

Discipleship Series Bible Study

Lesson 2

The Bible...*the Word of Go*

*“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”
(Psalm 12:6 7)*

I. WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD?

A. The Written Record

1. Written record of God’s communication with men as presented in the Holy Bible
2. In English language Word of God is found in the Authorized Version 1611 (King James Version of the Bible)

B. A Collection of 66 Separate Writings

1. Bible is a collection of 66 separate writings
 - a. Historical accounts
 - b. Prophecies
 - c. Inspirational writings
 - d. Letters of instruction
2. Given to men by the Holy Ghost to be preserved for all time as a manual to guide men to God
3. Written over a period of ~1600 years they are in perfect agreement and essentially combine to form one book

II Pet. 1:19-21 - We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost

C. The Bible Makes Bold Claims About Itself

1. Inspired and Preserved by God
2. If these claims are true, it must be infallible, inerrant, authoritative and immutable (UNCHANING)
3. The Bible claims that it’s words will be preserved forever and that belief in what it says is necessary for salvation.

I Pet. 1:23 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever

Mt. 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away

II. NAVIGATING THE WORD OF GOD

- Divisions
 - OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT
 - BOOKS
 - Written at various times by various authors

- Led of the Holy Ghost
- CHAPTERS
 - Generally according to the Amount of Material
- VERSES
 - “Bite Size” Sections

A. Old Testament – 39 Books

1. Primarily Jewish in Content and Outlook
2. Divides Naturally into 3 Sections
3. Overlap of Form and Function
4. SECTIONS
 - a. **History**
 - 1) Of the World from the Perspective of the Messianic Line to Jesus
 - 2) Covers ~3500 Years of Creation
 - b. **Inspirational Writings-Wisdom Literature-Instructional Writings**
 - 1) Daily Living
 - 2) Mostly Valid for Any Era
 - b. **Prophetical Books**
 - 1) Dealing Primarily with 1ST and 2ND Coming of Christ
 - 2) Also deal with Israel’s Future Problems with the Nations of the World

B. New Testament – 27 Books

1. Primarily Christian in Content and Outlook
2. Divides Naturally into 4 Sections for Total of 7 Broad Sections to Entire Bible
3. SECTIONS
 - a. **Gospels**
 - 1) 4 Separate Accounts of Jesus’ Earthly Ministry
 - a) His call to repentance
 - b) His offer of salvation to a lost and dying world
 - c) Records Completion of God’s Part in His Great Plan of Redemption for “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord.”
 - 2) Summary
 - a) Matthew - King of the Jews/Throne of David
 - b) Mark - Servant
 - c) Luke - Humanity
 - d) John - Deity - a book that demonstrates God’s great love and inspires to put one’s faith and trust in Him, whether Jew or Gentile
 - b. **History of the Beginning of the Church**
 - c. **Letters of Instruction and Inspiration**
 - 1) From the Apostles
 - 2) Meant to be Applied to Daily Living
 - d. **A Prophetical Book**
 - 1) Dealing Primarily with 2ND Coming of Christ
 - 2) The Cataclysmic Events that Surround It

III. CAN I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD?

A. New Christians May Be Challenged with Reasons to Doubt the Bible

1. You now have a powerful enemy, the Devil, who wants to destroy your faith and make you an ineffective Christian

2. How do you prepare for the opposition? **Eph.6:10-18**

B. The Word of God is Full of Internal Proofs of its Infallibility

1. Historical Accuracy
2. Findings of Archaeology
 - a. Discovery of artifacts and tablets proving that the Hittite empire existed
 - b. Finding of an ancient level to the city of Jericho which matches in detail the story of its defeat at the hands of the Joshua-led Israelites.
3. Record of Fulfilled Prophecy
4. Subjective Observable Proofs of its Authorship and Accuracy
 - a) Emotional Responses to it by both Believers and Unbelievers
 - b) Through the centuries many men have given their lives to preserve it
 - c) Oppressors have been willing to murder in order to keep it out of the hands of the general populace

C. The Bible has One Aspect, However, Possessed by No Other Book on Earth

1. 100% Accurate Record of Fulfilled Prophecy
2. First Advent Messianic Prophecies

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>O.T. Scripture</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
Place of birth	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:26-35
Triumphal entry	Zech.9:9	John 12:12-16; Matthew 21:1-11
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Mark 14:10; Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech 11:12-13	Matthew 26:15; 27:3-10
Crucified w/sinners	Isaiah 53:12	Mt. 27:38; Mark15:27-28; Luke23:33
Hands/feet pierced	Psalms 22:16, Zechariah 12:10.....	John 20:25-27; 19:37
Cast lots for His coat	Psalms 22:18.....	Mark 15:24; John19:23- 24
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
His resurrection	Psalms 16:10.....	Matthew 28:5-9; Luke 24:36-48
His ascension	Psalms 68:18.....	Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9

3. Specific Modern Day Prophetic Fulfillments

a. Israel became a nation

*“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria [Jews were out of Syria by October 1994], and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush [Africa/Ethiopia], and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea” (Isaiah 11:10-11).*

“Behold, I will bring them from the north country, [as the massive, ongoing Russian immigration] and gather them from the coasts of the earth, [Ethiopia is a coastal nation] and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: [Seven babies were born ‘in flight’ during the massive midnight airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel that occurred a some years ago] a great company shall return thither” (Jeremiah 31:8).

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? [How about May 14, 1948? The day Israel was made a nation by an act of the United Nations.] for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:8).

b. Prophesied description of man at this time (II Timothy 3:1-4)

IV. LEARNING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

A. Prayer

- Ask the Lord to clear your mind of incorrect ideas and to open your heart to receive His truth before you study his Word.

B. The Bible Offers Guidelines for Every Area of Your Daily Life

1. To effectively use it, you must constantly read and study it
2. The Bible is unique in that it cannot be truly understood by someone who is not saved I Corinthians 2:12–16

C. The Christian Has Been Given a Helper to Dwell Within

1. Christians have been given a helper to dwell within - The Holy Spirit
2. He will guide us into the truth if we will follow scriptural guidelines

Jn.14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you

Jn.14:26 - But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you

D. These Scriptural Guidelines are Found in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah

Isa.28:9-10 - Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little

E. The Importance of Study

1. Important for every Christian to read the Bible from cover to cover, over and over
2. In this way he can become competent to interpret what he reads

F. Helpful Study Aids - Many are Available Electronically for Purchase or for Free

- Some Recommendations
 1. CONCORDANCE - Strong's Concordance
 2. BIBLE DICTIONARY - Unger's
 3. BASIC STUDY BIBLES - Many are Available, But Use Caution in Selection
 - a. Nelson's Study Bible
 - 1) General - Words defined
 - 2) Commentary on basic doctrine
 - b. Life Application Study Bible
 - 1) Practical Application
 - 2) General Summaries
 - c. Scofield Study Bible (1917 Edition)
 - 1) Systematic Theology
 - 2) Doctrinal Studies