

God's Wonderful Gift of the Bible

Here is what we will be studying:

Is the Bible really a message from God?

The miraculous design of the Bible.

The Divine origin of the Bible.

The supreme authority of the Bible.

What did Jesus think of the Bible?

Symbols used for the Bible.

The Devil's use of the Bible.

Understanding the dangers of false teaching and teachers.

Prominent themes in the Scriptures

Prerequisites for studying the Bible.

The inductive method of studying the Bible.

Is The Bible Really a Message From God?

Lesson One

If there is a God desirous of communicating with us through the Bible, then it would be foolish not to be interested in what the Bible has to say

Here are a few things the Bible promises:

eternal life to anyone who comes to God on His terms.

strength to face trials on a daily basis.

joy on earth and forever in heaven.

What are Some of the Issues to Consider?

Is the Bible inspired by God?

To what degree was the Bible inspired? Ideas? Words? Details?

Was the Bible recorded accurately?

Was it adequately preserved?

What should my response be to the Bible?

Is the Bible inspired by God?

2 Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work

To what degree was the Bible inspired? Ideas? Words? Details?

Matt. 5:18 - "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Was the Bible recorded accurately?

2 Pet. 1:21 - For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Was the Bible adequately preserved?

Ps. 119:89 - Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

God's Miraculous Preservation

Major Existing Manuscripts	Early Records	Years of Event to 1st. Existing Manuscript
Gallic Wars - Julius Caesar	10	1000
History - Pliny the Younger	7	750
History - Thucydides	8	1300
History - Herodotus	8	1300
Iliad - Homer	643	500
New Testament	24,000+	25

Many works of antiquity have simply disappeared over time. Even great works of history and literature have very few early manuscripts in existence. Unlike the Bible, the earliest copies of other great works were actually completed hundreds of years after the originals.

What should be my response to the Bible?

Accept it as the Word of God

By faith, believe what you read in the Word

Realize that not believing the Bible is not rejecting man, but rejecting God

Accept it as the Word of God

1 Thess. 2:13 - And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

By faith, believe what you read in the Word

Heb. 4:2 - For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

To not believe the Bible is to reject God

1 Thess. 4:8 - Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

The Miraculous Design of the Bible

Lesson Two

1. It consists of 66 books written by more than 40 authors from all walks of life.

Kings - David, Solomon

Political leader - Moses

Fishermen - Peter, James, John

A doctor - Luke

A tax collector - Matthew

A prime minister - Daniel

A Pharisee - Paul

A Shepherd - Amos

A military general - Joshua

A cupbearer - Nehemiah

2. It was written over a span of 1500 years, in different places and situations.

In a palace - Daniel

In a prison - Paul

While traveling - Luke

While fighting - Joshua

In the wilderness - Moses

In a dungeon - Jeremiah

While fleeing - David

On an island - John

3. It contains books of history, law, prophecy, poetry, songs and proverbs.

The breakdown of the Old Testament and the New Testament

Old Testament Breakdown

THE LAW - Pentateuch

Genesis, Exodus,
Leviticus, Numbers,
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua, Judges, Ruth,
1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings,
1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra,
Nehemiah, Esther

POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

PROPHECY

Major - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel,
Minor - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

New Testament Breakdown

BIOGRAPHY

Gospels - Matthew, Mark,
Luke, John

HISTORY

Acts

EPISTLES

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians
Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus,
Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude

PROPHECY

Revelation

The Bible is Seen to be Miraculous by What it is and What it Can Do

The Bible is Eternal

1 Pet. 1:23 - having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

The Bible Can Bless People

Luke 11:28 - But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."

The Bible is Without Corruption

Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

The Bible is the Living Word

Heb 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The Bible is the Source of Light

**Ps. 119:130 - The unfolding of Thy words gives light;
It gives understanding to the simple.**

The Bible is Absolute Truth

**John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your
word is truth.**

The Bible Provides Food for the Soul

**Deut. 8:3 - ...that He might make you understand
that man does not live by bread alone, but man
lives by every word that proceeds out of
the mouth of the Lord.**

The Bible is Able to Help You Understand About Salvation

**2 Tim. 3:15 - and that from childhood you have
known the sacred writings which are able to give you
the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith
which is in Messiah Jesus.**

The Bible is Able Bring About Regeneration

**1 Pet. 1:23 - for you have been born again not of
seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is,
through the living and abiding word of God.**

Why would God use such diversity?

**A God who wants to communicate to all kinds of people in all
kinds of situations will use all kinds of people in all kinds of
situations. To strengthen the argument for Divine design.
The more people and different circumstances there are, the
greater the difficulty.**

The Divine Origin of the Bible

Lesson Three

**Methods by which the Bible became a reality
& how it can best be understood**

Three Main Ways

Revelation

From God to man - God reveals that which He wants written

Inspiration

From man to paper - man writes that which God wants written

Illumination

From paper to heart - man understands that which God has written

Revelation is God making His truth known to man. Inspiration guarantees that what the Bible says is just what God would say if He were to speak it directly. Illumination is God giving us the ability to understand His Word

Two Types of Revelation

General Revelation - through nature and conscience

Special Revelation - through several means, but primarily through the Messiah Jesus and the Scriptures

General Revelation

In Nature

Ps. 19:1 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Rom. 1:18-20 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

In Conscience

Rom. 2:14-15 - For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Special revelation is the communication of divine truth from God to man. It is not the result of man's search for God, but rather God revealing His truth to mankind

Means of Special Revelation

Casting Lots
Urim & Thummim
Dreams
Visions
Theophanies
Angels
Prophets
Jesus the Messiah
Bible

Special Revelation

Heb. 1:1-2 - God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Divine inspiration is the activity of the Holy Spirit whereby He enabled certain humans to receive God's special revelation and to record it verbally in their language and style, without error as the very words of God.

Upon completion of the 66 books of the Bible, special revelation ceased. No one has ever been able successfully to add one verse to the written Scriptures as a normative statement of truth.

Scriptures which support the Bible's teaching about inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Ps. 119:160 - The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.

Prov. 30:5-6 - Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.

2 Pet. 1:20-21 - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. Illumination is the ministry of the Holy Spirit helping the believer to understand the truth of the Bible

Illumination is the ministry of the Holy Spirit helping the believer to understand the truth of the Bible

Illumination is necessary because of the condition of the mind and heart of the non-believer

1 Cor. 2:14 - But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Rom. 8:6-8 - For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Here is something we should pray before we read the Bible

Ps. 119:18 - Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.

While both guidance and illumination are genuine works of God, they do not guarantee that an individual will perfectly understand the Bible or in all cases will understand accurately God's guidance. Thus, while guidance and illumination are a work of the Spirit, they do not possess the infallibility of Scripture as they are being received by fallible human beings.

The Bible is inerrant. That means it is fully truthful in all that it affirms. As a result of that, the Bible is entirely true and fully trustworthy and deserves to be the final authority for our belief and behavior.

The Supreme Authority of the Bible

Lesson Four

Since the Bible is inspired and inerrant, it must be our highest standard of authority.

By authority, we mean that the Bible, as the expression of God's will to us, possesses the right supremely to define what we are to believe and how we are to conduct ourselves

The Bible has Authority Over:

human reason and wisdom
tradition
religious leaders
our personal feelings and experiences
our personal thoughts and ways

Human reason and wisdom

1 Cor. 1:21 - For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Cor. 1:25 - Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Cor. 2:4-5 - And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Tradition

Matt. 15:1-3 - Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying, "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." And He answered and said to them, And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?

Col. 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Messiah.

Religious leaders

Matt. 16:6 - And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Matt. 16:11-12 - "How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Ezek. 34:2 - "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord God,' Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?

Our personal feelings & emotions

Ps. 42:5 -6 -Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.

Ps. 43:5 - Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance, and my God.

Ps. 16:11 - ...In Thy presence is fullness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.

Neh. 8:10 - Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Our personal thoughts and ways

Is. 55:8-9 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

The authority of the Bible applies to all the areas of which the Bible speaks. It's the final authority in matters of history and science as well as belief and conduct. As such, we should respond in obedience to His Word.

There are severe consequences of disobeying and not heeding the teachings of the Scriptures. In doing this, we are denying the Bible's authority.

Zech. 7:8-14 - Then the word of the Lord came to Zechariah saying, "Thus has the Lord of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice, and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.' But they refused to pay attention, and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. "And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets;

**therefore great wrath came from
the Lord of hosts. "And it came about that just as He called
and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen,
says the Lord of hosts; "but I scattered them with a storm wind
among all the nations whom they have not known. Thus the
land is desolated behind them, so that no one went back and
forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate.**

**It's a horrible thing for the authority of the Word to be
usurped. In doing this, we are putting ourselves in a
place that we do not belong.**

**Jer. 5:30-31 - An appalling and horrible thing Has happened
in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests
rule on their own authority; And My people love
it so! But what will you do at the end of it?**

Proof of the Bible's Accuracy

Part Five

Of the different ways that are available to prove the accuracy of the Bible, Messianic Prophecy still ranks as one of the best. Only God could have given the kind of detailed information that we have in the Bible about the Messiah.

Messiah Would be From the Tribe of Judah

Gen. 49:10 - "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Rev. 5:5 - and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Messiah Would be a Prophet

Deut. 18:18 - 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Matt. 21:11 - And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Messiah Would be a Priest

Ps. 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Heb. 3:1 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

Messiah Would be a King

**Ps. 2:6 - "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion,
My holy mountain."**

Rev. 17:14 - "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

Messiah Would Perform Miracles

Is. 35:5-6 - Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy.

Matt. 9:35 - And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Messiah Would Teach in Parables

Ps. 78:2 - I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

Matt. 13:34 - All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.

Messiah Would be Betrayed by A Friend

Ps. 41:9 - Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18 - "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ' He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'

Messiah Would be Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver

Zech. 11:12 - And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.

Matt. 26:15 - and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Messiah Would Not Respond to His Accusers

Is. 53:7 - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

Matt. 27:12 - And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.

Messiah Would be Smitten and Spit Upon

Is. 50:6 - I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

Matt. 26:67 - Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him.

Messiah Would Pray for His Persecutors

Is. 53:12 - Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Luke 23:34 - But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Messiah Would be Hated Without A Cause

Ps. 69:4 - Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies, What I did not steal, I then have to restore.

John 15:25 - "But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, ' They hated Me without a cause.'

People Would Cast Lots for His Garment

Ps. 22:18 - They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

John 19:23-24 - The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. They said therefore to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be"; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, " They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

No one could have orchestrated these kinds of events to make it seem as though they were trying to fulfill these predictions. Rather, they clearly demonstrate that the Bible is a miraculous Book.

The Key Role of the Bible in History

Part Six

Down through Biblical history it can be seen that the Bible was and still is the key from Gods perspective

In Biblical history there has been three periods of major transitions:

The transition from Moses to Joshua

The transition from Jesus to the Apostles

The transition from the Apostles to the Body of believers

In each of the three major transitions, it can be seen that the Word of God played a prominent role. As the baton was passed, strong exhortations were given that pertain to the importance of the Bible

From Moses to Joshua

Deut. 34:1-5 - Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with

your eyes, but you shall not go over there." So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.

Deut. 34:6-9 - And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day. Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated. So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end. Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Deut. 34:10-12 - Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, for all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Josh. 1:1-2 - Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

Josh. 1:3-6 - "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory. "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or

forsake you. "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Josh. 1:7-8 - "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

From Jesus to the Apostles

John 14:23 - Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

John 14:21 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

1 Tim. 6:3-4 - If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing;...

From the Apostles to Believers

Acts 20:28-32 - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage

wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

It continues to be God's desire that His Word would have a preeminent place in our lives and that it be the rule and standard for our beliefs and actions

What Did Jesus Think of the Bible?

Part Seven

He puts His stamp of approval on it by virtue of His use of it.

How Jesus used the Bible

He acknowledged that all Scripture pointed to Him

He said He came to fulfill all Scripture

He verified the historicity different events and people

He quoted it during His temptation

He acknowledged that all Scripture pointed to Him

Luke 24:27 - And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:44 - Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me;

He came to fulfill all Scripture

Matt. 5:17 - "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill."

Matt. 26:24 - "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

Matt. 26:54 - "How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?"

He verified the historicity of different events and people

Adam and Eve

Cain and Able

Noah's Ark

Sodom & Gomorrah

The Patriarchs

Moses & Bush

Manna

Solomon & Queen

Elijah's ministry

Naaman's leprosy

Prophet Daniel

Jonah & fish

He quoted it during His temptation

Matt. 4:4 - But He answered and said, "It is written, ' Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" (Deut. 8:3)

Matt. 4:7 - Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Deut. 6:16)

Matt. 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, ' You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" (Deut. 6:13)

He quoted it in a synagogue

Is. 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Luke 4:16-20 - And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, " The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are downtrodden, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. "And He closed the book...

It's clear that Jesus had a very high estimation of the Bible. One tenth of all He said came from the Old Testament. He relied upon the Bible constantly during His earthly ministry.

Symbols Used For the Bible

Part Eight

Various symbols are used to help us better understand the practical impact it can have on our lives

A Mirror

James 1:23-25 - For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

It's called a mirror because it reflects the mind of God and the true condition of man

A Seed

James 1:18 - In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

1 Pet. 1:23 - for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

It's called a seed, because once properly planted, it will bring forth life and fruit

Water

Eph. 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

It's called water because of its cleansing and refreshing qualities

A Lamp

Ps. 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

Prov. 6:23 - For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life,

2 Pet. 1:19 - And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place...

It's called a lamp because it guides us with its light and keeps us from falling

A Sword

Eph. 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Heb. 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It's called a sword because of its piercing ability. It works equally well with both saved and unsaved

Precious Metals

Ps. 12:6 - The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

Ps. 19:10 - They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Ps. 119:127 - Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold.

It's referred to as precious metals because of its desirability and value

A Hammer

Jer. 23:29 - "Is not My word like fire?" declares the Lord, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"

It's referred to as a hammer because of it's ability to tear down and build up

Nourishing Food

Ps. 19:10 - They are sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Heb. 5:12-14 - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

1 Pet. 2:2 - like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it

you may grow in respect to salvation,

It's referred to as nourishing food because of the strength it imparts

A Fire

Jer. 20:9 - But if I say, "I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name," Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it.

Luke 24:32 - And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

It's referred to as fire because of its judging, purifying, and consuming abilities

**The use of these various symbols should help us
to see the tremendous value and how practical
the Word of God really is**

The Devil and his Schemes

Introduction

Satan, being God's arch enemy desires to do whatever he can to interfere with God's plan & program

The mindset of someone who is involved in a battle must include a knowledge of the enemies tactics. Therefore, it is essential that we understand how the devil functions.

Having a knowledge of one's opponent is essential. This is true in sports, competition among businesses, nations at war, and this is also true in the spiritual realm.

How do we know for sure that the devil even exists?

If the devil doesn't exist, Jesus was greatly mistaken, because He spent much of His ministry fighting the devil and his demons.

Satan's Character and Strategies

**he is the Father of lies
he is the enemy of truth
he casts doubt on God and His goodness
he blinds the minds of unbelievers
he is filled with pride
he attacks the Bible from every direction**

Satan is the Father of lies

John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father... Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

Overall, nothing he says can be trusted. Even when he speaks some truth, it is done so to advance error

Satan is the enemy of truth

John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him..."

Satan doesn't have the ability to tell the truth. There is no truth present in him, as opposed to Jesus who is the Truth.

Satan casts doubt on God's goodness

Gen. 3:1-5 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'" And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan wants us to think God is a killjoy

Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers

2 Cor. 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of the

Messiah, who is the image of God.

Satan wants us to think God is a killjoy

Satan is filled with pride

Is. 14:12-15 - "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

Pride is who and what Satan is

Satan attacks the Bible

Gen. 3:1 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said,...

**We will see that Satan has not given up the fight, even though
he has already lost the battle**

The Devil's Use of the Bible

**Satan, being God's arch enemy desires to do whatever
he can to abuse and distort the Word of God**

Part Nine

Satan seeks to twist, destroy and question the Bible

he challenges the authorship

he challenges the accuracy

he questiones the acceptability of God's Word

he denies God's Word

he takes the Bible out of context

he distorts the Gospel

he tries to destroy the Bible

he tries to stifle the truth

he tries to get people to add to it

he steals it from human hearts

he attempts to identify with it

he will cause men to turn from it

Satan challenges God's authorship

Gen. 3:1 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Satan tried to get Eve to question God's words that were given to her and to Adam

Satan challenges its accuracy

Gen. 3:1 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Satan tried to get Eve to rethink what God actually said

Satan questions the acceptability of God's Word

Gen. 3:6 - When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate...

**Satan tried to get Eve to become dissatisfied with God's restrictions.
Especially when the tree was so desirable**

The Devil denies God's Word

**Gen. 3:4-5 - And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!
"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

Satan flat out denies what God says in His Word

Here is what God said

Gen. 2:16-17 - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die. "

Satan takes the Bible out of context

Matt. 4:6 - and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ' He will give His angels charge concerning You'; and ' On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Certainly, God protects us, but we shouldn't force Him to do so by creating the circumstances

Satan distorts the Gospel

Gal. 1:6-7 - I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

The Gospel is one of the Devil's primary targets. If he can get people to mess up here, he has a great victory.

The Devil tries to destroy the Bible

Jer. 36:27-28 - Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll and the words which Baruch had written at the dictation of Jeremiah, saying, "Take again another scroll and write on it all the former words that were on the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah burned.

Down thorough history, there have been many attempts to destroy every copy of the Bible

Satan tries to stifle the truth

2 Chr. 18:12-13 - Then the messenger who went to summon Micaiah spoke to him saying, "Behold, the words of the prophets are uniformly favorable to the king. So please let your word be like one of them and speak favorably." But Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, what my God says, that I will speak."

Acts 4:17-18 - "But in order that it may not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any man in this name." And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Intimidation and fear are two ways that Satan tries to keep the Bible from being proclaimed

Satan tries to get people to add to the Bible

Gen. 3:3 - but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"

Acts 15:1 - And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Adding to the truth always dilutes and destroys it

Satan steals Bible truths from human hearts

Matt. 13:3 - And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

Matt. 13:19 - "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

Satan knows the effectiveness of the Word of God. Therefore, he tries to remove it quickly.

The Devil tries to identify with the Bible

Acts 16:16-18 - And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortunetelling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." And she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

Even when Satan speaks the truth it is not desirable

Satan will cause people to turn from the Bible

1 Tim. 4:1 - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 Tim. 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

Satan desires that all would turn away from the truth of the Bible

It's no wonder that there is such a vicious attack upon the Bible. It's the instrument that God uses to bring salvation into life of an individual

2 Tim. 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Because the Scriptures are absolutely necessary in the process of salvation, Satan will do all he can and use every means available to either prevent people from hearing the Word, or try to get them to hear a false Gospel

Understanding the Dangers of False Teaching and Teachers

Part 10

We must not believe everything we hear. It doesn't matter who the speaker is, we must test whatever we hear with the Bible.

We must be like a Berean

Paul gave the Bereans a wonderful complement for something they had done

What set the Bereans apart?

Acts 17:10-11 - And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

Remember, this was Paul that they were testing, and he didn't mind it when they checked to see if what he said was true

Why must we be like a Berean?

**Because there are many false prophets (forth tellers)
who teach for wrong reasons**

1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Every Bible teacher and Bible teaching must be held up against the truth of the Word of God

Where do false teachers and false ministers originate from?

They originate from the father of all lies, the Devil

Origin of false ministers

2 Cor. 11:13-15 - For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of the Messiah. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

What might one of these disguises look like?

Sample Disguise

Matt. 7:15 - "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Why Does God Allow False Teachers to Exist?

Deut. 13:1-3 - "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

1 Cor. 11:19 - For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.

What are some effects of false teaching?

There are many and they all have their destructive tendencies

Negative effects of false teaching

**causes people to be deceived
delays God's blessings
puts people into bondage
upsets things
leads people astray
falsely represents God**

**collects followers
perverts the Gospel
leads to destruction
defrauds people
spreads to others**

Deceives People

Jer. 29:8-9 - "For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. 'For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the Lord.

Delays God's Blessings

Lam. 2:14 - Your prophets have seen for you false and foolish visions; And they have not exposed your iniquity So as to restore you from captivity, But they have seen for you false and misleading oracles.

Puts People Into Bondage

Gal. 2:4 - But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

Upsets Things

Titus 1:9-11 - holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain.

Leads People Astray

Jer. 23:32 - "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the Lord, "and related them, and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the Lord.

Matt. 24:11 - "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.

Falsely Represents God

Jer. 23:31-32 "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the Lord, "who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.' "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the Lord, "and related them, and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the Lord.

Collects Followers

Acts 20:28-30 - "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Perverts the Gospel

Gal. 1:6-9 - I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of the Messiah. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

Leads to Destruction

2 Pet. 3:15-16 - ... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Pet. 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

Defrauds People

Col. 2:18 - Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

Spreads to Others

2 Tim. 2:15-18 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they upset the faith of some.

Where can we find false teachers?

**in places of worship preaching and teaching
in Bible colleges and seminaries
on tapes, videos and CDs
on the mission field
on television
on the radio
in books**

**In Bible
Studies**

What is our protection against false teachers?

**exercising discernment
being built up spiritually**

Exercising Discernment

Heb. 5:14 - But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Built Up Spiritually

Eph. 4:11-14 - And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the

saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of the Messiah; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

What if we know someone who is in false teaching?

Are we to try to show them the truth, if so, how?

Be Patient and Gentle

2 Tim. 2:24-26 - And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

What are believers to do about false teaching and teachers?

**we must contend earnestly for the faith
we must warn others of the dangers of false teaching**

1. Earnestly Contend

Jude 1:3 - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

An Example of Contending

Acts 15:1-2 - And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

To earnestly contend means standing upon a thing which is assaulted which an adversary desires to take away to fight so as to defend it and retain it to contend strenuously in defense of

This contending has no end. It goes on and on and on.

2. The Second Thing We Must Do Is Warn Others

2 Tim. 4:1-3 - I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Messiah Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.

1 Tim. 4:1-2,6 - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron... In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Messiah Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

Acts 20:28-32 - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

What are some teachings that are under attack?

Inerrancy & authority of the Bible

Literal consciousness after death

Virgin birth of the Messiah

Resurrection of the Messiah

Second coming of the Messiah

Creation account in Genesis

The Atonement of Jesus

Existence of the devil

Deity of the Messiah

Eternality of the soul & spirit

God's one plan of salvation

Fall of man

Sovereignty of God

The Trinity

Marks of cults, false teaching, and teachers.

The first mark is its manipulation of Scripture. The Bible is twisted to fit the leader or group's interpretation. Private interpretations are forbidden because the leader of the cult or false teaching is the only one, of course, who is able to understand God's voice properly. Their teachings distort the his-

toric, orthodox claims of Christianity.

Second, many times they manipulate people's minds. There is little concern for individual thought and development. Education is usually discouraged while the individuals are bombarded with the cult's doctrine and literature.

A third mark is the manipulation of time. Since salvation comes exclusively from the teachings of the group, in many cults or groups dominated by false teaching, members spend much of their time working for their organization. Family, school, leisure, sleep, and even food are most often neglected.

Finally, cults typically manipulate reality. They tend to have an exclusive "us" - "them" mentality in which society and old associates are all out to get them. Anyone outside of the group is suspect.

If a religious group exhibits one or more of the marks mentioned above, that group's teachings and beliefs should be suspect and carefully compared to Scripture. Jesus said that in the last days many false prophets would arise and deceive many (Matt. 24:11,24). To avoid the deception of false teaching, we should be rooted in the teachings of the historic Christian faith.

False teaching in the church or anyplace else is like poison in a glass of water. It must be filtered out.

Prominent Themes in the Scriptures

Part 11

Although there are hundreds of topics in the Bible, the vast majority of them can fit under the umbrella of five reoccurring themes

Adapted From John MacArthur's Bible Handbook

The character of God

Above all else, Scripture is God's self revelation. He reveals Himself as the Sovereign God of the universe who has chosen to make man and make Himself known to man. In His self revelation, He establishes His standard of absolute holiness.

The judgment for sin and disobedience

Scripture repeatedly deals with the matter of sin, which leads to divine judgment. Account after account in Scripture demonstrates the deadly effects in time and eternity of violating God's standard. Of all the chapters in the Bible, only four do not deal with the fallen world: the first two and the last two. Before the fall and after the creation of the new heaven and new earth. Everything in between deals with the tragedy of sin.

The blessing for faith and obedience

Scripture repeatedly promises wonderful rewards that come to people who trust God by coming to Him on His terms and that seek to obey Him. God's standard for man, His will and His moral law were always made known by God. God will mercifully forgive anyone who recognizes their inability to please Him by their own efforts when they repent of their sin and fully trust that which the Messiah did on their behalf.

The Savior and sacrifice for sin

This is at the very core in every book in the Bible. Jesus illustrated how the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms spoke of Him. Because of God's holiness, our sins needs to be paid for. It is through the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus that satisfaction has been made. When any sinner comes to God, repentant and convinced that he has no power to save himself and calls upon Him for salvation, God will graciously forgive them and give them eternal life.

The coming kingdom and glory

The Bible clearly promises a kingdom with a King. The King is the Lord Jesus. He will rule and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. At this time God will be receiving all of the glory that He justly deserves. Every knee will bow declaring Jesus the Lord to the glory of God the Father. God's program as we have it revealed in Scripture will have been totally fulfilled just as He promised.

Prerequisites for Studying the Bible

Part 12

Anyone can read the Bible, but it takes something more to be able to understand it and to benefit from it.

Prerequisites

having experienced true salvation

having a hunger for the Word

laying aside sinful hinderances

depending upon the Holy Spirit

believe what you are reading

pray before you read the Bible

Having experienced true salvation

1 Cor. 2:14 - But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Having a hunger for the Word

1 Pet. 2:2 - like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

Laying aside all sinful hinderances

1 Pet. 2:1-2 - Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word

Depending upon the Holy Spirit

1 Cor. 2:10 - For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Believe what you are reading

Heb. 4:2 - For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

Pray before you read the Bible

Ps. 119:18 - Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.

The Inductive Method of Bible Study

Part 13

As a result of all that we have gone over,
the next logical step would be to learn to
STUDY the Bible effectively

Handle the Bible Accurately

2 Tim. 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

What is inductive Bible Study?

Inductive reasoning, or induction means taking a number of facts and drawing a conclusion from those facts.

The opposite is deduction. Deduction means starting with a statement, an idea, or a conclusion and then finding various facts which prove that the statement or idea is true.

Induction

various facts-----leads us to-----a conclusion

Deduction

a conclusion-----is proven by-----various facts

When using inductive reasoning while studying the Bible, you look at what the Bible teaches, (facts) and then draw your conclusions.

Three Important Questions

1. What do I see? Observation

Learn to go beyond glancing at Scripture and take a good look.

2. What does it mean? Interpretation

Interpretation is your attempt to discover what the passage you're studying actually means.

3. How does it apply to me? Application

Application means putting the truth to work. You find out the truth and then apply it personally.

Things to look for during observation

key words - often repeated
advice - admonitions, warnings
cause/effect statements - if you do this,
then this will happen
connecting words - therefore
commands, questions
contrasting words
condition words

During the process of observation you are looking at the big picture. You've not begun to dig too deeply into the text at this point.

1 John 1:5-7 - And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, (key) and in Him there is no darkness (key) at all. If (condition) we say that we have fellowship (key) with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (cause/effect); but if (condition) we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship (key) with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Phil. 4:5-7 - Let (advice) your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near (promise). Be anxious for nothing (command), but (contrasting) in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard (promise) your hearts and your minds in Messiah Jesus.

Eph. 2:1-4 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God (contrasting), being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Rom. 5:1 - Therefore (connecting) having been justified by faith, we have (cause/effect) peace with God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah

Things to look for during interpretation

literal approach - Read the Bible as you would other literature, realizing it contains figures of speech.

context - Scripture must be read in it's context to get the proper understanding. The total picture would go like this: immediate context -- rest of the book -- other books by same author -- all of Scripture.

compare Scripture with Scripture - Use cross references.

progressive revelation - God revealed certain things in various ways down through history. He did not reveal everything at once, not everything to one writer. You need to take all Scripture into consideration during interpretation.

let the Bible speak for itself - Avoid reading meaning into the Bible.

Principles of interpretation

The purpose of the Bible as a whole

The particular message of each book of the Bible

To whom is it addressed

The context

Similar teachings elsewhere in the Bible

Guard against prejudice

Example of faulty interpretation using the topic of Prayer

John 14:13-14 - "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

1 John 5:14 - And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

James 4:3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Things to consider during application

Discover how God applied His Word to those to whom it was originally given - When God gave new truth, He did so in the context of the lives of the people that were being written to. First discover this application.

make it personal - ask questions.

What dangers do I face if I disobey?

What are the benefits if I obey?

How should this truth affect my attitude?

How should this truth affect my relationship with God?

How should this truth affect my behavior?

**Wherever you are in the Bible, no matter which book,
always look for Jesus and the Cross.**

All Scripture pointed to Him

Luke 24:27 - And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:44 - Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me;