

Chapter 3

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *Describe the process of how many of the books of the Bible came to be written.*

Events and experiences occurred, the accounts of these events were passed on through oral tradition, and eventually the stories were recorded as part of the written tradition.

2. *How might the description of events written about in the Bible also reflect the human authors' current historical situation?*

Because there was often a good amount of time between the actual events and the writing, people were able to gain perspective and a better understanding of the events. Their writings often include the meaning of these events.

3. *What criteria were used to select the books worthy to be included in the Bible?*

Apostolic origin, universal acceptance, liturgical use, and consistency.

4. *Describe the difficulties involved in translating a Bible. Use an example to illustrate your point.*

Words sometimes lose their subtle meaning when they are translated from one language to another. Certain concepts and words in one language just do not have equivalents in another language.

5. *Why do we call the first section of the Bible the "Old" Testament, and the second section the "New" Testament?*

We call it the "Old" Testament because it relates God's teaching and actions prior to the coming of Jesus Christ and because it focuses on the covenant God made with the Jewish People. We call it the "New" Testament because it covers the New Covenant that God initiated with all people through Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, the intimate relationship between God and humanity is fully restored.

6. *Why do Christians include the Old Testament in their Sacred Scripture?*

The books of the Old Testament are no less inspired by the Holy Spirit than those in the New Testament. The Old Testament offers us insightful teachings about God, unquestionable wisdom, inspirational prayers, and a vital preparation for the coming of Christ. Its hints at the mysterious salvation God has planned for us.

7. *How is the New Testament a fulfillment of the Old Testament?*

The New Testament is the fulfillment of all the hopes and promises of the Old Testament. God initiated a New Covenant with all people that fulfilled the original covenant made with his Chosen People found in the Old Testament.

8. *Why do we say the Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures?*

Because of their focus on Jesus, the Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures. The Gospels are a principal source for knowing the life and teaching of our Savior, the Son of God. Through Jesus Christ, we are better able to know God.

