



## THE HUMAN DIMENSION

There are three (3) aspects of the human dimension

1. Individual writing style of each author
  1. If the bible was dictated divinely then there would be uniformity of language and style
  2. However the bible text is rich in diversity
  3. Different literary genres
  4. Multiple perspectives on the qualities and characteristics of a God who is beyond human comprehension

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2. Through oral and written sources used in parts of the Bible
  1. They didn't rely solely on the impressions of the Holy Spirit.
  2. Frequently they consulted written documents such as historical records or wrote ancient oral traditions that preserved truth.
  3. Genesis was oral history passed down generation to generation until commanded to write them down
  4. Gospels had their origins in oral traditions handed down – the apostles were a dying breed

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2. Through oral and written sources used in parts of the Bible
  1. Other books are compilations of the writings of different authors, possibly based on oral traditions
  2. Examples: Joshua, Judges, Kings and Chronicles compiled from earlier records then revised by editors who helped to shape their distinctive divine perspective ... e.g. Luke 1:3
  3. There are certain surface discrepancies in details in the records of the Jewish kings and within the gospels would suggest the writers used human sources for much of their information

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3. Through contemporary cultural influences which left their mark on the text
  1. The authors cultural values are frequently reflected in their work
  2. Cultural progress over time
    1. Exodus 20 – the 10 Commandments written by the finger of God – such words would suggest they were sacred and immutable
    2. Jesus summarised them into 2 key principles
    3. Jesus also expanded them – Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28

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3. Through contemporary cultural influences which left their mark on the text
  1. Bible writers interpreted spiritual values according to their own cultural understanding.
  2. Compare 1 Samuel 24:1 to 1 Chronicles 21:1
    1. One explanation – Samuel was probably composed before the Hebrews had developed a theology of Satan. God motivated all actions good and evil. E.g. Exodus 10 pharaoh
  3. God it seemed approved of patriarchal polygamy
    1. However God does not wait for human understanding to be perfect and complete, he transcends their culture and mixes with them non the less

## AUTHORSHIP AND COMPILATION

1. We do not know the actual authors of many of the Bible books
2. Some have been credited by church tradition
3. Jewish tradition states that the scribe Ezra made the final compilation of the OT
4. New copies were hand written with tremendous care
5. Scholars agree that what we mostly have today is accurate

## LANGUAGES - Hebrew

1. Ancient Hebrew written from right to left
2. Only consonants were used
3. No punctuation
4. No spaces between words

THIS SENTENCE WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS  
SHTKLKLDLWCNTNSSHT

## LANGUAGES - Hebrew

1. How many words in English? Over 150,000
2. Biblical Hebrew had only about 5,000
3. Most Hebrew words have 3 consonants – different vowel combinations

Q – D – SH (root)  
QoDeSH - holiness  
QaDoSH - holy  
QuDSHo - his holiness  
QaDeSH - to make holy

## LANGUAGES – Hebrew - OT

1. Hebrew is rich and has many meanings
2. English is very specific
3. We need to be mindful when using an English specific mindset to interpret Hebrew ideas which have vast meanings than what we would initially see.
4. The writer may have meant more than our narrow English translation permits

## LANGUAGES - Aramaic

1. Became the common Hebrew tongue
2. Ancient Hebrew became lost – only scholars used it
3. Closely related to Hebrew
4. Similar words
  1. Hebrew - heavens – ha-shamayin
  2. Aramaic – heavens – shemayya
5. Daniel 2:4 – 7:28, Ezra 48-16, 18; 7:12-26, Jeremiah 10:11

## LANGUAGES – Greek - NT

1. NT Greek was koine not classical Greek
2. When Alexander the Great united the Greek states and melded their dialects into one
3. More words to draw from
4. More complex than Hebrew

## BIBLE STUDY CLUB

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