

Making Sense of the Bible
Chapter 16-18 Questions

1. On page 154, Hamilton writes, “When I sense a nudge from the Lord, I then test it against the “rule” of scripture...Does it line up with the character of God revealed in Jesus? Is it consistent with the ideas of scripture taken as a whole?”

What if a “nudge” you felt lined up with some scripture but not others? What would your next step(s) be to figure out if this is what God is calling you to do or believe?

2. What does Hamilton mean when he says, “we are all a bit spiritually hard of hearing”?
3. Give an example of something you believe to be true because a well-respected and well-known person said it was the truth.
4. What are two reasons Hamilton gives for not adopting the view that scripture is inerrant/infallible?
5. Hamilton uses the stories of Creation in the Bible as an example of scripture being inconsistent with what scientific discovery and research tells us. If these stories weren’t meant to teach us science, why do you believe the creation stories were included in scripture?
6. Hamilton discusses the “Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy” and quotes it on page 162-163, “We deny that such a confession [of inerrancy] is necessary for salvation ... however, we further deny that inerrancy can be rejected without grave consequences, both to the individual and the Church.”

Give an example of what “grave consequences” they may have been talking about. That is, what did they fear would happen if someone stopped believing that scripture was inerrant?

7. On page 166, Hamilton states that one of the questions asked by supporters of the idea that scripture is inerrant is, "If there is an error anywhere in the Bible, how can we trust anything it says?" How would you answer this question?

8. Hamilton suggests that we "hear, examine, and interpret all scripture through the lens and filter of the *definitive* and *unmitigated* Word of God, Jesus Christ."

What does unmitigated mean? Do you believe the Jesus we know is "unmitigated"? Why or why not?

9. Hamilton writes that there are three other important tools to help us make sense of scripture. Which one do you think is most important? Why?

10. Give an example of a scripture you believe may not reflect the timeless will of God.