

# Yes, The Bible Is a CONFUSING Book!

This statement will shock those who feel qualified to interpret the Scriptures for themselves.

They may reply that anyone honestly seeking to "search the Scriptures" will have the infallible aid of the Holy Spirit.

But how can this be true when equally sincere people... all presumably aided by the Holy Spirit... arrive at conflicting conclusions? How can it be true when doctrinal differences divide nominal Christians into numerous sects? How can it be true when eminent scholars disagree sharply on basic Bible questions?

Scholars who devote their lifetime to the study of the Scriptures are the first to admit the difficulties that beset them. They know the inspired writings are *not* the clear and easy guide to Christian understanding that so many seem to think. If they were so clear and easy to understand, there would be no need for scholarly inquiry—no excuse for a divided Christianity.

The mere words of the Bible do not always accurately reflect the meaning of their authors. They must be understood in the light of the times in which they were written... in a knowledge of the symbols and language forms they employed... and with a recognition of the need to determine what was meant to be literal and what was meant to be figurative. Who of us has this required knowledge?

The earliest Bible manuscripts, in fact, could have been confusing even to the people of those times. The Old Testament writings—largely in Hebrew—had no spacing between words, no vowels in the text, no punctuation and no capitalization. The vowels had to be supplied from memory! Spacing of words or the insertion of

various vowels could markedly change the sense of the words.

But in those times the faithful did not attempt to interpret Scripture for themselves. For the Jewish people in the pre-Christian era, the Synagogue was their voice of spiritual authority; and the Old Testament was preached to them by the Rabbis and fathers of their faith. In like manner, the Catholic Church was the custodian of the inspired writings of the New Testament; and its priests and teachers were authoritatively preaching the New Testament Gospel nearly four centuries before these writings were collected into a single book and formally declared to be inspired.

Today... after nearly 2,000 years... Catholics the world over still listen to only one authoritative voice—the Church—in the interpretation of God's Word. If you want to know more about the Bible—how and when it was written, how to read it with best results, its good and bad translations... write today for our free Pamphlet No. FM-22. We'll send it immediately; nobody will call on you.

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## Quips and Quotes

### Party of the First Part

In old pajamas, with pin curls drying,  
My face in a cold-cream lather,  
I'm poised on the edge of fainting  
or flying,  
Uncertain of which I'd rather.

Is the house on fire? Have the Martians  
landed?

Or is it a nighttime stick-up,  
That horror-stricken I stand here  
stranded,  
Uncertain which foot to pick up?

And what's the cause of the merriment  
rising

From well-groomed people and hearty?  
The answer—oh, jeepers!—isn't  
surprising:  
Surprise Party.

—Georgie Starbuck Galbraith

The secretary brought the boss his  
morning mail but kept one letter separate.  
"The envelope of this one said 'Personal,'" she explained, "but it isn't very."

—James Shurluck

The lady looked out the window in time  
to see the neighbor's children run into  
her yard and chase one another through  
her lovely flower garden. Before she could  
do anything about it, their mother bound-

## and Quotes

ed angrily after them.

"You devils," the mother cried. "Never do that again—just look at the mess you've made of your new shoes!"

—Gene Burtell

He could get along with everybody but his brother-in-law, and one day he grew so irritated that he chased the youth out of the house.

"You've got to control yourself," his wife told him. "It's silly, and besides if you even lay a hand on him you'll be fined \$25 or so."

Weeks passed and the husband never mentioned his brother-in-law. His wife was pleased. "I see you've given up the idea of fighting my brother."

"I'm not giving up!" the man shouted. "I'm saving up!"

—F. G. Kernan

### Fat Chance

The penny scale that tells my weight  
Might just as well eliminate  
The little card that tells my fate;  
My future's clear before I spy it:  
Diet.

—Dick Emmons



"What a day! They threw a group tantrum!"