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**Christian Beliefs**

**Discussion Questions: Thorsen Chapter 4**

1. On Page 41, the text mentions that the Bible was developed over hundreds of years by a lot of different kings, prophets, and scribes. How did God deliver these in such a way that each book is coherent with the rest? Is it as simple as God’s divine knowledge? I’d like to know if the prophets used the previous scriptures to format the scripture they were writing, or if God did all that work before inspiring the writers.
2. Page 43: Biblical canon is told as being decided by the ancient church. They decided what was included in the Bible and what wasn’t. Is it possible that important items that could have answered our questions were lost to time due to this omission from the canon? Perhaps those documents and writings could have given us a clearer perspective on certain issues viewed by the church or given us the solution to an unanswered question entirely.
3. I’m curious of the method that God used to convey the writings, and always have been. “Divine inspiration” is sort of a vague term. Do we really know what process was used to inspire the prophets? For example, on one hand, God could have placed himself in the room with the prophets and guided their writings. On the other hand, God could have implanted all the writings into the prophet’s mind. Is there anywhere in the Bible that reveals how God specifically came down and gave scripture to the writers?
4. Page 47 discusses a concept called “dynamic, partial, or degrees of inspiration”. I have my doubts about this that tie into my previous questions. Human’s are very likely prone to error, and for God to send His word down to the prophets only to let them transcribe it how they saw fit seems to be allowing way too wide of a margin of error into the writing of the Bible. If we can assume the Bible includes this margin of error created by the writers, then the Bible itself falls apart, as then we would not view the entire Bible as directly divinely inspired.