

From the FAQ Pages of the ISA, Independent Spiritualists Web Site

Answers to your questions by our individual Ministers reflect their particular opinions and beliefs

Do you follow the Bible?

Spiritualists use all sources of inspiration about God and His messengers. The Christian Bible is one of those references, but is not the only source for God's messages to mankind.

No religion follows the whole Bible. There are over 100 Christian denominations that use the Bible, of which there are over 100 versions. Each has made decisions about which Bible version and which passages to accept and to emphasize as well as which to ignore. This selective focus accounts for the varieties of Christianity.

The Old Testament is the chronicles of the Hebrew people written from their perspective. The first place this narrow view is exposed is with Adam and Eve. Who did their children marry? It is written as if no other people were on the planet. Later other people only show up in the stories as enemies to be conquered or who have conquered them. Always these are portrayed as *enemies of God*. Today archeological evidence shows that epic events recorded in the Old Testament with Hebrew heroes are strikingly similar to mythologies from earlier civilizations, such as the Sumerians. The Hebrews happened to be enslaved by the Sumerians long before the first written accounts in what Christians call the Old Testament. [EXAMPLE: Great Flood](#)

There is great inspiration in the Bible. Passages written from the heart about personal relationships with God are moving and we can learn much from them. If it is all *the will of God*, the old testament describes a cruel god requiring his followers to do horrific acts in its name. I don't want to believe in that god. That god condones or promotes slavery, polygamy, concubines, genocide, killing of men, slavery of women and children, vengeance, and punishment for generations of innocents due to one man's sin.

Yeshu (Jesus – yes, even his name is not translated correctly) as an evolved Soul/Spirit is like us in our potential to do as He did. He was the *first* to become *Christed* (Anointed) which is to become *one with the Father*. His message is to do likewise, to follow His example, not to worship Him. It has been the churches which needed him to be worshiped, to be God's last messenger and to be your only salvation. And mostly to follow church interpretation without question.

This was all established at the first council of Nicaea in 325AD when the original Roman Catholic Church was formed. Less than 300 Bishops attended of the 1400 invited to this council ultimately determined the core beliefs and selected the supporting texts that became the Christian Bible. The summary of these beliefs are still recited today as the Apostle's Creed (AKA [Nicaean Creed](#)) but were not universal within the early Christian communities nor were they necessarily the dominant beliefs. However they did fit nicely into the political needs of Emperor Constantine for a state religion. All Bible based Christian belief systems use a Bible with roots to this original selection of texts with only minor exceptions.

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Historically religion has been one of the pillars of government throughout history until the founding of this country (USA). Contrary to popular trends today to put *Godback* into our governance, it is our secular government which assures our freedom of religion. We were never founded as a Christian nation. The founding fathers were very aware of religious intolerance and persecution by Christian governments and wanted freedom *from* religion for this country.

Rev. Thomas Janssen