Study Questions

Your answers to these questions are to be submitted to the appropriate area provided. All of the following questions are found in Chapter 4 (“What Does ‘Inspired’ Mean?”) of What Believers Don’t Have to Believe.

1. Can parts of the Bible be a true “story” instead of a true “history?” Why did you answer as you did?

2. Are Jesus’ parables (such as the parable of the Good Samaritan) factual stories of events that actually happened? If not, are the parables true? Are they inspired?

3. Suppose you are at a religious service and hear a minister say, “We know that the Bible is the true Word of God from beginning to end. It is completely historical and literal, and anyone who says anything different is trying to tear down your faith in the Holy Scriptures.” What would you think of the first sentence? What would you think of the second sentence?

4. According to the text, what is the difference between “literal history” and “non-literal history?” Does this distinction make any sense to you or not?

5. Explain the six “historical tests” discussed in the text.

6. Do you think that any part of the Bible could be “inspired fiction?” Please explain your answer.