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# **BIBLE BASICS-A QUICK GLANCE AT BASIC BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

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**ROBERT DICKIE**



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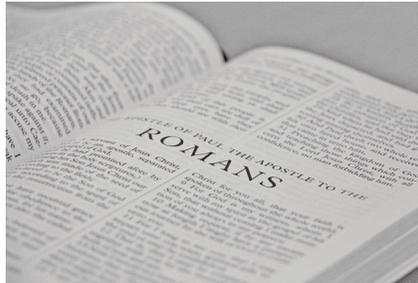
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## DEDICATION

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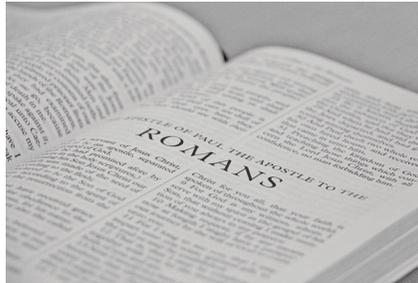
To Bob, Joanna, Sharon, Ben, Jeremy, and to all of your loved ones. I pray that the information in this little book will give you a better understanding of the Bible and why it should be read every day. Be wise and heed my words and exhortation. He who listens and responds by feeding his or her soul with the Word of God will reap blessings that they could never have imagined. The Bible will fill your souls with, “joy unspeakable and full of glory...”



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## INTRODUCTION

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Why should anyone study the Bible? What reasons are there for encouraging people to read the Word of God? Is it really that important to spend time each day reading Scripture? Time is so precious and with so many things in our crowded and hectic schedules why is it necessary to spend more of our valuable time in reading the Word? These are important questions. But the Bible is not just any ordinary book. The Bible is the revelation of God our Creator to His creatures (man) made in His image.

God has given to each of us a written record of all the secrets of creation, existence, meaning to life, a manual on how to live and the keys to a life with purpose and peace with God. Years ago I came

across this brief but amazing statement that tells us what the Bible can do for those who take the time to read it.

### *The Bible*

*The Bible reveals the mind of God, the need of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.*

*Read the Bible to be wise, believe the Bible to be safe, and practice the Bible to be holy. The Bible contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.*

*The Bible is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. In the Bible Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of hell are closed. Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.*

*The Bible should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read the Bible slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.*

*The Bible is given to you in life, will be opened in judgment, and remembered forever. The Bible involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. My dear friend, treasure the Word of the living God.*

Found in Gideon's Bibles

It's astonishing that the God of all creation has chosen to reveal Himself to us in the pages of the Bible which are the Holy Scriptures. If I held in my hand a letter from the God who made all things and told you that He has a special message for you personally would you not want to read its contents? And yet this is exactly what we have in the Bible. The Bible is the letter that God has written that contains everything He wants us to know about ourselves, about life, about

Himself and all other aspects of wisdom and knowledge. How foolish we are when we refuse to read what God has chosen to reveal to us. If you could only realize that the Bible is the most important possession you could ever have what a difference that would make in your life. Nothing is more valuable or precious than this message from heaven that is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures—the Bible.

Years ago I wrote a little tract about the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible is about Him. From the first book of the Bible, Genesis to the last book in the Bible, Revelation the Bible is revealing to all of mankind the salvation that we find in God's Son Jesus Christ.

### Who Is Jesus Christ?

Years ago when I was traveling in the Indian sub-continent by train, we stopped at one of the many stations teeming with thousands of people scrambling to board or depart the trains passing through. A young college student approached me and asked what I was doing in India. I replied that I was there telling people about Jesus Christ. This young man surprised me by his next question: "Who is Jesus Christ?"

It was shocking to me to realize that the most important person who ever lived is not known by millions of people. Millions of others have incorrect views about who Jesus is. Some claim He was just a great man or a good teacher. Some believe He was just a prophet. Still others believe Jesus was the brother of Satan. But the Holy Bible is very clear about who Jesus is. Jesus is described for us in John's gospel chapter one verses one through three, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*"

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who was sent to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. We know this because the Bible tells us that He is the eternal Son of God. We also see that Jesus was unique from any other man who lived in history:

1. Jesus lived a sinless and holy life.
2. Jesus performed many miracles that were witnessed by thousands of people.
3. Jesus spoke with tremendous authority and gave us the most wonderful statements ever given on ethics, morality, and life.
4. Jesus fulfilled over 300 ancient prophecies that predicted His coming.
5. Jesus was raised from the dead, demonstrating that He was God, as He said He was.
6. The Holy Bible declares Jesus to be the Son of God and the Savior of all who repent of their sins and trust in Him.

My prayer for you is that you will repent (turn from your sins) and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and join the millions who love and worship Him.

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”  
Rom. 10:9

In this book “*Bible Basics*” I want to summarize as much as I can the precious contents of the Bible. This book will give you a good start at understanding the great themes, the precious truths, and the wonderful features of the Bible. We are living in a day when there is enormous ignorance of the contents of the Holy Bible. I pray that these introductory pages will begin to help you understand the precious treasures that the Bible contains. Be wise my friend and read your Bible.

1. The Purpose of The Bible
2. A Great Place To Start—Genesis 1:1
3. The Bible In A Timeline

4. The Apostle's Creed

5. The Old And New Testament

6. General Overview of the Bible

- The Chronological Order Of The Bible
- The Origin Of The Bible
- The Inspiration Of The Bible
- The Major Theme Of The Bible
- How To Interpret the Bible
- The Old Testament is divided in the following manner
- The New Testament is divided in the following manner
- All The Books Of The Bible Together As A Library
- The Book Of Genesis
- The Genealogy Of The Main Old Testament Characters
- The Ten Most Well Known Stories In The Bible
- The Passages In The Bible That Should Be known by Everyone
- The Great Chapters Of The Bible
- Twenty Five Of The Most Important People In The Bible And When They Lived
- The Holy Land In The Time Of Jesus
- The Order of Events In Salvation
- The Five Solas of The Reformation
- The Five Points of Calvinism

7. The Major Stories In The Bible

8. The Names Of God In The Bible

9. The Divine Inspiration Of The Bible

10. The Place To Look In the Bible For...

11. The Proof For Truth

- How We Can Prove The Bible Is The Word Of God.
- How We Can Prove That Jesus Is The Son Of God.
- How We Can Prove That There Is A God.

## 12. Jesus Christ The Son Of God

- The Incomparable Christ
- The names of Christ
- The miracles of Christ
- The “I Am Statements” of Christ
- The parables of Christ
- Christophanies In The Old Testament
- Pictures of Christ In The Old and New Testament
- Old Testament Prophecies That Predicted The Coming Of Christ
- The Odds of One Man fulfilling These Prophecies
- The Outline of the Life Of Christ
- The key teachings of Christ

## 13. Reading And Praying Through The Bible

### 14. Verses In The Bible To Memorize

### 15. The Great Quotes On The Bible

### 16. The Great Questions Found In The Bible

### 17. Recommended Reading

### 18. Questions For New Christians

### 19. Bible Maps And Charts

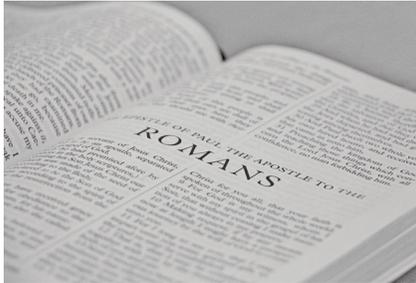
### 20. Bible Quizzes On The Bible

## *Chapter One*

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# THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

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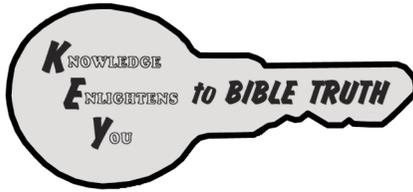


“...from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 3:15

**H**ave you ever wondered what the purpose of the Bible is? What is the Bible all about? Why should I read the Bible? Most people have no clue on how to answer these questions. People may realize the Bible is a book about religion or may think of the Bible as the book that Christians read but beyond that

they have little or unclear understanding of its contents. Years ago I came across this brief statement that in a capsule statement tells us what the purpose of the Bible is:

“The Bible reveals the mind of God, the need of man, the way of salvation, and the happiness of the believer.”<sup>1</sup>



THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY HAS THIS EXPLANATION ON ITS web site to describe the main purpose of the Bible:

“THE BIBLE ADDRESSES MANY BASIC ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH, OF the present and the future, and so it is difficult to select just one theme as the main one. Students of the Bible have generally grouped the leading topics treated in the Bible under two main heads. Let’s look briefly at both of them.

The first school suggests that **the main message of the Bible is the wonderful presentation of salvation.** The good news of salvation in Jesus Christ is the fundamental message of the Scripture. Under this heading there are many basic truths:

- God created a majestic universe and crowned it by forming the first man and woman in sinless perfection.
- Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation from Satan, and fell into sin and shame. The consequences of sin are obvious, but people everywhere still love to rebel against God.
- Yet God did not abandon humanity on its course to destruction. He chose one people to demonstrate his

special care and from them to provide a Savior for the whole world.

- God sent his own son Jesus Christ to bear the awesome consequences of sin. God does not just blithely disregard sin, but he poured out all the terror of eternal condemnation on his son in those terrible hours of suffering and death on the cross.
- In the resurrection of Jesus, God demonstrates his victory over sin and calls people everywhere to identify with this victory by faith in Jesus Christ.
- In living in this salvation, we know that life is not meaningless, but we live surrounded by God's love, and bound for eternity with him.

The second school of thought views the main message of the Bible from a much different perspective. These readers agree that salvation is certainly very important, but it is only part of a much greater message. That bigger message goes far beyond the man-centered focus of salvation to embrace the purpose of all time and space. We may call this message the **revelation of God's plan and purpose** for the universe. Under this head there are also many basic truths:

God in his dynamic and creative essence resolved to create the universe and delight in it. However, God is not the sole transcendent being. There is a rebellious and fallen being named Satan who opposes God and his plan. He deceives and undermines God's purpose everywhere. This conflict marks all history and results in two kingdoms. Satan foments disorder and all that is bizarre and sinister. Quarreling and dissension among God's people is often his most horrid device. In sending his son Jesus Christ, God established the decisive hour in this conflict. In his servanthood, Jesus was the opposite of all the pomp, pride, greed and egoism that Satan promotes. In Christ's death, Satan declared victory over God, but the resurrection turned that seeming victory into actual defeat. Satan still prowls the world, but he realizes he cannot win. God's people are now

heralds of His present and coming kingdom. Gradually the contours of the final conflict emerge across the world. Eventually evil so captivates and enslaves humanity that the climactic end time of history arrives. Finally, Christ returns to earth as the victor and God's kingdom is established for all eternity. The purpose of God's creation and universal plan is achieved. Both these majestic messages are found in the Bible. They are simply two perspectives on one majestic theme: God's Plan For His People And His Cosmic Kingdom. What is your heart's response to his message?"<sup>2</sup>

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD. THIS MEANS THATS GOD HAS spoken to mankind through the Word He has delivered to him. God has revealed all the mysteries, information, and truths that He deems necessary for us to have. All throughout the Bible we read, "*Thus says the Lord.*" or "*God has said.*" The Bible itself claims to be the written revelation of the eternal God who made all things.

THE APOSTLE PETER WROTE, "KNOWING THIS FIRST, THAT NO prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." II Peter 1:20-21

THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE IS TO LEARN THE PRECIOUS TRUTHS THAT God has chosen to reveal to man. The Bible was written by 40 different authors whose lives covered a 1500 year time span. Each of these authors wrote down God's Words, "as they were moved by the holy Spirit." The main thing that these men were communicating to man was the gift of salvation that God has provided for us in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. What ever else the Bible may do for us, and the uses of the Bible are many, the main point of the Bible is to reveal to man the nature of God and the way of salvation through the finished work of Jesus Christ.



### The Plan of Salvation Is Explained In This Book

Let's break this down so we can better understand the purpose of the Bible. If the central message of the Bible is to reveal to us the way of salvation then we need to ask ourselves several questions:

1. What does the word salvation mean?

- Salvation is deliverance
- Salvation is a rescue
- Salvation is a gracious gift from God

2. Why do we need salvation?

- Because God is holy.
- Because God is just.
- Because man is sinful.

- Because man is lost and separated from God.

3. What is the basis of our salvation?

- Christ and His work on our behalf is the basis of salvation.
- This includes His incarnation, virgin birth and sinless life.
- Christ lived the life we could not live and died the death we should have died.
- Christ also was raised from the dead to justify us before God.

If this is the meaning of salvation how do we experience this gift and how does it become ours? From the divine side God must convict man of his sin and by the Holy Spirit regenerate man (give him divine life in the soul). The work of regeneration or the new birth as it is called, gives man spiritual life and enables him to repent and believe on the gospel of Jesus. From man's point of view we must come to Christ, believe on Christ, and repent of our sins, and then follow Him. We must never forget the main purpose of the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. And it is through the Bible that God reveals His love to us through the finished work of Christ.

The Bible—God's Love Letter To Us

Many years ago I read that the Bible was God's love letter to man. In this letter God opens His heart and reveals how He chose to save man from sin, death, and hell by sending His only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. The nature of God, particularly His holiness, the sinfulness of man, and the gift of salvation in Christ is the grand purpose of the Bible. When we read the Bible we should strive to find Christ in the teachings of Scripture. The great baptist preacher Charles Hadden Spurgeon said it like this:

“Don't you know, young man, that from every town and every village and every hamlet in England, wherever it may be, there is a road to

London? So from every text of Scripture there is a road to Christ. And my dear brother, your business is, when you get to a text, to say, now, what is the road to Christ? I have never found a text that has not got a road to Christ in it, and if ever I do find one, I will go over hedge and ditch but I would get at my Master, for the sermon cannot do any good unless there is a savor of Christ in it.”<sup>3</sup>



The Bible teaches us about the origin of the universe, the creation of man, the nature of man, and the presence of evil in the world. The Bible gives us the highest moral code the world has ever known, and the Bible tells us what God's laws are and how He expects us to live. We can have no understanding of ourselves or of the world around us apart from the Bible. One of my favorite verses is Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" That verse is so comforting to me. It is like a compass that sets my soul in the right direction. That verse gives me a true sense of peace and purpose. That verse is like my "true north." But with all of these wonderful aspects of knowledge that the Bible communicates with us they are secondary to the main theme which is salvation through Jesus Christ God's Son.

GENESIS 1:1 IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSE IN THE BIBLE. Why is this verse so significant? A number of reasons can be suggested.

1. This verse is foundational to all we believe.
2. This verse provides the basis for many of the presuppositions in our Christian worldview.
3. This verse is like a compass that sets us in the right direction at the very outset of the Bible.
4. This verse is the cornerstone to our worldview.
5. This verse is a comforting verse in that it answers so many of our questions and mysteries about life, God, and the meaning of our existence.

IF WE GET GENESIS 1:1 WRONG IT WILL IMPACT NEARLY EVERY THING else we believe. A careful analysis of this single verse yields a rich treasure of truth that can nourish the soul and serve as a key component of a Christian worldview. So what do we learn from Genesis 1:1?

1. The universe is not eternal.
2. There was a beginning to all the we know in the universe such as life, time, man, earth, and existence.
3. God preexisted creation.
4. The God who preexisted creation created all things.
5. The noun used for “God” in this verse is plural while the verb “created” is singular. This provides the first hint that the God of the Bible is a trinity.
6. This triune God created all that we see out of nothing.
7. As the Bible was progressively revealed to man we learned that Jesus Christ is the creator, John 1:3, Col. 1:15-17. We also learned that God created by His spoken word, Hebrews 11:3.
8. From Genesis 1:1 we learn that evolution was not the way man came into existence.

ONE WRITER, SO OVERWHELMED BY THIS VERSE GENESIS 1:1, SAID this:

“In the beginning GOD. Nothing else—no earth—no sea—no sky—no sun—no moon—no stars—no people—nothing but...GOD. We bury our faces, and cry HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!”<sup>1</sup>

YOU CAN SEE THEN FROM ALL THESE THINGS WHY GENESIS 1:1 IS SO important to the Christian faith. There could not have been a more fitting way to open the Bible than with this magnificent announcement from God that answers so many of the great questions of life. For me this verse is both comforting and informative and it provides the solid foundation upon which my faith stands. This one verse Genesis 1:1 is the foundation of what every thing else stands on.

Salvation  
Creation  
The Spirit’s Work  
The Gospel Of Christ

**BIBLE BASICS-A QUICK GLANCE AT BASIC BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

The Law of God  
The Fall of Man  
The Existence of God

All of these great truths stand on the foundation of Genesis 1:1.

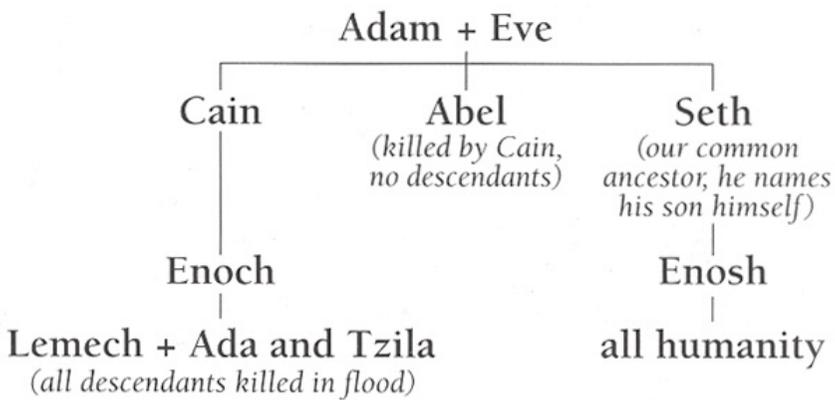
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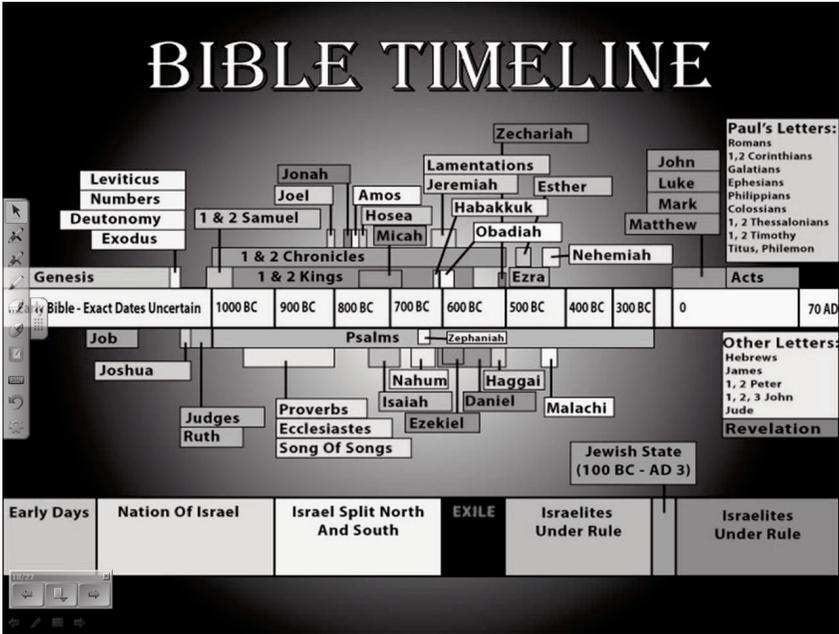
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**THE BIBLE IN A TIMELINE**

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**T**he beginning of the human race began in these family lines. Adam and Eve's children began in three distinct family tree lines. Abel was murdered by his brother Cain and so his family line is cut off. The families of Cain and Seth take us up to the flood of Noah.





- 4000 BC- Creation, Adam and Eve
- 2400-2300-Noah's Flood
- 2100-Job's story
- 2090-Covenant with Abraham
- 1898-Joseph sold into slavery
- 1876-Jacob moves to Egypt
- (430 yrs)-The Jews in Egyptian slavery
- 1446-Moses and the Exodus
- 1406-Joshua leads Israel into Canaan
- 1399-The Jews possess the land of promise
- (299 yrs.)-The time of the Judges
- 1120-Samuel is born
- 1011-David becomes king
- 971-Solomon becomes king
- 966-Solomon builds the Temple

## ROBERT DICKIE

- 931-Israel passes through a civil war and is divided into north and south.
- 760-Jonah the prophet to Ninevah
- 739-Isaiah ministers to Judah
- 722-Assyria conquers Israel
- 627-Jeremiah ministers to Judah
- 606-Babylonian captivity begins
- 586-Jerusalem falls to Babylon
- 606-536-The Babylonian Captivity
- 400-4BC-The silent inter-testament years
- 4BC-Jesus is Born
- 27AD-The Crucifixion of Jesus
- 70AD-The fall of Jerusalem to the Romans

MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS have been written by 70 AD when Jerusalem fell.

## *Chapter Four*

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# THE APOSTLE'S CREED—A CONCISE SUMMARY OF THE MAIN DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

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### The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of Saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

*“I believe in God the Father,*

*Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary:  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
was crucified, dead and buried:  
He descended into hell:  
The third day he rose again from the dead:  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty:  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:  
I believe in the Holy Ghost:  
I believe in the holy catholic church:  
the communion of saints:  
The forgiveness of sins:  
The resurrection of the body:  
And the life everlasting. Amen.”*

**T**he Apostle’s Creed is the oldest known Christian creed having originated before the second century. This creed is a basic summary of the doctrines that every Christian should know. The Apostle’s Creed may well have originated with the Apostles although we have no full proof of this. When a non-Christian asks, “What do Christians believe?” The Apostle’s Creed is a good place to start. One theologian explained the contents of the Apostle’s Creed with these statements:

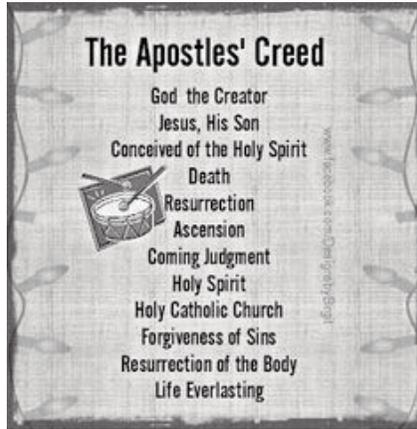
“The creed sets forth the doctrine of the Trinity. It sets forth the basic economy of redemption — the Father is the creator of all things, Jesus is the only Savior, and the Holy Spirit is the one who gives us faith and then unites us to Christ. The creed also affirms the basic historical

facts of the gospel — our Lord’s virgin birth, His suffering, death, and bodily resurrection. Furthermore, the creed affirms Jesus’ descent into hell (which the Reformed church believes refers to Jesus’ suffering the wrath of God upon the cross), His bodily resurrection, and His ascent into heaven where Jesus now rules over all until He returns at the end of the age to judge the world and raise the dead.

Next, the creed affirms the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the existence of a “holy” (those whose only hope of heaven is in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ) and “catholic” church, a reference to the universal church (the body of Christ) that will exist from the time it was founded until Jesus returns. The creed affirms the communion of saints (the fellowship of justified sinners with the risen Christ), the forgiveness of sins (Christ’s work in fulfilling all righteousness and dying for the sins of His people), the resurrection of the body at the end of the age (as Jesus was raised bodily on the third day, so will we when He returns) and life everlasting (new heavens and earth).”<sup>1</sup>

MANY CHURCHES REPEAT THE APOSTLE’S CREED EACH WEEK AS A liturgical part of their worship service. The wisdom of doing this is seen in the fact that this gives a concise summary of the Christian faith to any visitors (especially those from non-Christian cultures and backgrounds). Every Christian should memorize this creed as an aid to preventing them from forgetting or straying from the great doctrines of the Bible.

The Doctrines Taught By The Apostle's Creed



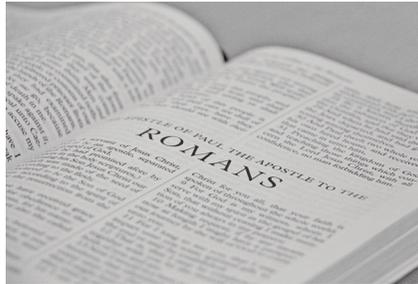
The “Apostle’s Creed” should be the answer that is given to the question, “What is a basic summary of the doctrines of the historic Christian faith?” Sadly, many churches and Christians are doctrinally deficient and most often ignorant of the historic Christian faith.

## Chapter Five

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# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT?

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**T**he Bible is a collection of 66 different books into one book that we call the Bible. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. A question that comes up almost immediately when some one is starting to study the Bible is, “what is a testament and what is the difference between the Old and the New Testaments?” According to one theologian a “testament” is another way of saying “covenant.” The definition given for the word testament or covenant is:

“...an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship.”<sup>1</sup>

PUT VERY SIMPLY A TESTAMENT OR COVENANT IS AN AGREEMENT between two people or parties. The Old and New Testaments record the agreement that God made with man. Another writer defines them in this fashion:

“The word ‘Testament’ comes from the Latin and means ‘covenant’ or ‘Agreement.’ The Old Testament is the ‘Old Covenant’ or the ‘Old Agreement.’ The New Testament is the ‘New Covenant’ or the ‘New Agreement.’”<sup>2</sup>

LET ME SHARE SOME CRUCIAL DISTINCTIVES BETWEEN THE OLD AND New Testaments. The Old Testament is foundational and the New Testament builds on that foundation with new revealed truth. The Old Testament contains many prophecies that are fulfilled in the New Testament. The Old Testament contains the history of God’s chosen people “Israel.” The New Testament is focused on Jesus Christ the Messiah. The Old Testament was the history of a covenant nation whereas the New Testament is the history of the beginning and development of the Christian church. The Old Testament predicted the coming of Christ and the New Testament relates the fulfillment of His coming. In the Old Testament the law of God was given by Moses but in the New Testament the law is fulfilled by Christ. In the Old Testament paradise is lost by the first Adam and in the New Testament paradise is regained through the second Adam which is Christ.

Dr. R.C. Sproul made this interesting comment on the distinctions of the Old and New Testaments:

“‘The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.’ This famous statement by Saint Augustine expresses the remarkable way in which the two testaments of the Bible are so closely interrelated with each other. The key to understanding the New Testament in its fullest is to see in it the fulfillment of those things that were revealed in the

background of the Old Testament. The Old Testament points forward in time, preparing God's people for the work of Christ in the New Testament."<sup>3</sup>

### Summary of the Old Testament

**Adam and Eve**—They are our first parents who were created and placed in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were told not to eat the fruit of one particular tree. The serpent tempted them and they sinned plunging the entire human race into spiritual and physical death. All the sin, war, tragedy, violence and death in the world is the result of their disobedience to God. After their sin they were banished from the Garden of Eden.

**The Abrahamic Covenant**—A covenant is a contract or agreement between two people or parties. This covenant between Abraham and God, is found in Genesis 12, 15, 17.

God told Abraham that he would be the father of "many nations" and commanded that Abraham and his descendants circumcize the male babies on the eighth day after birth to seal the contract.

Abraham begat Isaac who begat Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. Jacob had twelve sons, who became the twelve "tribes" of Israel. The twelve tribes are:

### The Twelve Tribes of Israel

- Reuben.
- Simeon.
- Levi (this priestly tribe did not receive a territory, and sometimes is not listed when the tribe of Joseph is listed as two separate tribes).
- Judah.
- Zebulun.
- Issachar.
- Dan.
- Gad.
- Asher.

## ROBERT DICKIE

- Naphtali.
- Joseph (often listed as two tribes named for his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh).
- Benjamin.

Jacob's son, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt. Eventually this led to Jacob and his family arriving in Egypt. Jacob's descendents multiplied rapidly and eventually became slaves in Egypt. Moses, around 1250 B.C., was called by God to lead the Jews out of Egypt. This was the famous Exodus which freed the Israelites from bondage and servitude to the Egyptians.

God's Covenant (Old Covenant) with Israel, Exodus 34:27-28. Moses was given the Ten Commandments for the people of Israel to obey in order that He be their God and would be worshipped by them. There were constant problems with the Jewish people believing in idols and other "gods." Finally the people reached the Promised Land and settled there after Moses' death. God raised up judges that led the people until approximately 1000 B.C. when Israel demanded a king. King David and his King Solomon built and presided over a united and powerful nation. The nation of Israel divided after Solomon's death:

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM WAS CALLED JUDAH, AND WAS MADE UP OF the "tribes" of Judah and Benjamin. The capital of Judah was the city of Jerusalem. The Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS CALLED ISRAEL, CONSISTING OF THE other 10 "tribes". The capital of the Northern Kingdom was Samaria. The Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians around 722 B.C.

AFTER THE FALL OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH THE JEWS WERE CARRIED away into captivity. After a period of nearly 70 years the Jews who returned from exile reestablished the nation of Israel. Eventually they

were conquered by Rome. The struggles of the Hebrew people and their dispersion from their country were thought to be from their belief in idols and heathen "gods" (mostly resulting from their marrying non-Jews who brought in outside religions). The prophets (including Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) were spokesmen for God to the people and to their leaders: they often disagreed with the men in power and had no fear of expressing their messages from God - generally directing against idolatry and "false gods."

The Old Testament contains a number of books called Wisdom Books. These books include: the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. The worship book of the Jews included Poems and hymns are found in Psalms.

The Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah who would deliver His people and bring them peace.

### Summary of the New Testament

The New Testament is focused on the coming of Jesus Christ. The life of Christ, begins with His virgin birth, and includes His three year itinerant ministry in Israel, His crucifixion, and His resurrection and ascension to heaven. The event, called the "Christ Events of History" is the main focus of the four *Gospels*. The four gospels in the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The main points that Jesus taught throughout His public ministry can be found in "The Sermon On The Mount" in Matthew's gospel chapters 5-7. This sermon is an excellent summary of all the things that Jesus taught.

Jesus performed many miracles which verified His truth claims that He was the Son of God and the promised Messiah.

Jesus chose twelve humble and unlearned men to be His disciples. These twelve men, except Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver, became apostles and helped Him to proclaim the Word of God. Jesus had a major battle with the religious leaders of His day, (Pharisees and Sadducees) that would eventually lead to His crucifixion and death on the cross. These Jewish leaders did not receive the news that Jesus was the long awaited Jewish Messiah.

The death of Jesus Christ led to the:

*NEW COVENANT.* THE NEW COVENANT WAS A CONTRACT OR agreement with God. This covenant was made with all those who were the elect. The elect include both Jews and Gentiles. The distinctive features of the New Covenant included:

1. That the law was written in their minds and hearts.
2. Those that believe were drawn to Christ and were regenerated “born again” by the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Those who were born again were indwelt by the Holy Spirit and given the gifts of faith and repentance.
4. That all who believe on Him are forgiven because of His sacrifice on the cross to take away their sins.

John 3:16, is a concise summary of the New Covenant.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Those who become Christians are required to:

- Repent of their sins
- Believe on and receive Christ
- Be baptized
- Follow Christ
- Live a holy life

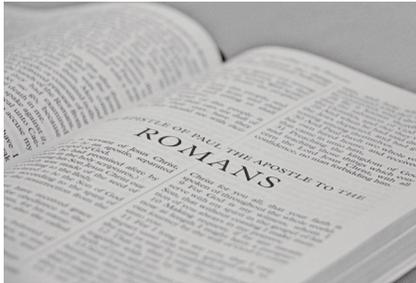
Following His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus who later became Paul, the great preacher to the Gentiles. The new Christian church grew rapidly and was spread by the power of the gospel and had the distinguished feature of love. Unlike Islam that was spread by the sword and by violence, Christianity truly is the religion of peace that brings hope, salvation and joy to all those who come to faith in Christ.

## *Chapter Six*

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# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

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### *The Bible*

*Though the cover is worn,  
and pages are torn,  
And places bear traces of tears,  
Yet more precious than gold,  
is this book worn and old,  
That can shatter and scatter my fears.*

*When I prayerfully look,  
in this precious old book,*

*As my eyes scan the pages I see,  
Many tokens of love  
from the Father above,  
Who is nearest and dearest to me.*

*This old book is my guide,  
tis a friend by my side,  
It will lighten and brighten my way.  
And each promise I find  
soothes and gladdens my mind.  
As I read it and heed it today.*  
by Bernice Peyman

The Chronological Order Of The  
Bible As The Books Were  
Actually Written

Old Testament

Job--Unknown  
Genesis--1445-1405 B.C.  
Exodus --1445-1405 B.C.  
Leviticus --1445-1405 B.C.  
Numbers--1445-1405 B.C.  
Deuteronomy--1445-1405 B.C.  
Psalms--1410-450 B.C.  
Joshua--1405-1385 B.C.  
Judges--ca. 1043 B.C.  
Ruth--ca. 1030-1010 B.C.  
Song of Solomon--971-965 B.C.  
Proverbs--ca. 971-686 B.C.  
Ecclesiastes--940-931 B.C.  
1 Samuel--931-722 B.C.  
2 Samuel--931-722 B.C.  
Obadiah--850-840 B.C.  
Joel--835-796 B.C.

Jonah--ca. 775 B.C.  
Amos--ca. 750 B.C.  
Hosea--750-710 B.C.  
Micah--735-710 B.C.  
Isaiah--700-681 B.C.  
Nahum--ca. 650 B.C.  
Zephaniah--635-625 B.C.  
Habakkuk--615-605 B.C.  
Ezekiel--590-570 B.C.  
Lamentations--586 B.C.  
Jeremiah--586-570 B.C.  
1 Kings--561-538 B.C.  
2 Kings--561-538 B.C.  
Daniel 536-530 B.C.  
Haggai--ca. 520 B.C.  
Zechariah--480-470 B.C.  
Ezra--457-444 B.C.  
1 Chronicles--450-430 B.C.  
2 Chronicles--450-430 B.C.  
Esther--450-331 B.C.  
Malachi--433-424 B.C.  
Nehemiah--424-400 B.C.

#### New Testament

James--A.D. 44-49  
Galatians--A.D. 49-50  
Matthew--A.D. 50-60  
Mark--A.D. 50-60  
1 Thessalonians--A.D. 51  
2 Thessalonians--A.D. 51-52  
1 Corinthians--A.D. 55  
2 Corinthians--A.D. 55-56  
Romans-- A.D. 56  
Luke--A.D. 60-61  
Ephesians--A.D. 60-62

Philippians--A.D. 60-62  
Philemon--A.D. 60-62  
Colossians--A.D. 60-62  
Acts--A.D. 62  
1 Timothy--A.D. 62-64  
Titus--A.D. 62-64  
1 Peter--A.D. 64-65  
2 Timothy--A.D. 66-67  
2 Peter--A.D. 67-68  
Hebrews--A.D. 67-69  
Jude--A.D. 68-70  
John--A.D. 80-90  
1 John--A.D. 90-95  
2 John--A.D. 90-95  
3 John--A.D. 90-95  
Revelation--A.D. 94-96

### The Origen Of The Bible

The word “*Bible*” is from the Greek word *biblos*, which was the inner bark of the papyrus plant. People in the ancient world began to use the word *biblos* to refer to a scroll or book. Eventually Christians began to use the plural form of bibles to refer to the Bible. So the English word “Bible” is derived from the Greek τὰ βιβλία (ta biblia - “the books”). The first Christian use of this word “Bible” is traced to A.D. 223. Biblical scholar F.F. Bruce claims that Chrysostom in his messages on Matthew was the first writer to use the Greek phrase ta biblia to describe both the Old and New Testaments together. Chrysostom lived in the 4th century A.D.

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The word “*testament*” was a solemn covenant or binding agreement. The Old and New Covenants or Testaments show two distinct but not contradictory ways that God was bringing men and women into a right relationship with Himself.

- Bible—66 books
- Old Testament—39 books
- New Testament—27 books

The dividing of the Bible into chapters began with Stephen Langton, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury in the 13th century. Robert Estienne, a 16th-century printer and classical scholar in Paris, was the first person to print the Bible and divide it into numbered verses.

There was a 400 year gap between the writing of the last book of the Old Testament and the writing of the first book of the New Testament. The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by 40 different authors. Yet there are no contradictions in the Bible and there is one common theme which is the salvation of sinners by the blood redemption of Jesus Christ the Messiah. The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew and the New Testament was primarily written in Greek.

## Hebrew



Greek



The Inspiration Of The Bible

THE BIBLE WAS THE FIRST BOOK TO CLAIM TO BE THE INSPIRED WORD of the Living God. The various writers of Scripture claim a supernatural origin for their writings. Nearly 4,000 times they make these statements, "Thus says the Lord," "The word of the Lord came unto me." It is clear that the authors of Scripture were aware that they were writing a divine book that God had delivered to them.

A great biblical scholar explained what is meant by divine inspiration in this way:

“Inspiration is that extraordinary supernatural influence exerted by the Holy Ghost on the writers of our Sacred Books, by which their words were rendered also the words of God, and therefore, perfectly infallible.”<sup>1</sup>

The inspiration of the Bible means that some parts of the Bible are the exact words of God, (see Exodus 24:12, and Mark 1:11). Some parts of the Bible are the words of God put into the writers mouth, (see Jeremiah 30:1, I Corinthians 14:37). Some parts of the Bible are the words of the writers, (see Matthew 3:17, Luke 1:1-4). But all the words are equally inspired by God, (see II Timothy 3:16-17).

Since the time of the Bible two other religions (Islam and Mormonism) have made the same claim that their holy books were inspired by God. However, both of these religions have a Scripture

that does not bear the marks or have the evidence to prove their truth claims. The Bible alone is the Word of God. Christians reject both the Quran and the book of Mormon as false scriptures that are to be condemned as heresy.

We cannot prove the Bible to be the Word of God by appealing to any authority outside of the Bible itself. Logic, science, and reason cannot prove the Bible to be true. If we appeal to any outside authority to prove that the Bible is the Word of God then those outside authorities would themselves be a higher authority than the Bible.

Through the centuries the Bible has been attacked and maligned. Year after year and age after age the opponents of the Word of God have marshaled their arguments, forces, and schemes to undermine God's precious Word. In every instance when the Bible has been attacked or ridiculed it has faced its opponent and won. The skeptics and detractors have come and gone but the Bible still stands tall unmoved, unshaken, and unaffected by the steady stream of baseless arguments hurled at it. This poem says it all:

#### The Anvil-God's Word

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime:  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye,  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the anvil of God's Word,  
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;  
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unharmed...the hammers gone.

Author unknown

## The Major Theme Of The Bible

What is so unique about the Bible is that although it is a collection of 66 books written by 40 different authors over a period of 1500 years it has one common theme that ties each book together. The Bible contains biography, autobiography, personal correspondence, stories, parables, narratives, history, speeches, prayers, hymns, poetry, sermons and prophecy, yet in every book one common theme pulsates on every page. And just what is this theme that ties the Bible together? The main theme of the Bible is the coming of the Son of God to save sinners and to bring them into a right relationship with their Creator. In short the theme of the Bible is nothing less than Jesus Christ our Lord.

## How To Interpret The Bible (Ten Basic Questions To Ask)

- Who wrote/spoke the passage and to whom was it addressed?
- What does the passage say?
- Are there any words or phrases in the passage that need to be examined?
- What is the immediate context?
- What is the broader context in the chapter and book?
- What other verses of Scripture relate to this text and how do they affect my understanding of it?
- What is the historical and cultural background of the text?
- What conclusions do we come to concerning this text?
- Do my conclusions agree or disagree with other areas of Scripture and with other scholars who have studied this passage?
- What have I learned from this text and what can I apply to my life and daily living?

(Six Principles Of Interpretation To Follow)

- Interpret Scripture with Scripture. Scripture is its own best interpreter.
- Interpret the text in the light of the context.
- Interpret the text by noting the kind of literature the text is. For example is it history, poetry, prophecy, etc.
- Interpret a passage but do not violate the integrity or unity of the Bible. (If your interpretation contradicts what the Bible says in other places you can be sure you have not understood the text properly.)
- Interpret an obscure passage in the light of a clear passage.
- Interpret the Bible literally but remember that the Bible uses symbols, similes, figures of speech, analogies, and parables. These must be interpreted as such.

Legitimate Ways Of Finding Christ In The  
Text Of The Bible

THE NEW TESTAMENT HINTS AT SEVEN LEGITIMATE WAYS TO MOVE from Old Testament texts to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. These ways are:

- Redemptive-historical progression: following the progression of redemptive history as it moves forward from the text's historical setting to Jesus' first or second coming.
- Promise fulfillment: showing that the promise of a coming Messiah was fulfilled in Jesus' arrival.
- Typology: moving from an Old Testament type prefiguring Jesus to the antitype, Jesus himself.
- Analogy: noting the similarity between the teaching of the text and that of Jesus.
- Longitudinal themes: tracing a theme of the text through the Old Testament to Jesus in the New Testament.
- New Testament references: moving to New Testament

quotations of or allusions to the preaching text or to Jesus’ similar teachings;

- Contrast: noting the contrast between the message of the text and that of Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

The Old Testament is divided in the following manner:

**Old Testament**  
Books in "Bible Order"

History			Wisdom	Prophecy		
5 Books of Moses The Law (Torah)	Pre-Exile	Post-Exile	5 Books of Wisdom, Poetry, & Praise	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets	
					Pre-Exile	Post-Exile
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles	Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	Haggai Zechariah Malachi

◆ deeperChristian

**The Pentateuch or Torah** (law) includes the first five books of the Bible. The word “Pentateuch” is from a Greek word that means five vessels or five scrolls. The word “Torah” means law or instruction. The books of the “Law” contain many stories and incidents that give us a good understanding of man’s first years on the planet. But these books also contain a record of the law that God gave Moses on Mt. Sinai which spelled out the regulations for worship, sacrifices and daily living.

The Book Of Genesis

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It is the book of beginnings. The word “Genesis” means “Beginning.” The book of Genesis can be understood by these bullit points:

4 great events in chapters 1-11

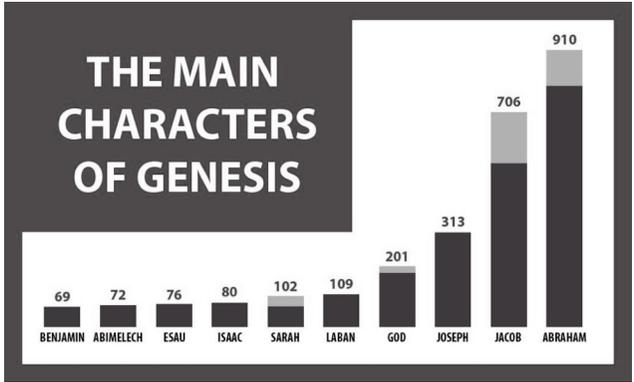
- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Dispersion

4 GREAT MEN IN CHAPTERS 12-50

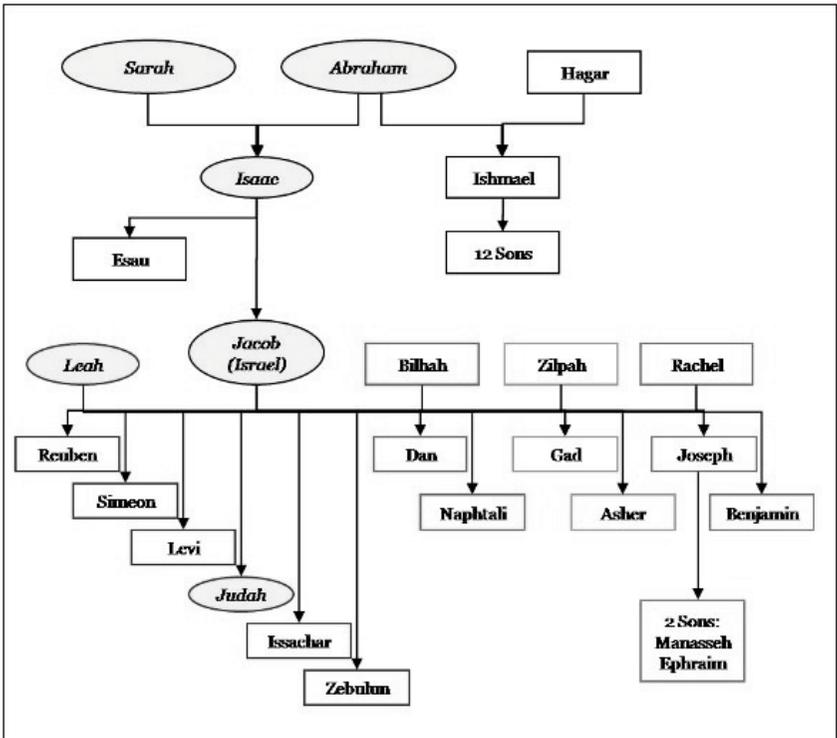
1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

JESUS IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS:

- Gen. 3:15—this is the first prophetic promise of a coming Redeemer.
- Gen. 6—the story of Noah’s ark is a picture of Christ who is our ark that we run into for safety
- Gen. 12:1-5—This is another prophetic promise that through Abraham the nations will be blessed all of which happens because of the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ.
- Gen. 22—the sacrifice of Isaac is a picture of God sacrificing His Son for our sins.



The Top Ten Characters In The Book Of Genesis  
Based On The Number Of Times  
They Are Mentioned



## A Summary Of Each Book Of The Bible

### Genesis

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Genesis tells us how all things began. The word “Genesis” means “beginning or starting point in time.” Genesis narrates how creation took place, how sin and sorrow entered into the world, and how God is dealing with the sin and failures of the people that He created. Genesis reveals the beginning of:
  - The universe
  - Man
  - Sabbath
  - Marriage
  - Sin
  - Salvation
  - Prophecy
  - Human government
  - Nations
  - Israel
- **Summary statement**—the book of beginnings
- **Author of Genesis**—Moses (The name Moses in Hebrew means “drawn out.” For Moses was drawn out of the Nile River by the daughter of Pharaoh. But the Egyptian meaning of the name Moses means “boy, son or child.)
- **Date written**— approximately 1450-1400BC
- **Jesus in the book of Genesis**—We know that Jesus is the main theme of the Bible. Therefore we find that each book of the Bible has something to say about the coming of Jesus Christ or about His person and His work. Genesis 3:15 is the first reference to a coming Messiah. In Genesis 22 when Abraham is told to sacrifice his son Isaac we learn that that was a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus by God the Father for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

### Exodus

- **Purpose of the book**—While Genesis tells us how all things began Exodus records how God began His relationship with His chosen people Israel. We are told that God gave them the law and revealed to them how they are to behave in the midst of other nations. In this book God delivers His people from Egyptian bondage.
- **Summary statement**—God’s covenant with His people
- **Author of Genesis**—Moses
- **Date written**—approximately 1450-1400BC
- **Jesus in Exodus**—The fact that Moses served as a prophet, priest and King is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ who is our Prophet (who reveals the laws and ways of God to us), Priest (Who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins) and King (Who rules over us and over all of creation).

### Leviticus

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Leviticus is the heart of the first five books of the Bible. This book reveals so clearly the holiness of God. This book teaches The people of God how to live in the presence of One Who is infinitely holy. In the book of Leviticus the tribe of Levi is given instructions (by laws, rituals and requirements) on how to conduct the proper worship of God.
- **Summary statement**—The giving of God’s law
- **Author of Leviticus**—Moses
- **Date written**— 1450-1400BC
- **Jesus in Leviticus**—The children of Israel were given instructions on how to worship God by the use of the tabernacle and all the furniture and items that it contained. Jesus is pictured in each of these items in the tabernacle. Jesus came to earth as a “human tabernacle” to dwell among us and to fulfill all the requirements of the law of God. Each item of and in the tabernacle are pictures of Christ. For example Jesus is the bread of life (shewbread), Jesus is the light of the world (golden candlestick), Jesus is the holy of

Holies (corresponding to the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, etc).

### Numbers

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Numbers is the record of the sin and grumbling of God’s people. It covers their wandering in the wilderness, their rebellion against God but also includes God’s grace and mercy. The name of the book is taken from the fact that on two occasions Moses numbered the people to discern how many fighting men he had available.
- **Summary statement**—Moving towards the Land of Promise
- **Author of Numbers**—Moses
- **Date written**—1450-1400BC
- **Jesus in Numbers**—Moses described the people of Israel in the wilderness as “wicked and adulterous” so too did Jesus describe the Jews of His generation as “wicked and adulterous.” God’s grace, love and forgiveness and the reaching of the Promised Land is a picture of the grace, love, and forgiveness that men have in Christ. We too, like Israel, will reach the Promised Land because of the faithful work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Deuteronomy

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Deuteronomy is mainly a collection of speeches by Moses giving instructions at the end of their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Moses prepares the chosen people for the conquest of the land of Canaan that lies ahead of them. The first generation of Jews that came out of Egypt had all died except Moses, Joshua and Caleb. The people alive now were not eye witnesses of the great miracles that took place in the Exodus. The book of Deuteronomy is a

reaffirmation of the law that was given in the book of Exodus.

- **Summary statement**—The reviewing of God’s laws that were given to the people in the wilderness.
- **Author of Deuteronomy**—Moses
- **Date written**—1450-1400BC
- **Jesus in the book of Deuteronomy**—The Scriptures teach us that Jesus is the law giver and that He is also the One who kept the law perfectly. The law of Deuteronomy points to the Lord Jesus Christ. Also we find that in Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses predicts the coming of a great prophet that the New Testament identifies as the Messiah—the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The history books** include the twelve books that are listed below. These books continue the march of Israel from the Sinai desert into the land of Promise. Moses died at Mt. Nebo. Joshua is the new leader who will lead the children of Israel into the land of Promise. The Hebrew nation is poised at the edge of the Promised land. The great invasion is about to begin. The historical events include the conquest of Canaan, the deliverers called “Judges”, the divided Kingdom, and the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions.

### Joshua

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Joshua tells us how God’s chosen people overcome their enemies, conquered the land and found rest in the new land of God’s promises and purposes. The book also is a grim reminder of how sin and rebellion will bring down God’s judgment on His people.
- **Summary statement**—The conquest of the land of Canaan
- **Author of Joshua**—Joshua, his name means “salvation”
- **Date written**—1405-1383BC

- **Jesus in the book of Joshua**—Joshua, whose name means “salvation” is a picture of Christ the conqueror. Jesus is seen in the angel of the Lord who appears to Joshua in chapter 5:13-15. The Angel of the Lord was a preincarnate visitation of Jesus. This is also called a “Christophany” an Old Testament visitation of Jesus Christ.

### Judges

- **Purpose of the book**—the book of Judges is a long narrative that serves as a warning to God’s people of all ages to not rebel against the Lord. As the children of Israel possessed the land the conquest was not complete. Enemies were still within the land. Over time spiritual declension and rebellion to God and His laws became the practice of the chosen people. The book of Judges follows a pattern that is repeated over and over. The pattern of behavior is disobedience—followed by oppression—followed by a cry for Divine help—followed by a deliverer being raised up—followed by deliverance—followed by peace. This cycle repeats itself over and over in the book of Judges.
- **Summary statement**—A nation without a king and the appointment of judges
- **Author of Judges**—Possibly Samuel
- **Written**—1086-1004BC
- **Jesus in Judges**—the judges were deliverers whom God raised up to deliver God’s chosen people from those who were oppressing them. Jesus is the final Deliverer that came to deliver us from all of our spiritual enemies.

### Ruth

- **Purpose of the book**—the book of Ruth is a beautiful love story. This book reveals how God can turn despair into hope, deep sorrow into overwhelming joy, and sadness into celebration. The book of Ruth also gives us the beginning of

David's lineage and the part of the lineage of the Messiah Jesus Christ.

- **Summary statement**—The beginning of the Messianic lineage
- **Author**—Samuel, his name means “God has heard”
- **Date written**—1046-1035BC
- **Jesus in Ruth**—The coming of a future redeemer is developed in the book of Ruth as Boaz becomes the kinsman-redeemer. Boaz is a picture of Christ. But most importantly Jesus is seen in the connection of the lineage of Ruth.

### I Samuel

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Samuel is a history of the Jewish monarchy. This book begins with the birth of Samuel to a godly mother Hannah who dedicates her son to the Lord's service. The book of I Samuel continues with the anointing of Saul as King and the rise of David as a warrior-king. This book is transitional in that it connects the days of the Judges, when Israel was ruled by a theocracy, with a new era in the history of God's chosen people the time of a nation ruled by a king. So we see the transition in I Samuel is from theocracy to monarchy.
- **Summary Statement**—The history of the Kingdom
- **Author**—Samuel
- **Written**—1050-750BC
- **Jesus in I Samuel**—David is a picture of Christ.

### II Samuel

- **Purpose of the book**—Second Samuel continues the biographical story of King David and his reign as king. Both

first and second Samuel relate the arrival of Samuel the prophet.

- **Summary statement**—The life and reign of David the King
- **Author**—Samuel
- **Written**—1050-750BC
- **Jesus in II Samuel**—David’s kingdom is a kingdom that would last forever. This is a picture of the rule and reign of the Messiah Jesus Christ whom David represents. II Samuel 7:16, “And your house and our kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” Also in the two books of first and second Samuel the ministry of Samuel as prophet, priest and king portrays the ministry of the Lord Jesus who is our prophet, priest and king. David’s victory over Goliath was a picture of Christ defeating sin, death and hell.

### I Kings

- **Purpose of the book**—The books of first and second Kings is a history of the kingdom of David and Solomon up to the great divide of the two kingdoms into North and South, with Samaria and Jerusalem being the capitals of the northern and southern kingdoms.
- **Summary statement**—The kingdom divided
- **Author**—Unknown, the ancient Jewish tradition is that Jeremiah the prophet wrote this book.
- **Written**—590-570BC
- **Jesus in I Kings**—God promised David a continuous descendant to sit on his throne forever. This is picture of the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ who would sit on the throne of David forever and ever. Solomon is also a type of Christ. The kingdom of Solomon was a kingdom that was rich, expansive, full of peace and wisdom. All of this served as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## II Kings

- **Purpose of the book**—The destruction of both the northern and southern kingdoms are recorded. The translation of Elijah to heaven as the second person along with Enoch who was also translated directly to heaven. This book is perhaps the saddest book of all Jewish history. It records the carrying away into captivity of Israel by Assyria in 721 B.C. and the captivity of Judah by Babylon in 586 B.C. Second Kings has been called the "book of dispersion." In I Kings we read that Solomon succeeded David, and we saw how Israel reached the pinnacle of her earthly glory. But Solomon also sinned and failed. He sinned by unjust taxing of the people to support his evil lusts. God judged him because of this and the kingdom was divided.
- **Summary Statement**—The histories of the divided kingdoms
- **Author**—Unknown
- **Written**—590-550BC
- **Jesus in II Kings**—The cleansing of Naaman the leper is an amazing story of love, forgiveness, faith and cleansing. This story is an excellent picture of salvation that we find in Christ. God has made a provision for sinners to be cleansed through the blood of Christ from the terrible leprosy of sin.

## I Chronicles

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Chronicles was written after the captivity whereas the books of I and II Kings were written before the dispersion of the Jews into captivity. The Book of I Chronicles provides a history of Israel that reaches back to the time of Adam and brings us up to the time of David's reign. The books of I and II Chronicles are written for the Jews who returned to the land after the exile. These books review the histories of the pre-exilic Jews and the post-exilic Jews. The books also help

the chosen people of Israel to remember what it is to be God's people in the land of promise.

- **Summary statement**—The life and reign of King David
- **Author**—Ezra
- **Written**—450-425BC
- **Jesus in I Chronicles**—I Chronicles has been called, "the chosen book of the theocracy." This book tells us the story of a great king and points forward to an even greater King and kingdom. David's kingdom is a picture of the Kingdom of Christ that was yet to come.

## II Chronicles

- **Purpose of the book**—This book records the life of Solomon, King David's son. Solomon's kingdom is a wealthy and prosperous kingdom that spreads far and wide. Solomon builds the temple for the Lord and is greatly blessed by God. Unfortunately Solomon sinned and after his death the kingdom is divided and the Jews are eventually dispersed into exile.
- **Summary Statement**—The history of the southern kingdom from the days of King Solomon to the time of Judah's fall.
- **Author**—Ezra
- **Written**—450-425BC
- **Jesus in II Chronicles**—The rule and reign of King Solomon is a picture of the rule and reign of Jesus Christ. The temple that Solomon built is also a picture of Christ.

## Ezra

- **Purpose of the book**—The kings of Persia allow a small remnant of Jews to return to the land of promise to rebuild the walls and the temple. All of this takes place about 50 years after the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem and carried the Jews into captivity. Now the Babylonians have been

conquered by the Persians. King Cyrus of Persia allows Ezra and a small number of Jews to return to the land to rebuild the temple. Along with building the temple Ezra teaches the people the law of God.

- **Summary statement**—The return from captivity and a time of spiritual renewal takes place.
- **Author**—Ezra
- **Written**—457-444BC
- **Jesus in Ezra**—“Ezra was a man of the Word and prayer who was passionate for the purity of God’s people, seeking to hallow God’s name, to bring in God’s Kingdom and to do God’s will on earth as in heaven...In chapter 9, Ezra responded to the disobedience and rebellion of God’s people by weeping over Jerusalem, just as Jesus would weep over Jerusalem’s refusal to receive and welcome Him...This aspect of what we see in Ezra and Jesus is comforting..Jesus loves people, Jesus wants what is good for people. Jesus is saddened by rebellion and disobedience. Ezra was also a priest and a scribe devoted to the law of Moses. Jesus came as the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, and he countered temptation and those who challenges him in debate with appeals to Scripture.”<sup>3</sup>

### Nehemiah

- **Purpose of the book**—This book records the work of Nehemiah who was the king’s cup bearer in Persia. When Nehemiah learns that the Jews who returned to the city of Jerusalem had not rebuilt the broken down walls he asked for and received permission to return to the land to rebuild the city walls. This project was completed amidst great opposition from his enemies in 52 days.
- **Summary statement**—Rebuilding the broken walls of Jerusalem.
- **Author**—Nehemiah
- **Written**—445-430BC

- **Jesus in Nehemiah**—“Like Ezra (Ezra 10:1), Nehemiah typified Jesus as one who wept over Jerusalem (Neh. 1:4). Just as Jesus would call His disciples to come, follow him and build God’s Kingdom through the church, Nehemiah called God’s people to rise and build with him (Neh. 2:18). The nations rage against the Lord and His anointed One, as Psalm 2:1-3 describes (cf. Acts 4:25-28), and they raged against Nehemiah too (Neh. 4:1-3, 7). Just as plots were made against Jesus, there was a plot to ambush Nehemiah (Neh. 6:2). Just as there was a political incendiary statement made against Jesus, “We have no king but Caesar,” there was a political incendiary statement made against Nehemiah’s intentions to rebuild the wall (Neh. 6:6). Jesus finished the work the Father gave him to do, and Nehemiah finished the wall (6:15). With the Temple and walls rebuilt, Nehemiah initiated a covenant renewal, typifying the way that Jesus would come and replace the Temple, provide the people with security and initiate the new covenant.”<sup>4</sup>

#### Esther

- **Purpose of the book**—A nation wide beauty contest is held so the King of Persia could choose a new wife. The king chooses a beautiful Jewish woman named Esther. She does not reveal to the King that she is a Jew. A wicked plot is devised to exterminate all of the Jews. The Jewish Queen risks her life to see that the chosen people (the Jews) are preserved from the slaughter. The man who devised the plot is put to death. This book reveals to us the need for courage in difficult times.
- **Summary statement**—God’s deliverance of Israel from a wicked plot.
- **Author**—Unknown
- **Written**—464-435BC
- **Jesus in Esther**—Jesus is seen in the person of Esther. She becomes the one who saves the people from the wicked plot

to have them exterminated. In this sense Esther is a type or picture of Christ. Many scholars also view Mordecai as a type of the Lord Jesus.

- He was a despised Jew for whom the scaffold was built. The same scaffold proved to be the undoing of his enemy, and Mordecai was exalted to the throne. How forcefully this speaks of Him who is greater than Mordecai, and who will bring peace to His earthly people and the nations of the world.
- Mordecai was the revealer of secrets. In Christ are hidden all the secrets of wisdom and knowledge, and He "... is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1Cor 1:30).
- Mordecai was elevated to the throne. He delivered Israel and was next in authority to the king. By the wonder-working providence and grace of Jehovah, salvation was interposed on behalf of the nation and the world.<sup>5</sup>

**THE POETIC AND WISDOM BOOKS.** THESE FIVE BOOKS REPRESENT the worship and the wisdom of God. These books include hymns, poems, dramas and narratives.

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

### Job

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Job looks at one of the most relevant topics in human existence—suffering. This is the story of how a just man endured great suffering and trials. What is needed is not knowledge but trust in a sovereign God. This book contains conversations between Job and his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu.

- **Summary statement**—God’s exposition of suffering
- **Author**—Job
- **Written**—Considered by many to be the oldest book in the Bible
- **Jesus in Job**—Job is a picture of Christ who suffered for our sins. because Jesus suffered He can empathize with us and comfort us in all of our sorrows. Job Predicts the Resurrection of Christ when he writes: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

### Psalms

- **Purpose of the Psalms**—The Psalms is the worship book of the Old Testament. The Psalms are a collection of worship songs written by a number of different authors for the purpose of giving praise to God. The Psalms cover every imaginable human experience. They fill the heart with praise, give comfort in our times of suffering and trials and they bring the peace of God into our hearts.
- **Summary statement**—The worship book of the Old Testament
- **Authors**—David, Moses, Asaph, Solomon, the sons of Korah, and Ethan.
- **Written**—1410-430BC
- **Jesus in the Psalms**—Many of the Psalms are called Messianic Psalms. This means the Psalm is written with the coming of Jesus the Messiah in mind. Psalm 2, 16, 22, 69 and 110 are are Psalms that are most often quoted in the New Testament.

## Proverbs

- **Purpose of the book of Proverbs**—This book was written mainly by Solomon to give God’s people wisdom and understanding in the ways of God. The proverbs are a collection of practical tips for living a life that is pleasing to God.
- **Summary statement**—God’s wisdom given in pithy statements that enable God’s people to obtain wisdom
- **Author**—Solomon and a few others
- **Written**—950-700BC
- **Jesus in the Proverbs**—Jesus is personified in the Proverbs as Wisdom.

## Ecclesiastes

- **Purpose of the book Ecclesiastes**—Solomon pursued the things in life only to find that they do not satisfy. This book is written to demonstrate the emptiness of a life apart from and without God.
- **Summary statement**—The vanity of life
- **Author**—Solomon
- **Written**—935BC
- **Jesus in Ecclesiastes**—The end of all truth and search for meaning to life leads to one person—the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no meaning, purpose or happiness in life apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Song of Solomon

- **Purpose of the book**—The Song of Solomon is a love song between Solomon and the Shulamite maiden. This song is a picture of the love of Christ for His church.
- **Summary statement**—The love story between God and man
- **Author**—Solomon

- **Written**—965BC
- **Jesus in The Song of Solomon**—The Song of Solomon portrays the Love of Christ for His Bride

### **The prophetic books**

The five Major Prophets are not called “Major” because of their message or contents, rather they are called “Major” because of the length of their books. The salient features of the prophetic books was the message of coming judgments, the call to repentance, the promise of future blessings if the people were obedient, and finally messages of the coming promised Messiah.

#### Isaiah

- **Purpose of the book**—Isaiah prophesied to the southern kingdom of Judah. The message of the prophet is calling the people to trust in the Lord and not in man. The book is filled with many Messianic statements and allusions to the coming of the Messiah. This has been called the most Christ centered book in the Old Testament.
- **Summary statement**—The Messianic prophet, to warn Judah of coming judgment
- **Author**—Isaiah, name means, “Yahweh saves.”
- **Written**—740-680BC
- **Jesus in Isaiah**—Jesus is the promised Messiah of the book of Isaiah. Jesus fulfilled more than 50 Messianic prophecies in the book of Isaiah.

## Jeremiah

- **Purpose of the book**—Jeremiah the prophet brought a message of coming judgment to Judah. He called on God's people to repent. His heart was broken over the sins of the nation. Jeremiah was called as a young man to be a prophet. He was often mocked, persecuted and even imprisoned. But his words came true with the invasion of the Babylonians.
- **Summary statement**—The weeping prophet, to warn Judah of coming judgment.
- **Author**—Jeremiah
- **Written**—626-580BC
- **Jesus in Jeremiah**—There were a number of Messianic prophecies about Christ that were made in this book and were later fulfilled in the New Testament. The Messiah would be a descendant of David, Her. 23:5-6, The Messiah would be God, Jer. 23:5-6, The Messiah would be both God and man, Jer. 23:5-6, The Messiah would be born of a virgin, Jer. 31:22, the Messiah would inaugurate a new covenant, Jer. 31:31.

## Lamentations

- **Purpose of the book**—The book is a brief outpouring of grief and sorrow. It is filled with despair at the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. This book is an example of a nation weeping over her sins and repenting and calling on God for restoration and forgiveness.
- **Summary statement**—Weeping over the destruction of Judah
- **Author**—Jeremiah
- **Written**—586-584BC
- **Jesus in Lamentations**—The pain and suffering in the book is a reminder of the sufferings of the Savior. The tears of Jeremiah are a reminder of the tears Jesus wept over

Jerusalem. And this book reminds us that Christ will comfort His people in every situation.

### Ezekiel

- **Purpose of the book**—This book deals with a profound question, “Is God present with His people in every situation in life? Or has God abandoned us?” When God’s people walk in His ways and keep His laws God’s presence is joy and a comfort to His people. But when God’s people rebel and sin God is still present but He is present in judgment.
- **Summary statement**—God makes Himself known
- **Author**—Ezekiel, his name means “He will make strong.”
- **Written**—587-565BC
- **Jesus in Ezekiel**—The New Testament quotes Ezekiel over 60 times. Jesus is the true temple and He is the living waters that Ezekiel spoke of, and Jesus is the Shepherd King that Ezekiel also spoke of.

### Daniel

- **Purpose of the book**—This is a prophetic book. Among other things it teaches God’s people how to live in times of trial and persecution. It also reveals prophecies that demonstrate the authenticity of the Bible.
- **Summary statement**—God’s man in Babylon
- **Author**—Daniel
- **Written**—605-530BC
- **Jesus in Daniel**—Jesus is seen in the messianic prophecies of the expanding kingdom. Jesus is also seen in the Messianic title “Son of Man.” Jesus is particularly seen in chapters 7-8.

## The Minor Prophets

THE 12 MINOR PROPHETS ARE CALLED “MINOR” BECAUSE OF THE shorter length of the books. These prophetic writings also brought to the people of God words of coming hope and judgement. There are also referenced in the minor prophets of the coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

### Hosea

- **Purpose of the book**—The book of Hosea reminds the people of God the importance of keeping covenant with God. The story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife are a picture of the love relationship God has with His chosen people who often go whoring after other gods.
- **Summary statement**—The apostasy of Israel
- **Author**—Hosea, his name means “salvation”
- **Written**—755-710BC
- **Jesus in Hosea**—The apostle Peter and the apostle Paul both alluded to Hosea 1:10 as having to do with [those who place their faith in] the Messiah (1Pet 2:10; Rom 9:25,26).
- Israel's rejection of their King-- their true "High Priest after the order of Melchizedek"-- and the sacrifice which He offered has brought the people into the place where they have neither king nor prince nor sacrifice (Hos 3:4). The verse that follows describes their glorious future, which is made possible because the people will seek the Lord their God and their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ (v.5).
- Resurrection is spoken of in Hosea 6:2. Whenever the "third day" is mentioned in the Scriptures, look carefully and you will see some connection with the resurrection of Christ. In a very real sense, not only is our resurrection made possible because of His, but the resurrection of the nation of Israel also depends upon the crucified, buried, and risen Christ.

- Hosea also recorded these words of Jehovah: "I... called My Son out of Egypt" (11:1). This prophecy had its primary fulfillment in Israel's 400-year sojourn [in Egypt]. But we learn from Matthew 2:15 that the real [ie., ultimate] fulfillment of Hosea's prophecy is in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Near the end of Hosea's prophecy, Jehovah, the covenant-keeping Redeemer, said, "...there is no savior beside Me" (13:4). Of course, the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ of the New. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). An angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph and assured him that he did not need to fear taking Mary to be his wife, "for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" (Mat 1:20). The angel also said, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins" (Mat 1:21). Hosea stated a great truth, which the apostle Paul affirmed when he wrote: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:5,6).<sup>6</sup>

## Joel

- **Purpose of the book**—God uses this prophet to warn Judah of coming judgement. The two great events in the book of Joel are the invasion of locusts and the Day of the Lord.
- **Summary statement**—The prediction of the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the Day of the Lord.
- **Author**—Joel, his name means "The Lord is God"
- **Written**—825BC
- **Jesus in Joel**—Peter quoted Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ in Acts 2:17-21. Peter tells us that pentecost is what Joel foresaw in the Old

Testament. Joel's message definitely had Messianic overtones in it.

### Amos

- **Purpose of the book**—Amos prophesied against the nation Israel (the northern kingdom) during a time of their prosperity and peace. The people had corrupted the true worship of God and as a result the Lord would judge them. But Amos also tells the people that God will have a godly remnant that will return to the land of Promise.
- **Summary statement**—The ultimate rule of king David
- **Author**—Amos, his name means “burden or burden bearer”
- **Written**—760-750BC
- **Jesus in Amos**—In the book of Amos Jesus Christ is seen in three types or pictures: the Burden-Bearer, the Heavenly Bridegroom, and the Judge. The use of shepherd imagery in the book of Amos points toward Jesus Christ who is the Great Shepherd, Good Shepherd, and Chief Shepherd of our souls.

### Obadiah

- **Purpose of the book**—This is the shortest book in the Old Testament. Obadiah gives a prophecy against Edom for their mistreatment of God's people. Edom was the nation that descended from Esau the twin brother of Jacob. Obadiah also assures the Lord's people that He will keep His promises and His covenant with them.
- **Summary statement**—The destruction of Edom
- **Author**—Obadiah, his name means “servant or worshipper of Jehovah”
- **Written**—586BC
- **Jesus in Obadiah**—The book of Obadiah gives us a true

picture of who Jesus is. There is only one chapter in this book but it contained facts and information that prefigures the Salvation and deliverance that is to come through Jesus Christ. (Obadiah 1:17; Romans 10:13), the presence of Holiness (Obadiah 1:22; Mark 1:23-25) and the Kingdom of the Lord (Obadiah 1:21; Luke 23:46).

### Jonah

- **Purpose of the book**—This is the story of the prophet who ran from God. It is a reminder that no one can escape the presence and judgement of God. This book also shows us that God’s love and grace will be revealed to all people and to all nations.
- **Summary statement**—The prophet, running from God, is swallowed by a great fish.
- **Author**—Jonah, his name means “dove”
- **Written**—783-753BC
- **Jesus in Jonah**—Jesus compared Himself to Jonah in Matthew 12:40-41. Like Jonah, Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Just as Jonah preached repentance and faith to the gentiles, so too, Jesus preached grace and repentance to the nations of the earth.

### Micah

- **Purpose of the book**—Micah prophesied against the leaders of Judah and Israel for their injustice, greed and sin. His prophecy not only included coming judgement by the Assyrians but also a vision of redemption and forgiveness.
- **Summary statement**—Bethlehem to be the birthplace of Messiah
- **Author**—Micah, his name means “Who is like Yahweh?”
- **Written**—739-686BC
- **Jesus in Micah**—Micah 5:2 gives a Messianic prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

## Nahum

- **Purpose of the book**—God is going to destroy Nineveh and Nahum delivers the message. Nineveh the capital of the Assyrian empire is going to meet the Living God! Nahum is one of two prophets who prophesied against Nineveh, the other being Jonah.
- **Summary statement**—The destruction of Nineveh and the judgment against Judah
- **Author**—Nahum, his name means, “The Lord comforts”
- **Written**—664-612BC
- **Jesus in Nahum**—Nahum 1:7, “The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.” And Nahum 1:14-15, “The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: ‘You will have no descendants to bear your name. Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace!’” are verses that foreshadow the coming of Christ and His gospel. Christ is our refuge and those who bring the gospel of peace have beautiful feet as we are told in Romans chapter 10.

## Habakkuk

- **Purpose of the book**—The prophet asks the Lord why does He allow His people to get away with evil? He also wonders why wicked nations such as Babylon seem to prosper. The book of Habakkuk is a series of three complaints that the prophet brings to the Lord.
- **Summary statement**—The just shall live by faith
- **Author**—Habakkuk, his name means “embrace”
- **Written**—609-597BC
- **Jesus in Habakkuk**—Habakkuk learns that God will eventually deal with the sins of His people. Ultimate redemption comes from the sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross for our sins.

## Zephaniah

- **Purpose of the book**—The primary purpose of this book is to warn Judah of impending judgement from God. The coming judgment is “The Day of The Lord.” The judgement will be severe but there is also a message of hope that a remnant will be spared and will find mercy with the Lord.
- **Summary statement**—The coming of the Messiah
- **Author**—Zephaniah, his name means “The Lord Hides.”
- **Written**—640-628BC
- **Jesus in Zephaniah**—The first hint of Jesus in this book is found in the meaning of the prophet’s name, Zephaniah means “Yahwey hides.” Our sins and lawless deeds are hidden under the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. We also see that the prophet tells the people that the Lord has prepared a sacrifice for them. Of course the great sacrifice that God has prepared to deal with His people’s sin is the sacrifice of Christ on the cross where He made an atonement for our sins.

## Haggai

- **Purpose of the book**—The prophet Haggai stirs the people to be dedicated and devoted to the Lord. He calls those who returned to the land to rebuild the temple and walls to redouble their efforts to serve the Lord. The people had fallen into apathy. The people ceased to work on the temple and spent more time working on their own homes instead. His message was mainly to the exiles that had returned to Israel and especially to Jerusalem. Haggai is one of three post-exilic prophets.
- **Summary statement**—Rebuilding the temple
- **Author**—Haggai, his name means “Festival.”
- **Written**—520BC
- **Jesus in Haggai**—We find Jesus in the book of Haggai in several verses, Haggai 2:7, 9. “And I will shake all nations,

and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. 9. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.” Desire of all nations will come (refers to the coming of Jesus Christ – Matthew 1:21) and I will fill this house with glory (Jesus in the temple cleansing it to reveal the glory of God – Matthew 21:12); The glory of this latter house will be greater than the former, saith the Lord of hosts and In this place will I give peace (the Prince of peace – Isaiah 9:6 & 7) saith the Lord. In Haggai, Jesus is the desire of all nations. He is not only the cleanser of the temple (our bodies are the temple of the Holy God – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20) to restore God’s glory, but He is, in fact, the very glory of God within the temple (our bodies that are jars of clay – 2 Cor 4:7). He is the Prince of Peace.

### Zechariah

- **Purpose of the book**—This is the longest of all the Minor Prophets. Zechariah is ministering to the people who returned to the city of Jerusalem. He reminds the people that God is sovereign and faithful to His covenant. Zechariah also looks forward to a day and a time when God’s rule and reign will spread over all the earth.
- **Summary statement**—Rebuilding the temple
- **Author**—Zechariah, his name means “Yahweh Remembers.”
- **Written**—520-519BC
- **Jesus in Zechariah**—We are told specifically that Jesus the Messiah will enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The Servant Branch in Zechariah 3:8 and 6:11-13 is a Messianic prophecy referring to Christ. This Branch is described as both a priest and a king. This is a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Malachi

- **Purpose of the book**—The message of this prophet is calling a backslidden people to wake up and renew their zeal and obedience to the Lord. These people were slack in their tithing, and were disobeying many of the laws of God. Malachi ends with a stirring reminder that the Day of Judgement is coming. Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are the three post-exilic prophets. Their message was mainly to the Jews who had returned to the land after the 70 years of dispersion.
- **Summary statement**—God’s final message to a disobedient people
- **Author**—Malachi, his name means, “My Messenger.”
- **Written**—430-44BC
- **Jesus in Malachi**—Malachi told them that God promised to send His Messenger (the Messiah) to the temple. This took place when Jesus entered the temple, John 2:13-22. The spirit of Elijah that was to come was a picture of John the Baptist, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:11-13. Here is a list of the Messianic prophecies found in Malachi: A messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah, Malachi 3:1a, fulfilled in Matthew 11:10. The Messiah would make a sudden appearance at the temple., Malachi 3:1b fulfilled in Mark 11:15-16. The Messiah would be the messenger of the new covenant, Malachi 3:1c fulfilled in Luke 4:43. The Messiah's forerunner would come in the spirit of Elijah, Malachi 4:5, Fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-2. The Messiah's forerunner would turn many to righteousness, Malachi 4:6, fulfilled in Luke 1:16-17.

Between The Old And New Testaments

THERE WAS A 400 YEAR GAP BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW Testaments. The Old testament ended about 400 BC. Many Jews had returned to the Land of Israel about the time the Temple was being

rebuilt. Much of the information that we have on this period of the 400 silent years, as they have been called, is from the writing of the Jewish historian Josephus and from the findings in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The New Testament is divided in the following manner:

**New Testament**  
Books in "Bible Order"

Biography	History	Letters			Prophecy
Gospel	Church History	Paul's Letters to Churches	Paul's Letters to Individuals	General Letters	End Times
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation



THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTAINS 27 BOOKS. THE FOUR GOSPELS narrate the life of Christ while the book of Acts records the history of the first Christians. There are 21 epistles (letters) written by early church leaders to the disciples of Christ. The Apostle Paul's letters make up the majority of the epistles that are found in the New Testament. The last book of the New Testament is the book of Revelation. This book is prophetic in nature and uses signs, symbols, dreams and visions to communicate its message.

**THE FOUR GOSPELS** RECORD THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S PLAN OF salvation through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Each of these four gospels has special information on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ the Messiah. The word gospel is a Roman term that was used in imperial Rome to convey good news from the deeds of Caesar. The four

gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us the story of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

### Matthew

- **Purpose of the book**—Written by Matthew who was also called Levi, has a Jewish audience in mind. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector for the Romans. This gospel demonstrates that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah that was promised in the Old Testament to come.
- **Summary statement**—Presents Jesus as King of the Jews.
- **Author**—Matthew, who was one of the twelve apostles.
- **Written**—AD 60

### Mark

- **Purpose of the book**—This gospel was written with the Romans in mind and is referred to as the gospel of action. Jesus is viewed as a suffering servant for all people. The book of Mark is the briefest of the four gospels. In Mark's gospel he records four different sources of those who identified Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. These four were, God the Father, the demons, Jesus Himself, and the Roman centurion who witnessed the crucifixion. Mark depicts Jesus in His humility, weakness and suffering.
- **Summary statement**—Presents Jesus as the Servant of God.
- **Author**—Mark, sometimes called John Mark. John Mark

was a missionary traveling companion of the Apostle Paul. He deserted Paul but later returned. See Acts 13:13 and II Timothy 4:11.

- **Written**—AD 58

### Luke

- **Purpose of the book**—This gospel was addressed to a man named Theophilus whom many believe was a Roman official. This gospel is the least Jewish of the four gospels. Luke demonstrates that the message of Christ is designed and meant for the entire world. Only in the gospel of Luke do we have the sending out of the 70 disciples on a missions trip. Many Jewish scholars viewed the number of major world languages as being 70 in number. It is thought that this suggests the sending forth of the good news to all the world.
- **Summary statement**—Present Jesus as the Son of Man.
- **Author**—Luke, also known as the “beloved physician.” See Col. 4:14. Luke was probably a gentile. Luke is also the author of the book of Acts.
- **Written**—AD 60

### John

- **Purpose of the book**—John’s gospel is quite unique and different from the other three gospels which are also called “synoptic” gospels, (meaning similar or taking a common view.) In John’s gospel none of the parables of Jesus are mentioned. John tells us very clearly in this book what its purpose and intention is, “But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you might have life in His name.” John 20:30
- **Summary statement**—Presents Christ as the Son of God.

- **Author**—John, one of the twelve apostles and also called the “beloved disciple.” And the disciple whom Jesus loved.
- **Written**—AD65

### Acts

- **Purpose of the book**—Acts is a history of the activities of the apostles. It takes up the history of the church after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It opens with the coming of the Holy Spirit and the gradual advancement of the New Testament Church including the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who later became the great apostle to the gentiles.
- **Summary statement**—Gives the history of the early church.
- **Author**—Luke
- **Written**—AD 60

**THE 14 EPISTLES OF PAUL** ARE LETTERS TO CHURCHES, PASTORS, and friends to instruct them, warn them, guide them and encourage them. Overall there are 21 epistles in the New Testament. These letters contain vital and important information to enable believers to live the Christian life and to walk with God. There are four different types of epistles:

- Personal letters—such as the letter of Philemon to a specific individual.
- Circular letters—such as the book Ephesians which was meant to be read among several churches in a given area.
- Letters to specific congregation such as I and II Corinthians.
- Other letters that do not specify the author or the recipients.

## Romans

- **Purpose of the book**—This is the most important theological book in the New Testament. Romans is a complete handbook of the key doctrines of the Christian faith. This book is written with the keene eye of a seasoned theologian and with the tender care of a compassionate pastor. Among many things the book of Romans defines and clarifies the doctrine of salvation in a way that no other book does in the Bible. To master Romans is to become a mature Christian who is prepared for the spiritual warfare the awaits every child of God.
- **Summary statement**—The heart of Christian theology
- **Author**—Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a Jewish pharisee named Saul who was converted on the road to Damascus, Acts chapter 9. Paul was formerly an enemy to the Christian faith. His surprising and amazing conversion gives proof to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been the conversion story of Paul that has convinced many skeptics of the authenticity of the Christian message.
- **Written**—AD 57

## I Corinthians

- **Purpose of the book**—This letter was a response to certain problems that had become apparent in the church at Corinth. This letter is important for the life of every church as it deals with inter-church problems. In this letter Paul addresses such concerns as marriage, Christian liberty, agape love, discipline, the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection of Christ. In chapter 15 the apostle gives us one of the most important summaries of the gospel found in the New Testament.
- **Summary statement**—Letter to a troubled church
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 56

## II Corinthians

- **Purpose of the book**—The apostle Paul planted the Corinthian church on his first missionary trip. We read about this in Acts chapter 18. This is one of the apostle Paul's most emotional works. His emotions of anguish, sorrow, love, joy and care for the church are evident throughout. This letter is written as a follow up to the first letter he wrote to the Corinthian church. Many church issues are dealt with as well as defending his authority of an apostle.
- **Summary statement**—This is a letter to a troubled church whose sins and failures have caused the apostle a great deal of concern.
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 56

## Galatians

- **Purpose of the book**—Paul wrote this book as a warning to all the churches to beware of corrupting the message of the gospel. The main focus is to proclaim the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Certain false teachers called “Judaizers” had crept into the church and were leading many of the Lord's people astray. Paul defends his apostleship in this letter as well as dealing with many of the errors of these false teachers.
- **Summary statement**—The doctrine of law and grace
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 50-55

## The Prison Epistles

EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON ARE REFERRED to as “Prison Epistles.” These four books were written while Paul was a prisoner in Rome. The exact date of Paul’s imprisonment in Rome and the exact dates he wrote these prison epistles is precisely known. Paul’s imprisonment in Rome is mentioned in the book of Acts, where we find references that he was being guarded by soldiers (Acts 28:16), was allowed to receive visitors (Acts 28:30), and finally, he had opportunities to proclaim the gospel (Acts 28:31). Paul also spent two years in prison at Caesarea.

### Ephesians

- **Purpose of the book**—Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus was to encourage them to live a life worthy of their calling as saints in Christ Jesus. This book is perhaps only second in its value to the book of Romans. Acts 19 records the beginning of this church. This letter is rich in its doctrinal instruction including instructing the people of God on how to fight spiritually against the powers of darkness.
- **Summary statement**—The letter of church unity
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60-64

### Philippians

- **Purpose of the book**—This letter contains 16 references to joy and rejoicing. This makes this letter the most upbeat letter that the apostle Paul had written. Two of the special features of this letter is a call for unity and oneness in Christ and a challenge to imitate the humility and servant attitude that we find in the Lord Jesus.
- **Summary statement**—The letter that exalts Christ

- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60-64

### Colossians

- **Purpose of the book**—Colosse was a small city about 100 miles east of Ephesus. The man who began the church at Colosse was a man named Epaphras. Epaphras visited Paul when he was at Rome and told the apostle Paul about the new heresies that were beginning to spread in the church at Colosse. Paul immediately pens this letter to the church there to warn them of these terrible heresies. This letter was written to combat legalism and the presence of Gnostic teachers that had crept into the church. To combat the errors of the false teachers Paul proclaims the sufficiency of Christ and our union with Him. Having a proper view of Christ is the best antidote to false religion and false teachers.
- **Summary statement**—The greatness and sufficiency of Christ
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60-64

### I Thessalonians

- **Purpose of the book**—This is another church that the apostle Paul had founded. The main purpose of this letter was to clarify information on the return of Christ. This was a church under fierce persecution. Paul and Silas had to depart quickly. This letter is designed to comfort the struggling church and give them hope of the Lord's return.
- **Summary statement**—The coming of Christ
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60-64

## II Thessalonians

- **Purpose of the book**—This is a follow up letter to the first one Paul had written. It appears that a false letter had arrived at Thessalonica that had claimed that Jesus had already returned. This second letter from Paul is putting that to rest and is telling the brothers at this church that they needed to work and continue to wait for the Lord's return.
- **Summary statement**—The coming of Christ
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 49-54

## I Timothy

- **Purpose of the book**—Paul the apostle writes to his young disciple named Timothy. Timothy is a pastor and the instruction that he receives from Paul is priceless. Among the things he instructs Timothy on include worship, discipleship, leadership, church organization and qualifications for the ministry. Timothy was from Lystra which is in modern day Turkey. His father was a Greek and his mother was a Jewish Christian. Timothy's mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois were devoted followers of Christ. I and II Timothy are excellent instructions for all of those who desire to enter the ministry or some aspect of Christian ministry. Timothy traveled with the apostle Paul for a period of time and became a trusted friend, disciple, evangelist and co-worker.
- **Summary statement**—The letter to a young pastor with instructions on how to serve in the ministry.
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 64

## II Timothy

- **Purpose of the book**—Paul writes this second letter to Timothy from prison in Rome. The apostle is weary, lonely, and deserted by most of his companions. Paul asks Timothy to come and to bring him his cloak, and the parchments. He also encourages Timothy to persevere in the faith and to be faithful to his high calling in Christ. He tells Timothy that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Paul urges Timothy to come to him quickly for his death was rapidly drawing near. This second letter to Timothy may have been Paul's last letter that he ever wrote.
- **Summary statement**—Paul's final word and instructions to Timothy
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 65-67

## Titus

- **Purpose of the book**—The apostle Paul wrote to Titus to encourage him as he pastored the churches in Crete. Crete is an island in the Mediterranean Sea. Titus was given instructions to appoint godly elders and to teach sound biblical doctrine. This was written a few years after Paul was released from prison in Rome. Titus was a Greek convert who traveled with Paul on his second and third missionary trips. This book was a mini manual for church conduct for leaders and members of the church alike.
- **Summary statement**—The letter to the leaders of the churches of Crete dealing with proper leadership and doctrine.
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 64

## Philemon

- **Purpose of the book**—Paul writes this letter to a wealthy slave owner named Philemon to encourage him to forgive his run away slave named Onesimus. This letter contains an amazing story of a slave who ran away with stolen money and by providence meets the apostle Paul in prison. Paul leads Onesimus, the runaway slave to Christ, and sends him back to his master to make things right. Paul pens this letter and sends it with Onesimus to encourage Philemon to forgive the new convert. In this letter we have a beautiful description of the doctrine of justification by faith alone. This book is only one chapter and 25 verses and is the shortest letter that the apostle Paul wrote.
- **Summary statement**—The letter to a slave owner dealing with forgiveness and justification by faith alone.
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60

## Hebrews

- **Purpose of the book**—The apostle was concerned that many of the Jewish converts to Christianity were in danger of going back into Judaism. To prevent this the apostle writes to them and explains the superiority of Christ over all things including the Aaronic priesthood, the law of Moses, the prophets, and animal sacrifices. The apostle is guiding the Lord's people to rest in the finished work of Christ.
- **Summary statement**—The superiority of Christ
- **Author**—Paul
- **Written**—AD 60-69

**THE NON—PAULINE EPISTLES** OR GENERAL EPISTLES AS THEY HAVE been called were written by other apostles and leaders including Peter, John, Jude and James.

### James

- **Purpose of the book**—The last seven epistles are called general epistles for the reason that they were addressed to Christians in general and not any one church in particular. James the author was the brother of our Lord. He was also called James the Just. There were two disciples that went by the name of James. One was the brother of John and son of Zebedee who was the first of all the apostles to suffer martyrdom; and one called James the less (probably because of his short stature) who was the son of Alpheus. The writer of this epistle called James the Just, together with the other brethren of the Lord did not believe in Him as the Messiah until after His resurrection. James became a leader in the Jewish church who were also inclined to follow the Jewish law of Moses. It was James the Just that was more moderate on the Mosaic law and was open at the council of Jerusalem to be open to receiving the Gentiles and not requiring them to be circumcised. James writes to those who may rest on God's grace but fail to do good works and thus obey the laws of God for holy living. James shows his readers that true Christian faith is seen by a holy life of fruitful works. This epistle was the earliest of all the epistles that were written.
- **Summary statement**—Faith without works is dead
- **Author**—James the half brother of Jesus
- **Written**—AD 48

### I Peter

- **Purpose of the book**—The First Epistle of Peter was addressed to the Christians in Asia Minor probably about the time of the persecution of Nero, and was designed to encourage the Christians to persevere under the strain of trial and afflictions. Peter encourages his readers to rejoice in the terrible trials which would prove and develop their faith. I Peter 4:12-13. The letter was written soon after Paul's release from prison in 62 A.D. Peter's letter is one of faith in God based on the resurrection of Christ. Peter calls his readers to be holy, submissive in the face of trials and tribulations, and to flood the example of Christ, "Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust..." I Peter 3:18.
- **Summary statement**—A letter to a persecuted church
- **Author**—Peter
- **Written**—AD 64-65

## II Peter

- **Purpose of the book**—This epistle was composed shortly before Peter's death. This letter was written to the churches in Asia Minor. It is believed that Peter penned this letter from his prison cell. In many ways this is the last "will and testament" of the apostle Peter. It was claimed by church tradition that Peter was crucified upside down at his own request because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner that the Lord did. Peter pleads with his readers to make their calling and election sure, 1:10. Peter also warns against the spread of false teaching and heresies within the church.
- **Summary statement**—A warning against apostasy and false teachers
- **Author**—Peter
- **Written**—AD 64-70

## I John

- **Purpose of the book**—It is believed that John wrote this from Ephesus. John, as the last surviving apostle, carries a great deal of authority with the early church. John writes with a pastor's heart to the churches of Asia Minor. False teachers had entered the churches and John takes this last opportunity to warn the brethren of this threat. His letter also contains a number of tests to determine if we really indeed know the Lord.
- **Summary statement**—The test of true faith
- **Author**—John the son of Zebedee also called “The disciple whom Jesus loved.”
- **Written**—AD 85-95

## II John

- **Purpose of the book**—This letter was directed to “the elect lady and her children.” This could have been a person or it could have represented a church and the members of the church. That would mean John was speaking figuratively when he refers to the elect lady. John admonishes his readers to be cautious against false teachers. A significant aspect of the message of this book is the need for spiritual discernment.
- **Summary statement**—Cautions against false teachers
- **Author**—John
- **Written**—AD 85-95

## III John

- **Purpose of the book**—Gaius (who is not identified) was sent a warning about the coming of false teachers and unbiblical doctrines that were infiltrating the churches. An especial warning was given about a man named Diotrephes who had usurped authority, loved to have the preeminence

in the church and refused to show hospitality to traveling evangelists. John praises other “fellowhelpers” in the gospel. He also commends the hospitality of Gaius and encourages the church to entertain strangers.

- **Summary statement**—Warnings from John about false doctrines and false teachers
- **Author**—John
- **Written**—AD 85-90

### Jude

- **Purpose of the book**—Jude wrote to exhort the believers to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. False teachers and false doctrines were beginning to proliferate in the early churches. James is warning the churches to be vigilant.
- **Summary statement**—The danger of apostasy and false teachers
- **Author**—Jude the half brother of Jesus
- **Written**—AD 60-65

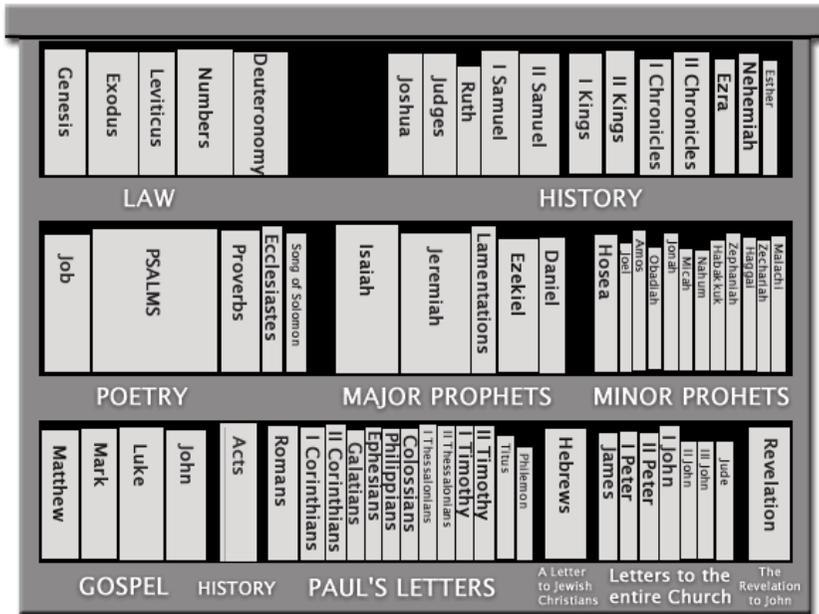
### The Book Of Revelation

- **Purpose of the book**—The Bible begins with the account in Genesis of the creation of the world. It also contained the first promise of a coming Savior in Genesis 3:15. The Bible ends with the promise of Christ’s second coming and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. The destruction of Jerusalem was the end of the age of the Jews. Between the first and last books of the Bible lie approximately 1600 years of divine revelation. Each new revelation added to the Word of God and made clearer what was revealed previously. The book of Revelation was written by John the apostle who was dearly loved by Jesus. It was most likely written from Ephesus after John returned from his exile on the Island of Patmos. It was on that lonely Island that John received the

revelation for the last book of the Bible. The book was written in symbolic language as was many of the prophetic books.

- **Summary statement**—The end of Jerusalem and the end of the age
- **Author**—John
- **Written**—69AD or in the years before the fall of Jerusalem.

All The Books Of The Bible Together As A Library



The Ten Most Popular Stories In The Bible

1. The Creation and Adam and Eve— Genesis 1-3
2. Noah's ark— Genesis 6-8
3. Joshua and the battle of Jericho— Joshua 5-6

4. David and Goliath— I Samuel 17
5. The Fiery Furnace— Daniel 3
6. Daniel in the Lions's den— Daniel 6
7. Jonah and the great fish— Jonah 1-4
8. The birth of Jesus— Matthew 1— Luke 1-2
9. Jesus feeding the 5000— Matthew 14:13-21
10. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus—Matthew 27-28

Passages In The Bible That  
Should Be known by Everyone

- **The Creation Mandate**, Genesis 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- **The Micah Mandate**, Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”
- **The Final Duty Of Man**, Ecclesiastes, 12:13-14, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. **14** For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.
- **The Jesus Mandate**, Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- **The Key To Success**, Joshua 1:8, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
- **The Ten commandments**, Exodus 20:1-17, “And God

spoke all these words, saying: **2** "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **3** You shall have no other gods before Me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; **5** you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6** but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **7** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. **8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. **12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. **13** "You shall not murder. **14** "You shall not commit adultery. **15** "You shall not steal. **16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

- **The Lord's Prayer**, Matthew 6:9-13, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. **13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil

one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- **The Beatitudes**, Matthew 5:1-12, “And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. **2** Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. **5** Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. **7** Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. **9** Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- **The Golden Rule**, Matthew 7:12, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
- **The Definition of Biblical Love**, I Corinthians 13:1-13, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. **4** Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes

all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

- **The Last Judgement**, Revelation 20:11-15, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

### The Greatest Chapters Of The Bible

- Genesis 1— Creation
- Genesis 2—The Fall of Man
- Exodus 20— The Giving of the Ten Commandments
- Psalm 1— The Way of the godly and ungodly man
- Psalm 23— The Shepherd’s Psalm
- Psalm 51— The Confession of David’s Sin.
- Psalm 103—Praising God
- Psalm 119— The Word of God

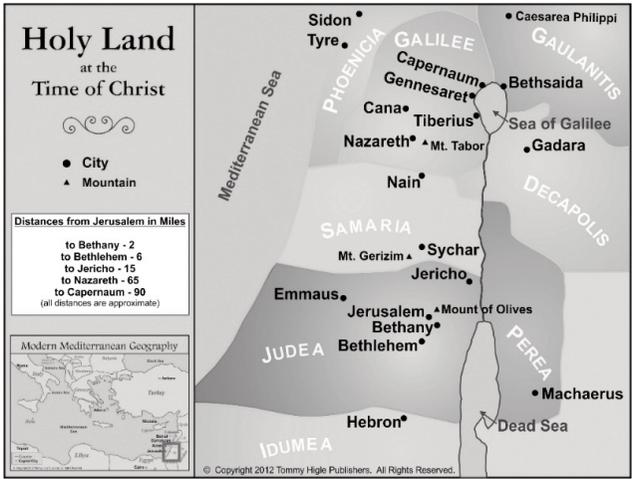
- Proverbs 1— The gaining of Wisdom
- Proverbs 31— The Virtuous Woman
- Isaiah 6—Isaiah's Vision of God
- Isaiah 7—The prediction of a coming Messiah
- Isaiah 40—The Majesty of God
- Isaiah 53—The portrait of the Messiah's sufferings
- Isaiah 55—The Great Invitation
- Matthew 1— The genealogy of Jesus
- Mathew 5-7— The Sermon on the Mount
- Matthew 26-27—The crucifixion of Jesus
- Luke 1-2—The Birth of Jesus
- Mark 10— The Rich Young Ruler
- Mark 16—The Great Commission
- John 1—The Word of God
- John 3— The story of Nicodemus
- John 14—The Comfort chapter
- John 17—The High Priestly prayer of Jesus
- Acts 2— The Coming Of The Holy Spirit
- Acts 9—The conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Romans 1—The universal sinfulness of man
- Romans 5—The Justification by Faith chapter
- Romans 8— Nothing Can Separate Us From Christ
- Ephesians 1—God's purpose in predestination of man
- Ephesians 2—God's work in the salvation of man
- I Corinthians 13— The Love Chapter
- I Corinthians 15— The Gospel
- Hebrews 11—The Roll Call of Faith
- James 3— Controlling The Tongue
- James 4—How to live the Christian life
- Revelation 1—A picture of the risen Christ
- Revelations 4 and 5—The picture of throne room worship in heaven
- Revelation 20— The Last Judgement

Twenty Five Of The Most Important People  
In The Bible And When They Lived

- **“Adam & Eve**, the first humans, about 4,000 BC or earlier
- **Satan\*** appears as a serpent (or “dragon”) in the Garden of Eden and successfully tempts Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. Makes appearances throughout scripture.
- **Abel** (the son of Adam & Eve)
- **Noah**, about 2,500 BC or earlier
- **Abraham**, about 2,000 BC
- **Job**, dates uncertain, but possibly around the time of Abraham
- **Moses**, between about 1,400 and 1,200 BC
- **Joshua**, just after Moses
- **Samson**, perhaps 1100 BC
- **Samuel**, about 1100 BC, probably soon after Samson
- **Saul**, the king, about 1050 BC
- **David**, about 1,000 BC
- **Elijah**, about 850 BC
- **Jonah**, about 750 BC
- **Daniel**, about 600 BC
- **Gabriel,\*** first mentioned by name in connection with his appearance to Daniel
- **Esther**, about 470 BC
- **Mary**, about 6-4 BC
- **John the Baptist**, born about 4 BC, executed around 28 AD
- **Jesus,\*\*** born about 4 BC, crucified about 30 AD
- **Peter**, one of Jesus’ followers who first appears in the narrative about 25-30 AD. He was executed in Rome about 67-68 AD.
- **John the Apostle**, another disciple. John was the only disciple who wasn’t murdered for his faith (not that people didn’t try—they did). He lived until 89-120 AD.
- **Judas Iscariot**, the follower who betrayed Jesus. Judas killed himself soon thereafter, around 30 AD.

- **Paul**, first appears in the narrative after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul was beheaded in Rome around 66 AD.
- **Luke**, first appears as a traveling companion of Paul. Tradition says he lived to age 84, putting his death toward the end of the First Century AD”
- \*Of course **Gabriel** and **Satan** were angels, so they were most likely here before humans were created. However, we list them as they appear in the Biblical narrative.
- \*\***Jesus**, being the God-man, always existed, so He was here at the beginning of time. Many believe that some of the angelic appearances in the Old Testament were actually appearances of Jesus. But for our purposes here, we list Him according to the time of His birth. 6

The Holy Land In The Time Of Jesus



The Order of Events In Salvation

THE ORDER OF EVENTS IS SALVATION DEALS WITH THE SERIES OF events that take place when God saves a sinner. The phrase “Order of Events” is from the Latin words, “Ordo Salutis” meaning “order of

salvation.” The Bible does not give a complete list in any one place of the order of events in salvation but by studying various scriptures we can create a list of the order of events as we see them unfold in the Word of God. The order of the events of salvation are as follows:

- The decrees of God
- The Call of God
- The Regeneration of the Holy Spirit
- Union With Christ
- Conversion
- Repentance
- Faith
- Justification by faith
- Adoption
- Assurance of salvation
- Sanctification
- Perseverance of the saints
- Death of the saints
- The resurrection
- Glorification

### The Five Solas Of The Reformation

WHAT ARE THE FIVE “SOLAS” OF THE REFORMATION? THE WORD “sola” is from a Latin word meaning “alone.” The Five Solas refer to five foundational and Biblical principles of the Protestant Reformation. These principles were held by pastors and theologians and were viewed as the central doctrines of the Protestant church. Each of these solas represents a key doctrine that makes the Protestant faith unique and different from all others. The Five Solas are:

1. By Scripture alone—Sola Scriptura

2. By faith alone—Sola Fide
3. Through Christ alone—Sola Christus
4. By grace alone—Sola Gratia
5. Glory to God alone—Sola Deo Gloria

### The Five Points of Calvinism

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM WERE A RESPONSE BY THE SYNOD OF Dordt in 1619 to the false teachings of Dutch theologian James Arminias. After the death of Arminias his students set forth five points of protest to the Dutch Reformed church. The Church convened in the city of Dordt and eventually concluded that the Five Points of Arminiansim were false and must be rejected. The council set forth their own list of five points to rebut the five points of Arminianism. The five points of Calvinism can be summarized by the acronym TULIP.

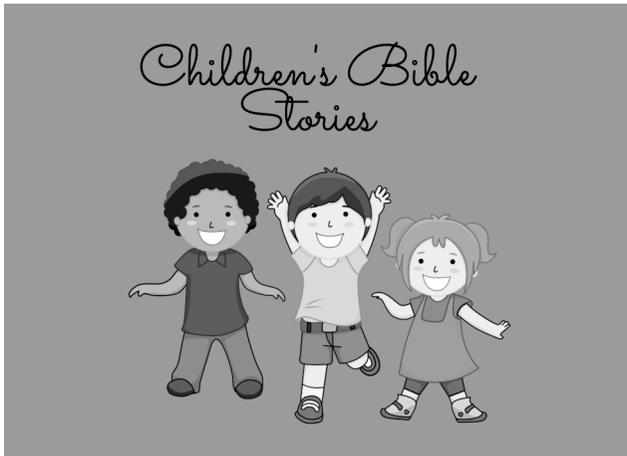
1. Total Depravity
2. Unconditional Election
3. Limited Atonement
4. Irresistible Grace
5. Perseverance of the Saints

*Chapter Seven*

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**THE MAJOR BIBLE STORIES**

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*“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”*

II Timothy 1:5

**W**hy are the Bible stories so important? They help us understand the nature and mysteries of God. We gain insights into God's character, His ways, His laws, His will for our lives, we also learn how the people in the Bible interacted with God. We can learn from their experiences, whether good or bad. We gain great wisdom and knowledge from these Bible stories. We also learn Bible doctrine and principles from reading the Bible stories. Reading the Bible stories to our children early in life molds their character and shapes their faith. Children learn that God is a God of miracles and that He is a God worthy to be loved, obeyed, and worshipped. One author summarized the importance of Bible stories by saying:

“The Bible is full of stories, from Genesis clear to Revelation. Entire books of the Bible are dedicated to telling a specific story. Some of these are stories of good triumphing over evil, while others are heartrending stories that tell of death and destruction. Some stories are funny; some are poignant; and some just make you shake your head.

What is the purpose behind all of these stories? Are they simply fairy tales? Did God supply the stories to break the monotony between genealogies and laws?

There is a purpose for the wide variety of stories. Every Bible story has a purpose—as would be expected of a book inspired by the great and purposeful Almighty God. The apostle Paul listed some of the purposes for the Bible in 2 Timothy 3:16: “for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Bible stories can make these purposes and lessons come to life for all of us.”<sup>1</sup>

As you read the stories of the Bible you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. These stories contain miracles and demonstrate that the God of Scripture is the living and true God who rules over the affairs of men and who invades history on His terms and at the times He chooses. We believe in these Bible stories without any hesitation because the God of the Bible is a God who works miracles. The list of the major stories of the Bible will provide the reader

with a great overall understanding of the flow of Scripture as it was revealed through the centuries to the people of God. Read these stories. Be familiar with them. Study them carefully and they will pour rich treasures of wisdom and knowledge into your soul.

## The Major Stories Of The Bible

### The Old Testament Stories

1. The Creation—Genesis 1:1-27
2. Adam and Eve—Genesis 2:8-3:24
3. Cain and Abel— Genesis 4:1-16
4. Noah's flood— Genesis 6:5-9:17
5. The Tower of Babel— Genesis 11:1-9
6. The Call of Abraham—Genesis 12:1-19
7. The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah—Genesis 18:16-19:29
8. Abraham's Sacrifice Of Isaac— Genesis 22:1-19
9. Isaac Marries Rebekah—Genesis 24:1-67
10. Esau Sells His Birthright—Genesis 25:19-34
11. Isaac Blesses Jacob—Genesis 27:1-40
12. The Story of Jacob and Laban—Genesis 29:1-31:55
13. Jacob Wrestles With God—Genesis 32:1-33:55
14. The Story of Revenge Against Shechem—Genesis 34:1-31,  
49:5-7
15. Joseph is Sold Into Slavery—Genesis 39:1-40:23
16. Joseph As Pharaohs' Right Hand—Genesis 41:1-57
17. Joseph's Reunion With His Family—Genesis 42:1-45:28,  
46:28-30
18. The Birth of Moses—Exodus 1:1-2:10
19. The Burning Bush—Exodus 3:1-22
20. The Ten Plaques In Egypt—Exodus 7:14-12:30
21. The Exodus from Egypt—Exodus 12:31-51
22. Crossing The Red Sea—Exodus 14:5-31
23. The Story of The Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-29

24. The Twelve Spies Explore The Land Of Canaan—Numbers 13:1-14:38
25. The Rebellion Among The Tribes—Numbers 16:1-17:13
26. The Story of Balak and Balaam—Numbers 22:1-24:25
27. Rahab Receives the Two Spies—Joshua 2:1-24
28. The Fall of Jericho—Joshua 6:1-27
29. The Story of Gibeon—Joshua 9:1-27
30. Deborah and Barak—Judges 4:1-24
31. The Story of Gideon—Judges 6:1-7:25
32. The Story of Abimelech—Judges 9:1-57
33. Samson and Delialah—Judges 13:1-16:31
34. Naomi, Ruth and Boaz—Ruth 1:1-4:22
35. The Story of Samuel—I Samuel 1:1-28
36. Samuel the Prophet—I Samuel 3:1-4:22
37. Saul Anointed King—I Samuel 9:110:27
38. The Story of Jonathan's Bravery—I Samuel 14:1-46
39. Saul's Disobedience—I Samuel 15:1-35
40. David and Goliath—I Samuel 17:1-51
41. David and Jonathan—I Samuel 18:1-4, 20:1-42
42. The Story of Nabal and Abigail—I Samuel 25:1-44
43. David and Bathsheba—II Samuel 11:1-12:25
44. The Story of Amnon and Tamar—II Samuel 13:1-22
45. Absalom—II Samuel 13:1-22
46. The Wisdom of Solomon—I Kings 3:1-28
47. Jeroboam and Rehoboam—I Kings 11:26-14:31
48. Elijah at Mt. Carmel—I Kings 17:1-18:46
49. Micaiah the Prophet—I Kings 22:1-40
50. Elijah and the Chariot of Fire—II Kings 1:1-2:25
51. Elisha and Naaman—II Kings 5:1-27
52. The Lepers and the Famine—II Kings 6:24-7:20
53. Joash and Jeshoiada—II Kings 11:1-21
54. The Reign of Josiah—II Kings 22:1-23:30
55. The Tragic Fall of Jerusalem—II Kings 24:18-25:30
56. David's Rise To Power—I Chronicles 11:1-25
57. David's Census—I Chronicles 21:1-22:1

58. The Tale of Two Kings: Jehoshaphat and Ahab—II Chronicles 18:1-19:11
59. Ezra Rebuilds the Alter in Jerusalem—Ezra 3:1-13
60. Nehemiah Rebuilds The Wall of Jerusalem—Nehemiah 2:1-20
61. Opposition To The Will of God—Nehemiah 4:1-23
62. The Story of Esther—Esther 1:1-10:3
63. The Testing Of Job—Job 1:1-22
64. Ezekiel's Vision Of the Dry Bones—Ezekiel 37:1-14
65. Daniel's Three Friends in The Fiery Furnace—Daniel 3:1-30
66. Daniel In The Lion's Den—Daniel 6:1-28
67. The Story of Jonah and the Great Fish—Jonah 1:1-4:11

#### The New Testament Stories

1. The Birth Of Jesus—Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-40
2. The Journey of The Wise Men To Bethlehem—Matthew 2:1-23
3. The Temptation Of Jesus—Matthew 4:1-11
4. The Feeding Of The Five Thousand—Matthew 14:13-21
5. Jesus And The Bread Of Life—John 6:1-71
6. Jesus Miracle of Walking On The Water—Matthew 14:22-36
7. The Story Of The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37
8. The Prodigal Son—Luke 15:1-32
9. Jesus Raising Lazarus From The Dead—John 11:1-44
10. The Story of Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10
11. The Triumphant Entry Of Jesus Into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1-11
12. Jesus Inaugurates The Last Supper—Matthew 26:17-30
13. The Trial Of Jesus—Matthew 26:47-27:31
14. The Crucifixion Of Jesus—Matthew 27:32-56
15. The Resurrection Of Jesus—Matthew 28:1-15
16. The Ascension Of Christ—Luke 24:35-53, Acts 1:6-11
17. The Coming Of The Holy Spirit—Acts 2:1-47
18. The Courage Of The Apostles—Acts 4:1-31
19. The Story of Ananias And Sapphira—Acts 5:1-11

**ROBERT DICKIE**

20. Philip And The Ethiopian Eunuch—Acts 8:26-40
21. The Conversion of Saul—Acts 9:1-19
22. Peter And Cornelius—Acts 10:1-11:18
23. The Apostle Paul At Corinth—Acts 18:1-28
24. The Apostle Paul At Ephesus—Acts 19:1-41
25. Paul's Journey To Rome—Acts 27:1-28:31

*Chapter Eight*

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**THE NAMES OF GOD IN THE BIBLE**

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*“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.”*

Malachi 3:16

The Jehovah Titles

These are the names of God that are associated with the name Jehovah.

- Jehovah - The Lord - Exodus 6:2-3
- Jehovah-Adon Kal Ha'arets- Lord of Earth - Josh 3:13
- Jehovah-Bara - Lord Creator - Isaiah 40:28
- Jehovah-Chatsahi - Lord my Strength - Psalm 27:1
- Jehovah-Chereb - Lord the Sword - Deut. 33:29
- Jehovah-Eli - Lord my God - Psalm 18:2
- Jehovah-Elyon - Lord Most High - Psalm 38:2
- Jehovah-Gador Milchamah -Lord Mighty in Battle - Ps 24:8
- Jehovah-Ganan - Lord Our Defense - Ps 89:18
- Jehovah-Go'el - Lord My Redeemer - Is. 49:26, 60:16
- Jehovah-Hamelech - Lord King - Psalm 98:6
- Jehovah-Hashopet - Lord My Judge - Judges 11:27
- Jehovah-Helech 'Olam - Lord King Forever Ps10:16
- Jehovah-Hoshe'ah - Lord Saves - Psalm 20:9
- Jehovah-Jireh - Provider - Gen. 22:14, I John 4:9, Philip 4:19
- Jehovah-Kabodhi - Lord my Glory - Psalm 3:3
- Jehovah-Kanna - Lord Jealous - Ex 34:14
- Jehovah-Keren-Yish'i - Horn of Salvation - Ps 18:2
- Jehovah-M'Kaddesh - Sanctifier - I Corinthians 1:30
- Jehovah-Machsi - Lord my Refuge - Psalm 91:9
- Jehovah-Magen - Lord my Shield - Deut. 33:29
- Jehovah-Ma'oz - Lord my Fortress - Jer. 16:19
- Jehovah-Mephalti - Lord my Deliverer - Psalm 18:2
- Jehovah-Metshodhathi - Lord my Fortress - Psalm 18:2
- Jehovah-Misqabbi - Lord my High Tower - Psalm 18:2
- Jehovah-M'gaddishcem - Lord my Sanctifier - Ex 31:13
- Jehovah-Nahesh - Lord who Smites - Ezekiel 7:9
- Jehovah-Nissi - Lord our Banner - I Chronicles 29:11-13
- Jehovah-Rohi - Lord our Shepherd - Psalm 23
- Jehovah-Rophe - Lord our Healer - Isaiah 53:4,5
- Jehovah-Sabaoth - Lord of Hosts - I Sam 1:3
- Jehovah-Sel'i - Lord my Rock - Psalm 18:2
- Jehovah-Shalom - Lord our Peace - Isaiah 9:6, Rom 8:31-35
- Jehovah-Shammah - Lord who is Present - Hebrews 13:5
- Jehovah-Tsidkenu -Lord our Righteousness - I Cor 1:30
- Jehovah-Tsori - Lord my Strength - Psalm 19:14

- Jehovah-Yasha - Lord my Savior - Isaiah 49:26
- Jehovah-'Ez-Lami - Lord my Strength - Ps 28:7
- Jehovah-'Immeku - Lord Is With You - Judges 6:12
- Jehovah-'Izoa Hakaboth - Lord Strong -Mighty - Ps 24:8
- Jehovah-'Ori - Lord my Light - Psalm 27:1
- Jehovah-'Uzam - Lord Strength in Trouble - Is 49:26

### General Names of God

**E L, ELOAH:** God "mighty, strong, prominent" (Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 139:19) – etymologically, *El* appears to mean “power,” as in “I have the power to harm you” (Genesis 31:29). *El* is associated with other qualities, such as integrity (Numbers 23:19), jealousy (Deuteronomy 5:9), and compassion (Nehemiah 9:31), but the root idea of “might” remains.

**ELOHIM:** GOD “CREATOR, MIGHTY AND STRONG” (GENESIS 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33) – the plural form of *Eloah*, which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity. From the Bible’s first sentence, the superlative nature of God’s power is evident as God (Elohim) speaks the world into existence (Genesis 1:1).

**EL SHADDAI:** “GOD ALMIGHTY,” “THE MIGHTY ONE OF Jacob” (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5) – speaks to God’s ultimate power over all.

**ADONAI:** “LORD” (GENESIS 15:2; JUDGES 6:15) – USED IN PLACE OF YHWH, which was thought by the Jews to be too sacred to be uttered by sinful men. In the Old Testament, YHWH is more often used in God’s dealings with His people, while *Adonai* is used more when He deals with the Gentiles.

. . .

**YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH:** "LORD" (DEUTERONOMY 6:4; Daniel 9:14) – strictly speaking, the only proper name for God. Translated in English Bibles "LORD" (all capitals) to distinguish it from *Adonai*, "Lord." The revelation of the name is first given to Moses "I Am who I Am" (Exodus 3:14). This name specifies an immediacy, a presence. Yahweh is present, accessible, near to those who call on Him for deliverance (Psalm 107:13), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11) and guidance (Psalm 31:3).

**YAHWEH-JIREH:** "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE" (GENESIS 22:14) – the name memorialized by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac.

**YAHWEH-RAPHA:** "THE LORD WHO HEALS" (EXODUS 15:26) – "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities.

**YAHWEH-NISSI:** "THE LORD OUR BANNER" (EXODUS 17:15), where *banner* is understood to be a rallying place. This name commemorates the desert victory over the Amalekites in Exodus 17.

**YAHWEH-M'KADDESH:** "THE LORD WHO SANCTIFIES, Makes Holy" (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28) – God makes it clear that He alone, not the law, can cleanse His people and make them holy.

**YAHWEH-SHALOM:** "THE LORD OUR PEACE" (JUDGES 6:24) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

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**YAHWEH-ELOHIM:** "LORD GOD" (GENESIS 2:4; PSALM 59:5) – a combination of God’s unique name YHWH and the generic “Lord,” signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.

**YAHWEH-TSIDKENU:** "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jeremiah 33:16) – As with YHWH-M’Kaddesh, it is God alone who provides righteousness to man, ultimately in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who became sin for us “that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**YAHWEH-ROHI:** "THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD" (PSALM 23:1) – After David pondered his relationship as a shepherd to his sheep, he realized that was exactly the relationship God had with him, and so he declares, “Yahweh-Rohi is my Shepherd. I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).

**YAHWEH-SHAMMAH:** "THE LORD IS THERE" (EZEKIEL 48:35) – the name ascribed to Jerusalem and the Temple there, indicating that the once-departed glory of the Lord (Ezekiel 8—11) had returned (Ezekiel 44:1-4).

**YAHWEH-SABAOTH:** "THE LORD OF HOSTS" (ISAIAH 1:24; Psalm 46:7) – *Hosts* means “hordes,” both of angels and of men. He is Lord of the host of heaven and of the inhabitants of the earth, of Jews and Gentiles, of rich and poor, master and slave. The name is expressive of the majesty, power, and authority of God and shows that He is able to accomplish what He determines to do.

**EL ELYON:** “MOST HIGH” (DEUTERONOMY 26:19) – DERIVED from the Hebrew root for “go up” or “ascend,” so the implication is of that which is the very highest. *El Elyon* denotes exaltation and speaks of absolute right to lordship.

. . .

**EL ROI:** "GOD OF SEEING" (GENESIS 16:13) – THE NAME ASCRIBED to God by Hagar, alone and desperate in the wilderness after being driven out by Sarah (Genesis 16:1-14). When Hagar met the Angel of the Lord, she realized she had seen God Himself in a theophany. She also realized that El Roi saw her in her distress and testified that He is a God who lives and sees all.

**EL-OLAM:** "EVERLASTING GOD" (PSALM 90:1-3) – GOD’S NATURE is without beginning or end, free from all constraints of time, and He contains within Himself the very cause of time itself. “From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

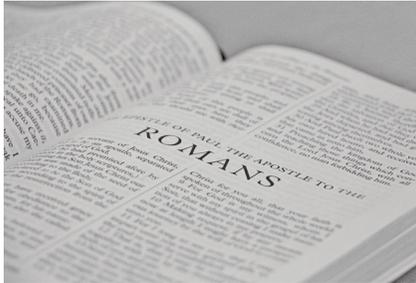
**EL-GIBHOR:** “MIGHTY GOD” (ISAIAH 9:6) – THE NAME describing the Messiah, Christ Jesus, in this prophetic portion of Isaiah. As a powerful and mighty warrior, the Messiah, the Mighty God, will accomplish the destruction of God’s enemies and rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).

## Chapter Nine

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# VERSES THAT TEACH THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

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**W**hen we read our Bibles we must be able to say with confidence that the book in our hands is not merely reliable but is a divinely inspired book that God has given His people and that this book contains no errors, mistakes, or discrepancies at all. There are two questions that we need to ask ourselves: “What does divine inspiration mean?” and “Why is it important to have a Bible without error?”

## What Does Divine Inspiration Mean?

TODAY, WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE WORD “INSPIRE” OR “INSPIRATION” we often mean something that challenges or inspires our hearts. We think perhaps of an inspiring speech, or a piece of music that deeply moves our emotions. In this sense we speak of things that inspire us. But this is not what we mean when we speak of the divine inspiration of the Bible. By divine inspiration we mean that the Bible is divinely given to us by the Lord Himself. In II Timothy 3:16 the apostle Paul says that, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration by God...*” This word “*inspiration*” means “God breathed.” The Greek word for inspiration is “*theopneustos*.” It means that the very words of the Bible were breathed out by God. The result of the Bible being “God breathed” insures that the Bible is true, without any errors or mistakes, and it is completely the pure Word of God. To summarize when the word “*inspiration*” is used in reference to the Bible it means more than “the Bible is inspiring literature.” It means that the Bible is God-breathed Scripture with His full authority and is without error.

## Why Is It Important To Have A Bible That Is Without Error?

A BIBLE THAT CONTAINS ERRORS CANNOT BE A VALID SOURCE OF authority. Errors in the Bible would in fact prove that the Bible was not the Word of God. Such a book could not be trusted. A Bible with errors would be nothing better than wishful thinking. Only a book that was completely true and without any errors could be considered to be the divine Word of God.

So how did the Holy Spirit bring about this God breathed book called the Bible? Here is what happened. God began the process of giving us His Word. It all started with the Lord who chose to reveal Himself to man. The entire process of giving us His Word was initiated by the Lord. Then God chose the men who were to write the Scriptures. The authors of the various books of the Bible did not volunteer for the job. They were selected by the Lord. The Holy Spirit

guided these men and guaranteed the accuracy of every thing that these men had written. God breathed His Word into the men who were chosen to write the Words of His Book. God used human instruments to compose the Bible. These various human authors that God chose to use to bring His Word into the world had different styles of writing and included different vocabularies. This is the evidence of the human aspect of the writing of Scripture. These human authors were not merely human robots who somehow wrote as the Lord dictated His Words to them. The Holy Spirit guided these men and gave them the message to write but allowed each of these authors to retain their own personality and style of writing. The mystery of this process is that these men wrote under the inspiration and control of the Holy Spirit and were prevented from writing anything that was erroneous.

HERE ARE SOME VERSES THAT TEACH US ABOUT THE DIVINE inspiration of God's Word.

- I Corinthians 2:12-13, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. **13** These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."
- II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- II Peter 1:20-21, "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."
- Matthew 5:17-18, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

ONE WRITER WHO CONTRIBUTES ARTICLES TO THE DEFENSE OF THE faith wrote this brief statement on the inspiration of the Word of God:

“The doctrine of the inspiration of the Bible means that the Bible in the original documents is God-breathed, and that it is a divine ...2 Tim. 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Paul who wrote this epistle was obviously referring to the entirety of the Old Testament as being inspired. The word "inspired" is literally "God-breathed." This is an interesting phrase since it implies that the Scriptures are from the mouth of God. Likewise, Peter says in 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." Notice that Peter is stating that prophecy is not the product of human will. Instead, prophecy occurs by those moved by the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, we can easily see that the Old Testament Scriptures are full of statements and phrases claiming to be the Word of God.

"Thus says the Lord" Occurs...413 In The KJV.

- .Exodus 4:22, "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is My son, My first-born.'"
- 1 Kings 11:31, "And he said to Jeroboam, 'Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes.'"
- Isaiah 7:7, "thus says the Lord God, 'It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass.'"

"God said" Occurs 46 Times The KJV.

- Genesis 1:3, "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."
- Exodus 3:14, "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you."
- Exodus 6:2-3, "God spoke further to Moses and said to him, 'I am the Lord; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself known to them.'"

God Spoke Through Prophets

- 1 Kings 14:18, "And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke through His servant Elijah the prophet."
- 2 Sam. 24:11-12, "When David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 'Go and speak to David, Thus the Lord says, 'I am offering you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I may do to you.'"
- Zech. 7:7, "Are not these the words which the Lord proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous with its cities around it, and the Negev and the foothills were inhabited?"

The Spirit Of The Lord Spoke Through People

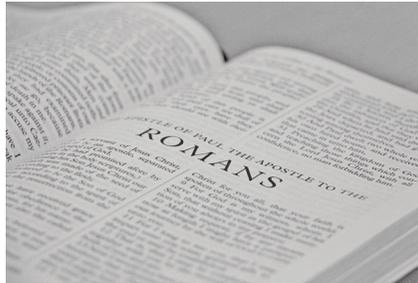
- 2 Sam. 23:2, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue."
- 1 Kings 22:24, "Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, 'How did the Spirit of the Lord pass from me to speak to you?'"

- 2 Chron. 20:14-15, "Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; 15 and he said, 'Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"

As you can see, the Old Testament Scriptures are clearly full of statements showing the inspiration of God through the writers. The Old Testament assumes and speaks from the perspective of divine inspiration. Should we do any less?"<sup>1</sup>

## Chapter Ten

# WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE WHEN...

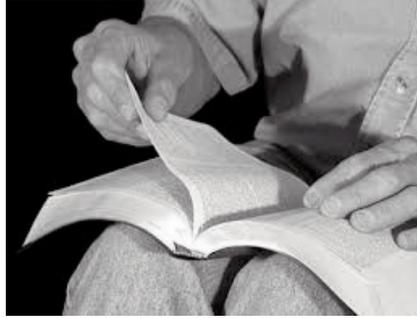


“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Acts 17:11

**T**he Bible contains many precious promises and comforting passages that can be of great help to those who are discouraged, lonely, or who have special needs. For the person who is just leaning about the value and the need of the Bible this chapter

will give you guidance on where to turn in your Bible when you have these special needs.



WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE WHEN:

- “You need peace, John 14, Romans 8.
- All is well, Psalm 33:12-22 | Psalm 100 | 1 Timothy 6 | James 2:1-17
- You face new responsibility, Joshua 1:1-9 | Proverbs 2 | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
- You are making a new home, Psalm 127 | Proverbs 17 | Ephesians 5 | Colossians 3 | 1 Peter 3:1-17 | 1 John 4
- You want to get along, Romans 12
- You are anxious for a loved one, Psalm 121 | Luke 17
- Business is poor, Psalm 37 | Psalm 92 | Ecclesiastes 5
- You are discouraged, Psalm 23 | Psalm 42 | Psalm 43
- Things are going from bad to worse, 2 Timothy 3 | Hebrews 13
- Friends seem to desert you, Matthew 5 | 1 Corinthians 13
- Sorrow overcomes you, Psalm 46 | Matthew 28
- Tempted to do wrong Psalm 15 | Psalm 19 | Psalm 139 | Matthew 4 | James 1
- Things look depressing, Psalm 34 | Psalm 71 | Isaiah 40
- You can't sleep, Psalm 4 | Psalm 56 | Psalm 130

- You have had an argument Matthew 18 | Ephesians 4 | James 4
- Tired Psalm 95:1-7 | Matthew 11
- Worried, Psalm 46 | Matthew 6

### **WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE IF YOU-**

- Are challenged by opposition, Ephesians 6 | Philippians 4
- Are facing a crisis, Job 28:12-18 | Proverbs 8 | Isaiah 55
- Are impatient, Psalm 40 | Psalm 90 | Hebrews 12
- Have lost a loved one, 1 Corinthians 15 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 5:28 | Revelation 21 & 22
- Are bored 2 Kings 5 | Job 38 | Psalm 103 | Psalm 104 | Ephesians 3
- Have a grudge, Luke 6 | 2 Corinthians 4 | Ephesians 4
- Have experienced severe losses, Colossians 1 | 1 Peter 1
- Need forgiveness, Matthew 23 | Luke 15 | Philemon
- Are sick or in pain, Psalm 6 | Psalm 39 | Psalm 41 | Psalm 47 | Isaiah 26 | James 5:13-19

### **WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE WHEN YOU-**

- Feel your faith is weak, Psalm 126 | Psalm 146 | Hebrews 11
- Think God is far away, Psalm 25 | Psalm 125 | Psalm 138 | Luke 10
- Are leaving home, Psalm 119 | Proverbs 3 & 4
- Are planning your budget, Mark 4 | Luke 19
- Are lonely or fearful, Psalm 27 | Psalm 91 | Luke 8 | 1 Peter 4
- Fear death, John 11 | John 17 | John 20 | 2 Corinthians 5 | 1 John 3 | Revelation 14

## ROBERT DICKIE

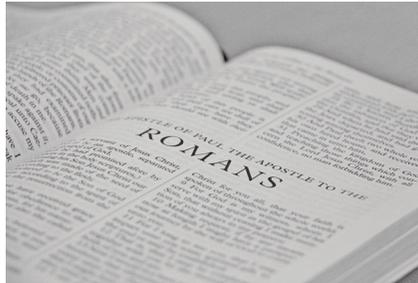
- Have sinned, Psalm 51 | Isaiah 53 | John 3 | 1 John 1
- Want to worship God, Psalm 24 | Psalm 84 | Psalm 116 | Isaiah 1:10-20 | John 4:1-45

## WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE TO FIND-

- The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20 | Deuteronomy 5
- The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12
- The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:5-15 | Luke 11:1-13
- The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5, 6 & 7
- The Great Commandments, Matthew 22:34-40
- The Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20 | Mark 16:14-18
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15
- The Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13 | Mark 4 | Luke 8
- The Last Judgment, Matthew 25
- The Faith Chapter, Hebrews 11
- The Love Chapter, 1 Corinthians 13
- The Ascension of Jesus, Acts 1:1-12
- The Day of Pentecost, Acts 2
- The Temptation of Jesus, Matthew 4:1-11 | Luke 4:1-13
- The Magnificat of Mary, Luke 1:46-55
- Eternal Life, John 3:16-17”<sup>1</sup>

## Chapter Eleven

# THE PROOF FOR TRUTH



**T**he Bible, Jesus, and God do not need to be proven to exist or to be proven true. Their existence and truthfulness is self-evident. The credibility of the Bible, Jesus and God cannot be proved by appealing to science, logic, or reason. The Bible itself is the highest authority. There is no other authority that we can appeal to in our attempt to prove either that the Bible is true, that Jesus is God or that God exists. If we appeal to any other authority outside the Bible to prove these three things then whatever we have appealed to has become a higher authority than the Bible itself.

When I am asked as to why I believe the Bible is true or that Jesus is God or why I believe in God I respond by saying because the Bible tells me that there is a God. The Bible tells me that Jesus is the Son of God. And the Bible tells me that it is the Word of God. The Bible makes these astonishing claims. The Bible was the first book in history to claim that it was the inspired Word of God. No other so called sacred book made that claim before the Bible. Since that time the Quran and the book of Mormon have made that claim. But only the Bible can verify its truth claims. Only the Bible is self-attesting and carries with it the authenticity that it is an inspired book.

However, if I was asked if there was any evidence internally or externally to verify the truth claims of the Bible I would say there is nothing but tons of evidence. I would begin by saying that although there are many reasons for believing that the Bible is the Word of God, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that there is a God, five particular reasons especially stand out to me. Let me list five reasons for each of these topics. (See my book "*Five Reasons Why I Believe...*" It will explain these points fully.)

#### How Can We Prove The The Bible Is The Word Of God?

- Prophetically—Hundreds of ancient prophecies verify the claims of Scripture.
- Historically—Archeology has verified the claims of Scripture.
- Scientifically—True science is not in opposition to the teachings of the Bible.
- Morally—The Bible gives the world the highest moral standards known to man.
- Dynamically—The Bible changes lives.

### How We Can Prove That Jesus Is The Son Of God?

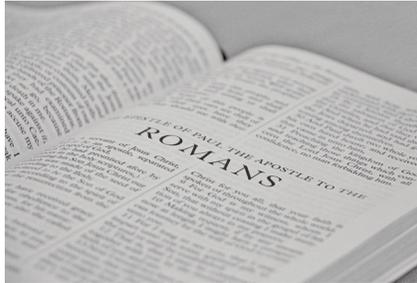
- He fulfilled over 300 ancient Messianic prophecies.
- He lived a holy life so that no one could accuse Him of one sin.
- He taught with amazing authority.
- He performed many miracles so that even His enemies could not deny that He was doing what only God could do.
- He was raised from the dead.

### How We Can Prove That There Is A God?

- By believing what the Bible tells us about God's existence.
- By listening to the testimony of creation, Psalm 19:1.
- By appealing to the impossibility of the contrary. It is impossible for God not to exist.
- By understanding that a world without God is empty, meaningless and full of chaos.
- By knowing that only belief in God can satisfy the deepest longings of my soul. Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose for living?

## Chapter Twelve

# JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD



**T**he main theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ the Son of God who came to save us from our sins. Here is an essay on the person of Jesus.

*More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood. He possessed neither wealth*

*nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous and had neither training nor formal education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service. He never wrote a book, yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.. He never wrote a song, and yet he has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier; nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His authority, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired. He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Every seventh day the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshiping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him. The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone, but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, risen Son of God, our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ. Author unknown<sup>1</sup>*

### The Twelve Disciples That Jesus Chose

1. Simon (known as Peter)
2. Andrew (Peter's brother)
3. James (son of Zebedee)
4. John (James' brother)
5. Phillip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8. Matthew (the tax collector)
9. James (son of Alphaeus)

10. Thaddeus (also known as Judas, son of James and Lebbeaus)
11. Simon (the zealot also known as Simon the Canaanite)
12. Judas Iscariot

### The Names Of Christ

- Advocate (1 John 2:1)
- Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)
- Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)
- Amen (Rev. 3:14)
- Apostle of our Profession (Heb. 3:1)
- Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins (1 John 2:2)
- Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
- Author and Perfecter of our Faith (Heb. 12:2)
- Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
- Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)
- Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15)
- Bread of God (John 6:33)
- Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48)
- Capstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)
- Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
- Christ (1 John 2:22)
- Creator (John 1:3)
- Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)
- Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)
- Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
- Gate (John 10:9)
- Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)
- Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5)
- Faith and True Witness (Rev. 3:14)
- First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
- Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5)

- God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; John 5:20; etc.)
- Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
- Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)
- Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)
- Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)
- High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
- Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
- Holy One (Acts 3:14)
- Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)
- Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
- Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)
- I Am (John 8:58)
- Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4)
- King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17)
- King of Israel (John 1:49)
- King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
- King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)
- King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)
- Lamb (Rev. 13:8)
- Lamb of God (John 1:29)
- Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)
- Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
- Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)
- Light of the World (John 8:12)
- Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)
- Living One (Rev. 1:18)
- Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4)
- Lord (2 Pet. 2:20)
- Lord of All (Acts 10:36)
- Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
- Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16)
- ORD [YHWH] our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
- Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48)
- Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15)

- Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
- Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
- Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16)
- Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)
- Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13)
- Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Husband (2 Cor. 11:2)
- Our Protection (2 Thess. 3:3)
- Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Sacrificed Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
- Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
- Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6)
- Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
- Prophet (Acts 3:22)
- Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
- Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5)
- Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)
- Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
- Root of David (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)
- Ruler of God's Creation (Rev. 3:14)
- Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)
- Savior (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:20)
- Son of David (Lk. 18:39)
- Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)
- Son of Man (Mt. 8:20)
- Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32)
- Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
- The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
- The Stone the builders rejected (Acts 4:11)
- True Bread (John 6:32)
- True Light (John 1:9)
- True Vine (John 15:1)
- Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)
- Way (John 14:6)
- Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)

- Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6)
- Word (John 1:1)
- Word of God (Rev. 19:13)

### The Miracles Of Christ

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS WERE NOT DISPUTED BY HIS ENEMIES. THE miracles that Jesus performed were so many and openly visible that no one questioned whether or not He worked miracles. What His opponents did question was by whose power He performed those miracles. The religious leaders of His day claimed Jesus did the miracles by the power of the devil.

According to the Apostle John any list of miracles that we can produce from the Bible narratives on the life of Christ is at best only a partial list. John tells us:

“AND THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER THINGS THAT JESUS DID, WHICH if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen” John 21:25.

THERE WERE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS performed. His miracles authenticated His character and His position as the Son of God. The miracles that Jesus performed demonstrated that Jesus was the Messiah, that Jesus was sent from the Father, that Jesus had authority on earth from the Father, that Jesus was approved by the Father, and that the message of Jesus was true.

Here are a few of His most famous and  
important miracles

- Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding in Cana. John 2:1-11.
- Jesus healed the Nobleman's son. John 4:46-47.
- Jesus directed the disciples to the great haul of fish in Luke 5:1-11.
- Jesus cast out unclean spirit's. Mark 1:23-28.
- Jesus healed Peter's Mother-in-law.
- Jesus cleansed a leper, Mark 1:40-45.
- Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Matthew 8:5-13.
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, John chapter 11, and He raised the widows son from the dead, Luke 7:11-18 and He raised the ruler's daughter from the dead. Matthew 9:18-26.
- Jesus calmed the storm at sea. Matter 8:23-27.
- Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men. Matthew 9:27-31.
- Jesus was raised from the dead. John chapter 20.

### The "I Am" Statements Of Christ

#### The "I Am" Statements of Jesus in John

- I am the bread of life (6:35-48).
- I am the living bread (6:51).
- I am the light of the world (8:12).
- I am from above. . . I am not of this world (8:23).
- I am the gate for the sheep (10:7).
- I am the good shepherd (10:11).
- I am the resurrection and the life (11:25).
- I am the way and the truth and the life (14:6).
- I am the true vine (15:1).

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### The Parables Of Christ

WHAT ARE PARABLES? PARABLES ARE SHORT AND SOMETIMES PITHY stories that teach or illustrate a moral lesson that Jesus often used to instruct His disciples. The parables can also be described as analogies that touched on common culture, norms, and situations of the times

that His listeners could understand. Here is a list of the parables taught by Jesus:

A parable is an illustration, a story that is designed to teach a lesson. Jesus used them frequently and cited the common culture, norms, and situation of the time he was in so as to teach the listeners in terms they would understand.

1. The Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:1,2, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:1-18.
2. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares: Matthew 13:24-30.
3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Matthew 13:31-32, Mark, 4:31,32.
4. The Parable of the Seed Planted in the Ground: Mark 4:26-29.
5. The Parable of the Leaven: Matthew 13:33.
6. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure: Matthew 13:44.
7. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price: Matthew 13:47-50.
8. The Parable of Casting The Net Into The Sea: Matthew 13:47-50.
9. The Parable of the Two Debtors: Luke 7:40-43.
10. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant: Matthew 18:23-35.
11. The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37.
12. The Parable of the Friend at Midnight: Luke 11:5-13.
13. The Parable of the Rich Fool: Luke 12:16-21.
14. The Parable of the Wedding Feast: Luke 16:36-38.
15. The Parable of the Lost Sheep: Luke 15:3-7.
16. The Parable of the Great Supper: Luke 14:16-24.
17. The Parable of the Lost Coin: Luke 15:8-10.
18. The Parable of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32.
19. The Parable of the Unjust Steward: Luke 16:1-12.
20. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31.
21. The Parable of the Unjust Judge: Luke 18:1-7.
22. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican: Luke 18:9-14.
23. The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard: Matthew 20:1-16.

24. The Parable of the Pounds: Luke 19:11-27.
25. The Parable of the Two Sons: Matthew 21:28-32.
26. The Parable of the Tenants: Matthew 21:33-46, Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-18.
27. The Parable of the Marriage Feast: Matthew 22:1-13
28. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13.
29. The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30.
30. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats: Matthew 25:31-46.

### The Key Teachings of Jesus

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS ARE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL. THERE WAS never a teacher that had such a profound impact on the lives of his students as did Jesus Christ from Nazareth. The reason for the impact that the teachings of Jesus had on humanity is found in the fact that He was God come in the flesh. Jesus was Immanuel—God with us. He spoke with a divine authority and clarity that has never been matched. Here are some of the amazing and wonderful things He taught His disciples.

- Jesus taught His disciples a summarized version of the ten commandments:
  - Don't murder
  - Don't steal
  - Don't defraud—This means not lying in court or trying to cheat someone in business.
  - Don't commit adultery—Jesus described this as not cheating on your spouse, not having sex with someone else's spouse—even if they are divorced—and not desiring that someone else's spouse was your own.

- Honor your parents—Jesus described this as giving respect to your parents and providing for them in their old age.
- Jesus taught His disciples to love God:
- “No one can serve two masters”—There is to be no other God or interest in our lives that rivals the true God of the Bible. To love anyone or any thing more than God is to be guilty of idolatry.
- “Do not take the Lord’s name in vain”—God’s name was to be used in worship and praise. There was to be no usage of God’s name in swearing, jesting or frivolous statements.
- He taught His disciples to honor God and to love Him with all of your heart.
- Jesus taught His disciples to pray: He gave them a model prayer that we call “The Lord’s Prayer.”
- Jesus taught His disciples to be sincere and to avoid hypocrisy: Hypocrites are clean on the outside but filthy and impure on the inside. Jesus taught us that it is what comes out of the man that defiles him not what goes into him. “Don’t be as the hypocrites” He said.
- Jesus taught His disciples to be holy and pure: The Greek word *Porneia* summarizes the various sexual sins that are often practiced by those who do not know Christ. As a part of our purity before God, Jesus wants us to not participate in sexual immorality. This would include sex outside of marriage, homosexuality, pornography, or incest.
- Jesus taught His disciples to have faith: The child of God is to live by faith, walk by faith and die in faith. Jesus said that if our faith was even as small as a mustard seed we could remove mountains (symbolic of the greatest trials or problems that we might ever face.)
- Jesus taught His disciples to put God’s kingdom first in their lives and all other interests would take care of themselves: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” To put God’s kingdom first means we are going about our Father’s business. This would include evangelism, giving to

the poor, prayer, teaching Scripture, healing the sick and anything we do in the service of God.

- Jesus taught His disciples the golden rule: “Do Unto Others as you would have them do unto you.” Deal with people the way you would like them to deal with you. Treat others in a Christlike way. If you desire to be treated fairly, with kindness, and with patient Godly love then do the same to others.
- Jesus taught His disciples that to look at a woman with lust is to be guilty of spiritual adultery: A “Look of lust” brings real guilt. Jesus told us that our sexual purity must include even the smallest actions such as looking at someone with lust.
- Jesus taught His disciples one of the most powerful and valuable truths that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions: He told His followers to “Love your enemies.” The natural response of fallen man is to hate, seek revenge, get even, and do to others before they can do you. This is a revolutionary idea. Where else is this taught?
- Jesus also taught His disciples to love one another: True agape love is the main character trait of a child of God. What separates Christianity from all other faiths is the deep love of God that is manifested in Christian character.
- Jesus taught His disciples to die to self and be willing to serve others and to put others before yourself:
- The things Jesus taught His disciples stands in sharp contrast with the teachings of all other religions. What other religion puts Christ and others before yourself, that asks you to die to self, to humble yourself by servant leadership, and that asks you to turn the other cheek and go the extra mile? These things are the heart and soul of Christian character and ethics.
- Jesus taught His disciples to yield to all lawful authorities in their life: He condemned rebellion and called His disciples to obey and to pray for those in authority over them. Jesus never called His disciples to take up arms to resist the

government. The revolutionary nature of His teachings did not lead His followers to paths of violence and anarchy but rather led them to paths of peace and righteousness.

- Jesus taught His disciples to take up their cross and to follow Him: The life of a Christian is a life of taking up the cross and serving and sacrificing for the kingdom of God.
- Jesus taught His disciples to forgive their enemies and to do good to those who despise you: Forgiving, forgetting, being kind to one another, and being like Christ is the model that all of God's people are asked to follow.
- Jesus taught His disciples to be peacemakers: Nowhere in the Bible were orders ever given for God's people to wage a relentless war on those who were lost and to either convert them or kill them.
- Jesus taught His disciples to be humble and gracious with others: "The humble will be exalted"—Jesus says that we are to allow ourselves to be humiliated, disrespected and put down. If we do this, God will honor us and raise us up. The true disciple also shows respect to the poor and does not favor or seek to be with the rich and famous. All men were to be considered as chosen by God and made in His image. This gave a sense of value and worth to all of mankind.

### Christophanies

(Old Testament appearances of Christ)

CHRISTIOPHANIES ARE THE APPEARANCES OF THE LORD JESUS Christ in the Old Testament. The word "Theophany" is a combination of two Greek words, "theos" the word for God and "epiphaneia" a word that means "shining forth, or appearance." In the Old Testament a Theophany was the appearance of God in the flesh and in visible form. A Christophany refers specifically to the appearance of Christ in the flesh or in visible form. Most scholars believe that every fleshly appearance of God in the Old Testament is connected to Christ.

What criteria do we use to determine if these Old Testament

appearances really do represent a Christophany? Here are the things that should guide us in these matters:

1. Is the person identified as God?
2. Is the person given characteristics and qualities that are reserved for God?
3. How do the people in the context respond to the person?
4. Does the person receive worship or praise that belongs to God alone?

MOST OFTEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE CHRISTOPHANIES ARE seen in the visitation of the Angel of the Lord. Here is a list of the places where these Christophanies have taken place:

- Genesis 16:7-13
- Genesis 22:15-18
- Genesis 31:11-13
- Exodus 3:1 ff
- Acts 7:30-35
- Exodus 13:21
- Exodus 14:19
- Judges 6:11-23
- Judges 13:9-20

Christ Is Also Revealed On Several Occasions  
As A Person.

- Genesis 24:7 , 40
- Numbers 20:16
- Zechariah 1:12-13

Pictures Of Christ In The Old And New Testaments

“And beginning at Moses and all he prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

Luke 24:27

THESE PICTURES OF CHRIST COME FROM THE MANY STORIES, TYPES AND symbols that are found in the Old Testament. Sometimes these pictures are referred to by theologians as “Types” and “Shadows”. The following list is just a few of the many types and shadows of Christ in the Old Testament.

1. Adam, a Picture of Christ—Genesis 2
2. The seed of the women—Genesis 3:15
3. Blood Was Shed in the Garden of Eden
4. Abel's Lamb—Genesis 4
5. Noah's Ark—Genesis 6
6. Melchizedek— Genesis 14:18
7. Isaac and the Lamb—Genesis 22
8. Joseph— Genesis 37
9. A Prophet like Moses—Deuteronomy 18:15
10. The Passover Lamb—Exodus 12:3, John 1:29
11. Manna, the Bread from Heaven— Exodus 16 and John 6
12. Water from the Rock— Exodus 17 and I Corinthians 1:4
13. The Star of Jacob—Numbers 24:17
14. The Bronze serpent— Numbers 21:8
15. The anointed High Priest—Leviticus 8:7-9
16. The Tabernacle— Leviticus 25-30
17. One Door— Lev. 25-30
18. The Bronze Altar— Lev. 25-30
19. The Bronze Basin— Lev. 25-30
20. The Gold Lamp stand— Lev. 25-30
21. The Table for the Bread— Lev. 25-30
22. The Altar of Incense— Lev. 25-30
23. The Veil, the Ark, and the Mercy Seat— Lev. 25-30
24. The High Priest, and the Clothes of the Priests— Lev. 25-30
25. The Pillar of Fire and of Cloud—Exodus 13

26. The Kinsman Redeemer— Ruth 2:1
27. David the King— I Samuel 16
28. Jonathan— The Faithful Friend
29. Solomon— The King of Wisdom
30. David and Goliath— I Samuel 17
31. Shepherd— Psalm 23
32. Nehemiah— The One Who Builds His Church
33. The Bridegroom— Song of Solomon
34. Immanuel— Isaiah 7:14
35. Suffering Servant— Isaiah 53
36. The Stone cut out of the Mountain— Daniel 2:34
37. The Desire of All Nations— Haggai—2:7
38. The Branch— Zechariah 3:8
39. The Sun of Righteousness— Malachi 4:2

### Pictures Of Christ In The New Testament

IN EACH BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WE WILL SHOW HOW JESUS is pictured or portrayed in that book.

IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Messiah
- The Son of David, Matt 1:1.
- The King of the Jews, Matt 2:2.
- The Son of God, Matt 2:15.
- The Bridegroom, Matt 9:15.

IN THE BOOK OF MARK JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Miracle Worker

- The Holy One of God, Mark 1:24.
- The Servant, Mark 10:45.
- The King of Israel, Mark 15:32.

IN THE BOOK OF LUKE JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Son of Man.
- The Horn of Salvation, Luke 1:69.
- The Consolation of Israel, Luke 2:25.

In the book of John Jesus is seen as:

- The Son of God
- The Only Begotten Son, John 1:14,18.
- The Lamb of God, John 1:29,36.
- The Bread of life, John 6:35.
- The Light of the World, John 8:1.
- The I AM!, John 8:58.
- The Door of the Sheep, John 10:7,9.
- The Good Shepherd, John 10:11.
- The Resurrection and life, John 11:25.
- The Way, the Truth, the Life, John 14:6.
- The True Vine, John 15:1.

IN THE BOOK OF ACTS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Ascended Lord
- The Prince of Life, Acts 3:15.
- The Judge of the living and the dead, Acts 10:42.
- The Just One, Acts 7:52.

**ROBERT DICKIE**

- The Hope of Israel, Acts 28:20

IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Justifier
- The Rock of Offense, Romans 9:33.
- The Deliverer, Romans 11:26.
- The Lord of the dead and the living, Romans 14:9.
- The Root of Jesse, Romans 15:12.

IN THE BOOKS OF I AND II CORINTHIANS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Last Adam
- The First-fruits, 1 Corinthians 15:23.
- The Last Adam, 1 Corinthians 15:45

IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The One Who Sets Us Free
- The Lord Jesus Christ, Gal 1:3.

IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Christ of Riches
- The Head over All Things, Ephesians 1:22.
- The Cornerstone;, Ephesians 2:20.

IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The God Who Meets Our Every Need
- The Name above all names, Philippians 2:9.

In the book of Colossians Jesus is seen as:

- The Fullness of The Godhead
- The Image of the Invisible God, Colossians 1:15.
- The Head of the body, Colossians 1:18.
- The Beginning, Colossians 1:18.
- The Firstborn from the dead, Colossians 1:18.
- The Hope of Glory, Col 1:27.

In I and II Thessalonians Jesus is seen as:

- The Coming King
- The Lord of Peace, 2 Thessalonians 3:16.

In the books of I and II Timothy Jesus is seen as:

- The Mediator Between God And Man
- The King of Ages, 1 Timothy 1:17.
- The Mediator, 1 Timothy 2:5.

IN THE BOOK OF TITUS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Blessed Hope, Titus 2:13.
- The Great God and Saviour, Titus 2:13.

IN THE BOOK OF PHILEMON JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Friend, Closer Than a Brother
- The Lord Jesus Christ, Philemon 3.

IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS JESUS IS SEEN AS:

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- The Blood That Washes Away My Sins
- The Heir of All Things, Hebrews 1:2.
- The Faithful High Priest, Hebrews 2:17.
- The Author and Finisher of our Faith, Hebrews 12:2.

IN THE BOOK OF JAMES JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Great Physician
- The Lord of Glory, James 2:1.
- The Judge at the door, James 5:9.

IN THE BOOKS OF I AND II PETER JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- The Living Stone, 1 Peter 2:4.
- The Chief Shepherd, 1 Peter 5:4.

IN THE BOOKS OF I, II, AND III JOHN JESUS IS SEEN AS:

- Everlasting Love
- The Eternal Life, 1 John 1:2.
- The Righteous, 1 John 2:1.

In the book of Jude Jesus is seen as:

- The God our Saviour
- The Only Wise God our Saviour, Jude 25.

In the book of Revelation Jesus is seen as:

- The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

- The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, Revelation 1:17, 22:13.
- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Rev 5:5.
- The Word of God, Revelation 19:13.
- The King of kings and Lord of lords, Revelation 19:16.
- The Bright Morning Star, Revelation 22:16

### Old Testament Prophecies That Predict The Coming Of Jesus Christ The Messiah

WHAT IS A BIBLE PROPHECY? THE NOUN “PROPHECY” DESCRIBES A “prediction of the future, made under divine inspiration” and is a “revelation of God.” The act of making a prophecy is the verb, prophesying. The prophecies written in the Bible about future events have been fulfilled with 100% accuracy. This is a statement that can not be truthfully made about any other “sacred writing.” This is important because the Bible says God will give us a Savior who provides a way for us to go to heaven. If the prophecies are 100% accurate, we know it is going to happen. This is the sweet assurance of every one who rests their hope of eternal life on the written Word of God.

What are “Messianic” Prophecies? The Old Testament written between (1450 BC and 430 BC) contains hundreds of prophecies about an “Anointed One” (“Messiah” in Hebrew). The Messiah would “deliver” or “save” all those who were chosen by God the Father to salvation, both Jew and Gentile.

The Messianic Prophecies were written in the Old Testament between approximately 1500 BC and 430BC. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies in the New Testament between 45 and 95 AD. There are over 300 prophecies that predicted the coming of the Messiah. here are just a few of them.

- The Messiah will be the offspring (descendant) of the woman (Eve) Genesis 3:15, Galatians 4:4.
- The Messiah will be a descendant of Abraham, through

- whom everyone on earth will be blessed Genesis 12:3; 18:18, Acts 3:25, 26.
- The Messiah will be a descendant of Judah, Genesis 49:10, Matthew 1:2 and Luke 3:33.
  - The Messiah will be a prophet like Moses, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Acts 3:22, 23.
  - The Messiah will be the Son of God, Psalm 2:7, Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22.
  - The Messiah will be raised from the dead (resurrected), Psalm 16:10, 11, Matthew 28:5-9; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:11-16; Acts 1:3 and 2:32.
  - The Messiah crucifixion experience, Psalm 22 (contains 11 prophecies—not all listed here). Matthew 27:34-50 and John 19:17-30.
  - The Messiah will be sneered at and mocked Psalm 22:7, Luke 23:11,35-39
  - The Messiah will be pierced through hands and feet Psalm 22:16, Luke 23:33 and 24:36-39; John 19:18 and 20:19-20,24-27
  - The Messiah's bones will not be broken (a person's legs were usually broken after being crucified to speed up their death) Psalm 22:17 and 34:20, John 19:31-33,36
  - The Messiah's clothing will be gambled over, Psalm 22:18, Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23,24
  - The Messiah will be accused by false witnesses, Psalm 35:11, Matthew 26:59,60 and Mark 14:56,57
  - The Messiah will be hated without a cause, Psalm 35:19 and 69:4 John 15:23-25
  - The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend, Psalm 41:9, John 13:18,21
  - The Messiah will ascend to heaven (at the right hand of God) Psalm 68:18, Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; 2:33-35; 3:20-21; 5:31,32; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20,21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet 3:22.
  - The Messiah will be given vinegar and gall to drink, Psalm 69:21 Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29,30

- The Messiah will have great kings and leaders pay tribute to Him, Psalm 72:10,11, Matthew 2:1-11
- The Messiah is a “stone the builders rejected” who will become the “head cornerstone”, Psalm 118:22,23 and Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 21:42,43; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8
- The Messiah will be a descendant of David, Psalm 132:11 and Jeremiah 23:5,6; 33:15,16, Luke 1:32,33
- The Messiah will be born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35
- The Messiah’s first spiritual work will be in Galilee, Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 4:12-16
- The Messiah will make the blind see, the deaf hear, etc. Isaiah 35:5-6, Matthew 11:3-6 and John 11:47
- The Messiah will be beaten, mocked, and spat upon, Isaiah 50:6, Matthew 26:67 and 27:26-31
- The Messiah will be rejected, Isaiah 53:3, Matthew 27:20-25; Mark 15:8-14; Luke 23:18-23; John 19:14,15
- The Messiah will be killed, Isaiah 53:5-9, Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:46; John 19:30
- The Messiah will be silent in front of his accusers, Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 26:62,63 and 27:12-14
- The Messiah will be buried with the rich, Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 27:59,60; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:52,53; John 19:38-42
- The Messiah will be crucified with criminals, Isaiah 53:12 Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32,33
- The Messiah is part of the new and everlasting covenant, Isaiah 55:3-4 and Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13
- The Messiah will be our intercessor (intervene for us and plead on our behalf), Isaiah 59:16, Hebrews 9:15
- The Messiah has two missions, Isaiah 61:1-3 (first mission ends at “. . . year of the LORD’s favor”), First mission: Luke 4:16-21; Second mission: to be fulfilled at the end of the world

- The Messiah will come at a specific time, Daniel 9:25-26, Galatians 4:4 and Ephesians 1:10
- The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:4-7
- The Messiah will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey, Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:1-11,
- The Messiah will be sold for 30 pieces of silver, Zechariah 11:12,13, Matthew 26:15 with Matthew 27:3-10
- The Messiah will be forsaken by His disciples, Zechariah 13:7, Matthew 26:31,56
- The Messiah will enter the Temple with authority, Malachi 3:1, Matthew 21:12 and Luke 19:45

### The Odds Of Christ Fulfilling Prophecy

HERE IS AN INTERESTING ARTICLE FROM A SCHOLAR ON THE probability of Christ fulfilling the Old Testament Prophecies.

“THE FOCUS OF THIS TOPIC IS TO LOOK AT THE PROBABILITY OF Christ fulfilling the prophecies in the Old Testament. So, what is probability? Probability, also known as "odds", is a branch of mathematics that measures the likelihood that a given event will occur. To begin, let's look at some interesting "odds":

- Being struck by lightning in a year =  $7 \times 10^{-5}$  or 1 in 700,000
- Being killed by lightning in a year =  $2 \times 10^{-6}$  or 1 in 2,000,000
- Becoming president =  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  or 1 in 10,000,000
- A meteorite landing on your house =  $1.8 \times 10^{-14}$  or 1 in 180,000,000,000,000
- You will eventually die = 1 in 1

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PROBABILITY OF BEING STRUCK OR KILLED BY lightning, becoming president, or having a meteorite land on your

house, progressively increases, given the event; however, someone somewhere will be that 1 in  $10^x$ , and that someone could be you.

Now, let's look at one of the most amazing probability studies to be conducted. Dr. John Stoner, author of *Science Speaks*, applied the principle of probability, which states that if the chance of one thing happening is "1 in M", and the chance of another independent thing happening is "1 in N", then the chance that they shall both happen is "1 in M x N", as it pertains to fulfillment of Biblical prophecies.

The Bible is full of prophecies, either events that have happened or events that will happen in the future. In *Science Speaks*, Dr. Stoner looks at the probability that one man, Jesus Christ, could have fulfilled even 8 of the 300 prophecies that pertain to Him in the Bible. Let's look at these eight prophecies from the Old Testament pertaining to Christ, their fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the probability of one man fulfilling each prophecy, and the sum of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies. Keep in mind, the time span between the prophecies of the Old Testament and the New Testament fulfillment is hundreds, even thousands of years.

Old Testament Prophecy  
**New** Testament Fulfillment  
 Probability

**I. CHRIST TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM**

(Micah 5:2)

AND HEROD ASKED WHERE CHRIST HAD BEEN BORN ... THEY answered Bethlehem

(Matt 2:4-6)

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$2.8 \times 10^5$  or 1 in 280,000

**2. FORERUNNER OF CHRIST**

(Malachi 3:1)

JOHN THE BAPTIST, THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST

(Mark 1:2-8)

$1 \times 10^3$  or 1 in 1,000

**3. CHRIST TO ENTER JERUSALEM RIDING ON A DONKEY**

(Zech 9:9)

CHRIST ENTERS JERUSALEM RIDING ON A DONKEY

(Matt 21:4-11)

$1 \times 10^2$  or 1 in 100

**4. CHRIST TO BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND**

(Psalm 41:9)

JUDAS BETRAYED JESUS

(Luke 22:21)

$1 \times 10^3$  or 1 in 1,000

. . .

5. CHRIST TO BE BETRAYED FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

(Zech 11:12)

JUDAS SOLD OUT JESUS FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

(Matt 26:15)

$1 \times 10^3$  or 1 in 1,000

30 pieces of silver cast down and used to buy a potter's field

(Zech 11:13)

30 pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field

(Matt 27:3-10)

$1 \times 10^5$  or 1 in 100,000

6. ALTHOUGH INNOCENT, CHRIST KEPT SILENT WHEN ON TRIAL

(Isaiah 53:7)

JESUS KEPT SILENT WHEN QUESTIONED

(Mark 14:60-61)

$1 \times 10^3$  or 1 in 1,000

7. **CHRIST CRUCIFIED**

(Psalm 22:16)

Jesus was crucified

(John 19:17, 18)

1 x 10<sup>4</sup> or 1 in 10,000

TO ANSWER THE QUESTION WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY OF ONE MAN fulfilling all eight prophecies, the principal of probability is applied. Therefore, multiplying all eight probabilities together (1 times 2.8 x 10<sup>5</sup> x 10<sup>3</sup> x 10<sup>2</sup> x 10<sup>3</sup> x 10<sup>3</sup> x 10<sup>5</sup> x 10<sup>3</sup> x 10<sup>4</sup>) gives us 2.8 x 10<sup>28</sup>, or for simplicity sake 1 x 10<sup>28</sup> or 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

GIVEN THIS AND THE TIME SPAN BETWEEN THE WRITINGS OF THE Old Testament and the fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the prophecies were either given to the prophets by God, or the prophets just wrote them down as they thought they should be. With Christ fulfilling all eight prophecies, what are the odds the prophets were just guessing?<sup>2</sup>

THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE WORD OF GOD. WE NEED NO PROOF that this claim is true because the Bible is our final authority on this subject. When the Bible speaks we humbly bow and submit to its authority over us. But this does not mean that there are no convincing proofs or evidences to verify the truth claims of the Bible. As we see, by examining the odds of one man fulfilling just eight prophecies, there is overwhelming evidence to support the truth claims of the Holy Scriptures.

A Brief Outline Of The Life And Ministry Of Christ

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus birth—Luke 2:1-7
- Jesus at the age of twelve

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS BY JOHN THE BAPTIST—MATTHEW 3:13-17

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS—MATTHEW 4:1-11

THE EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY OF JESUS

- The first cleansing of the temple—John 2:13-17.
- The discourse with Nicodemus—John 3:1-21
- The discourse with the woman at the well—John 4:4-42

THE GALILEAN MINISTRY OF JESUS

- Jesus choosing the twelve disciples—Mark 3:13-19
- Jesus great Sermon on the Mount—Matthew 5-7
- Jesus transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-8

THE PRESENCE OF JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES—JOHN 7:2-10:21.

THE LATER JUDEAN MINISTRY—LUKE 9:51-13:21

THE LATER PEREAN MINISTRY—LUKE 13:22-17:10.

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THE RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD—JOHN 11:1-54

THE FINAL JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM—LUKE 17:11-19:28.

THE PASSION WEEK

SUNDAY

- His triumphant entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1-9
- His brief visit to the temple—Matthew 21:10-11

MONDAY

- His cursing of the fig tree—Mark 11:12-14.
- His second cleansing of the temple—Matthew 21:12-16.

Tuesday

- Jesus is questioned by the Herodians, Sadducees, and the Pharisees—Matthew 22:15-46.
- Jesus gave a number of parables.

Wednesday

- Jesus rested on this day
- Jesus betrayed by Judas—Matthew 26:14-16.

Thursday

- Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper—Matthew 26:26-29
- Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Mark 14:32-42.
- Jesus is arrested by the Jews—Matthew 26:47-68.

Friday

- Jesus is tried by the Jews and Pilate— Matthew 27:2-31.
- Jesus is crucified— Matthew 27:31-66.

SUNDAY

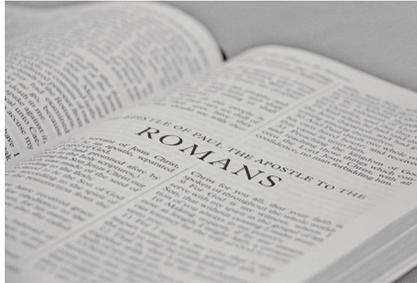
- Jesus is raised from the dead—Matthew 28:1-10
- Jesus' Post-Resurrection ministry—Luke 24:13-43.

## *Chapter Thirteen*

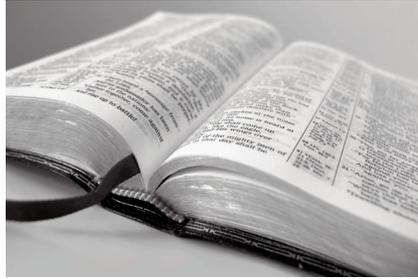
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# THE METHOD OF READING AND PRAYING THROUGH THE BIBLE

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**R**eading the Bible and praying through the Scriptures are two of the most important disciplines of our lives. Those who learn this early will spare themselves from many dangers and snares that will overtake those who fail to see the value of Scripture reading. There are a number of reasons why every Christian should read their Bible regularly. Here is a list of some of those reasons. I suppose that every pastor and Bible teacher could come up with their own list and the reasons may be endless.



### Twenty Reasons Why You Should Read Your Bible

1. Reading the Bible makes us wise. Wisdom comes to us from the Word of God.
2. Reading the Bible is how God speaks to us. We communicate with God through the reading of the Word.
3. Reading the Bible is how we cleanse ourselves from sin and how we purify the heart. Reading the Bible every day is like taking a spiritual bath.
4. Reading the Bible brings us into the presence of God.
5. Reading the Bible is how we are renewed and transformed into the image of Christ.
6. Reading the Bible is how we learn what God's will is for our lives.
7. Reading the Bible teaches us how to behave in every important area of our lives.
8. Reading the Bible reveals the nature and character of God to us.
9. Reading the Bible show us the laws of God and what He expects of His people.
10. Reading the Bible keeps us from sin. D. L. Moody used to say, "Sin will keep you from God's Word or God's Word will keep you from sin."
11. Reading the Bible is essential because the Bible alone is our final authority on all things.

12. Reading the Bible is how we discover the beauty and wonder of the Lord Jesus Christ.
13. Reading the Bible brings the conviction of sin into our lives.
14. Reading the Bible helps to keep our conscience pure and tender.
15. Reading the Bible is how we grow in grace and develop christian character.
16. Reading our Bibles will enable us to deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
17. Reading the Bible prepares us for heaven.
18. Reading the Bible is actually a command from the Lord, Matthew 4:4, “*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*”
19. Reading the Bible is essential if we are going to walk with God.
20. Reading the Bible sets a good example to all of our families and loved ones who may be encouraged to do the same if they see us living in our Bibles.

In the book of James chapter one verses 22-25 we are actually told how to read our Bibles. James tells us,

*“BUT BE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY, DECEIVING yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*

JAMES MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF people who hear the Word of God. First, there are those who hear the Word but fail to obey it. Second, there are those who hear the Word but do obey it. These people are called “doers” of the Word. Those who are hearers only have deceived themselves. There are many people who

come to church and enjoy hearing the Word of God preached. But these same people fail to work out the practical implications of God's Word in their daily lives by obedience. James uses the analogy of looking into a mirror and seeing yourself but then going away and forgetting what you saw in the mirror. A person sees that his face is dirty or his hair uncombed but he goes away and forgets to wash and comb his hair. This behavior is foolish. What good did the mirror do?

The Word of God is not just a mirror that show us our faults, sins, and disobedience, the Word also calls us to act upon what we have heard. God's Word calls us to repent and to make changes to our daily living. James is telling us that if we hear God's Word but fail to obey it we are just wasting our time in reading and hearing the Word. The purpose of God's Word is to impact and change our lives.

James 1:22-25 is a warning to beware of self-deception. Hearing God's Word without doing (obeying) God's Word is evidence of an unregenerate heart. Those who do not obey God's Word are not on the road to heaven. Sin brings death. We cannot hope for salvation while at the same time continuing to live in sin. This is self-deception. Those who hear the Word must also be doers of the Word.

Many professing believers are self-deceived. They use God's Word to argue theology, to win philosophical debates, to support their pet doctrines, their personal preferences and even to support their sinful biases. But when it comes to personal holiness they have not allowed the Word of God to mold their lives or change their behavior. God's Word should lead us to be morally pure, to curb the filthy language that we may use, to cause us to be kind, gentle, to avoid gossip, hatred, prejudice, to be better husbands and wives, to be more obedient to the commands of God's law, and to make us more like Christ. If we only use the Word to argue our points of preference and biases we have failed to use the Word properly.

I have found that it is not only beneficial to read and hear God's Word preached but it is also very beneficial to use the Bible as a guide to your prayer life.

## Praying Through The Bible

MANY YEARS AGO I READ THE BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE WHITEFIELD. In that thrilling account of the life of the famous English evangelist I learned how he read through his Bible on his knees every day. From that time I have tried to practice this myself. I would pray through the Psalms and even other places in Scripture. In my prayers I would speak Scripture back to the Lord and make the Words of God my petitions and requests. Sometimes I would even ask the Lord for further insight and wisdom into some of the verses that I was using in my prayers. I have found that those who regularly pray through the Word of God will have no difficulty staying at their prayers for longer periods of time. Those who complain that they have a hard time praying for significant periods of time will not have this problem if they use Scripture as a guide for their prayer life. Pray the words of God's Word back to the Lord. Here is a brief example of what I mean. Psalm 1:1-2, reads, "*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*"

MY PRAYER MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS,

"DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN, MAY I BE LIKE THIS BLESSED MAN WHO walks not in the counsel of those who are ungodly. Keep me from ungodly men. May I walk with those who love You and Your laws. Lord, keep me from walking on the path of sinners. Guide my steps that I might not ever sit in the seat of those who scorn your truths and Your people. Lord God may I delight in Your precious Word. May I treasure it's contents and meditate in it day and night. Forgive me for failing to spend time in Your Word. Grant me this passion that David the Psalmist describes here. Lord I long to be like this man who is blessed by You. Make me a holy and blessed man so that I might live for Your glory." You can see how the Scriptures can be a wonderful and helpful aid in your times of prayer.

### My Bible Reading Program

I TRY TO READ THROUGH FIVE DIFFERENT PASSAGES EACH DAY WHEN I read my Bible. This Bible reading plan is one that I designed for myself because it gives me the opportunity to be in five different places in the Bible as I read it each day. Here is how my Bible reading breaks down:

1. I read several chapters in the Old Testament.
2. I read five Psalms each day.
3. I read the chapter of Proverbs that corresponds to the day.
4. I read several chapters in the four gospels.
5. I read a chapter in the New Testament.

WHEN I FINISH THE PSALMS AND PROVERBS EACH MONTH I JUST repeat them. And when I come to the end of the Old Testament, or the four gospels, or the New Testament I just start over again. This way I am in five different places in the Bible each day. I am not just in the Old Testament or in the New Testament. I have really enjoyed this method and have found that it nourishes my faith and life much more than just reading two or three chapters a day in one part of the Bible.

Many people have found the Bible reading program by the Scottish Pastor Robert Murray McChenye to be of great value. Any google search will bring it up and you can down load it for free. I am sharing here what McChyene had to say on his Bible reading plan. He discusses the dangers and the advantages of such a reading program.

### A Very Simple Method Of Reading Through Your Bible Every Year

1. Read one chapter per day in the Old Testament (Start with the book of Genesis)

2. Read one chapter per day in the gospels (Start with the book of Matthew)
3. Read one chapter per day in the New Testament (Start with the book of Acts)

THERE ARE 1189 CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE. IF YOU READ A LITTLE more than 3 chapters per day this will insure that you will read through the entire Bible in one year.

When you read your Bible there are key questions that you should be thinking about as you read. These questions will enable you to read the Bible with the intention of having the Bible change and impact your life. Keep a note book handy and write down any verses or thoughts that come to you or are a blessing to you. You might even write down questions that you have on a certain text, chapter or passage that you can ask your pastor or those who disciple you later on. Here are the key questions to be thinking about when you read your Bible:

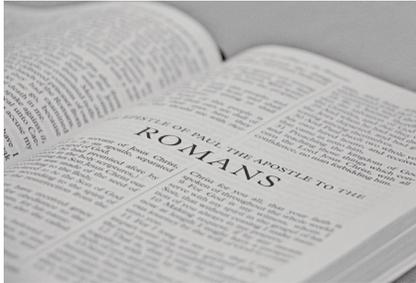
1. Are there any sins to avoid or repent of?
2. Does this passage have any special promise from God that I need to notice and apply to my daily life and walk?
3. Does this text or passage give me any commands or examples to obey and follow?
4. What doctrines do I see in this text or passage?
5. How has this portion of the Word of God impacted my life?
6. Are there things in this text or passage that I need to share with others so that they too will have spiritual blessings from the things I am learning?
7. Is there anything in this passage that should cause me to stop and praise the Lord or give thanks to Him?
8. Has the reading of my Bible today caused me to worship God?

## Chapter Fourteen

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# THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSES IN THE BIBLE TO MEMORIZE

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*“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee.”*

Psalm 119:11

**W**hen I first became a believer I came across a Bible memory program. The program had several hundred verses in it. One of the best things that happened to me was to enroll in that program and to spend many hours meditating on and memorizing God’s precious Word. This was a life changing experience for me.

. . .

WHY SHOULD WE MEMORIZE THE WORD OF GOD? A PASTOR ONCE gave his church these six reasons why they should memorize the Word of God. His six reasons were:

- “Conformity to Christ - Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.
- Daily Triumph over Sin - As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.
- Daily Triumph over Satan - When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight.
- Comfort and Counsel for People You Love - When the heart full of God’s love can draw on the mind full of God’s word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.
- Communicating the Gospel to Unbelievers - Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn.
- Communion with God in the Enjoyment of His Person and Ways - The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes.”

I

HERE ARE FIFTY GREAT VERSES TO MEMORIZE. I HAVE SELECTED SOME major topics to cover in this Bible memorization plan.

God

1. Genesis 1:1
2. Deuteronomy 31:6
3. Isaiah 9:6
4. Isaiah 40:28
5. Zephaniah 3:17

Salvation

1. John 3:16
2. John 14:6
3. Romans 3:23
4. Romans 6:23
5. Romans 10:9
6. Romans 10:17
7. I Corinthians 5:17
8. Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus Christ

1. Hebrews 13:8
2. Philippians 4:13

Comfort

1. Psalm 27:1
2. Psalm 46:1
3. Isaiah 40:30-31
4. Isaiah 41:10
5. Jeremiah 29:11
6. Lamentations 3:22-23
7. Matthew 11:28-30
8. Romans 8:28
9. I Corinthians 12:9

### Living For Jesus

1. Psalm 19:14
2. Psalm 37:4-5
3. Proverbs 3:5-6
4. John 10:10
5. Acts 1:8
6. I Corinthians 15:58
7. Romans 12:1-2
8. Galatians 2:20
9. Galatians 5:22-23
10. II Timothy 1:7
11. Hebrews 11:6
12. Hebrews 12:1-2
13. James 1:22
14. James 2:17

### The Bible

1. Psalm 119:9,11
2. Psalm 119:105
3. Matthew 4:4
4. II Timothy 3:16

### Confession of Sin

1. I Corinthians 10:13
2. I John 1:9
3. James 5:16

### Purpose For Life

1. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
2. Micah 6:8
3. Matthew 5:16
4. Matthew 28:19-20

5. Matthew 6:33

Topical Memory System

AN EXCELLENT BIBLE MEMORY PROGRAM CAN BE FOUND WITH THE Navigators Topical Memory System. This is a wonderful method of hiding the Word of God in your heart. You can order this online or find it at your local Christian bookstore. When you receive your Topical Memory System you will receive small packets with verses printed out on memory cards that you can carry with you throughout the day to make your memory work so much easier.

LIVE THE NEW LIFE

- Christ the Center II Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20
- Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 John 14:21
- The Word II Timothy 3:16, Joshua 1:8
- Prayer John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7
- Fellowship Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:24-25
- Witnessing Matthew 4:19, Romans 1:16

PROCLAIM CHRIST

- All Have Sinned Romans 3:23 Isaiah 53:6
- Sin's Penalty Romans 6:23 Hebrews 9:27
- Christ Paid The Penalty Romans 5:8 I Peter 3:18
- Salvation Is Not By Works Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5
- Must Receive Christ John 1:12 Revelation 3:20
- Assurance of Salvation I John 5:13 John 5:24

Rely On God's Resources

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- His Spirit I Corinthians 3:16 I Corinthians 2:12
- His Strength Isaiah 41:10 Philippians 4:13
- His Faithfulness Lamentations 3:22-23 Numbers 23:19
- His Peace Isaiah 26:3 I Peter 5:7
- His Provision Romans 8:32 Philippians 4:19
- His Help In Temptation Hebrews 2:18 Psalm 119:9,11

## BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

- Put Christ First Matthew 6:33 Luke 9:23
- Separate From The World I John 2:15-16 Romans 12:2
- Be stedfast I Corinthians 15:58 Hebrews 12:3
- Serve Others Mark 10:45 II Corinthians 4:5
- Give Generously Proverbs 3:9-10 II Corinthians 9:6-7
- Develop World Vision Acts 1:8 Matthew 28:19-20

## GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS

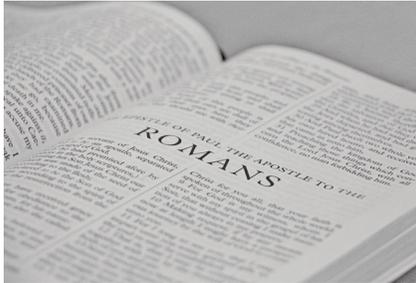
- Love John 13:34-35 I John 3:18
- Humility Philippians 2:3-4 I Peter 5:5-7
- Purity Ephesians 5:3 I Peter 2:11
- Honesty Leviticus 19:11 Acts 24:16
- Faith Hebrews 11:6 Romans 4:20-21
- Good Works Galatians 6:9-10 Matthew 5:16

*Chapter Fifteen*

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**GREAT QUOTES ON THE BIBLE**

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“**A**s in paradise, God walks in Scripture seeking man.”  
**Ambrose**

“READ THE BIBLE THROUGH, PRAY THE BIBLE IN, LIVE THE BIBLE out, and pass the Bible on.” **Dr. Del Fehsenfeld.**

. . .

**ROBERT DICKIE**

“MANY OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, MEANINGFUL AND THOUGHT-provoking pictures of Jesus Christ are contained in the pages of the Old Testament. Jesus made this point to His disciples on the Emmaus road: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:27, NIV). Those same disciples, after Jesus had revealed himself and vanished from their sight, exclaimed: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32, NIV). In Christ in the Old Testament, the great 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon makes our own hearts burn through the revelation of Christ in the Old Testament. This collection of sixty studies of Christ in the Old Testament draws on the New Testament revelation to understand and interpret the Old Testament.” **C. H. Spurgeon**

“THE HOLY SCRIPTURES ARE OUR LETTERS FROM HOME.” **AUGUSTINE of Hippo**

“A BIBLE THAT’S FALLING APART USUALLY BELONGS TO SOMEONE WHO isn’t.”— **Charles H. Spurgeon**

“I AM A CREATURE OF A DAY. I AM A SPIRIT COME FROM GOD, AND returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book.” **John Wesley**

“FOR SOME YEARS NOW I HAVE READ THROUGH THE BIBLE TWICE every year. If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.” **Martin Luther**

. . .

“WHO DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG IN THE WORLD? WHO has the authority to define morality for all of creation? It is not the courts, congress, the media, public opinion, the "politically correct" police, the "tolerance" brigade or even the church. The only answer has been, is and always will be Jesus Christ. You can find His opinion on a great variety of subjects in His best seller... The Bible.” **Jeffrey E. Ramey**

“YOU MAY AS WELL QUIT READING AND HEARING THE WORD OF God, and give it to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it.” **Martin Luther**

“THE WORD OF GOD HIDDEN IN THE HEART IS A STUBBORN VOICE TO suppress.” **Billy Graham**

“IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RIGHTLY GOVERN THE WORLD WITHOUT GOD and the Bible.” **George Washington**

“IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN MY THOUGHTS OR STYLE TO COMMEND, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures.” **Daniel Webster**

“I BEGAN TO READ THE HOLY SCRIPTURES UPON MY KNEES, LAYING aside all other books, and praying over, if possible, every line and word. This proved meat indeed and drink indeed to my soul. I daily received fresh life, light and power from above.” **George Whitefield**

“ONCE WE TRULY GRASP THE MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, IT is impossible to read the Old Testament again without seeing Christ on every page, in every story, foreshadowed or anticipated in every

**ROBERT DICKIE**

event and narrative. The Bible must be read as a whole, beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation, letting promise and fulfillment guide our expectations for what we will find there.” **Michael Horton**

“SCRIPTURE IS THE MANGER IN WHICH THE CHRIST LIES.’ AS A mother goes to a cradle to find her baby so the Christian goes to the Bible to find Jesus. Don’t let us inspect the cradle and forget to worship the baby.” **Martin Luther**

“APPLY YOURSELF WHOLLY TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND APPLY THE Scriptures wholly to yourself.” **Johann A. Bengel**

“REMEMBER THAT IT IS NOT HASTY READING, BUT SERIOUS meditation on holy and heavenly truths, that makes them prove sweet and profitable to the soul. It is not the mere touching of the flower by the bee that gathers honey, but her abiding for a time on the flower that draws out the sweet. It is not he that reads most, but he that meditates most, that will prove to be the choicest, sweetest, wisest, and strongest Christian.” **Thomas Brooks**

“READ THE BIBLE AS THOUGH IT WERE SOMETHING ENTIRELY unfamiliar, as though it had not been set before you ready-made. Face the book with a new attitude as something new.” **Martin Buber**

“GOD’S BOOK OF “GRACE” IS JUST LIKE HIS BOOK OF NATURE; IT IS HIS thoughts written out. This great book, the Bible, this most precious volume is the heart of God made legible; it is the gold of God’s love, beaten out into gold leaf, so that therewith our thoughts might be plated, and we also might have golden, good, and holy thoughts concerning him.” “Pray and read, read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men.” – **John Bunyan**

. . .

"I EXHORT AND ENTREAT YOU ALL, DISREGARD WHAT THIS MAN AND that man thinks about such things, and inquire from the Holy Scriptures all these things." **John Chrysostom**

"I HAVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE WORDS FOR MY INMOST THOUGHTS, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness." **Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

"HOLY BIBLE, BOOK DIVINE,  
Precious Treasure,  
Thou art mine;  
Mine to teach me whence I came,  
Mine to teach me what I am" **John Burton**

"THE BIBLE IS THE TRUEST UTTERENCE THAT EVER CAME BY alphabetic letters from the soul of man, through which, as through a window divinely opened, all men can look into the stillness of eternity, and discern in glimpses their far-distant, long-forgotten home" **Thomas Carlyle**

"THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS? IT IS SIMPLE. IT IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths" **George Washington Carver**

"THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR SOCIETY AND OUR GOVERNMENT REST SO much on the teachings of the BIBLE that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country" **Calvin Coolidge**

. . .

**ROBERT DICKIE**

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MENTALLY OR SOCIALLY ENSLAVE A BIBLE reading people. The principles of The BIBLE are the groundwork of human freedom" **Horace Greeley**

"WE ALL THEREFORE HAVE TO FACE THIS ULTIMATE AND FINAL question: Do we accept the BIBLE as the Word of GOD, as the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice, or do we not? Is the whole of my thinking governed by Scripture, or do I come with my reason and pick and choose out of Scripture and sit in judgment upon it, putting myself and modern knowledge forward as the ultimate standard and authority? The issue is crystal clear. Do I accept Scripture as a revelation from GOD, or do I trust to speculation, human knowledge, human learning, human understanding and human reasons. Or, putting it still more simply, Do I pin my faith to, and subject all my thinking to, what I read in the BIBLE? Or do I defer to modern knowledge, to modern learning, to what people think today, to what we know at this present time which was not known in the past? It is inevitable that we occupy one or the other of those two positions." **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

"SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK. THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU from sin" **D. L. Moody**

"HERE THEN, IS THE REAL PROBLEM OF OUR NEGLIGENCE. WE FAIL in our duty to study GOD's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, no so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.", **R.C. Sproul**

"NOBODY EVER OUTGROWS SCRIPTURES; THE BOOK WIDENS AND deepens with our years", **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

. . .

" A LITTLE FAITH WILL BRING YOUR SOUL TO HEAVEN, A GREAT faith will bring heaven to your soul" **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

"... THEN, SINCE GOD WROTE IT, MARK ITS TRUTHFULNESS. IF I had written it there would be worms of critics who would at once swarm on it, and would cover it with their evil spawn; had I written it, there would be men who would pull it to pieces at once, and perhaps quite right to. But this is the Word of GOD. Come, search, ye critics, and find a flaw; examine it from its Genesis to its Revelation and find error. This is a vein of pure gold, unalloyed by quartz or any earthly substance. This is a star without a speck; a sun without a blot; a light without darkness; a moon without paleness; a glory without dimness. O BIBLE! It cannot be said of any other book, that it is perfect and pure; but of Thee we can declare all wisdom is gathered up in Thee, without a particle of folly. This is the Judge that ends the strife, where wit and reason fail. This is the Book untainted by error, but is pure, unalloyed, perfect truth. Why? Because GOD wrote it. Ah! Charge GOD with error if you please, tell Him that His Book is not what it ought to be ... Blessed BIBLE, Thou art all truth." **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

"TELL YOUR PRINCE THAT THIS BOOK (THE BIBLE) IS THE SECRET OF England's greatness." **Queen Victoria - to an African Prince**

"THE STARS, THAT IN THEIR COURSES ROLL,  
Have much instruction given;  
But Thy good Word informs my soul  
How I may climb to Heaven" **Isaac Watts**

"IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN MY THOUGHTS OR STYLE TO COMMEND, the credit is due my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the BIBLE, our

**ROBERT DICKIE**

country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity”, **Daniel Webster**

“THIS BOOK HAD TO BE WRITTEN BY ONE OF THREE PEOPLE: GOOD men, bad men or God. It couldn’t have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don’t lie and deceive. It couldn’t have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves. It leaves only one conclusion. It was given by divine inspiration of God.” **John Wesley**, British religious leader who founded Methodism, 1703-1791

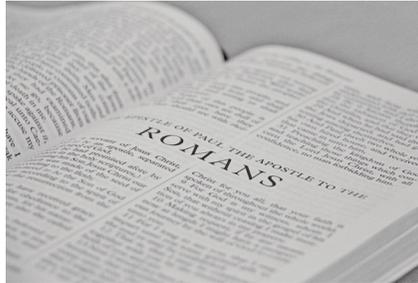
“ENGLAND HAS TWO BOOKS; THE BIBLE AND SHAKESPEARE. ENGLAND made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England.” **Victor Hugo**, French writer, 1802-1885

## Chapter Sixteen

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# THE GREAT QUESTIONS FOUND IN THE BIBLE

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*“A fool can ask more questions than a  
wise man can answer”*

Anonymous

**B**ible scholars estimate that there are approximately 3,300 questions in the Bible. Questions are a good way to learn and grow in knowledge. We find that the great questions in the Bible search the heart and prepare the soul for eternity better than any philosophy ever devised by man. The great questions in the Bible touch every area of significance in a person's life. The Bible is indeed a very searching, convicting, and life changing book. The questions in

this chapter are the greatest questions not only asked in the Bible but that you will ever encounter in life at all. It would be a mark of profound wisdom if those reading this book made it their goal to be able to answer each of these questions in a satisfactory way.

Here is a partial list of some of the most famous and most important questions that are found in the Bible:

1. **“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden. . .?’”** Genesis 3:1 This is the first question in the Bible and it marks the first time that God’s authority is being questioned. Satan is tempting Eve and she succumbed to the temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. We should learn from this question that we too, must never question what God has told us. Our duty as believers is to obey what ever the Lord has told us in His Word.
2. **“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”** Genesis 3:9. God is asking this question. He knew exactly where Adam was. This question was for Adam’s benefit giving him a chance to come clean and to confess his sins to the Lord. Today we should each ask ourselves, “Where are we in relation to the God of the universe? Are we right with God? Are we in good standing with the Lord? And are we walking with Him every day?”
3. **“...Am I my brother’s keeper?”** Genesis 4:9. This was the response that Cain made to the Lord who asked him where his brother was. Cain had just killed his brother and the Lord came to him to deal with his sin. By asking this question God was giving Cain an opportunity to confess his sin. This question is relevant to all of us today in that the answer to this question is that we are indeed are brother’s keeper. This means we have a Christian responsibility to care for and minister to those whose lives cross our paths.
4. **“Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?”** Genesis 18:25. Abraham asks this question as he makes his prayerful appeal to God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. This is a question that we should ask all of those who may be

questioning the loving providence of God. When things may look very bleak and we are tempted to conclude that what God is allowing to unfold must be a mistake we should ask, "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" Of course He always does what is good and right. We may not understand the mysteries of His ways but in due time the Lord will reveal to us that He is too wise to err and too loving to be unkind.

5. **"Do you still hold your integrity? Curse God and die."** Job 2:9. This is a question from Job's wife who is deeply bitter and angry against God because of the hard providences that have come his way. This question reminds us of how we should not respond to God in those difficult and perplexing times of life. We must not be surprised that in a fallen world we will face at times a hard providence that will test our faith and shake us to the very depths of our souls.
6. **"If a man dies, shall he live again?"** Job 14:14. This is one of the most profound questions in life. Is there life after death? Job asks this question during the agonizing time of his afflictions and trials. This is a question that all men need to ask of themselves. And the answer to this question is only found in the Bible which is the Word of God. The answer to this question is yes! Man will live again either in heaven or in hell. Because of this all men should be prepared at all times to meet the Lord. "It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgement." Hebrews 9:27.
7. **"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the Son of man that You visit him?"** Psalm 8:3-4. This is a question from the Psalmist as he gazes at the awesome heavens and all the stars that fill the night skies. Overwhelmed by such beauty, majesty and the infinite greatness that the creation reveals he cries out, "What is man that You are mindful of him?" This question should humble our souls and prepare us for humble and

faithful service to our Creator who alone is worthy to be praised.

8. ***“How can a young man cleanse his way?”*** Psalm 119:9.  
When we live a life based on the principles and teachings of the Word of God we will see a measure of victory over sin and a deep growth in sanctification.
9. ***“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”*** Isaiah 6:8.  
This was a question that the Lord asked of Isaiah. The answer that Isaiah gave is the correct one, “Here am I send me.” Each of us must consider this a question that God is asking all of us as we consider being a faithful disciple to Christ. Are we willing to spend and be spent in the service of our heavenly King the Lord Jesus Christ?
10. ***“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence...?”*** Psalm 139:7. David ask this question. The answer is very obvious, “We cannot escape the all seeing eye of God or ever be in a place where we can sin in secret and feel as though God has not seen what we have just done. This is a question every person should ask themselves.
11. ***“Is the Lord among us or not?”*** Exodus 17:7. This was a question that was asked by the children of Israel when they tempted God. Today we know we have the indwelling presence of God with us at all times. But do we have the manifest presence of God with us? We know the Lord will not forsake His people but O that He would come down among us in His mighty power and reveal His glory to us as we serve Him here below.
12. ***“How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him...”*** I Kings 18:21. This is a question that Elijah asks the the people who were with him on Mt. Carmel. Elijah challenged the people to choose which God they would serve. We must ask this same question today. God will have no rivals in our hearts draining our love, devotion, or service away from His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

13. ***“...Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*** Esther 4:14. This question is asked of Esther by her uncle Mordecai. This is a question that all of God’s people need to ask themselves. In this very moment of our existence God has planned every detail of our lives down to the most minute instances. God has indeed brought us to this very time and moment. We are not alive or here by chance or accident. This is our time. This is our day. let us rise up and serve the Lord.
14. ***“Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery For the health of the daughter of my people.”*** Jeremiah 8:22. These are questions that are asked by Jeremiah the weeping prophet when he wept over the sins of the Lord’s people. The answer to this question is that there is indeed a balm in Gilead. There is a great physician. His name is Jesus Christ. He is our soothing balm and healing physician.
15. ***“Is there Any God Besides Me?”*** Isaiah 44:6-8. This is another question that the Lord asks of His people.
16. ***“To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike?”*** Isaiah 46:5. This is a question from the Lord asking His people to compare Him to any other god or deity. The God of the Bible is uncomparable. No other deity could even begin to compare to the awesome God of the Bible. Have you asked yourself this question? Who is like the God whom we serve?
17. ***“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?...”*** Matthew 2:2. This was an insincere question that was asked by King Herod to the wise men. Herod had no intentions of worshipping Jesus. Where is He who was born King of the Jews in your life? Is He Lord? Is He your Savior?
18. ***“...Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?”*** Matthew 16:15. This is a question that Jesus asked His disciples. We too should ask ourselves this question. How we answer this question will determine where we will spend eternity. This question, from Jesus, is one of the most

important questions a person will ever be asked. For most people, Jesus is just a good teacher. To others He is just a great prophet. For others He is a great moral teacher. Peter's answer, "*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,*" is the correct answer, Matthew 16:16. C. S. Lewis addresses the issue of the various understandings of who Jesus is in his book *Mere Christianity*: "*I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*"

19. **"...Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'"** Matthew 18:21. Every Christian must ask himself in a similar way, "How often should I forgive my Christian brother?" The Lord is showing us that Christian love calls on us to be forgiving to the greatest length. Seventy times seven is hyperbole, it is exaggeration for effect. May we all be a forgiving people.
20. **"What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"** Matthew 27:22. This is a question asked by Pilate, the ruling Roman governor of Palestine, concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. This is also a question that every one of us should be asking, "What shall we do with Jesus?" The answer is that we should love Him, receive Him, follow Him, and serve Him all the days of our lives.
21. **"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole**

- world, loses his own soul?”* Mark 8:36. Jesus asks this question of all men. The answer is very obvious. Nothing that man may pursue is worth the loss of his soul in hell fire forever.
22. **“... Which is the first commandment of all”** Mark 12:28. This was the question of a scribe to Jesus. Do you know the answer to this question? Jesus answered and said, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all our heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
23. **“Good teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”** Luke 18:18. This was a question that was asked of Jesus by the rich young ruler. There is nothing we can do or add to the salvation that God has provided for us in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. What we are told to do by Christ is to repent and put our faith in the finished work of Christ.
24. **“How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time in his mother’s womb and be born?”** John 3:4. This was a question that a pharisee named Nicodemus asked Jesus about the New Birth. Everyone must ask themselves, “Have I been born again?” There is nothing more important than making sure that you have been born again by the Spirit of God.
25. **“Do you also want to go away?”** John 6:67. This is what Jesus asked His disciples after many people walked away from Him.
26. **“Pilate said to Him, ‘what is truth’”** John 18:38. Pilate asked Jesus this question. Every person who ever lives should pause at some time in their life and ask, “What is truth?” We find the answer to this question in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the truth.
27. **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** Acts 16:30. This was a question that the jailor of Philippi asked the apostle Paul. Everyone who is seeking the Lord should ask this question

as well. What is it that God wants me to do in order for me to be saved from Hell for all eternity?

28. ***“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”*** Romans 6:1. Paul is asking this rhetorical question to those he is addressing in the book of Romans. This question relates to the doctrine of sanctification. Every Christian must know how to answer this question.
29. ***“What shall we say then to these things? If God is for us who can be against us?”*** Romans 8:31. The apostle Paul is asking his readers at Rome this question. Every believer should ask this question. And the answer should be a huge comfort to us. The answer is that no one could be against us that could defeat or drive God out of our lives.
30. ***“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”*** Hebrews 2:3. This question is asked by the apostle Paul in the book of Hebrews and is a question that every person should ask themselves.

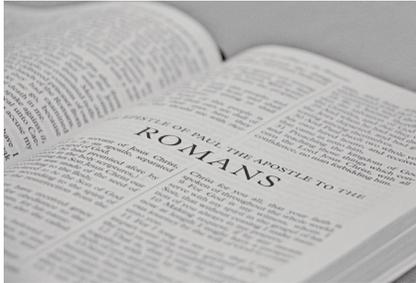
## *Chapter Seventeen*

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# RECOMMENDED READING FOR THOSE SERIOUS

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## About Their Faith



“Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.”

II Timothy 4:13

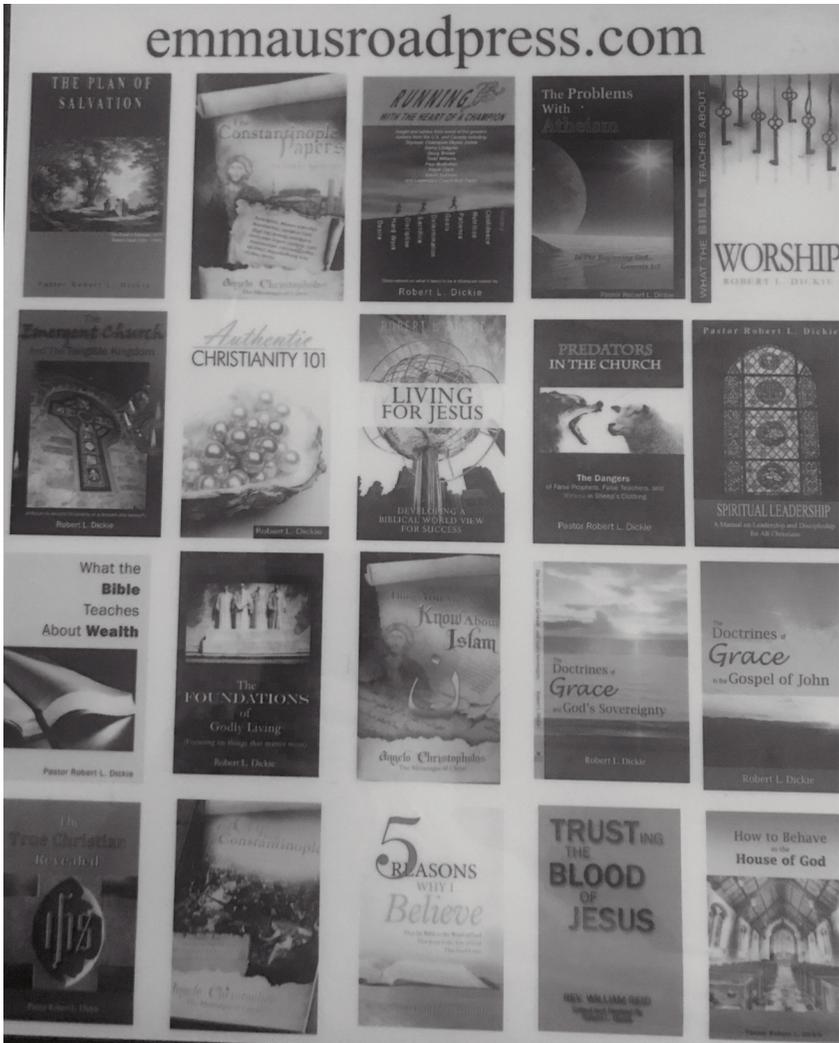


Build a library of good books to read!

**T**his book was an attempt to set before you some of the basic information about the Bible. Here is a list of other books that you will find very helpful in your study of the Scriptures and of the Christian life.

1. *The Sermon On The Mount* by Martin Lloyd-Jones
2. *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*
3. *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer
4. *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tower
5. *Pilgrims Progress* by John Bunyan
6. *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis
7. *Romans Chapter Five* by David Martyn Lloyd-Jones
8. *The Shadow of the Almighty* by Elizabeth Eliot
9. *Bondage of the Will* by Martin Luther
10. *Ashamed of the Gospel* by John McArthur
11. *The Puritan Hope* by Ian Murray
12. *The Forgotten Spurgeon* by Ian Murray
13. *A Body Of Divinity* by Thomas Watson
14. *The Ten Commandments* by Thomas Watson

15. *Living For Jesus* by Robert L. Dickie
16. *Spiritual Leadership* by Robert L. Dickie
17. *The Foundations of Godly Living* by Robert L. Dickie
18. *The Doctrines of Grace and God's Sovereignty* by Robert L. Dickie



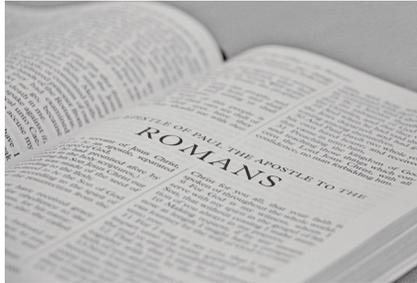
EMMAUS ROAD PRESS HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF BOOKS DESIGNED to aid believers in discipleship and commitment to Christ.

## Chapter Eighteen

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# QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

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**H**ere is a list of important questions that many new Christians may have:

1. How do I know if I am really saved?
2. What is God's will for my life?
3. What does God require of me once I am saved?
4. What kind of church should I worship in?
5. What does it mean to worship God?

6. Where should I start reading the Bible?
7. What translation of the Bible should I use?
8. Why is it important to be baptized.
9. How do I share my faith with others?
10. What is sin and how do I over come it

How do I know if I am really saved?

WHEN A PERSON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN BY PUTTING THEIR FAITH IN Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior there may arise from time to time doubts about whether or not if you are really saved. So how does a person know if they are the Lord's or not? The Bible tells us that the true Christian will have certain marks or characteristics that distinguish him from those who don't know the Lord. Read I John 1:7, 2:3, 3:9, 5:2. These verses will give you the clue as to the kinds of things we should see in the life a true child of God.

The Bible teaches us that those who have been born again will bear the testimony of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. There are many who profess to be Christians but are living lives that discredits everything they profess. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. These words were written by the apostle in the book of Hebrews in 12:14.

No one should assume that they are going to heaven if they have not been radically changed by the power of the Holy Spirit when they were born again. The goal of salvation is to call a people into fellowship with the triune God. These people will become worshippers of God and will reflect the characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

The marks of a true Christian are many. Here are a few of the most important ones that we should expect to see in the lives of those who really know the Lord. If these are absent there should be serious concern whether or not the person has been born again. The marks are:

1. Obedience

**ROBERT DICKIE**

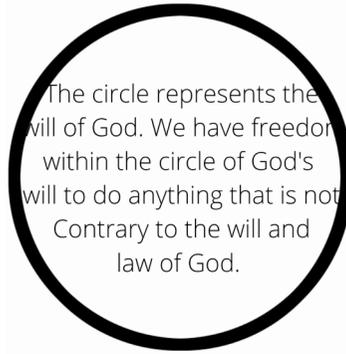
2. Worship
3. Love for Christ
4. Love for the Word of God
5. Love for the brethren
6. Prayer
7. Overcoming sin
8. Living a consistent life
9. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, Gal. 5:22-23
10. Conviction of sin

IF THESE MARKS ARE MISSING IN YOUR LIFE I WOULD ENCOURAGE you to seek the Lord, ask for forgiveness and repentance and study the doctrine of justification by faith. Only as we trust in Christ and His shed blood, and find ourselves covered by His righteousness can we have the hope of eternal life. Don't settle for a nominal faith. Make your calling and election sure!

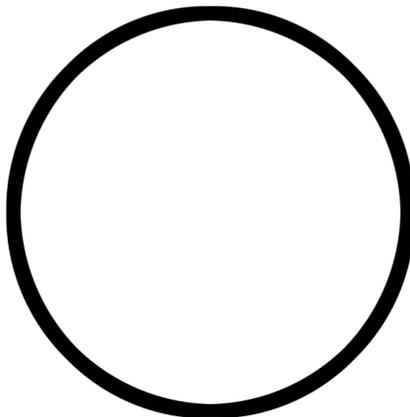
**What Is God's Will For My Life?**

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT QUESTION. FINDING THE WILL OF God for one's life is absolutely essential for the true follower of Christ. To help us with this first please read Proverbs 12:15, Romans 12:1-2. When I share with people the principles of finding God's will for their life I usually begin by drawing a circle. I call this "the circle of God's will."

## The Circle Of God's Will



Anything outside of the circle of God's will is a sin.



THIS CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD'S LAW. WITHIN the boundaries of God's law we have freedom to make multitudes of choices. For example. The boundaries of God's law forbids us to marry outside of our faith. But once we make the decision to obey that law or principle we have freedom to choose any Christian mate within the circle of God's law. So there might be any number of Christian partners that we could lawfully choose to be a partner in life. But anyone outside the circle of God's law or will is forbidden to us a possible choice for a mate.

Another principle is the ability to discern between two different kinds of will that God has revealed to us. In theology God has two different kinds of will. God has a decreed will and a revealed will. It is important to be able to differentiate between the two.

1. The Decreed or sovereign will of God
2. The Revealed will of God

THERE IS THE DECREED OR SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD, AND THERE IS the revealed will of God. The Decreed will of God is that which God ordains to come to pass. It cannot be defeated or prevented. The revealed will of God is what God may desire men to do but it can be resisted and disobeyed. An example of God's revealed will would be His command that we obey His laws. This is what God has revealed to mankind. But in all of our lives there is the willful and sinful choice to disobey the laws of God. Then there is the decreed will of God. These are things that God has chosen to do and there is nothing that can defeat that decision of God. When we seek to find the will of God we can keep these two things in mind. The Word of God reveals the Lord's revealed will. We can only know this revealed will by reading His Word. His decreed will unfolds around us and we cannot prevent it but can only stand in awe of God's mysterious ways as they become plain to us as they unfold. To find God's will for our lives we must know His revealed will and that comes by knowing the Word of God.

. . .

TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE IS ONE of the greatest abilities that a person can have. It is not easy to do this. There are principles, however, that if followed, will greatly aid in the process. These principles, based on the Word of God, were taught me by my Father-in-law many years ago. He shared these principles with me over and over again. I have found that praying over these principles when I needed to determine what the will of God was for my life was a tremendous benefit to me.

### Principles For Finding God's Will

1. Every decision must operate within the circle of God's will. (Scripture gives us the boundaries for every decision that we make.) Everything in the circle represents the will of God. You may have many different things you are allowed to do. But everything outside the circle represents things that are forbidden by God's Word and God's law. Any decision you make must conform to the Word and laws of God.
2. There is wisdom in a multitude of counselors the Bible teaches. Don't hesitate to get advice from multiple sources who are godly Christians. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise." Proverbs 12:15.
3. When seeking God's will ask yourself, "Where can I glorify God the most?"
4. Has God opened up any doors and similarly has He closed any doors?
5. God is often pleased to give us the desires of our hearts. See Psalm 37:4.
6. God gives inner peace concerning the direction He would have us to go. Do you have inner peace about your decisions? Don't make any decision until you have God's peace.
7. Use sanctified common sense in making decisions.

8. We all have spiritual gifts. Ask yourself where can you use your gifts best for God's glory?
9. Pray for wisdom and specifically ask the Lord to guide you. It is surprising to me how many people neglect to pray and to seek the face of God when they are making a decision.
10. In the end, after a decision has been made, don't second guess yourself. There is freedom within the circle of God's will. Whatever decision you have made now humbly live with the consequences of that decision and trust the Lord.
11. Husbands and wives should pray together on all matters of importance. Wives should not be afraid to share their feelings or concerns. But wives should be very ready to follow the leadership of their husbands.
12. Don't make a decision based on comfort or convenience.
13. Don't make a decision based on the fear of man.
14. Don't be afraid to launch out into the deep. Sometimes it is a great test of our character to step out in faith and trust God in a difficult or desert place. Abraham was called to leave his home and go into a strange land. Jesus sent His disciples into a storm. He did this deliberately.
15. I would not make a decision if my wife was not on board or at least willing to follow me. If she is adamant against some decision I would wait until we could find unity together.

### What Does God Require Of Me Once I Am Saved?

GOD REQUIRES THAT YOU BECOME A TRUE DISCIPLE AND FOLLOWER of His Son Jesus Christ. To learn what a disciple is please read Matthew chapters 5-7.

The Bible teaches us that after a person becomes a Christian they are called disciples of Christ. A disciple is one who is a follower, student, and learner. In the Bible, disciples were followers and students of Jesus Christ the Messiah. Those who came to know Christ as their Savior shared in the work of making others the disciples of Christ too.

Discipleship is a process where the disciple ( follower, student, learner) grows into the likeness of Christ and is being conformed into

His image. The true disciple longs to be like the One he studies. A Christian disciple yearns to be more like Christ every day.

Discipleship is also a calling. We are chosen by God's grace and called to be His disciples. Discipleship is also a discipline that is faithfully and passionately pursued by the disciple.

Discipleship implies hard work, deep study, faithful commitment, constant vigilance, unfeigned faith, humble surrender, praise and communion with God and holy living.

There is a cost to being a disciple of Christ. Few people today understand the cost of discipleship. This is a forgotten topic by so many pastors and Christian leaders. To be a disciple of Christ will cost you everything. There is no such thing as being a half disciple, a part time disciple, a lukewarm disciple, or an uncommitted disciple. Disciples are called upon to make sacrifices for the kingdom of God. Disciples must deny themselves. Disciples must die to self. Disciples must live for the glory of God. Disciples must mortify their flesh. Disciples must be willing to suffer with Christ, face trials, tribulations, loneliness, humiliations, and some times even the loss of your life.

Jesus said, *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."* Luke 9:23. Jesus also said, *"...No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."* Luke 9:62. Disciples do not look back. They do not go back, They do not fantasize about going back. They have their heart and their faith set solely on the Lord Jesus and His kingdom work.

To be a disciple of Christ is one of the great joys and pleasures of being a child of God. What an amazing privilege belongs to those who have been saved and called into fellowship with the triune God of the Bible.

THE MARKS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST INCLUDE:

1. Love for God's Word.
2. Love the Living Word—Jesus Christ.
3. Love for the brethren.
4. Love for the lost.

5. Holiness of life.
6. Overcoming the world.
7. Persevering in the faith.
8. Obedient to the Pastor or elders of your church.
9. Faithful in the attendance to the Word of God.
10. Brokenness over sin.
11. Humility before the Lord.
12. A faithful prayer life.

### What Kind Of Church Should I Worship In?

The Bible teaches us that those who have been born again make up the body of Christ which is His church. The church is the main instrument that God is using to accomplish His eternal purposes in the world. The apostle in the book of Hebrews tells us that we are not to be negligent in attending the worship service of the local church. Hebrews 10:25 records, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.” It’s impossible for a follower of Christ to be a faithful disciple if he is not involved in a Bible-believing and Christ-exalting church. It is in the church that we are nourished in our faith and strengthened in our resolve to walk with God.

As believers, we are The Bride of Christ. We are the Army of God. We are the light and salt to a dying world. So apart from the ministry of the local church, the bride is not prepared to meet her husband; the army is not trained for warfare; the light is not kept lit, and the salt loses its saltiness. If we are to be mighty for God in this world, we need His church.

How do we define the church? The word church means a called out body or company. The church is the gathering of the elect of God from all the nations of the earth. By the preaching of the Gospel, the individual members of the church are called out from the world and brought into the fellowship of the body of Christ. Those chosen and

called by God's sovereign grace make up the New Testament Church. Acts 13:48, "Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord, And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed."

The church has been described by a number of different terms. It has been called "The Church Militant" to refer to the church on earth active in the fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil. It has been called "The Church Triumphant" to describe the church in heaven having taken its place around the throne of the Lamb of God to worship Him in glory. The church has also been described as "The Visible Church," which is the local church and "The Invisible Church" which describes the church universal that operates throughout the world. When these verses are used, the local church is being referenced: Acts 5:11, 4:26, and Romans 16:4, When these verses are used the universal church is being referenced: Ephesians. 1:22, 3:10, 21, 5:23, Colossians. 1:18.

The church is the bride of Christ. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:22-33 exhorts husbands and wives on their duties to one another.

*"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respect her husband."*

This passage uses the analogy of marriage to explain our relationship with Christ. We are married to Christ, and He is our husband.

What a special privilege it is to be the Bride of Christ. A bride loves her husband, obeys her husband, honors her husband serves with her husband, cherishes her husband, is loyal to her husband and is faithful to her husband. We, as the church of God, have the duty to be all of these things to the God who has called us and washed us in the blood of His Son.

The church is the dwelling place of God. James, in his letter in chapter four verse five says, "*Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?'*"

The church is the temple of God. Paul the apostle wrote to the church at Corinth, "*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*" I Corinthians. 3:16-17. The life of a believer is the place where the shekinah glory dwells and is manifest. Not only do we have a responsibility to protect the purity of our individual lives, we also have a responsibility to protect the life of the church in which we are joined in membership.

There are three things that make up a biblical church, preaching, the Lord's supper, and church discipline. No church is true to its biblical calling if these three things: biblical preaching, the Lord's Supper, and church discipline, are not faithfully observed. Are there other marks or signs of a true church? What things should we expect when we worship with those who claim to be the people of God? Here are eleven important Characteristics of the true Church of Jesus Christ. This is a list I wrote out as I was asking myself what would I want and expect to find in a church if I were looking for a place where my family and I could worship God.

1. A biblical church should be known for its love for the Word of God. Acts 17:11 says, "*These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*"
2. A biblical church should be known by its love for the doctrines of grace.
3. A biblical church should be known by the presence of agape

love where the members love each other and practice agape love in their interactions with each other.

4. A biblical church should be known for holy living by its members.
5. A biblical church should be known by its obedience to The Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20, "*And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen.*"
6. A biblical church should be known by its understanding of the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Martin Luther believed that justification by faith was the article of a standing or falling church. Justification is the Gospel. A church that has gone astray from the doctrine of justification will go astray in many other areas as well.
7. A biblical church should be known by its prayer life.
8. A biblical church should be known by its separation from the world. I John 2:15-17, "*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*"
9. A biblical church should be known by its passion to exalt Christ. To exalt Christ means to praise Him. It means to lift Him up in all that we say and do.
10. A biblical church should be known by how it worships God. The Bible is our guide on how to worship. We are to pattern our worship after the instructions and examples that we find in the Word of God.
11. A biblical church should be known by the fact it has a faithful pastor. We cannot forget how important this is. A church can have many wonderful things but if it does not

have a faithful and godly minister it is not a biblical church.

### What Does It Mean To Worship God?

The Bible teaches us that we have been saved and created to be worshippers of the Living God. Jesus Christ our Lord said, "*...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth for the Father seeketh such to worship him*" (John 4:23). One of the most amazing facts about God is that He is seeking a people to worship His Son Jesus Christ. If you have become a Christian, one of the primary purposes of your salvation is that you might joyfully worship the Son of God. There is nothing in the Christian life of any greater importance than this. And yet, how tragic that we find so few Christians who either understand the nature of true spiritual worship or who practice true spiritual worship. We should ask ourselves right here at this point - is there a true spirit of worship in our hearts and in our churches.

The Bible teaches us that biblical and spiritual worship is the soul's longing to see the glory and the beauty of Christ. When worshippers see Christ, they will have the joy of experiencing the presence of Christ. Worship is at its fullest and richest point when our souls are lost in the wonder of the glory and majesty of God. Much of what passes for worship today will not produce this. The shallow and superficial services that characterize this present generation are not producing true worshippers or producing great saints.

In order for us to understand what the Bible teaches about worship and to realize exactly what it is that the Father is seeking of us, we need to examine worship at its purest level. When we turn to the Scriptures, we find many examples of people who worshipped God. But the clearest and most sublime example of worship given to us in the Scripture is the picture that John draws for us in the book of Revelation. In Chapters 4-5, the Lord pulls the curtains back and allows us to get a glimpse of what we will call Throne-Room Worship. In these

two chapters, we actually see a worship service taking place in heaven in the throne room of God.

“BEHOLD, A THRONE WAS SET IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SAT ON THE throne...and I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as it had been slain...and they sung a new song, saying...worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing.” Rev. 4-5.

IF WE ARE TO WORSHIP BIBLICALLY, WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT our worship on earth reflects the example and direction of heavenly worship. From those two chapters in the book of Revelation we learn that true worship is:

1. God-Centered.
2. Praise.
3. Focused On The Finished Work Of Christ.
4. Music.
5. Liturgical.
6. Adoration.
7. Preaching.

### Suggestions To Improve Your Worship

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR WORSHIP experience. Worship is to be seen in the preaching of the Word of God. We need to train ourselves to think biblically on worship. When the Gospel is preached, it is a profound moment in worship. We find that our hearts are filled with adoration and praise when Christ and His finished work is lifted up in the preaching service.

- We should never come to church with dull hearts and minds.
- Come expecting a blessing, and come with the prayer that you will see Christ in the message. This will transform the way you view the worship service at your church. This will give you a new appreciation for your pastor and will help you to pray for your pastor as he is preparing his messages for Sunday's worship service. Pray, "*Lord, give Your servants wisdom and skill as they prepare their messages. May their messages be filled with Christ and may we see Christ in those messages.*" If we all came to church with that expectation, I think it would transform our experience in the house of God. I would also suggest that you enter into the pastor's prayer. When he says "amen," respond with an audible "amen" of your own.
- Bring a notebook to church and take notes of his sermon.
- Make application and ask yourself, "What is the Lord saying to me this morning?" James reminds us that we should not only hear the Word of God, but we should obey the Word of God. In James 1:22 we read, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*"
- When you gather at church to worship, ask questions and make application from the message to your own heart. A pastor should have plenty of application in his sermon. But even if there isn't any obvious application given during, or at the end of the service, make your own application. Ask questions of yourself. Think of various ways that you might apply the sermon to your daily life and walk.
- Write down any special thoughts and quotes that spoke to you and that you can take with you as you leave.
- Pray over what you just heard. I have rarely heard a sermon, however poor it may have been, that if I tried, I was able to find something to stir my love and devotion to Christ.

## Where Should I Start Reading The Bible?

FIRST OF ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT itself. Once we understand what the Bible is then we can begin to dive into its contents and find the great treasures that it has for each of our lives. Read II Timothy 3:16. This verse tells us that the Bible declares itself to be the inspired and revealed Word of God. This means that the Bible is a record and revelation to man of the thoughts, ideas, laws, and will of God. The Bible contains all the things that the God of creation wants us to understand about Him.

The Bible was the first book that claimed to be the Word of God. No book before the Bible made that claim. Since the Bible was written there have been two other books that have claimed to be the Word of God—the Quran and the book of Mormon. But the Bible told us that if anyone ever came and added to the Bible or took away from the Bible they were to be accursed. The Quran and the book of Mormon are man-made imitations of the Word of God. Both of these books are full of nonsense and fabrications.

The Bible cannot contain any mistakes or errors. If the Bible could be wrong, have contradictions within it, or have any scientific or historical errors we could not trust anything that it says to us. But because the Bible is God's Word it can be fully trusted to be truthful and accurate in every single detail of its narrative. We can say that the Bible is unique for the following reasons:

1. The Bible is the Word of the Living God. The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.'" Jeremiah 1:9. The Bible is not just a book that men have written. The Bible is God's communication of His Word, His ways, and His laws to man.
2. The Bible is God's love letter to man. In the Bible God reveals His deep, eternal, and electing love to mankind. This love finds its expression in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. The Bible is like a two edged sword. “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. Hebrews 4:12. The Bible is a living Word and has the power of God to save, sanctify and to give life to man.
4. The Bible is a book that God will protect and preserve forever. God said through Isaiah, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8.
5. The Bible is a book of truth. Jesus said in John 17, “Your Word is truth.” Other religious books contain the ramblings of men but the Bible is the expression of the spoken Word of the living and true God. Only the Bible has truth. II Peter 1:16 says, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eye witnesses of His majesty.
6. The Bible is a book that teaches us how to live and how to die.

THERE IS SIMPLY NO OTHER BOOK IN THE WORLD THAT IS LIKE THE Bible. One old southern evangelist, Del Fehsenfeld, used to say, “Read the Bible through, pray the Bible in, and pass the Bible out.”

For a new Christian I would first read the gospel of John. And then I would read through the New Testament complete. Then I would start on one of the Bible reading programs that I have shared in this book.

### What Translation Of The Bible Should I Use?

I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL CHRISTIANS TO READ EITHER THE NEW King James version or the King James version. Perhaps one of the best

things I can do is share with you what pastor and author Joel Beeke has said about the King James Bible. Dr. Beeke wrote:

Thirteen practical reasons for retaining the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

I. The Standard Text of the English Bible

It is wiser to choose the known over against the unknown. The weaknesses and disadvantages of a particular version of the Bible cannot really be assessed apart from a thorough trial of daily usage over many years. Many who welcomed the New International Version (NIV) with great enthusiasm when it first appeared are now prepared to admit its serious weaknesses as a translation.

The KJV is well established in the market-place and in the literature of Christian scholarship. It will continue in production in many editions for years to come. Helps and reference works are commonly available. It is not likely that the KJV will fade from view and disappear as have many versions produced to supplant it.

Likewise the KJV is widely studied and commented on in the literature of biblical scholarship. It will always be a standard of reference and comparison of Bible commentators. All other versions are compared to it, contrasted with it, tested by it. Campaigns to sell other versions must attack it. The same cannot be said of any other Bible version.

2. Based on the Full Text of the Hebrew and Greek Originals

Based on the Textus Receptus (the Greek NT), and the Masoretic Text (Hebrew OT), the KJV gives the most authentic and fullest available text of the Scriptures, with none of the many omissions and textual rewrites of the modern translations such as the Revised Standard Versions (RSV) and the NIV.

(A) OLDEST DOES NOT MEAN BEST – THE WESTCOTT AND HORT arguments that ‘the oldest manuscripts are the most reliable’ and that ‘age carries more weight than volume’ are not necessarily true. It could

well be that the two oldest, complete manuscripts were found to be in such unusually excellent condition because they were already recognized as faulty manuscripts in their time and therefore were placed aside and not recopied until worn out as were the reliable manuscripts. This is further supported by numerous existing differences between the Vatican and Sinaitic manuscripts.

(b) Volume – The King James Version is based upon the Traditional Text. The vast majority of the more than 5,000 known partial and complete Greek manuscripts follow this textual reading.

(c) Church History – The ‘Received’ or ‘Ecclesiastical’ Text has been used by the church historically. The English, French, Dutch, and German Reformation churches all used Bibles based on the Traditional Text. (The Dutch ‘Statenvertaling’ is also based upon the ‘Ecclesiastic’ Text.)

### 3. A MORE FAITHFUL METHOD OF TRANSLATION

THE KJV TRANSLATORS EMPLOYED A METHOD OF VERBAL equivalence (‘word for word’) rather than the method of paraphrase of dynamic equivalence (‘meaning for meaning’) used in the NIV. The result is that the KJV gives you what biblical authors wrote, not what a committee thinks they meant to write.

### 4. A MORE HONEST TRANSLATION

THE TEXT OF THE KJV USED ITALICS TO IDENTIFY EVERY WORD OR phrase interpolated (supplied by the translator) and not given in the original. Such a practice was not followed in the NIV, lest the loose method of its translators be unmercifully exposed to view.

### 5. A MORE PRECISE IDIOM

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OFTEN ATTACKED AT THIS VERY POINT, THE KJV ACTUALLY IS A more accurate and helpful translation precisely because of the archaic pronouns ('thou, thy, thee,' etc.). Both Hebrew and Greek distinguish clearly between the 2nd person singular ('thou') and the 2nd person plural ('ye,you'). In many statements this makes an important difference (e.g. John 3:7). In a sense it is correct to say that in praying the Lord Jesus used 'Thou' – God is one, not many! – for He definitely used the Hebrew or Greek equivalent.

#### 6. THE BEST LITURGICAL TEXT

THE KJV EXCELS AS A VERSION TO BE USED IN PUBLIC WORSHIP. That is why it has been used so widely in the churches. The requirements of the sanctuary are not those of the classroom. Other versions may be helpful on occasions to the student, but none is more edifying to the worshipper.

#### 7. THE BEST FORMAT FOR PREACHING

THE KJV TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN LAID OUT VERSE BY VERSE ON the page, rather than in paragraphs; though for most of the text, paragraphs are indicated by a sign. The Hebrew and Greek texts, of course, have no paragraphing at all. The verse-by-verse format best serves the purpose of verse-by-verse consecutive expository sermonizing.

#### 8. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TRANSLATION

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## ROBERT DICKIE

THE KJV GIVES CLASSIC EXPRESSION TO MANY IMPORTANT PASSAGES in the Bible (e.g. Ps 23, Isa 53, Luke 2, and the Parable of the Prodigal Son). Our seniors need to hear these passages as a comfort and help as they draw near to the end of life's journey and our children need to hear them in the KJV as part of their nurture and education. They need to understand that the KJV is an important part of the spiritual and cultural heritage of all English-speaking Christians, and a key to our greatest literature. Children well instructed in the KJV will be greatly advantaged over other children, spiritually, linguistically, educationally, and culturally.

### 9. AN ECUMENICAL TEXT FOR REFORMED CHRISTIANS

NO OTHER VERSION HAS BEEN USED SO WIDELY AMONG EVANGELICAL Christians. More significantly for Reformed Christians, this version is used by preference in many conservative Reformed congregations. The KJV is also used in the Christian schools these churches sponsor. Using the KJV is one way to underscore our unity and identity with other conservative evangelical and Reformed Christians.

### 10. A PRACTICAL CHOICE

THE KJV IS AVAILABLE IN MANY EDITIONS; WITH A FULL RANGE OF helps and reference materials, not to mention computer software; in large-type, clear-print editions; and often priced well below modern translations.

### 11. 'SOUNDS' LIKE THE BIBLE

. . . .

MORE THAN ANY OTHER VERSION, THE KJV SOUNDS LIKE THE WORD of God, even to unbelievers. The KJV translators aimed at this very thing. Even in 1611 the KJV sounded old-fashioned, ancient, a voice from the past. This was to command a reverent hearing, and to suggest the timeless and eternal character of God's Word. The modern unbeliever, if he has any spiritual concern at all, is well aware that the contemporary scene really offers him no hope. He expects the church to speak in a way that is timeless and other-worldly. Many church-goers and occasional visitors to a church go much more by 'feel' and 'mood' than by intellectual content or apprehension. They are more likely to take seriously what is said to them if they sense that this is something more important than a casual conversation.

## 12. THE CHARACTER OF THE TRANSLATORS

THE FIFTY MEN APPOINTED TO TRANSLATE THE KING JAMES VERSION were not only well-known scholars, but were also men of sound religious faith. They were strong believers in every word of the Bible being inspired by God and in all the central doctrinal truths of Scripture. They were God-fearing men whose lives testified of a saving knowledge of these truths. This same testimony cannot be made of all translators serving on modern translation teams.

## 13. UPHOLDS 'OLD PATHS'

USING THE KJV IS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF WHERE WE STAND AND want to be as a church walking in the 'old paths' of God's Word. 'Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls' (Jer 6:16). In choosing this version we choose to stand with all that is best in the great tradition of historic Christianity. The penchant for new translations was part of the program of change

which has done such harm to many denominations over the past century. This change to new translations was often part of an effort to strip worship services of dignity, reverence, and beauty, in favour of the casual, the contemporary, and the convenient. It also causes a congregation to lose touch with keeping the Word in memory. Memorization of the Scriptures suffers when each generation uses a different translation.<sup>1</sup>

### Why Is It Important To Be Baptized

BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE baptized. Refusal to obey this command puts us in a state of rebellion with God. The Bible teaches that baptism is a public profession of our personal faith in Christ. Peter, in Acts 2:38 says, “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The Bible tells us that baptism is included in the grace that saves us. Baptism is not a work. We are saved by grace. But the grace that saves us imparts the gifts of saving faith, repentance and the willingness to be baptized in the name of Jesus. Saving grace comes by the preaching of the gospel. Only those who put their faith in Christ are proper candidates for baptism.

The Bible teaches us that the proper mode or method of baptism is by immersion. In the land of Israel, archaeologists have discovered Baptismal pools that predate the era of Christianity. This clearly tells us that Baptism by immersion was the way the ancient Jewish church baptized one another. The word for baptism is baptize which means to dip, plunge, or submerge. In Acts 8:36-38 we read, “They went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” And in Matthew 3:16 we read, “When He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.” The thing to notice in both of these passages is that they went into the water and up out of the water.

NOTICE HOW PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED IN THE BIBLE.

- In John 3:23 we read, "Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there." Why was John baptizing near Salim? "Because there was much water there." Scriptural baptism requires much water.
- In the gospel of Mark 1:5 it reads, "Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to Him, and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River." Why was John baptizing in the Jordan River? Certainly it was because of the fact that there was a great need for water that a river would provide.
- In another passage Acts 8:36-39, we read about the evangelist Phillip. Philip, had been proclaiming the gospel of Christ to an Ethiopian eunuch. The Scripture tells us that this man was reading the book of Isaiah. Philip was able to point this man to Christ. In verses 36-39 we read: "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See here is water, what hinders me from being baptized? And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." What we notice is that they went down into the water to be baptized. Those traveling in the desert would no doubt have a water bottle that could be used for sprinkling if they desired to sprinkle. But they went into the water because immersion into the river was the proper mode or method of being baptised. One final text will help us to see that baptism was correctly done by immersion.
- Read Romans 6:4. This text says, "Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death." Here we see that baptism is a burial, which is what is done when one is immersed.

Pouring or sprinkling is not a burial. Only immersion can fit the analogy that Paul uses in Romans 6.

NEXT WE SHOULD NOTE THAT WHEN WE READ ABOUT ANYONE getting baptized in the New Testament they were always adults who had received Christ as their Savior and Lord. There are simply no examples of anyone being baptized who was not a believer or who were in their infancy. Baptism is for believers and believers alone.

The Bible teaches us the meaning of baptism. Baptism symbolized purification through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism also pictures the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Baptism is symbolical. The element is water and stands for purification. Immersion pictures a burial which also points to a death. And coming up out of the water is a picture of our resurrection in Christ.

### How Do I Share My faith With Others?

The Bible teaches that all of those who are born again must share their faith with others. The great commission is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person. Matthew 28:19-20. Every Christian is called upon to be a witness for Christ. When Christ ascended into heaven, the last command He gave His disciples was to preach the gospel throughout the earth. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. And Jesus told His disciples as He ascended into heaven, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.

The problem the church faces today is "Why do so many Christians fail to share their faith with others?" The reason is not hard to discover. Many Christians have not been properly motivated to share their faith and be vibrant witnesses for Christ. There are three things that should motivate us to evangelize:

- Obedience to God's command in Matthew 28:19-20 should motivate Christians to evangelize. Godly Christians will learn obedience to the great commission of going out and sowing the seed of the gospel to others that they meet in their daily lives. The question is "Have we been motivated properly by the command of Christ to evangelize others?" If not, why not? What keeps us from humbly and joyfully witnessing to others for Christ?
- Fear of the coming judgement should motivate Christians to evangelize. The judgment of God puts a godly fear and concern into our lives. This godly fear will lead us to witness and to share our faith with others.
- A passionate love for Christ and His gospel should motivate Christians to evangelize. While only the Lord knows who really belongs to Him and who have truly been converted, we must wonder if one reason why so many professing Christians never share their faith, talk to others about Christ, and do not obey the great commission is because they have never been born again. There is a vast difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge when it comes to the Christian faith. Head knowledge is merely concerned with beliefs and understanding the bare facts of the gospel. In contrast to head knowledge, there is heart knowledge. Heart knowledge includes the intellect but also includes the deep and passionate affections of the heart. When a person has a passionate love for Christ, they cannot help but talk of Him, delight in Him, glory in Him, yearn to spend time with Him, and find it a joy to tell others about Him. When this is totally absent in the lives of those who claim to know Him, is it not right for us to question whether or not they really know Him in the first place?

WE KNOW THERE ARE MANY PROFESSING BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH who do not witness and share their faith with others. Could it be because they themselves have never seen clearly the wonders of Calvary love? Do these professing Christians really understand the

great doctrines surrounding the gospel of Christ? Have they ever seen the majestic glory of the Lord of the church, His amazing grace, and His everlasting and sacrificial love? Can it be that these people who are converting to other religions have never really heard the true message of Christianity? Perhaps all they heard was the cheap gospel and the counterfeit message that is being proclaimed in many of our shallow and man-centered churches. What is going on in most churches is not worthy of being called true worship or great preaching. God will bless true worship and the preaching of His Word, but what is happening currently in most churches must surely grieve the Holy Spirit. I believe that the people running after all of these false religions know very little of true historic Christianity.

The Bible teaches us that every Christian is to be a witness for Christ. If a person professes faith in Jesus but never shares their faith they are either unconverted or terribly backslidden. Let us boldly share our faith and proclaim the gospel of God's precious grace.

### What Is Sin And How Do I Over Come It?

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THERE IS A TERRIBLE THING CALLED SIN. Sin is described as missing the mark. If a person shoots an arrow at a target and they miss that is the idea of sin. We miss hitting the target of perfection by not keeping God's law perfectly. When we break the laws of God we are missing the target of perfection. God's standard is His law. The laws of God are things He has told us not to do. When we disobey God and do the things He says we should avoid we have missed the mark. Someone once gave another definition of sin saying sin is anything that is contrary to the will and the law of God.

Sin will bring God's curse upon us. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." All people have a problem with sin. It is in our very nature to want to do things that are sinful, evil, and disobedient to God. The Bible gives us examples of various kinds of sins that we may be guilty of committing.

- Galatians 5:19-21, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
- Colossians 3:5-6, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **7** in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. **8** But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **10** and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”

Some sins are worse than others. It is incorrect to say that all sins are the same. I have heard that there is no price tag on sin and that all sins are the same. This is not true. Some sins are done in ignorance. These kinds of sin are not as serious as those when we willfully sin against the law of God. We don't excuse sins of ignorance but it is more serious when we choose to violate the laws of God. Some sins have more serious consequences. For example murder requires the death penalty whereas lying does not. Some sins are done we greater frequency. Frequent sins are more serious than a one time fall. So our motives, the seriousness of sin and the frequency of sin will determine how grievous certain sins are before God.

No one has the ability to overcome sin by their own power. Only by the grace of God in Jesus Christ can a person be free from the power of sin. Jesus saves us from the power, the presence and the penalty of sin.

- The Bible tells us that God hates sin. There are several reasons for this. God hates sin because it is a violation of His holy laws. God hates sin because it is contrary to His very nature. God hates sin because God is holy. God hates sin because it makes us a slave to our lusts and evil desires. And finally, God hates sin because it will eventually lead us to hell.
- The Bible tells us that sin has many harmful effects on man. Sin separates us from God. Sin brings God's judgement upon man. Sin seduces man to depart from God. Sin distracts man from doing the things that please God. Sin blinds man to the truth of God's Word.
- The Bible tells us that sin brings death, pain, suffering, sorrow, and separation from God. The only thing that can remove our sin is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Son of God. Jesus came to earth to die for our sins and to remove our guilt so that we can have peace with God and have eternal life.

TO OVERCOME SIN IN YOUR LIFE YOU SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING things:

1. Know what sin is by studying your Bible.
2. Forsake any friends or activities that may be a temptation for you to sin.
3. When you do sin confess it to God immediately.
4. Pray regularly and ask the Lord for help to overcome your sins.
5. Attend church each week and fellowship with other Christians so that you can be encouraged to overcome your sins.
6. Memorize Scripture to aid in your battle against indwelling sin. See Psalm 119:9-11.
7. Pray and trust the Holy Spirit to help you to overcome sin. Phil. 4:13

8. Remind yourself that God hates sin and that your sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30.
9. A great book to read to aid you in your battle against sin is, *Overcoming Sin and Temptation* by John Owen.
10. Fellowship with other believers will aid you in your battle against the world, the flesh and the devil.

*Chapter Nineteen*

**BIBLE MAPS AND CHARTS**

**Maps Of The Holy Land**



13. The Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul



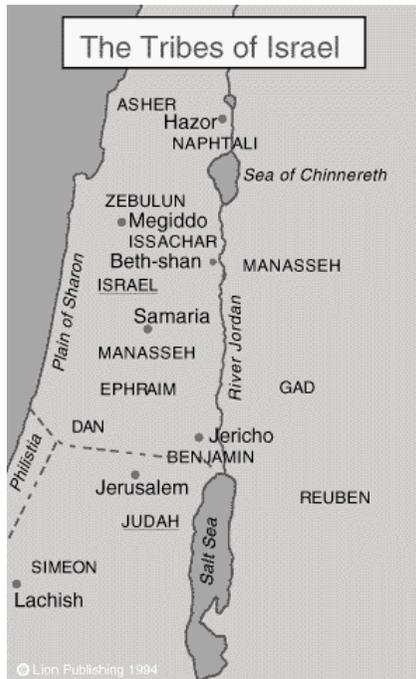
The Missionary Journeys Of The Apostle Paul

The spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ was one of the things the Apostle Paul accomplished in his life and ministry. The following quote summarizes Paul’s great work in taking the message of Christ to the different regions in the Roman world at that time:

Paul’s missionary journeys helped spread the gospel throughout much of the ancient world. Over the course of his ministry, the Apostle Paul traveled more than 10,000 miles and established at least 14 churches. The Book of Acts records three separate missionary journeys that took Paul through Greece, Turkey, Syria, and numerous regions you won’t find on modern-day maps. Some scholars argue that Paul also took a fourth missionary journey, since parts of the New Testament appear to reference travels that may have taken place after the events

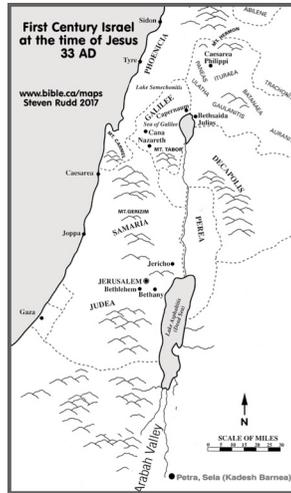
in Acts. Paul's travels played a crucial role in the formation and development of the early Christian church. Many of the communities he encountered on these missionary journeys were the same ones he wrote to in his pastoral epistles. <sup>1</sup>

### The Tribes Of Israel



THIS MAP SHOWS WHERE THE VARIOUS TRIBES OF ISRAEL SETTLED IN the land of Promise when they invaded Canaan under the leadership of Joshua.

New Testament Churches



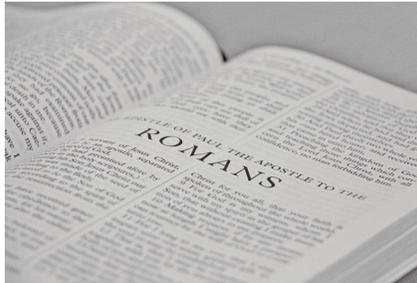
The Land Of Israel During The Days Of Jesus

## Chapter Twenty

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# BIBLE QUIZZES—TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE

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*“Study to show yourself approved unto God...”*

II Timothy 2:15

Q

uiz no. 1

What do most Christians believe about the Bible?

- \_\_\_ God carved the original Bible into stone atop Mount Sinai.
- \_\_\_ God dictated the Bible to Jesus, and Jesus' followers wrote it down.

- \_\_\_ It is inspired by God, but written by various human authors.
- \_\_\_ The New Testament is inspired by God, but the Old Testament is primarily historical background.

Quiz no. 2

Nearly all the events of the Bible occurred in one region of the world. Which region?

- \_\_\_ Northern Europe
- \_\_\_ Southern Europe
- \_\_\_ The Middle East
- \_\_\_ Central Asia

Quiz no. 3

What can be said about the original writings that make up the Bible?

- \_\_\_ The complete set of the original documents is stored in the Vatican archives.
- \_\_\_ The complete set of original documents is stored partly at the Vatican, and partly in museums around the world.
- \_\_\_ Only a few of the original documents have been preserved to this day.
- \_\_\_ None of the original documents are known to exist.

Quiz no. 4

The Old Testament of the Bible contains the sacred writings of which people?

- \_\_\_ The Canaanites
- \_\_\_ The Jews
- \_\_\_ The Muslims
- \_\_\_ The Romans

QUIZ NO. 5

1. Where did the Ten Commandments come from?

- \_\_\_ God gave them to Noah.
- \_\_\_ God gave them to Moses.
- \_\_\_ Jesus gave them to us.

2) What happened to the prophet Jonah?

- \_\_\_ He was thrown into a den of lions.
- \_\_\_ He was thrown into a fiery furnace.
- \_\_\_ He was swallowed by a giant fish.

3) What happened to the prophet Daniel?

- \_\_\_ He was thrown into a den of lions.
- \_\_\_ He was thrown into a fiery furnace.
- \_\_\_ He was swallowed by a giant fish.

4) How did Moses' mother save him from being killed by the evil pharaoh?

- \_\_\_ She hid him in a manger in the stable.
- \_\_\_ She hid him in a basket floating in the river.
- \_\_\_ She sent him out of Egypt with a caravan of traders.

5) What happened to the three men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

- \_\_\_ They were thrown into a den of lions.
- \_\_\_ They were thrown into a fiery furnace.
- \_\_\_ They were swallowed by a giant fish.

Quiz no. 6

T or F

1. \_\_\_ Jesus lived a sinless life.
2. \_\_\_ Jesus never claimed to be God.
3. \_\_\_ Jesus performed many miracles that were seen by hundreds of witnesses.
4. \_\_\_ Jesus and Muhammad were brothers.
5. \_\_\_ Jesus resurrection from the dead proves He was God.
6. \_\_\_ Jesus was both man and God.

Quiz No. 7

T or F

1. \_\_\_ The Bible is a collection of 66 books.
2. \_\_\_ The Bible claims to be the Word of God.
3. \_\_\_ The Bible does have some errors and contradictions.
4. \_\_\_ The Bible, the Quran, and the Book of Mormon are all inspired books from God.
5. \_\_\_ The main purpose of the Bible is to lead man to happiness and success.
6. \_\_\_ The Bible is God's ultimate revelation of truth to mankind.
7. \_\_\_ The Bible teaches that good works are important to be saved.
8. \_\_\_ Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

Quiz No. 8

1. \_\_\_ How many books are in the Old Testament?
2. \_\_\_ How many books are in the New Testament?
3. \_\_\_ What does the word "testament" mean?
4. \_\_\_ How many human authors were involved in writing the Bible?
5. \_\_\_ What was Judas Iscariot known for?
6. \_\_\_ Does the Bible teach evolution?

Answers to the quizzes:

1. Quiz No. 1 Answer no. 3
2. Quiz No. 2 Answer no. 3
3. Quiz No. 3 Answer no. 4
4. Quiz No. 4 Answer no. 2
5. Quiz No. 5

- First Question—Answer 2
- Second Question—Answer 3
- Third Question—Answer 1
- Fourth Question—Answer 3
- Fifth Question—Answer 2

6. Quiz No. 6

- First Question—T
- Second Question—F
- Third Question—T
- Fourth Question—F
- Fifth Question—T
- Sixth Question—T

7. Quiz No. 7

- First Question—T
- Second Question—T
- Third Question—F
- Fourth Question—F
- Fifth Question—F
- Sixth Question—F
- Seventh Question—F
- Eighth Question—T

8. Quiz No. 8

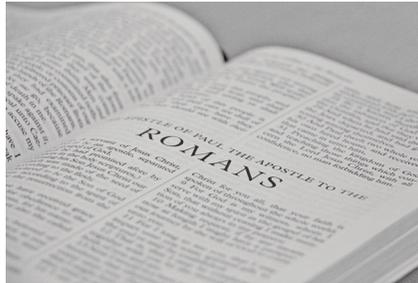
- First Question—39
- Second Question—27
- Third Question—Agreement or covenant
- Fourth Question—40
- Fifth Question—Betraying Christ
- Sixth Question—No



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**CONCLUSION— “GOD’S WORD WILL KEEP YOU FROM  
SIN, OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM GOD’S WORD.”**

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“Thy Words were found and I did eat them, and Thy Word was unto  
me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by  
Thy name O Lord of Hosts.”  
Jeremiah 15:16

Oh how precious is the Word of God. If you could learn the discipline of reading your Bible early in your life what a difference it would make. If you have neglected to read your Bible every day my prayer for you is that you would discover that even now how beneficial it will be to you to read your Bible every day. The Lord has given us His thoughts and His will for our lives. It is all contained in the Bible that He has deliv-

**CONCLUSION— “GOD’S WORD WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN, OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM GOD’S WORD.”**

ered to us. The Bible contains everything that we need to know on how to live and how to prepare for death. Only a fool would choose to ignore and neglect this book if they knew it to be the Word of the Living God. At least those who live in ignorance can say that they did not know how important the Word of God was. But those who know what the Bible is and still choose to neglect it because they are too busy pursuing other interests will have great regrets throughout all eternity for their negligence.

Listen to what the Lord has chosen to tell us about His Word. The Scriptures themselves tell us how important the Bible is for our daily life and walk.

- Hebrews 4:12 - “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”
- Jeremiah 23:29 - “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”
- Matthew 4:4 - “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
- Ephesians 6:17 - “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...”
- Matthew 24:35 - “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.”
- Colossians 3:16 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

**CONCLUSION— “GOD’S WORD WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN, OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM GOD’S WORD.”**

- Proverbs 4:20- “My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings.”
- Proverbs 3:1- “My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments...”
- Proverbs 30:5-6 - “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”
- John 12:48 - “He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
- Psalms 119:103 - “How sweet are thy words unto My taste! yea, sweeter than honey to My mouth!”
- Psalms 119:105 - “Thy word is a lamp unto My feet, and a light unto My path.”
- Deut. 6:5-7, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all our soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
- Psalm 1:1-3, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in th seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”
- Luke 24:32, “And they said one to another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’”
- Romans 10:17, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”



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# END NOTES

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1. Erwin N. Hershberger, *Seeing Christ In The Old Testament*. (meyersdale, Pa. 1999), p. 13.

## 4. THE APOSTLE'S CREED—A CONCISE SUMMARY OF THE MAIN DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

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## 5. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT?

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2. From the Internet: <http://www.biblecharts.org/thebible/whatdoestestamentmean.pdf>
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4. Ibid.
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## 7. THE MAJOR BIBLE STORIES

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## 9. VERSES THAT TEACH THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

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## 12. JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD

1. Unnamed Essay, *The Incomparable Christ*
2. From the Internet: <http://www.goodnewsdispatch.org/math.html>

## 18. QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

1. Dr. Joel R. Beeke is the president and professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, and pastor of the Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation of Grand Rapids, Michigan

## 19. BIBLE MAPS AND CHARTS

1. Ryan Nelson, *Paul's Missionary Journeys: The Beginners Guide*, July 6, 2020.

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

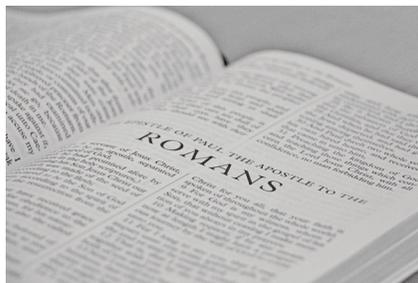
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Robert L. Dickie pastored Berean Baptist Church of Grand Blanc, Michigan for 36 years and has traveled the world over during the last fifty years of his life proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. His desire is to see the glory of God fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. Pastor Dickie and his wife reside in Tennessee and are finishing out their ministry serving the Lord, preaching, writing and ministering to the Lord's people.

John 3:30, "For He must increase but I must decrease!"



## ALSO BY ROBERT DICKIE



- Answering Skeptics
- Living For Jesus
- Predators In The Church
- Seeking God
- The Bible—The Absolute Authority For Faith And Practice
- The Greatest Story Ever Told
- The Plan Of Salvation
- The Ten Nevers, The Keys To A Fantastic Marriage
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