderstood, *why* they would be misunderstood, and *how* they would be misunderstood.
2. Yes, of course! He has infinite wisdom to know how to put difficult things into the fewest and best words possible! He created language, and He knows best how to use it to communicate truth.
3. Yes, of course! He has infinite power to enable men to write with the plainest use of any language, whether fishermen or kings.
4. Yes, of course! He made Balaam's ass speak wisdom, and Jesus confounded all the doctors of Israel with the shortest of arguments.
5. Yes, of course! He knows the difference between dark speeches and plain speaking (Num 12:6-8; John 16:25,29; II Cor 3:12-14).
6. Yes, of course! His choice and ability to inspire minute accuracy is very obvious (Matt 22:23-33,41-46; Gal 3:16; 4:9; John 8:58; 10:33-36; Heb 8:13; 12:26-27).
7. But such a Bible would not accomplish His holy purpose of concealing truth from the proud and revealing it to mere babes. For so it seemed good in His sight!
8. The Bible is plain to those who fear God, tremble at His word, and approach it obediently with diligent study (Prov 8:8-9; 9:10; 14:6; Matt 24:15; II Tim 2:15; II Pet 1:19-21).
9. You should love reading and studying the Bible in total faith, even with its challenging design, in light of His literary genius!

Why Is the Bible Hard to Understand?

1. Because God wrote it in such a way to conceal truth from skeptics, hypocrites, and wicked men, and to reveal truth to those who fear Him, love Him, and want the truth to please Him more perfectly.
2. Because God will not play with hypocrites, even His own people, who treat Him or His word lightly. He will do a marvelous thing by confounding their religious and spiritual understanding (Is 29:9-16). They will not be able to read and know. They will fall back.
3. When a man approaches a prophet with an idol in his heart or a stumblingblock of iniquity before his eyes, God will deceive the prophet to tell a lie and/or the hypocritical man to believe a lie and bring His obvious judgment upon them both (Ezek 14:1-11).
4. Jesus spoke in parables, which even the disciples found so difficult they questioned His methods, to keep the people from knowing the truth, for He did not want to convert them (Matt 13:10-15,34-35; Mark 4:33-34). They had already rejected His word, so He took even what they thought they had to give to others (Luke 8:18).
5. Because the Lord of heaven and earth designed it to reveal or conceal truth, depending on how men approach it, as it seemed good in His sight (Matt 11:25-27).
6. God has gloriously chosen in judgment to blind and snare His enemies and preserve His disciples by the same means (Is 8:9-22).
7. Jesus was chosen to be a stone of stumbling and rock of offence to some and precious to others (Is 53:1-3; I Pet 2:6-8; Rom 9:33).

8. The gospel, which is the good news of Christ, which is preached by the Bible, is designed to do the same (I Cor 1:17-24; I Pet 1:25).
9. The same tedious method that teaches sound doctrine to some is the very cause of others seeking unto fables to their own destruction, as in our own day (Isaiah 28:9-13; II Tim 4:2-4).
10. Because God Himself has chosen to send a famine for true preaching in our land, just as He did to Israel (Amos 8:11-14). So in spite of great literacy, easy publishing, great prosperity, witty Bible study tools, and the great Internet, men are starving to death!

What Should We Do?

1. If the Lord can and does blind men to the truth for His glory and their sin, then we must glorify Him and leave off our sins!
2. A pastor can watch some grow and others shrink; and he can usually tell why, for the idols of most men are quite evident.
3. We should tremble before the great and dreadful God, Who owns the deceived and deceiver (Job 12:16)!
4. We should tremble before His word with awe and fear (Is 66:2)!
5. We should thank Him greatly for making so much plain and easy to understand (Gen 32:10; Matt 11:25-27; 16:17; II Thess 2:13-17).
6. Let God be true, but every man a liar; we should never apologize for the truth (Rom 3:4; Isaiah 8:20; Ps 119:98-100; Job 32:6-10).
7. We must pray for the pastor (Eph 1:15-18; 6:19-20; Col 4:2-4).
8. We must search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11; I Thess 5:21).
9. We must hate pride, and love humility (I Kings 3:7; Psalm 131:1).
10. Since He is jealous, we must love only Him (Matt 15:8; Ex 34:14).
11. We must have a holy motive in studying (Jer 9:23-24; Ps 119:11).
12. We must recall God sees the heart and judges accordingly, which we cannot see (Psalm 44:20-21; Ezek 14:3; John 2:25; Heb 4:12).

13. We must obey what we hear and learn (John 7:17; Rom 11:19-22; Heb 2:1-3).
14. We must approach His word His way, for it will bear the precious fruit that He chooses (Is 55:8-11).
15. We must oppose the false learning of carnal Christianity prevalent in our generation by preaching the word (II Tim 3:1 – 4:4).
16. We must pray for understanding (Ps 119:18; Jas 1:5; Eph 1:15-18).
17. We must love the truth (II Thess 2:9-12; I Cor 16:22).
18. We must keep that committed to us (I Tim 3:15; 6:20; Jude 1:3).
19. We must not have any idols or stumblingblocks (Ezek 14:1-11).
20. Hypocrisy will destroy us (Isaiah 29:13; Matt 15:7-9).