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Does God ever change? No, I hope not! But no, the Bible says not.

Does our view of God ever change? Individually, yes, I hope so. One important (hopefully continuing) aspect of that change is repentance (metanoia) – changing direction to face God.

But does humankind's view of God ever change? I sincerely hope so, otherwise we'd still be making sacrifices in order to placate the divine – ask Abraham. He trusted God enough to be willing to change his view. To do that, he had to be willing to travel.

Does the Bible ever change? Nope, the Hebrew and Greek texts are still the same as they ever were; no change for almost 2000 years.

Do our translations of the Bible ever change? Yes, of course. Language changes over time, and if we want to understand what God is saying to us through the Bible today, translations have to use words that (try to) convey God's intended meaning. (Ouch! I cringed slightly when I wrote those last words. Would you want the responsibility of being a translator? They have to try to make the words – English, say – 'convey God's intended meaning'!)

But translations also change because of years of research. That could be archaeology, but also research into contemporary Hebrew and Greek texts to help us understand better what the original authors might have meant when they chose to use particular words.

Does our understanding of the Bible ever change? Yes, definitely, though maybe not in major ways – the majority of the meaning is clear – but the research above has sometimes changed our understanding. And increasing scientific knowledge can prompt us to change, too – so some passages that we once read as *literal* truth, we might now see as conveying truth, but in a more metaphorical way.

Do the churches' beliefs, as based on biblical texts, ever change? Yes, definitely. Sometimes in small ways, but sometimes more decisively, e.g. at the Reformation.

Do different churches agree on (the rate of) these changes? No, of course not! (Where were you during the church history classes?!)

Where is all this leading, you may ask? Well, in my articles, I've frequently been challenging my own (and, by implication, your) views on 'what the Bible teaches'. Through my journeying, the changes in my own biblical understanding have totally transformed my life – and Sue's life – and that proves... absolutely NOTHING! But I'm hoping that it might encourage some of you to have the bravery (faith? trust in God?) to also be willing to change your minds – and some of you already have, I know.

The most transformative change for me is in how I now see God: What is God like, and how does God view us? (Model A vs Model B^[266ff]) This is crucial: misreading someone's motives and intentions can really mess up your relationship with them.