



HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

Strong For Life

THE FOUNDATIONS-FOR-LIFE SERIES
VOLUME 7

The Foundations-For-Life Series by Rachel Burchfield
Published by Texas Bible Institute
An outreach of Burchfield Ministries International, Inc.
P.O. Box 100 Columbus, Texas 78934 U.S.A.
www.texasbibleinstitute.org www.burchfield.org

The Foundations-For-Life series was written originally to support young adults in their commitment to follow Jesus Christ. The first workbook, The Adventures of Following Jesus, was written in 1994 exclusively for the students of Texas Bible Institute. Each of the remaining nine workbooks also teach timeless truths and provide answers found in God's Word, the Holy Bible. TBI is an outreach of Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. in Columbus, Texas.

After thirty years of serving as TBI's President, Rachel Burchfield has revised her time-proven Foundations-For-Life series to equip all ages. Teens and adults can now become Strong In Life through TBI's Distance Learning Program, while the On Campus option still remains an option exclusively for 17 - 25 years of age.

The overall objective of the Foundations-For-Life series is to:

- Make unshakeable disciples for Jesus Christ
- Create a love for the inspired Word of God
- Introduce the adventures of being a bold Bible believer

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval systems, except as may be expressly permitted in writing by the publisher. Requests for permission should be emailed to texasbibleinstitute.org.

BMI is committed to Bible schools globally. For information regarding special quantity discounts for bulk purchases, contact the BMI office. To order additional copies of this resource, visit texasbibleinstitute.org.

Copyrighted December 16, 2013 TX7-821-691
Registered in the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-1-7355219-6-1

Printed in the United States of America

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked MSG are taken from THE MESSAGE, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Scripture quotations marked AMPC are taken from the Amplified® Bible. Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Scripture quotations marked TPT are from The Passion Translation®. Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

Statement of Faith

Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. believes in the inspiration of Scripture which reveals the Fatherhood of a Creator God, eternal life found only in His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in every believer for guidance, comfort, and strength. To review BMI's complete Statement of Faith, visit burchfield.org.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



1983

*Dear Sons and Daughters,
Welcome to the great adventure of following Jesus Christ!*

We are proud that you have chosen to build your life on God's unchanging Word. The decisions you are making during these treasured TBI months will determine the course of your life, family, and future legacy. Pastor Tommy and I both made those same choices fifty years ago!

This "Foundations-For-Life" curriculum was written exclusively for our dear Texas Bible Institute students. Thousands of TBI Alumni from thirty-nine states and forty-two nations are now "Strong For Life" and fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. Now, it's your turn!

Building strong foundations occurs when you accept the inspired Word of God as the final authority in your life. Once you learn that the Bible is a living love letter from your Father, it will become a joy. Settle it forever that God is good, His ways are perfect, and miracles still happen.

So, dear one, read and re-read this workbook until you've "made it your own." As you mature in Christ, these writings will serve as reference manuals for your own miracle moments, and you'll be Strong For Life.

In His Joy,

Pastors Tommy and Rachel Burchfield

Founder and President, Texas Bible Institute

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11



2003



2020

WHAT WE BELIEVE

GOD IS
OUR FATHER



As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. *Psalms 103:13*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...

II Corinthians 1:3

JESUS CHRIST IS
OUR SAVIOR



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. *John 14:6*

THE HOLY SPIRIT
EQUIPS BELIEVERS



However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. *John 16:13*

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

THE HOLY BIBLE
CAN BE TRUSTED



Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." *Matthew 24:35*

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. *II Timothy 3:16*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension
For a complete BMI Statement of Faith, visit burchfield.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1	Bible Basics	1
	• <i>Three Ways To Enjoy Your Bible</i>	5
	• <i>Ten Reasons To Memorize God's Word</i>	7
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #1: I'm Not The Studying Type</i>	10
Chapter 2	Can You Trust Your Bible?	11
	• <i>Ten Reasons You Can Trust Your Bible</i>	14
	• <i>How Did We Get Our Bible?</i>	16
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #2: I Don't Have Time</i>	20
Chapter 3	Laws To Interpret The Bible	21
	• <i>Hermeneutics - 11 Laws</i>	23
	• <i>Four Questions to Choose a Bible</i>	26
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #3: I Don't Understand The Bible</i>	28
Chapter 4	How To Study A Book	29
	• <i>5 W's and an H</i>	33
	• <i>Bible Study Method: Inductive Bible Study</i>	34
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #4: I Don't Know Where To Start</i>	38
Chapter 5	How To Study A Chapter	39
	• <i>Studying a Chapter</i>	41
	• <i>Bible Study Method: Color-coding and Bible markings</i>	42
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #5: What If I Get It Wrong?</i>	46
Chapter 6	How To Study A Verse	47
	• <i>Study a Verse</i>	49
	• <i>Bible Study Method: Word Studies and Verse Mapping</i>	52
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #6: The Bible Isn't Relevant</i>	54
Chapter 7	How To Study A Person	55
	• <i>Studying a Person</i>	57
	• <i>Bible Study Method: Outlining</i>	58
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #7: I Can't Live Up To It, So Why Try?</i>	62
Chapter 8	How To Study A Topic	63
	• <i>Studying a Topic</i>	65
	• <i>Bible Study Method: Cross-referencing</i>	66
	• <i>Devotional - Excuse #8: Been There. Done That.</i>	70
Addendum	• <i>Answer Key and Credits</i>	71
	• <i>Bible Glossary</i>	72
	• <i>Does The Bible Have Contradictions?</i>	77
	• <i>Bibliography Charts</i>	78
	• <i>Ten Reasons To Trust Your Bible</i>	79
	• <i>The Bible Timeline</i>	83
	• <i>A Letter From Heaven</i>	85
	• <i>Bible Comparative Chart</i>	86
	• <i>FFL Reference Tools</i>	88
	• <i>How To Study Your Bible Overview</i>	93

God sent His
Son, but He left
His book.

Chapter 1

BIBLE BASICS



Understanding the Bible is *easy* once you know 4 things: #1 The Old Testament is the old way to reach God. #2 The New Testament is the *new way to reach God*. #3 This new way always points to Jesus. #4 God wouldn't tell you to study His Word and not give you a *Helper*.

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter One scriptures in your Bible

PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PSALM 40:7

Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me."

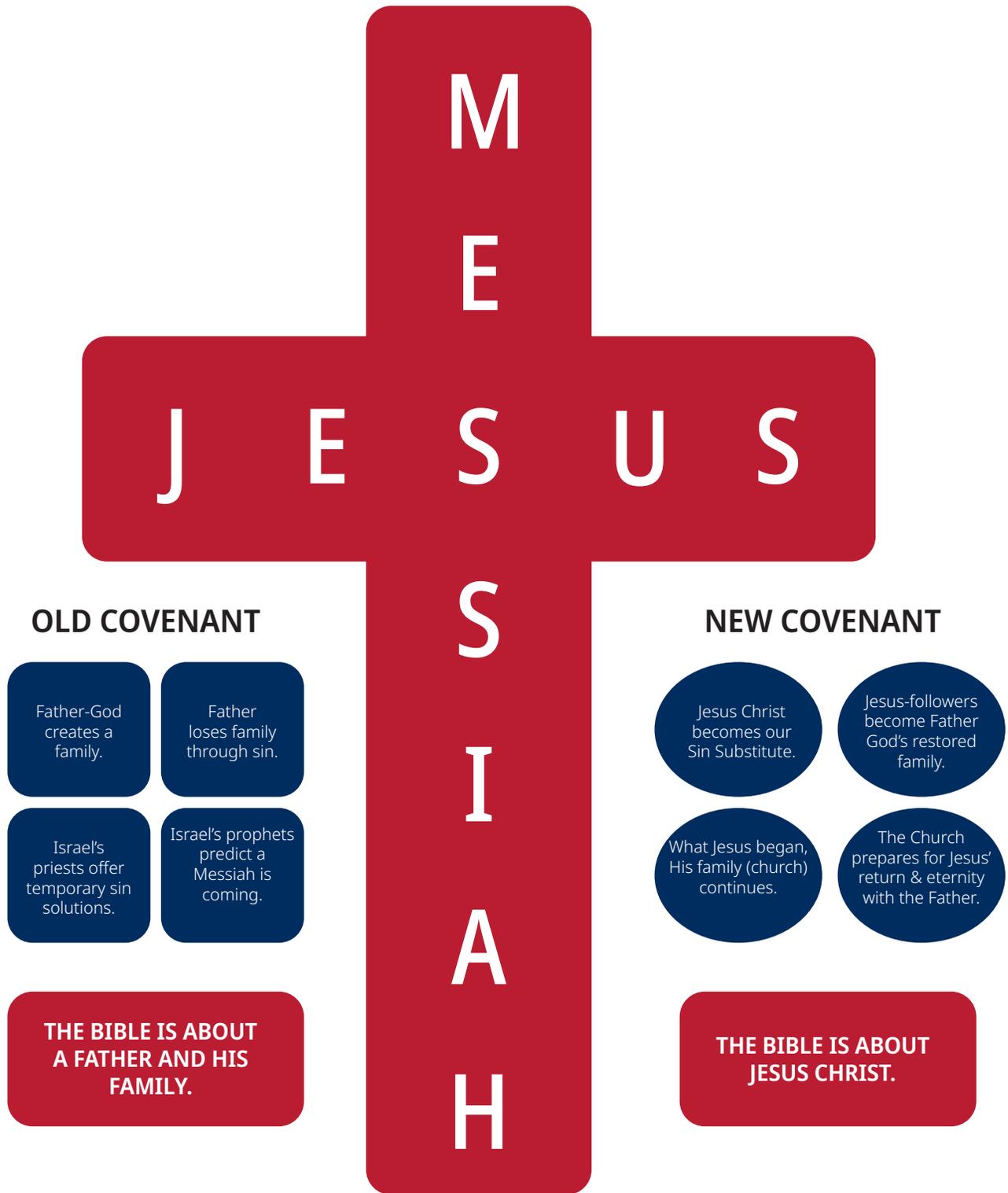
LOOKING AHEAD

- Bible basics
- Your new BFF
- M & M Secret

Obedience to God's Word always brings rewards.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

THE BIBLE STORY AT A GLANCE



The Old Covenant is the old way to reach God. The "New" is for you.

OLD TESTAMENT REVIEW

Unholy men reaching up to a holy God

CATEGORY	# OF BOOKS	SUMMARY
Books of the Law Aka - The Pentateuch Books of Moses	5	The creation of the world, God's chosen nation, and His requirements to obtain righteousness.
Books of History	12	The history of Israel and the consequences of disobedience.
Books of Poetry	5	A collection of poetry, worship, and inspired writings.
Books of Prophecy	17	Prophetic warnings of Israel's judgment and the Messiah's coming.

The Old Testament contains _____ books which are divided into _____ categories.

NEW TESTAMENT REVIEW

A holy God reaches down to unholy men

CATEGORY	# OF BOOKS	SUMMARY
Gospels	4	The four historical accounts of Jesus' life on earth.
Early Church History	1	The history of Israel and the consequences of disobedience.
Letters from Leaders	21	Instruction and inspiration from the Fathers of the Faith to the churches.
Prophecy	1	John recorded his visions of Jesus in His glory and end-time events.

The New Testament contains _____ books which are divided into _____ categories.



ABRAHAM

Father of Faith

Gen. 12:3

THREE WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR BIBLE



1. A Panoramic Overview (*The Bird Approach*)

The purpose of panoramic reading is to gain a general overview of the Bible story. Becoming familiar with the major characters, stories, and well-known scriptures will prepare you for future studies. Easy-to-read translations such as a New Living Translation or The Message are recommended.



2. Devotional Reading (*The Frog Approach*)

Devotional reading is for inspiration and instruction for your personal relationship with God. Spirit-led hopping throughout the Scriptures can be trusted only by first having a general understanding of the Bible.



3. Studying (*The Caterpillar Approach*)

Studying is systematic and involves focusing on a small portion of scripture. There's a great contrast between devotional reading and studying. Reading fills your heart while studying fills your head. Spiritual growth requires both types.



YOUR NEW BFF *(BEST FRIEND FOREVER)*

Having a relationship with a best friend is a gift. They are your Go-To person whether you have good news or need to vent, but they're not perfect. Sometimes they share good advice, while other times, they feed your critical attitudes or stir you up to anger. God has a better plan for you.

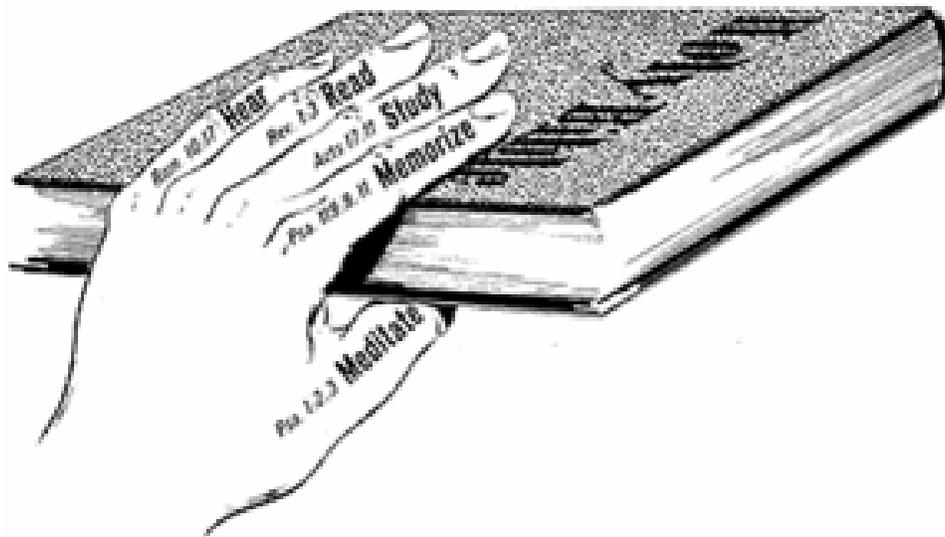
Today's lesson will introduce you to a new kind of relationship, not with a physical person, but with the Word of God. It's more than a book of rules. It's alive! It's the Person of Jesus in living color. He wants to become your Go-To. He wants to become your new BFF.

Jesus was the Word in *living* form.

The Word is Jesus in *written* form.

"In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was with God and the _____ God." Jn. 1:1

Jesus is the Word, so when you go to the Word, you are going to Jesus Himself. From this moment on, may I suggest that He become your Go-To Person? Before you call or cry to your BFF, go first to the Word of God and develop a relationship with your Bible, your guide to abundant life and a new source of love.



Memorizing puts it in your head.
Meditating drops it into your heart. #M&Ms

TEN REASONS TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

- 01 God's Word _____ us.
...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... Romans 12:2
- 02 Because God's Word is a delight to our soul.
I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure. Psalm 119:62
- 03 God's Word keeps you from _____.
Your Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11
- 04 God's Word assures victory over temptation.
Jesus quoted "It is written ..." to Satan. Matthew 4:1-11
- 05 Spiritual battles are won by God's _____.
... and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Eph. 6:17
- 06 God's Word keeps you from slipping away from God.
The law of God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. Psalm 37:31
- 07 God's Word prepares you to _____ people's questions.
Always be ready to give a ... reason for the hope that is in you. I Pet. 3:15
- 08 God's Word helps your prayer life.
If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. Jn. 15:7
- 09 God's Word in you can encourage other believers.
Let the Word dwell in you... teaching and admonishing one another ... Col. 3:16
- 10 God's Word reveals _____ from error.
For the Word of God is living and powerful...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Heb. 4:12

MEMORIZE

Write a scripture on an index card.
Read it aloud. Sing it. Pray it.
6 minutes a day. One phrase at a time.



VISUALIZE

Focus on a word picture or a promise in the scripture.



EMPHASIZE

The Lord is my shepherd ...
The Lord is my shepherd ...
The Lord is my shepherd ...
The Lord is my shepherd ...



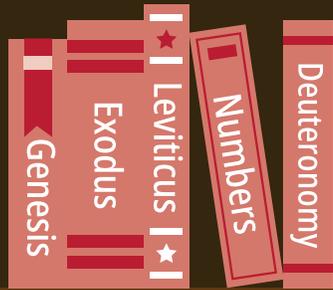
PERSONALIZE

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Amanda can do all things through Christ ... Ph. 4:13

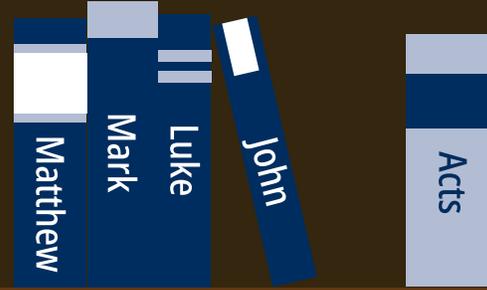
BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

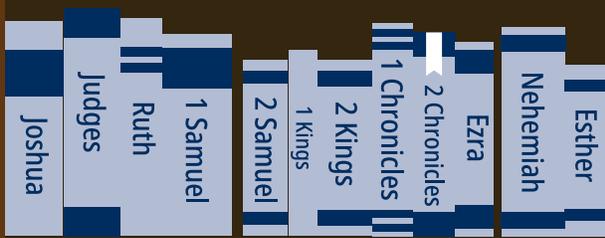


LAW

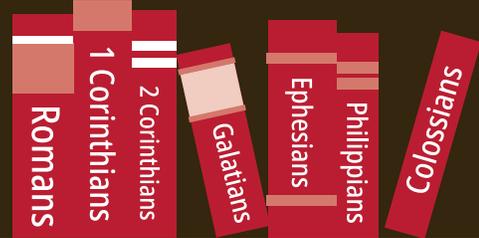


GOSPELS

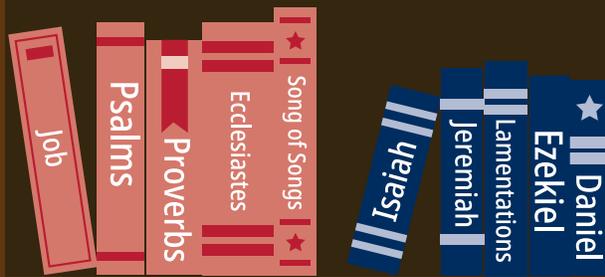
CHURCH HISTORY



History

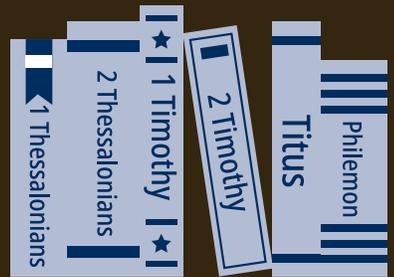


Letters



Poetry

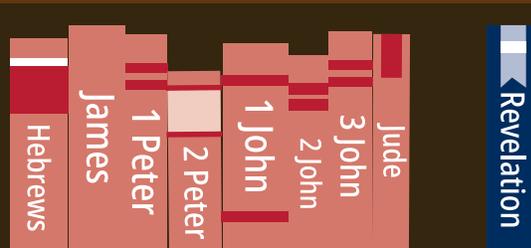
Major Prophets



Letters



Minor Prophets



Letters

Prophecy

BIBLE BASICS

01

The Bible is about Jesus' sacrificial payment for sin to restore His Father's family.

02

Three ways to enjoy your Bible are reading, devotional, and studying.

03

Memorizing scripture puts God's Word into your head.

04

Meditating on scripture puts God's Word into your heart.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ps. 119:11

Ps. 119:105

Ps. 40:7

Rom. 14:5

Col. 3:16

1 Pet. 3:15

Excuse #1: I'm Not the Studying Type

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold ... and in keeping them there is great reward. Ps. 19:10

You probably think that you're not the "studying type" because you didn't excel at school, but whatever "type" you are, God wants to introduce Himself to you in His Word. Satisfaction for your longing soul is waiting for you in the Word, but you've gotta go get it. So, if you are the ...

_____ Eatin' type - *God's Word is sweeter than honey.*

_____ Family type - *God's Word is instruction for His family.*

_____ Sports type - *God's Word explains life's ultimate victory.*

_____ Book type - *God's Word is the book of all books.*

_____ Adrenaline-junkie type - *God's Word invites adventure.*

Gold miners will tell you that gold doesn't lay on the surface. Instead, the lamp on their helmet shines on the path, revealing any gold that glistens. Yes, they dig, get dirty, and sweat, but they find gold.

So, go for the gold! Grab that miner's mindset, set a fifteen-minute-timer, and start digging. Keep digging and let the light of the Holy Spirit guide you to the gold that is a greater reward than any earthly treasure.



Do you love God with all of your heart? Now, love Him with your mind, too.

Reflection



SEARCH

In Proverbs,
look for Jesus'
WISDOM

Chapter 2

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR BIBLE?



Go to any *library* and you'll find thousands of books similar to the Bible; history, romance, and philosophy. Yet, your Bible is unlike any book. What is the *distinction* between your Bible and these thousands of books? It is *alive*! As you read it, His truth will reveal every lie and *His character stands behind His promise.*

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Two scriptures in your Bible

II TIMOTHY 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

II PETER 1:21

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Inspiration = Authority
- Can you trust your Bible?
- How did we get the Bible?

Build your life on the unchanging Word of God.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR BIBLE?

There is a great attack upon the credibility of the Bible today. Although Jesus made direct references, critics still say that there was no literal creation, no literal Adam, no Ark filled with Noah's family, and certainly no Daniel trapped in a lion's den. Skeptics persuasively attempt to denounce the miraculous, scorn the Virgin Birth, and laugh at the simple-minded who cling to the Bible's purity. Students, this is a matter of supreme importance, for **to the degree that your Bible is inspired, to that degree, it is authoritative.**

THE BIBLE IS



INSPIRED



INFALLIBLE



INERRANT

Inspired, Defined - Communicated From God to Man

That work of the Holy Spirit in chosen individuals by which the person is moved to speak or write in his own idiom the very words of God without error, in fact, doctrine, or judgment.

Infallible, Defined - _____ of Mistakes

Inerrant, Defined - Without Error

Revelation, Defined - Direct _____ From God

The Holy Spirit prevented men from writing anything but what God intended. The Bible never states that the men who wrote were inspired, only their writings. The men were fallible, but the Scripture they wrote is infallible. Consider this. Moses lost his temper and killed a man, but that does not change the fact the Holy Spirit kept him from error as he wrote the Pentateuch. My goodness! That's what God does – using natural men for His supernatural purposes!

Scriptures About Inspiration

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II Tim. 3:16 KJV

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. II Pet. 1:21

Need more proof? (*Highlight these scriptures*)

Dt. 13:1-5, Dt. 18:20-22, Mat. 5:17-20, Jn. 10:34, Num. 23:19, I Sam. 15:29, Tit. 1:2, Heb. 6:18

Don't trust your life with anything that changes or you can lose.

TEN REASONS YOU CAN TRUST YOUR BIBLE

01 God declared its inspiration.

Over 3,800 times, the Bible writers claim that God spoke what they wrote. The New Testament refers to the Old Testament as “the Scriptures” fifty-nine times. The phrase, “Thus saith the Lord” or its equivalent, is found over 2,000 times in the Bible. Unquestionably, the Scriptures teach their own inspiration.

02 Jesus _____ the Scriptures.

The Lord Jesus validated the Old Testament by quoting from at least fifteen books from all three sections: The Law, The Prophets, and The Psalms. He quoted the Pentateuch twenty-six times and referred to Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jonah, and Elisha. *Mat. 5:17-19, Lk. 24:27,32, 44-45, Jn. 5:39-47*

03 The Apostles defended it.

Jesus chose twelve disciples to carry on His kingdom mission. Judas committed suicide, and John was exiled, tortured, and lived into his nineties. The other ten died as martyrs. Their writings, along with letters from Paul and Luke, eventually became the majority of the New Testament, including 284 quotations from seventeen Old Testament books

04 The Church Fathers validated it.

After the Apostles died, the Church Fathers zealously continued the Lord Jesus’ mission for the next 350 years. Their writings validate the inspiration of the Scriptures and resurrection of Jesus in 86,489 quotations still available today in the British Museum.

05 Prophecy _____ it.

One-third of the Bible is prophetic. Approximately 2,000 of the 2,500 historical, political, and spiritual prophecies have been fulfilled to the letter with no errors. Many skeptics trying to disprove biblical prophecy have discontinued their books.

More than 60 prophecies with over 300 specific details about Jesus’ birth, ministry, death, and ascension were fulfilled in detail.

06 The miraculous harmony authenticates it.

Only by God’s inspiration could forty men on three continents and three languages over 1,600 years present a single, unfolding story of God’s redemption for man. Through all sixty-six books, the unifying thread is new life in Christ which includes salvation from sin and eternal restoration to God’s original plan of fellowship with man forever.

07 _____ historical evidence upholds it.

Josephus, the governor of Galilee, a military commander in the wars with Rome, and a Jewish historian, wrote extensively about the Old Testament books, a historical Mary, and crucifixion of Jesus. God’s wisdom allowed this respected leader to record history that validates the Bible. Archaeology has also provided substantial evidence for the accuracy of the Bible.

08 Global influence affirms it.

The Bible takes preeminence over all other literature as to contents, circulation, and influence. More books, songs, and paintings revere the person and work of Christ than all other great men of history. Until recently, all of humanity’s history was divided by the advent of Jesus Christ.

09 Satan’s attempts to _____ it.

Satan’s attempt to destroy and discredit God’s authority is not a new one. In 303 A.D., the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy all Scriptures. In 1963, Satan-inspired atheist Madalyn Murray O’Hair won a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that ended Bible readings in public schools. My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Powell, defied it!

10 Believers love it.

The Bible has been translated into far more languages than any other book at great sacrifice. The earliest who dared were burned at the stake. Wycliffe Associates announced in 2016 that four of their translators in the Middle East were martyred by bludgeoning blows and gunshots. Nevertheless, Christians still esteem the inspiration of their Bibles, which is the best-selling book of all time with five billion copies sold to date.

See Pages 79-82

God's Word is *true* and can be *trusted*. It is not merely a book written by men. It is a book *written by God through men*. The heart of its message is God's *redeeming love through Jesus Christ*.

HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?

40 MEN

Peasants to Kings

1,600 YEARS

2,000BC - 397AD ++

3 CONTINENTS

Asia, Africa, Europe

3 LANGUAGES

Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek

Storytellers

Stories of God were passed down through gifted storytellers.

Written By Leaders

Job, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Ezra, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, etc. God uses imperfect people for His purposes.

Ezra's council

Ezra gathered 120 scribes and priests who collected and approved 24 books which became the Old Testament. Volumes were later divided into 39 books and three parts: The Law, The Prophets, The Psalms.

Old Testament Criteria For Acceptance

Every ancient writing was subjected to these five questions.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the writing authoritative? Does it declare the message "Thus says The Lord?"
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the writing dynamic? Does it change lives?
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the writing prophetic? Was it written by a man of God?
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the writing authentic? Can it be proven beyond doubt?
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the writing recognized by the people during its time as being from God?

Don't you know the Bible says men should make the coffee?
He-brews!

HOW WE GOT THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Disciples' Writings

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Jude; most knew Jesus personally or knew the original twelve and mentored next-generation leaders.

300+ False Writings

"Pseudepigrapha" was circulating among Christians; I & II Enoch, The Assumption of Moses, The Gospel of Mary, The Gospel of Peter, etc. Some were sincere. Some were bizarre.

Church Fathers

By 100 AD, most of the New Testament books were quickly accepted by second-century Church Fathers. The six disputed books, Hebrews, James, II Peter, II John, III John, and Revelation, were accepted 300 years later.

The Council of Carthage

In 397 AD, Church Fathers officially accepted 27 books into the canon and bound them with Ezra's 39 books, making a total of 66 inspired books. They laboriously recopied original N.T. manuscripts and recorded 86,489+ quotations of earlier Church Fathers which validated an inspired and complete canon.

Checklist for the New Testament Books

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Apostolic Association - Was it written by an apostle or associated with such a person? i.e., Paul, Luke
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Apostolic Doctrine - Does this book agree with apostolic doctrine?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Morally Edifying and Accepted - Is this book widely accepted throughout the church?

Now you know ...

Now you realize that a bunch of old men didn't sit around and flip a coin to determine what was from God and what wasn't. Instead, God directed the entire project with the Church Fathers only recognizing what God had already ordained.

The 400 Silent Years - The Apocrypha Emerges

Between the Old and New Testaments, 14 books emerged but were not accepted in the original canon. Why?

- The Hebrews didn't accept them.
- The Church leaders didn't accept them.
- Jesus never mentioned them.
- They didn't pass the five-point test.

REVIEW

TEN REASONS YOU CAN TRUST YOUR BIBLE

01 _____ declared it.

Thousands of scriptures confirm the inspiration of the Bible. II Tim. 3:16, I Pet. 1:21

02 _____ endorsed it.

Jesus Christ referred to the divine authority of the Old Testament by quoting it 78 times from 15 books, making references to at least seventeen biblical characters. Mat. 5:17, Lk. 24:45

03 The _____ defended it.

Jesus chose 12 apostles to carry on His kingdom assignment. John was tortured, and ten of them were martyred. Their writings, along with letters from Paul and Luke, compile most of the New Testament.

04 The _____ validated it.

The Church Fathers were mentored by the Apostles and quickly accepted 21 New Testaments books by 100 AD.

05 Fulfilled _____ warrants it.

One-third of the Bible is prophetic. Historical, political, and scientific details have given immense credibility to fulfilled Bible prophecy. There are eight times more prophecies about Jesus' Second Coming than His first.

06 _____ evidence upholds it.

Josephus' writings, modern archaeology, and scientific discoveries continue to confirm biblical accuracy by secular sources.

07 The miraculous _____ authenticates it.

Only God could inspire 40 men from 3 continents in 3 languages over 1,600 years to write 66 books that have no contradictions, provide timeless wisdom and have one unifying message; God's redeeming love for mankind.

08 _____ influence confirms it.

The Bible takes preeminence over all other literature as to contents, circulation, and influence. Until recently, all of history was divided by the life of Jesus Christ.

09 _____ attempts to destroy it.

The Bible has been forbidden, burned, and altered by past emperors and modern courts. Satan's attempts to demean God's character and the authenticity of His Word continue, but Jesus said, "My Word will never pass away." Mat. 24:35

10 _____ love it.

The Bible remains the best-selling book with five billion copies sold with no close contender. The Holy Spirit has put a respect for God's Word into humanity, even those considered non-religious.



GIDEON

A Nobody becomes
Somebody
Judges 6:12

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR BIBLE?

01

"God's Word is inspired" means that He said it and will do it.

02

You can trust your Bible because His character is hiding in every page.

03

Jesus validated the Old Testament and prepared us for the New Testament.

04

The Church Fathers' process used to accept only twenty-seven Bible books was tedious.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Num. 23:19

Is. 40:8

Ps. 19:7

Rom. 15:4

II Tim. 3:16

II Pt. 1:21

Excuse #2: I Don't Have Time

But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her. Lk. 10:42

(Jesus' words to Martha)

Neglecting our Bibles doesn't occur from a lack of time but a lack of priorities. Consider these stats about how people spend their time:

Movies Lengths

Animation 88 minutes

Action/Musical 105 minutes

Average Sports Games

NFL Football 3 hours, 12 minutes

Major League Baseball 3 hours

Average Social Media daily

2 hours, 20 minutes

Jesus commended Mary because she prioritized her time with Him. You can, too, and it doesn't take long. Consider these inspiring stats:

- It takes 30 seconds to read the Lord's Prayer.
- It takes 52 seconds to read Psalm 23.
- Seventeen New Testament books can be read in under 20 minutes.

Which of these reasons could help you make Bible reading a priority:

_____ God's Word is forever.

_____ It puts life's pressures into proper perspective.

_____ God's Word imparts God's wisdom, love, and purpose for each day.

_____ "Seek first the kingdom of God ... " Mat. 6:33



Make time to read your Bible, and everything else will fall into place.

Reflection

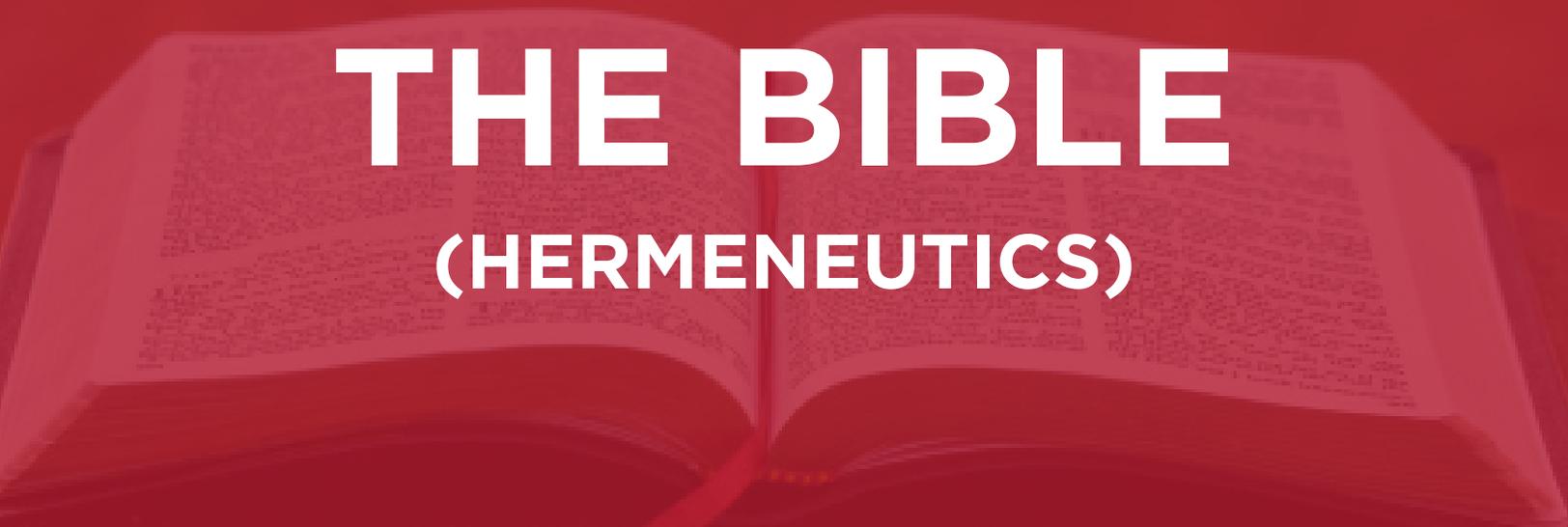


SEARCH

In Exodus,
look for Jesus
our Passover LAMB

Chapter 3

LAWS TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE (HERMENEUTICS)



The Bible is not a *mystery* book. It is an orderly, progressive, unfolding revelation of Who He is and His unconditional love for you, which was demonstrated by the *Blood Covenant* He entered into with man through the Lord Jesus Christ.

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Three scriptures in your Bible

ROMANS 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

ISAIAH 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Hermeneutics 101
- The best Bible
- The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Bible is the only book Jesus quoted.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

HERMENEUTICS - LAWS TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE

01 Take the Bible literally as much as possible.

The Bible is not a book of mysticism. God wants to reveal His truth, not hide it. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value and look first for the clear teaching of scripture, not some hidden meaning. If the message is not obvious, then consider the literary style; poetical, prophetic, etc.

02 Understand the _____ of dispensations.

A dispensation is a period of time marked in Scripture by some change in God's method of dealing with mankind. I explain it is similar to a store that's "Under New Management." St. Augustine said, "Distinguish the dispensations, and the Scriptures harmonize."

The Seven Dispensations of Man

First Dispensation	Edenic	Innocence
Second Dispensation	Antediluvian	Conscience
Third Dispensation	Postdiluvian	Human Government
Fourth Dispensation	Patriarchal	Promise
Fifth Dispensation	Legal	Law
Sixth Dispensation	Ecclesiastical	Grace
Seventh Dispensation	Messianic	Kingdom

03 Keep it in _____.

The word "context" means "that which goes with the text." When you study anything in the Bible – a word, a verse, a teaching – it must always be considered in the light of:

- The surrounding verses and chapters in the book in which it was written
- Chapters in the book
- The character of God

04 The Bible is written with three people groups in mind.

Israel, Gentiles, and the Church. Interpret and judge all divine promises and prophecies accordingly.

05 Understand _____ settings.

Scriptures concerning eating meat, long hair, or women who preach can be easily understood with some basic understanding of the church's first-century culture.

The main thing is the plain thing, and the plain thing is the main thing.

06 Watch for idioms.

Idioms are expressions known only to one particular language or region. Don't be an idiot! Watch out for idioms.

Examples of English Idioms

- "He's in a pickle" really means, "He's in a dilemma."
- "He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth" really means, "He was born into a wealthy family."

Examples of Bible (Aramaic) Idioms

- Mat. 7:6 - "Pearls before swine" really means, "Wise sayings before fools."
- Rom. 3:13 - "The throat is an open sepulcher" really means, "They utter lies, and they are corrupt."

07 Differentiate between spiritual and physical Israel.

Christians are spiritual Israel (*Gal. 3:16*). Abraham's blessing is yours, but the promises made to the physical nation of Israel are not.

08 _____ from the Old Testament, but live by the New Testament.

Glean from the lessons of Israel and her patriarchal fathers, but remember that some of their promises are specifically for Israel. You are the Church, so claim the entire New Testament. (*Think elementary school vs. college*)

09 Understand the purpose of parables.

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. They are illustrations used to relate to people. Don't over-symbolize them. Parables contain a central, simple truth.

10 Differentiate between the two _____.

In the first advent, (coming), Jesus came as the Savior; the baby of Bethlehem, the Christ of Calvary. During the second advent, Jesus will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and reign on the earth for 1,000 years. This period is known as the Millennial Reign.

11 Most importantly, _____ agrees with Scripture!

When confused about a verse, consider the overwhelming message of God's love, His character, and Christ's example. Make sure that your interpretation agrees with other scripture. If it does not, your interpretation (of at least one passage) is inaccurate or incomplete. God does not ever contradict Himself.

Oh! How I love Your Word. It is my meditation all my day. Ps. 119:97



CALEB

This 80-year-old spy entered the promised land because of what he said.
Num. 13:30

A BIBLE TIMELINE GLOSSARY

Autographs The original manuscripts written on papyrus or leather scrolls; deteriorated.

Ancient Copies 5,000+ handwritten copies of the autographs in Greek and Latin.

The Canon The 39 books of the Bible accepted by the Church Fathers to be inspired; the revelation of God.

Versions Translations of the Ancient Copies.

Translations Text changed to another language that accurately reflects the original Hebrew or Greek manuscript.

Paraphrases An easy-to-read, freely rendered restatement or rephrasing of the Bible. Scholars are concerned about the looseness of this textual criteria, they are beneficial to gain the general meaning. The Living Bible and The Message Bibles are good paraphrases.

It's Greek To Me

Today you can purchase a Bible in various stores, but that was not always the case. The Bible was only in Hebrew, some Aramaic, Greek, and Latin. For 1,000 years, the Word of God was hidden in monasteries and in a language not known by the people. This period is appropriately called the Dark Ages because the light of God's Word was hidden.

God began to stir men, such as John Wycliffe and William Tyndale, to translate the Bible into English and the languages of everyday people. They labored long and suffered greatly. Some were martyred. We are among those blessed by their great sacrifices and should never take for granted their willingness to fulfill their Call on our behalf. *(See Page 85)*

What is a Study Bible?

Our TBI Challenge for you is to be a student of the Bible forever. Never stop learning. To accomplish that goal, you will need a good study Bible. A Study Bible is supplemented with unique features designed to assist your Bible knowledge. What does that mean? How do you select one? Here are some items available to most study Bibles and explained throughout the rest of this workbook.

- Maps and charts – Shows geography or panoramic views of nations or Bible topics
- Exhaustive Concordance – An alphabetical index of words in the Bible with its original language explained
- Book introductions – Summaries of the 66 Bible books
- Outlines – An overview of a book or topic
- Bible dictionaries – Alphabetized information of biblical topics.
- Personal notes – Blank pages to invite journaling or notations
- Biographical sketches – Summaries of both good and evil characters
- Reference Tools – Various options from Bible customs to the linguistic insight of Hebrew/Greek languages
- Commentaries – A biblical expert's insight on any given subject

The message is the same in every translation; God's redeeming love.

FOUR QUESTIONS TO CHOOSE A BIBLE

1. Which Study Bible Is Best?

With so many different types of Study Bibles, you might be overwhelmed in making a selection. Here are three questions to ask during your research:

- 1) What method of _____ was used?
- 2) _____ did the translating?
- 3) Which _____ did the translators use?

The Three Method Of Translations

- Word-for-word – aka literal translation
- Thought-for thought – aka dynamic translation
- Paraphrases – very loose translations

**See page 86 in Addendum for Bible comparison chart.*

2. Who Did The Translating?

Individuals? Non-profit organizations? International teams? In general, the broader the group doing the translating, the better.

3. Which Manuscripts Did The Translators Use?

Scribes wearing full ceremonial robes copied the original manuscripts meticulously by creating a laborious system of checking character and section counts. Some New Testaments were translated from the Latin manuscripts, while others came from the Greek manuscripts. Although it caused some slight variations, they agreed in meaning.

4. How Accurate Are The Translations?

Understandably, suspicions are raised in the accuracy of a Holy Book being passed down through unholy men for thousands of generations. These translations have transcended not only various languages but idioms and customs of past civilizations.

For the Greek New Testament, the scholars' most generally accepted figure for significant pollution is one-tenth of one percent. Keep in mind that, despite these minor discrepancies, the message of God's Word never changed. A simple example would be the use of "Simon" instead of "Peter" or "Jesus" instead of "Jesus Christ," **nothing that alters the redemption story.**

The Dead Sea Scrolls

In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy threw a rock into a cave near Jericho and made a discovery that silenced the Bible critics and shook the known world. Many leather scrolls were found hidden in pottery jars. Two scrolls contained the book of Isaiah in its entirety and the first two chapters of Habakkuk and fragments from every Old Testament book except Esther.

The manuscripts dated a thousand years earlier than most used to establish the Hebrew text. In comparing those manuscripts with today's, the differences are minimal. After 1000 years of copying, there were no changes in meaning and almost no changes in wording! This discovery greatly authenticated the accuracy of the Bible.

And The Winner Is

The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible is my favorite study Bible. It is now available from Zondervan in many versions; KJV, NKJV, NIV, and NASB, and has a topical reference system second to none. So, make the investment or put it on your Christmas list.

LAWS TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE

01

Hermeneutics are laws that interpret the Bible.

02

Most importantly, Scripture agrees with Scripture.

03

A study Bible has supplemental features to assist the serious student.

04

There are three methods of translations, but all Bibles are inspired.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Kngs. 8:56

Is. 40:8

Ps. 19:7

Mat. 5:17

Mat. 24:35

Heb. 6:18

Excuse #3: I Don't Understand the Bible

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. Ps. 119:130

You're in good company. The Psalmist didn't understand God's ways, either.

"Teach me" is found nine times in Psalm 119: Psalm 119:12, 26, 33, 66, 68, 108, 124,135, 171

"Give me understanding" is found six times in Psalm 119: Psalm 119:27, 34, 73, 125, 144, 169

Why don't you highlight some of those verses right now?

Don't feel any pressure to understand the Bible at first. It's a love letter from your Father! As you enjoy and obey the parts you do understand, He'll unfold other parts that have been unclear to you.

We've had many Texas Bible Institute students whose minds were destroyed with drugs, but God "redeemed their lives from destruction." Ps. 103:3 Their homework assignment was to read God's Word every day. The entrance of God's Word wonderfully healed their minds. Miracles of restoration unfolded right before our eyes. This happened to them, and it can happen to you and your loved ones, too. The reason your windshield is larger than your rearview mirror is so you can move forward.



Then He (Jesus) opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. *Lk. 24:45*

Reflection



SEARCH

In Isaiah,
look for Jesus
our Prince of PEACE

Chapter 4

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

#1 STUDY A BOOK

Thousands of *unknown* athletes have talent, but only the most disciplined become *superstars*. Studying your Bible is that way. Of course, Christians would rather see *angels*, but what's important isn't *how high* you jump in the Spirit, but how straight you walk when your feet hit the floor.

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Four scriptures in your Bible

II TIMOTHY 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Book-by-book
- 66 options
- Inductive Bible Study

God's Word changes you from the inside out.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

01 Study a _____

02 Study a _____

03 Study a _____

04 Study a _____

05 Study a _____

Bible Study Methods

Let's Get Started!

A few of the many options are explained in the next five chapters and include: Bible study types, methods, tools, and techniques. Each of them has specific benefits, so practice them all and become a well-rounded student.

Once you select which Bible study type, you can select how you want to record and remember what you've learned. A few of the many options are explained in the next five chapters include:

- Inductive Bible Study (5 W and 1 H)
- Color-coding
- Bible markings
- Word Studies
- Verse Mapping
- Outlining
- Cross-referencing



Bible study should begin with prayer and an unhurried mindset.

HOW TO STUDY A BOOK

What: Studying a Bible book

Why: To gain a general overview of who God is and how He interacts with His people

Bible Study Method: Inductive Bible Study

Studying an entire book of the Bible can seem daunting at first, but twenty-five Bible books have *five or fewer chapters.

Old Testament: *11 short books

New Testament: 14 short books

Let's Get Started:

It takes 11 minutes to read 11 Timothy.

Select a shorter book - I recommended the books of Ruth, II Timothy, or James.

- 01 Read it three times - Read it at one sitting to become familiar with it. Then, reread it in different translations until a timeless message emerges. Recommended: New Living Translation, The Living Bible, The Message. Audio Bibles can be downloaded to your phone, too.
- 02 Focus On These Questions -
 - 1st Reading: *What is the main message? What is the key verse?*
 - 2nd Reading: *Focus on the author and recipient(s). What were the author's circumstances? Why did he write this book? What were the recipient's circumstances and objectives?*
 - 3rd Reading: *List the author or recipient's problems. List the promises, instructions, or inspirations from the Lord.*
- 03 Look for game changers - *Adversity, divine intervention, choices made, or keywords*

Studying is like exercise. Discipline first. Delight later.



JOSIAH

Teenage Reformer

II Kings 23:3

BIBLE STUDY METHOD: INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (5W'S AND AN H)

The **Inductive Bible Study** Method is an investigative approach to the Bible using three basic components. First, after **observing** some basic information about the chapter, you then interpret it based on what you know about who God is and what His Word says about Him. The final part of this method is the **application** of these truths as you put them into practice in your own life. As you read, ponder these three questions:

Observation: What does this passage _____?

Interpretation: What does this passage _____?

Application: How does this passage _____ to you?

Investigative Reading

The Bible student should follow the same process as an investigative journalist does while working on their report. They begin by gathering the details of the story and by asking the 5 W's and an H. You can follow the same process as you read your Bible:

Who wrote it? Who said it? Who are the major characters? Who are the people mentioned? To whom is the author speaking? About whom is he speaking?

What are the main events? What are the major ideas? What are the major teachings? What are these people like? What topics are mentioned the most? What is his purpose in saying that? What are the key verses? What is the summary?

When was it written? When did this event take place? When will it happen? When did he say it? When did he do it?

Where was this done? Where was this said? Where will this happen?

Why was this written? Why was this mentioned? Why was so much or so little space devoted to this teaching or event? Why was this reference mentioned?

How is it done? How did it happen? How is this truth illustrated? How did he react? How did he respond?

The entirety of Your Word is truth ... Ps. 119:160

SAMPLE PAGE

James

What You Need: Three translations of the Bible

Read the book of James in one sitting. It will take sixteen minutes.

April 9	<i>New Living Translation</i> (Date / Version)
April 10	<i>New King James Version</i>
April 11	<i>The Message</i>

Observation: What does this passage say?

Who wrote this book?: *James, the brother of Jesus*

To whom? *Jewish Christians who were scattered outside of Israel*

What? *Authentic Faith = Wisdom, works, words*

Where? *Jerusalem*

When? *45 - 47 AD*

Why? *Christian persecution was prevalent*

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Real faith can be seen through practical works and heard through faith-filled words.

Application: How does this passage apply to you?

I'm going to stop complaining about being lonely and begin volunteering twice a month at Houston's Food Bank.

Bonus Questions, if you're feelin' brave:

Key verse(s):

Jms. 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God..."

Jms. 2:26 - "...faith without works is dead" authentic faith through faith-filled conversations and practical support to those in need.

Key Word: "Works" is repeated 16 times in 4 chapters! (*or a derivative)

What is the summary?

Christian persecution has forced believers to be geographically scattered. James is reminding them of the wisdom they had learned and to demonstrate faith through practical support.

PRACTICE PAGE

II Timothy

What You Need: Three translations of the Bible

Read the book of James in one sitting. It will take sixteen minutes.

_____ (Date / Version)

Observation: What does this passage say?

Who wrote this book?: _____

To whom? _____

What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Application: How does this passage apply to you?

Bonus Questions, if you're feelin' brave:

Key verse(s):

Key Word:

Summary:

A Book-by-Book Bible Review

Bible Book	Theme	Reading Time	Jesus in Every Book
Genesis	Beginnings	3.5 Hours	Seed of Woman
Exodus	Deliverance	3 Hours	Our Passover Lamb
Leviticus	Instruction	2 Hours	Atoning Sacrifice
Numbers	Journeys	3 Hours	Smitten Rock
Deuteronomy	Obedience	2.5 Hours	Faithful Prophet
Joshua	Conquest	1.75 Hours	Captain of the Lord's Host
Judges	Deterioration and deliverance	1.75 Hours	Divine Deliverer
Ruth	Redemption	15 Minutes	Kinsman Redeemer
1 Samuel	Transition	2.25 Hours	Anointed One
2 Samuel	Unification	1.75 Hours	Son of David
1 Kings	Disruption	2 Hours	Coming King
2 Kings	Dispersion	2.25 Hours	Coming King
1 Chronicles	Israel's spiritual history	2 Hours	Building of the Temple
2 Chronicles	Israel's spiritual history	2.5 Hours	Building of the Temple
Ezra	Restoration	40 Minutes	Restorer of the Temple
Nehemiah	Reconstruction	1 Hour	Restorer of the Nation
Esther	Preservation	30 Minutes	Preserver of the Nation
Job	Blessing through suffering	1.75 Hours	Living Redeemer
Psalms	Praise	5 Hours	Praise of Israel
Proverbs	Practical wisdom	1.75 Hours	Wisdom of God
Ecclesiastes	All is vanity apart from God	30 Minutes	Great Teacher
Song of Solomon	Love and marriage	20 Minutes	Fairest of Ten Thousands
Isaiah	Salvation	3.75 Hours	Suffering Servant
Jeremiah	Judgement	4 Hours	Maker of the New Covenant
Lamentations	Lament	20 Minutes	Man of Sorrows
Ezekiel	The glory of the Lord	3.75 Hours	Glory of God
Daniel	The sovereignty of God	1.25 Hours	Coming Messiah
Hosea	Unfaithfulness	30 Minutes	Lover of the Unfaithful
Joel	The Day of the Lord	12 Minutes	Hope of Israel
Amos	Judgement	25 Minutes	Husbandman
Obadiah	Righteous judgement	4 Minutes	Savior
Jonah	God's grace to all people	8 Minutes	Resurrected One
Micah	Divine judgement	20 Minutes	Ruler in Israel
Nahum	Consolation	8 Minutes	Avenger
Habakkuk	Trusting a sovereign God	9 Minutes	Holy God
Zephaniah	The "great day of the Lord"	10 Minutes	King of Israel
Haggai	Rebuilding the temple	7 Minutes	Desire of Nations
Zechariah	God's deliverance	40 Minutes	Righteous Branch
Malachi	Formalism rebuked	11 Minutes	Sun of Righteousness
Matthew	The kingdom of God	2.5 Hours	King of the Jews
Mark	The Suffering Servant	1.5 Hours	Servant of the Lord
Luke	The Perfect Man	2.5 Hours	Son of Man
John	The Son of God	2 Hours	Son of God
Acts	The spread of the gospel	2.25 Hours	Ascended Lord
Romans	The righteousness of God	1 Hour	Believer's Righteousness
1 Corinthians	Christian conduct	1 Hour	Sanctification
2 Corinthians	Paul's defense of his apostleship	40 Minutes	Sufficiency
Galatians	Freedom in Christ	20 Minutes	Liberty
Ephesians	Blessings in Christ	20 Minutes	Head of the Church
Philippians	The joy-filled life	14 Minutes	The Christian's Joy
Colossians	The supremacy of Christ	13 Minutes	Fullness of Deity
1 Thessalonians	Concern for the church	12 Minutes	Believer's Comfort
2 Thessalonians	Living in hope	7 Minutes	Believer's Glory
1 Timothy	Instructions for a young disciple	16 Minutes	Christian's Preserver
2 Timothy	A charge to faithful ministry	11 Minutes	Christian's Rewarder
Titus	A manual of conduct	7 Minutes	Blessed Hope
Philemon	Forgiveness	3 Minutes	Substitute
Hebrews	The superiority of Christ	45 Minutes	High Priest
James	Genuine faith	16 Minutes	Giver of Wisdom
1 Peter	Responding to suffering	16 Minutes	Rock
2 Peter	Warning against false teachers	10 Minutes	Precious Promise
1 John	Fellowship with God	16 Minutes	Life
2 John	Christian discernment	2 Minutes	Truth
3 John	Christian hospitality	2 Minutes	Way
Jude	Contending for the faith	4 Minutes	Advocate
Revelation	The unveiling of Jesus Christ	1.25 Hours	King of Kings and Lord of Lords

HOW TO STUDY A BOOK

01

Studying a Bible book provides a general overview of who God is and how He interacts with His people.

02

The five types of Bible study are a book, a chapter, a verse, a person, or a topic.

03

The Inductive Bible Study Method uses an investigative approach with 5W's and an H.

04

Using a variety of Bible Study methods will develop you into a well-rounded student.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ps. 19:7a

Ps. 19:7b

Ps. 19:8a

Ps. 19:8b

Ps. 19:11

Ps. 19:14

Excuse #4: I Don't Know Where to Start

Let me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Ps. 25:4

Good for you! Anywhere you start is good, but here are a few tips:

1. Select a time and location to meet with the Lord daily for one month. _____
Time *Location*

2. Make the commitment to read one chapter daily which will be approximately ten minutes. _____
Initials

3. Start with prayer by writing out Ps. 119:18: _____

4. Read one chapter of Proverbs that corresponds with today's date. It's simple and will begin a rhythm of daily Bible reading. Today's date is _____, so I'll be reading Proverbs chapter _____.

5. Next, read the gospel of John and ask Him questions while you read. For example,

Jesus, how did you feel when they said that to You?

Did You know you would be performing miracles that day?

If I were in that story, where would I be?



Since the Bible is about Jesus, start reading in the gospels.

Reflection

My favorite Old Testament chapters:

Exodus ch. 12 Psalm 103 Isaiah ch. 53

My favorite New Testament chapters:

John ch. 3 Romans ch. 8 Hebrews ch. 11

See page 44 for my Golden Chapters list.



SEARCH

In Joel,
look for Jesus
our BAPTIZER of the HOLY
GHOST

The written Word leads us to the Living Word

Chapter 5

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

#2 STUDY A CHAPTER

Scientists agree there are *10 million colors* in the world that the human eye can see. Looking beyond the infamous ROY G. BIV chart, there are 100 different levels of red-green shades, 100 levels of yellow-blue shades, etc. Don't be overwhelmed. In this chapter, the colors discussed are *limited to six.*

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Five scriptures in your Bible

II TIMOTHY 2:15 NLT

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

ACTS 17:11

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Golden Chapters
- Color-coding
- What's an OSS?

*The Word of God breaks hard hearts and
heals broken hearts.*

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

STUDYING A CHAPTER

Studying a chapter of the Bible helps you break down long passages into manageable, relatively uniform chunks. Chapter studies can stand alone as a complete unit, filled with themes and a specific purpose, or they serve as snapshots in a photo album, providing a glimpse into the big picture of the entire book.

What: Studying a Bible chapter

Why: To observe the sub-themes that support comprehension of the entire book

Bible Study Method: Color Coding and Bible Markings

Chapter Divisions

For nine hundred years, the Bible had no chapters. Then, in 1227 A.D., Stephen Langton, an English Archbishop of Canterbury, created chapter divisions that your modern Bible has today. (When you arrive in heaven someday, please locate this dear scholar, and thank him for giving your English Bible a structure you can grasp.)

Verses Numbered

A verse numbering system was created in 1551 A.D. by a French Scholar named Robert Estienne. It's important to note that this convenience serves you as a Bible student but makes you vulnerable to misinterpretations. Context is everything, so remember to read the entire chapter to rightly divide the word of truth.

Chapter Headings - *Heads up!*

As the Bible began to be published by different denominations and businesses, chapter headings were created. This explains why the chapter titles in the New King James Bible are different from the New International Version, and so on. They serve as an excellent guideline for the upcoming chapter, but these headings were not part of the ancient copies. Instead, they were added 1,500 years later by men.

Bible Study Methods

Two Bible study methods that works well with chapter studies are:

- Color-coding - Using map pencils or highlighters to designate a theme.
- Bible markings - The use of icons or definitive marks to record an emphasis.



NEHEMIAH
God's Architect
Neh. 2:18

SAMPLE PAGE

Bible Coding Guide:

Heavenly Things

- Names and attributes of God
- Names and attributes of Jesus
- Names and attributes of Holy Spirit
- Names and attributes of Heaven
- Names and attributes of Angels

Redemptive Truths

- All things Jesus
- Christ as seen in O.T.
- Messianic prophecies
- Fulfilled prophecies
- Miracles of Jesus
- Christ's atoning work
- Salvation - blood of Jesus

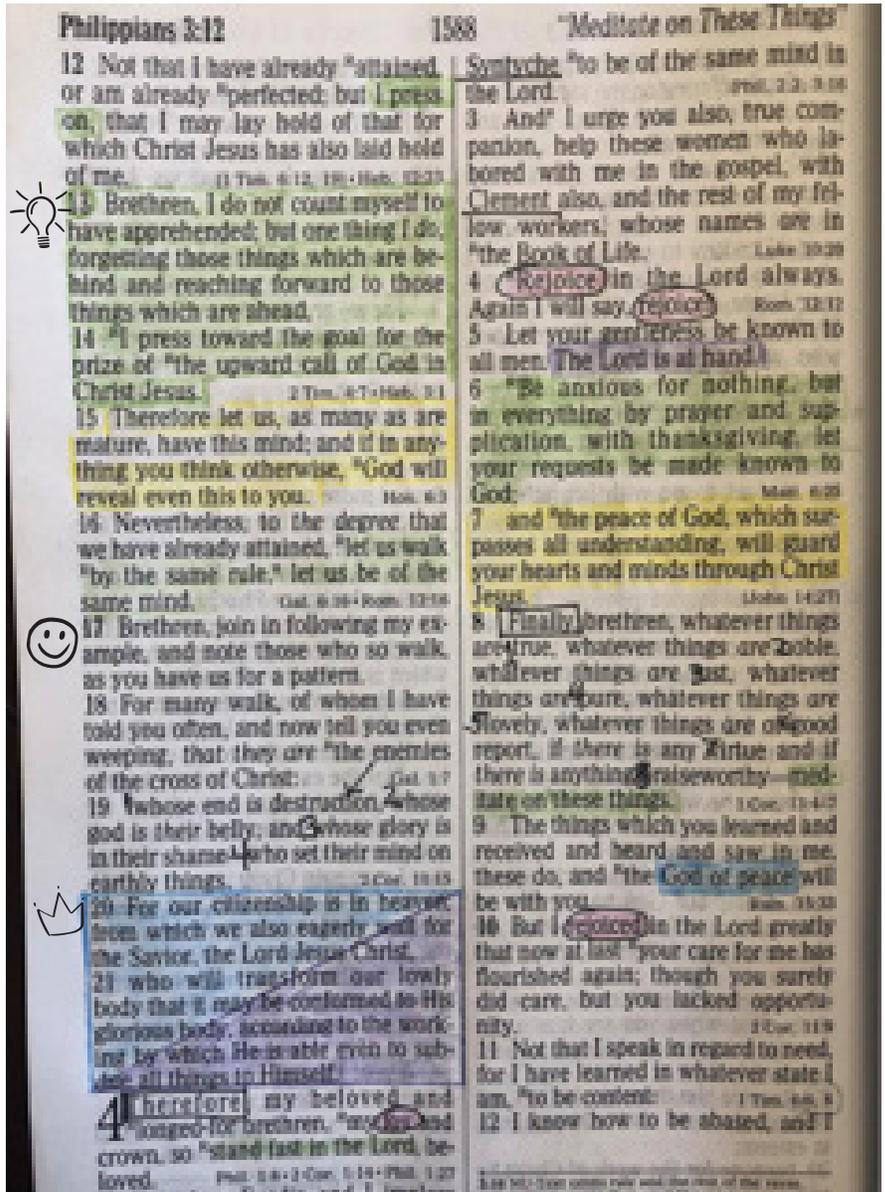
Promises

Promises of...

Authority	crown
Encouragement	smiling icon
Family	heart
Financial	\$
Guidance	arrow
Healing	H
Salvation	S
Wisdom	lightbulb

Spiritual Growth

Command/Instruction	C
Warnings	W
Grace, mercy, hope	
Financial topics	\$



Who I Am in Christ

- Reigning in life
- Believer's authority
- Overcoming life
- Faith-filled lifestyle
- Second Coming of Jesus

The Word of God

- Descriptions of
- Authority of
- Attitude towards

A Bible Marking Code brings immediate attention to specific topics.

Bible Markings

A Bible marking system uses color, words, symbols, icons, or simple drawings on a Bible page to emphasize or explain a scripture. Here are some simple ideas to help you get started.

Transitional Words

Draw a box around transitional words which emphasize strong links between two phrases. Ask yourself, why are these two phrases connected? Especially when you see the word "therefore," ask yourself, "What is it there for?" A few transitional words are:

Since Following After But And so Therefore Immediately Then Finally Later

Keywords and Repetitive Phrases

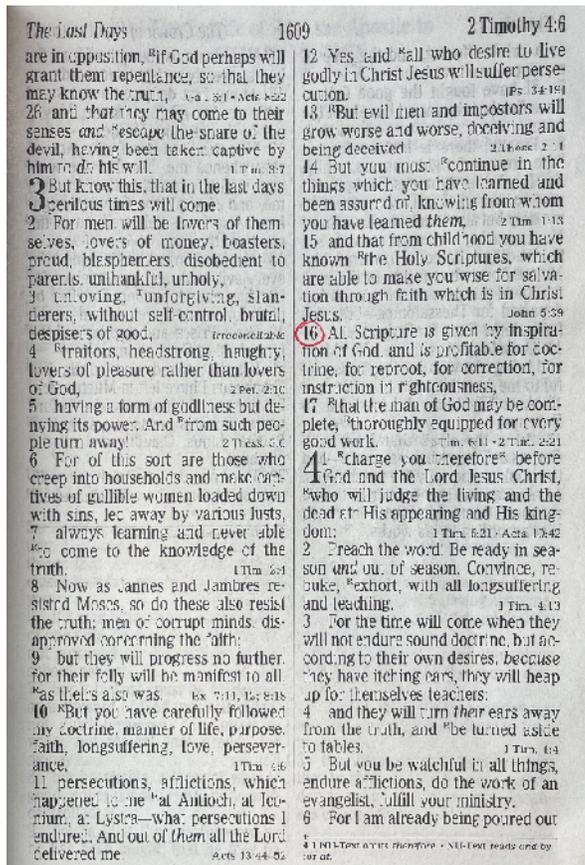
Draw an oval around keywords or repetitive phrases within the chapter. Keywords will be found several times within the chapter and help to determine the author's intent. Repetitive phrases are significant. Why are they important? What's their connection to the central theme?

People and Places

Underline the names and places in the chapter and ask, "What is their relationship with the author?" What was their response to the gospel? What positive or negative attributes describe them? These were real people who encountered the cost of following Jesus just like you. Places can become more significant if you use a Bible map and Bible dictionary.

It's Your Turn!

Can you mark six people or places, one promise, four lists, three transitional words, one command.



People or Places (6)

Promise (1)

Vs. _____

Command (1)

Vs. _____

Lists (4)

Vs. _____

Vs. _____

Vs. _____

Vs. _____

Transitional Words (3)

Vs. _____

Vs. _____

Vs. _____

THE GOLDEN CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

With 1,189 chapters in your Bible, it's difficult to know where to read. These thirty chapters sparkle like gold and should be read frequently. Try reading one per day, and you'll finish in a month.

Genesis 1-2	Creation
Genesis 3	The fall of man
Genesis 22	Abraham's greatest test
Exodus 12	The Passover
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Deuteronomy 28	The blessing of obedience
Psalms 8	God's glory and man's dominion
Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Psalms 91	Protection for the godly
Psalms 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalms 119	The Psalm of God's Word
Psalms 139	Search me, O God
Psalms 150	Praise ye the Lord!
Ecclesiastes 3	A time for everything
Isaiah 53	The Messiah
Isaiah 58	God's chosen fast
Daniel 3	3 Hebrews in fiery furnace
Joel 2	The last days
Matthew 5-7	The Sermon on the Mount
Luke 15	The Prodigal son
John 3	God's love for a lost world
John 10	The Good Shepherd
Romans 8	The Spirit's power, purpose, and presence
Romans 12	Believer's responsibilities
I Corinthians 13	Love chapter
I Corinthians 14	The gifts of the Holy Ghost
Ephesians 6	God's Authority
II Timothy 2	Paul's Exhortation
Hebrews 11	Heroes of faith
Revelation 21	The New Jerusalem

HOW TO STUDY A CHAPTER

01

A chapter study helps to break down long passages into manageable chunks.

02

Studying a chapter can be self-contained or a step towards studying a book.

03

Chapter studies are enhanced by color coding and a Bible marking system.

04

Complete a chapter study by writing an OSS, one-sentence summary.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 119 is known as the "Word of God" chapter with 171 references to God's Word.

Ps. 119:11

Ps. 119:18

Ps. 119:70

Ps. 119:89

Ps. 119:105

Ps. 119:130

Ps. 119:162

Ps. 119:165

Excuse #5: What If I Get It Wrong?

But when the Father sends ... the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. Jn. 14:26

Emperor Menelik II established the nation of Ethiopia in 1896. He definitely “got it wrong” when, believing the Bible had healing power, he ate a few pages whenever feeling ill. He died of a bowel obstruction after eating the entire book of Kings. Had the emperor attended TBI, he would have learned a better way to study his Bible.

The Bible is the only book that comes with a personal Tutor. Jesus said, “I’m leaving, but I’m going to send you a Helper.” Here’s a typical conversation that I often have with my Helper/Tutor while I’m reading:

Me: *I have no clue what that scripture means.*

Holy Spirit: Do you remember that story about Gideon?

Me: *Gideon? Wow. I would have never thought to connect that scripture with Gideon's story.*

Holy Spirit: Pretty cool, right? Now, go look at the scripture Pastor Tommy preached on about “Who You Are In Christ.” Do you see that connection?

Me: *I see it!! Gideon won his battles because he believed who God said he was, and so will I. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for teaching me.*

You won’t get it “wrong” if your heart is right. I suggest you stay in the gospels to study the life of Jesus for a while because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. So relax about wandering down the wrong path, because your Helper will set off an internal alarm. That’s just what He does!



Keep studying the Bible until you see the smiling face of Jesus on every page.

Reflection



SEARCH

In Romans,
look for Jesus
our JUSTIFIER

Chapter 6

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

#3 STUDY A VERSE

Before your heart gets broken, *before* you deal with loss, *before* your doctor gives you a bad diagnosis, *before* your computer gets hacked, *before* you flunk your math final, *before* your roast burns, *before* your fave podcast, put the Word in you when you don't need it, and it will be there when you do.

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Six scriptures in your Bible

II TIMOTHY 2:15 AMPC

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

PSALM 119:18 NLT

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Exegesis - Studying a verse
- The value of a concordance
- Verse mapping

*God's Word in your mouth releases God's power
in your life.*

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

STUDY A VERSE

Since repetition is the best teacher, let's review the three ways to enjoy your Bible. A well-rounded Bible student utilizes all three of these approaches:

_____ reading - *The bird approach*

_____ reading - *The frog approach*

_____ - *The caterpillar approach*

Today you'll learn the value of studying, slowly and methodically, like a caterpillar eats a leaf.

What: Study a verse

Why: To dive deeper into the meaning of a word or words from their original language

Bible Study Methods: Word Studies and Verse Mapping

Suggested Study Tips:

1. A quiet, well-lighted room
2. An unhurried mindset to learn. This is time to fill up your head, not your heart.
3. Notebook
4. Good study Bible:*
 - Thompson Chain Reference - NKJV
 - Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
5. Bible reference books:
 - Halley's Bible Handbook – Over 3,000,000 in print. Bible teachers of all denominations recommend it. Especially good for new Bible students
 - A Bible Concordance - Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is the most complete with additional Hebrew and Greek dictionaries.
 - Dictionary – Thorough listing of Bible subjects; Smith's, Unger's, or Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia are among the best.
 - Vines Expository of New Testament Words – Gives clarity of Greek meaning
 - The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times – Good reference materials
 - Wuest's Word Studies

Your #1 Study Buddy

A good concordance contains an alphabetical index of Bible words, references where that word occurs, and the meaning from the original language. If you can remember just one word in a verse, you can often find what you're looking for. Bible software takes a lot of what a concordance does and simplifies the process. Given the ease and power at your fingertips online, you might prefer it over owning a tangible exhaustive concordance, but I'm "old school" and won't part with my 40-year-old Strong's.

God reveals Himself through the words of His Word.

LET'S GET STARTED

Today you'll be learning two more Bible study methods known as word studies and verse mapping.

What You Need:

- A study Bible you can mark in
- A notebook
- A Bible concordance

The Strong's Exhaustive Biblical Concordance is divided into two sections:

Concordance (located in the front)

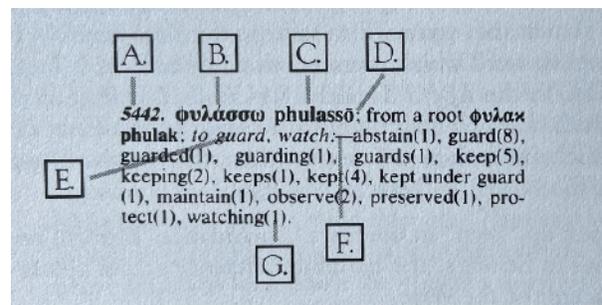
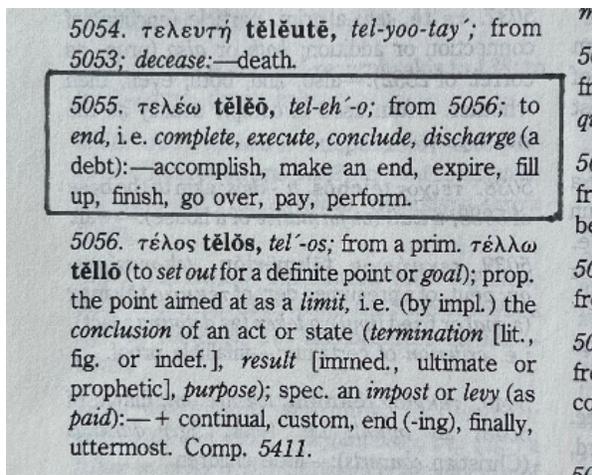
Dictionaries (located in the back)

Hebrew dictionary - includes Old Testament words

Greek dictionary - includes all New Testament words

Let's study the word "finished" when Jesus cried, "It is finished." Jn. 19:30

1. Similar to a dictionary, look up the word "finished" in John 19:30.
2. Find the reference number.
3. Since John 19:30 is located in the New Testament, turn to the Greek dictionary.



- A. First, there is the Greek reference number.
- B. The word "finished" in the Greek language.
- C. Next is the English transliteration (how to spell it in English).
- D. A phonetic pronunciation of the Greek word (how to say it in English).
- E. The derivation of the word.
- F. The definition is in italics.
- G. Following the colon and long dash (---) are all the renderings of the Greek word in KJV.

You're about to have that "Wow-I-can-do-this" epiphany.

Let's Review Using A Concordance

1. What is the reference number for "finished?" _____
2. What is the English spelling of the Greek word "finished?" _____
3. List a few of the different words (or renderings) used to translate the Greek word, "teleo."

Bible concordances are divided into two parts:

_____ and _____.

The dictionary is divided into two languages : _____ and _____.

When researching an Old Testament word, which dictionary will you use? _____.

When researching a New Testament word, which dictionary will you use? _____.

Some Of My Favorite Greek Words

Scripture	English	Greek	Meaning
Jn. 19:30	Finished	*Tetelestai	
II Cor. 5:17	New	Kainos	
Ph. 2:7	Made Himself of no reputation	Kenosis	
Heb. 10:38	Draw back	Hupostello	

**An amazing word. It is the perfect indicative passive tense of the word "teleos" and will reveal the finished work of Christ in an a marvelous way.*



ANANIAS
"Here I am, Lord."
Acts 9:10

BIBLE STUDY METHOD: VERSE MAPPING

Verse mapping is a creative technique that combines Bible study and Spirit-guided thoughts, expressing them in a no-pressure-for-perfection design. Here are some tips to get you started.

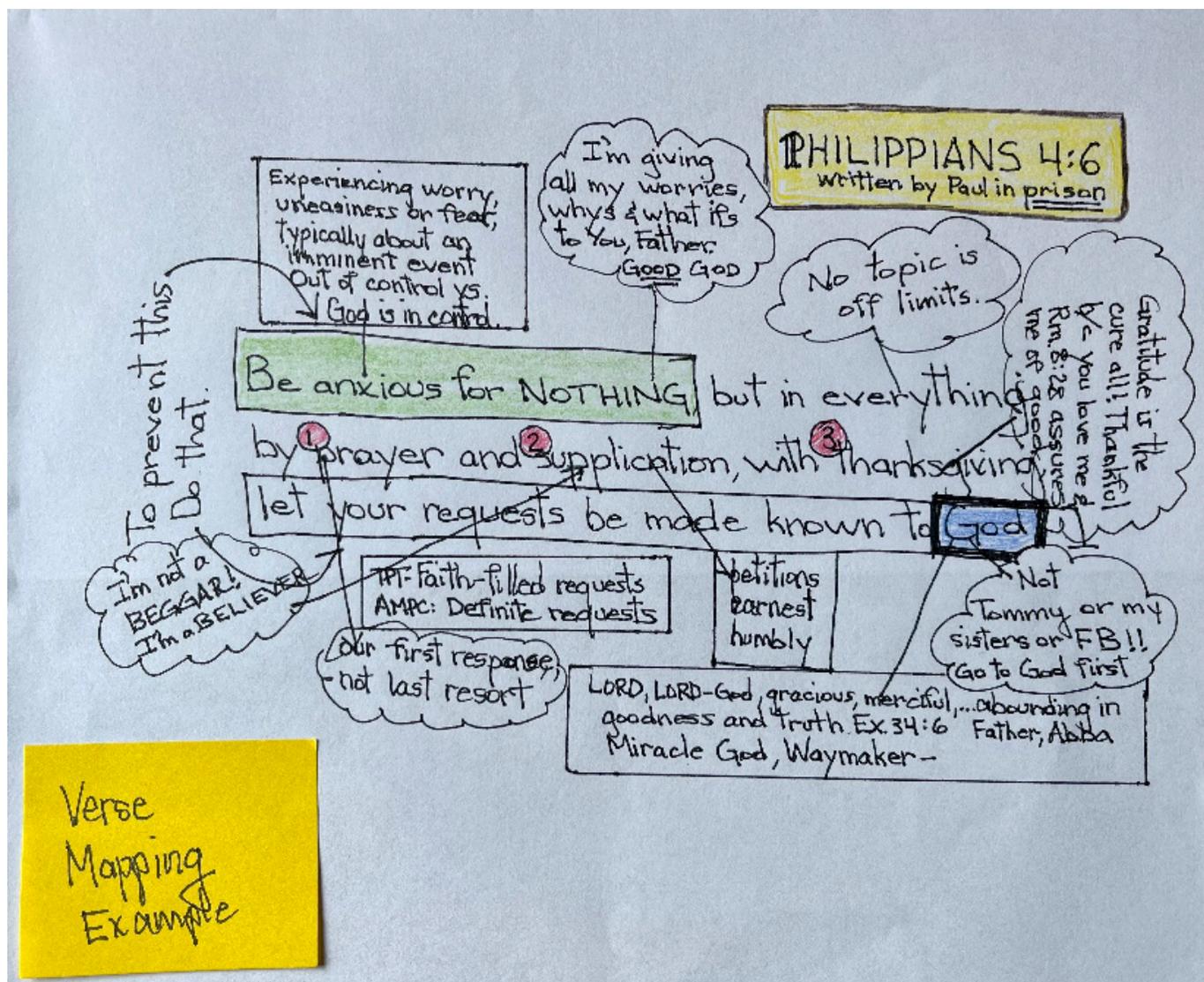
Step 1: Pray Ps. 119:118 - Open my eyes, that I may see ...

Step 2: Select a short scripture and write it out.

Step 3: Focus on keywords or phrases.

Step 4: Use a dictionary and different translations

Step 5: Put "head" info in a box. Put "heart" thoughts in bubbles.



To keep your interpretation correct, read the verses above and below. Context is everything. Coloring is not needed, but it does emphasize specific words. Try it! Enjoy!

HOW TO STUDY A VERSE

01

Studying your Bible should be slow and methodical with an unhurried mindset.

02

A concordance explains the meaning of a Bible word in its original language.

03

Verse mapping combines a word study diagram with Spirit-guided thoughts.

04

The objective of studying your Bible is to enjoy getting to know your Father.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ps. 119:18

Prv. 6:6

Prv. 10:4b

Prv. 10:14a

Prv. 12:27b

Prv. 13:4

Prv. 21:5a

II Tim. 2:15 (AMPC)

Excuse #6: The Bible Isn't Relevant

"For I Am the Lord and I do not change." Mal.3:6

This excuse goes like this: A lot has happened over the last 1,700 years since the Bible was compiled. So can the Bible really speak to the contemporary issues our world is dealing with, like terrorism, evolution, and human cloning?

Yes, the world has changed, which is exactly why you need to build your life of our unchanging God.

Check the items that have never changed.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | God, the Father |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> | God, the Son |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fashion/Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> | God, the Holy Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific discoveries | <input type="checkbox"/> | The name of Jesus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Philosophies of Man | <input type="checkbox"/> | God's Word |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Everything has changed | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nothing has changed |

The Bible is more relevant than the breaking news and, after it breaks and the world learns of the next crisis or conflict, our loving Father waits behind that screen ready to fix whatever is broken.



Build your life on God's unchanging Word.

Reflection



SEARCH

In Phillippians,
look for Jesus
our Provider

Chapter 7

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

#4 STUDY A PERSON

Welcome to your *family tree*... Adam and Eve lived in the *nude*. Noah got drunk. Jacob was a *liar*. Rachel was beautiful. Ruth was a widow. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. Gideon was *fearful*. Rahab was a harlot. Elijah was *suicidal*. Peter denied Jesus. Jesus rose from the dead!

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Seven scriptures in your Bible

I CORINTHIANS 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:17 BSB

Join one another in following my examples, brothers, and carefully observe those who walk according to the pattern we set for you.

PHILIPPIANS 4:9

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Character studies
- 2,930 options
- Outlines and attributes

God's Word is a seed.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

STUDYING A PERSON

Studying a person of the Bible helps us learn from the strengths and limitations of their humanity and how God reveals Himself. Also known as a biographical study or character study, you have 2,930 separate people to meet.

What: Study a Person

Why: To see the love of God in action as He deals with character strengths and weaknesses.

Bible Study Method: Outlining

The Bible Study Methods chosen in this workbook are not chapter-specific. You can use them interchangeably. Outlining is an easy, concise way to identify the main points visually and observe the logical flow of a book, a passage, or a person's life. Although there are several ways to outline, the objective is the same; to observe the portion studied with just a glance "from the top of a ladder" and not be bogged down with all the details.

Let's Get Started

Today we will study the person of Joseph from the Old Testament by using the Bible Study Method known as _____.

What you need:

- Your study Bible
- Concordance
- Any Bible history book
- The Manners and Customs of Bible Times
- List of attributes

The Bible has 2,930 characters to meet, and some are just that!

The Bible is a window into the heart, thoughts, and ways of God.

Definitions:

- **Main topics** are the central idea.
- **Subtopics** are points that explain the main topic.
- **Sub-points** are points that explain the subtopics.

A LADDERTOP GLANCE



Start Here

Four Steps For Outlining A Bible Character

- I. Read Material Thoroughly
 - A. Different translations
 1. NKJV as an anchor
 2. Paraphrases - NLT, The Message
 - B. What To Notice
 1. Events and experiences
 2. Actions and reactions
 3. Positive and negative attributes
 4. God's interactions
- II. Select Main Topic Divisions (*Select one*)
 - A. Chronological events
 - B. Character roles
 - C. Character's attributes
 - D. God's master plan revealed
- III. List Subtopics (*Select one*)
 - A. Chronological events
 1. Joseph, favorite child, hated brother
 2. Joseph becomes a slave
 3. False accusation results in prison
 4. Appointed 2nd in Egypt's command
 5. Feeds and forgives brothers
 - B. Character's roles
 1. Joseph, the child dreamer
 2. Joseph, Potipher's slave
 3. Joseph, the prisoner
 4. Joseph, Potipher's 2nd in command
 5. Joseph, the forgiving brother
 - C. Attributes
 1. Positive
 2. Negative
 - D. God's Interactions
 1. What was God's plan for his life?
 2. How did God prepare him?
 3. How did He sustain him during adversity?
 4. What was God's greatest blessing?
- IV. Subpoints Explain Subtopics
 - A. Optional
 - B. Used with shorter, detailed outline
 - C. (I don't use them too often)

CHARACTER TRAITS

Inward values that determine outward actions

Positive

Amicable
Alert
Available
Benevolent
Bold
Compassionate
Creative
Decisive
Dependable
Diligent
Discerning
Discreet
Endurance
Enthusiastic
Faithful
Flexible
Forgiving
Generous

Gentle
Grateful
Honorable
Hospitable
Humble
Joyful
Loyal
Meek
Obedient
Patient
Punctual
Resourceful
Self-controlled
Sincere
Thorough
Truthful
Virtuous
Wise

Negative

Aggressive
Angry
Anxious
Argumentative
Arrogant
Cowardly
Critical
Cruel
Deceitful
Devious
Discouraging
Dishonest
Disloyal
Disrespectful
Envious
Fearful
Foolish
Greedy
Hateful
Haughty
Ignorant

Impatient
Inconsiderate
Insincere
Insulting
Irresponsible
Jealous
Lazy
Liar
Negative
Power-hungry
Prejudiced
Proud
Resentful
Rude
Selfish
Unappreciative
Unforgiving
Violent
Wicked



LYDIA

Career Woman
Church planter
Acts 16:14

HOW TO STUDY A PERSON

01

Studying a person in the Bible focuses on their strengths and weaknesses.

02

Studying a person in the Bible reveals how God interacts with His people.

03

Outlining is a Bible Study Method that visually identifies the main points.

04

Outlining a person's life helps us learn from their successes and failures.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

I Cor. 11:1

Ph. 3:17

Ph. 4:9

I Cor. 4:16

I Th. 1:6

I Jn. 2:6

Chapter 8

FIVE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

#5 STUDY A TOPIC

A college *professor* was jabbing at a Christian sophomore and said, "I don't think that it's fair that there's a *holiday* on the calendar for everyone except we *atheists*." The student replied, "Oh, but you're wrong, professor. The Bible says, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God," so *April Fool's Day* is just for you."

YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Eight scriptures in your Bible

ACTS 20:27

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

PROVERBS 3:1

My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Study a topic
- The big rule!
- Cross-referencing

God's Word is God's will.

Reading scriptures aloud increases comprehension.

STUDYING A TOPIC

Have you met sincere people who can make the Bible say anything they want it to say? This mishap occurs because they are living by a few selected verses. They have not given any attention to the context of the passage, nor have they taken time to learn about the cultural setting of that day. Sadly, entire families and churches are divided for years over something that God didn't even say. Here's a better plan!

What: Studying a topic

Why: To rightly divide the Word of truth

Bible Study Method: Cross-referencing

Topical Bible Study

A topical Bible study includes thorough research of what God's Word has to say regarding a specific topic, such as grace or guidance. The benefit of this type of study is that, if done correctly, it gives you a total picture of what God has to say. Most Christians enjoy this type of study the most, yet it is the most commonly misused. How can we prevent misinterpretation?

Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

Studying "the whole counsel of God" refers to your commitment to interpreting all of the passages regarding a specific topic so that you can read the Bible in context. The Bible is one revelation without contradiction, so a safety net is to let Scripture interpret Scripture.

God usually does not exhaust a subject in just one book. Instead, He has chosen to give us bits and pieces of truth throughout His Word. Therefore, to be sure that you are "rightly dividing the Word of truth," you'll need to study all of the passages on any specific topic, not just a few favorites. Paul refers to this as the "whole counsel of God." So how do we attempt this? It's pretty easy.

Cross-Referencing

A cross-reference refers to a shortlist of _____ that illuminate, or amplify the scripture you are studying. In this way, you are comparing scripture with scripture. They are linked together like a chain that can carry you through the entire Bible. This technique explains my enthusiasm for the Thompson Bible's chain reference navigation system. It's awesome!

Let's Get Started:

Today you'll be learning how to link the scriptures together in a Bible Study Method called cross-referencing.

What You Need

- Your study Bible
- Bible Concordance
- Unhurried mindset
- A teachable spirit

Definitions

- **Cf.** - This Latin abbreviation means 'compare' and is used in writing to refer the reader to other material to make a comparison with the topic being discussed. It is short for confer/conferatur, Latin.

- **Chain referencing** - another term for cross-referencing.

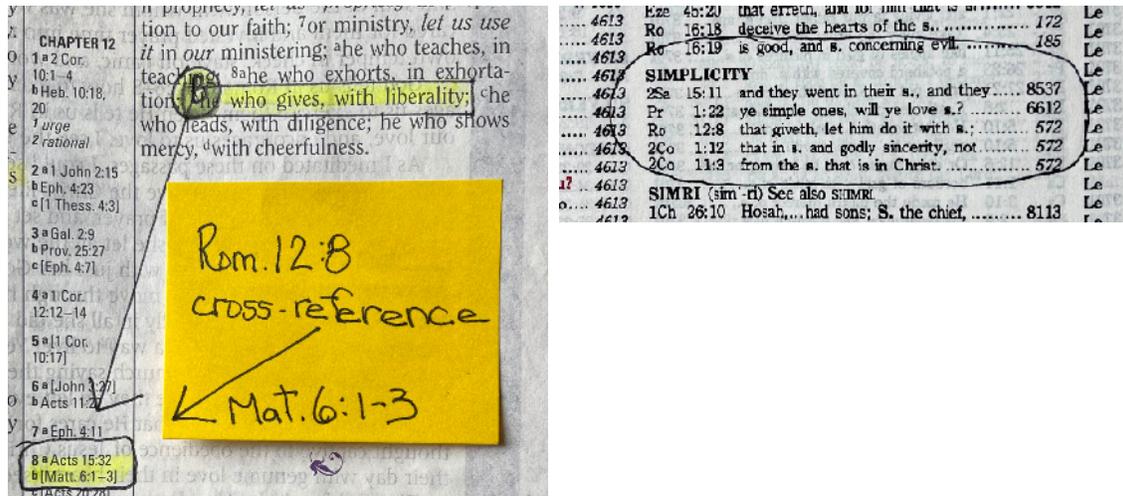
- **Parallel passages** - scriptures from two or more books of the Bible that the same topic is mentioned.

- **The Law of First Mention** - a guideline used to study scripture where the first time a topic is mentioned in scripture contains a spiritual precedent.

- **The whole counsel of God** - a reference from Acts 20:27 referring to a complete and accurate, not biased, interpretation.

The Bible is more relevant than the morning news.

Let's study the topic of "simplicity."



1. Using the photo from the Strong's Concordance, list the Bible references for the "simplicity?"

- a. II Sam. 15:11 b. Prv. 1:22 c. Rom. 12:8 d. II Cor. 1:12 e. II Cor. 11:3

2. List the New Testament reference number. 572

3. What is the Greek word for simplicity? haplotes, Gr.

Turn to the Greek dictionary and list a few descriptive words. Notice that they are referring you to #573 and #4120:

singleness, folded together, clear, particle of union

4. Context is king! Read the New Testament references and the surrounding verses. List any insight the Holy Spirit shows you.

Romans 12:8 - The general topic is our serving the Body of Christ. We should give with simplicity, not desiring any special attention. I noticed that other versions translated it as "generously" which totally confused me. (I'll continue the word search to see if an explanation or revelation occurs.)

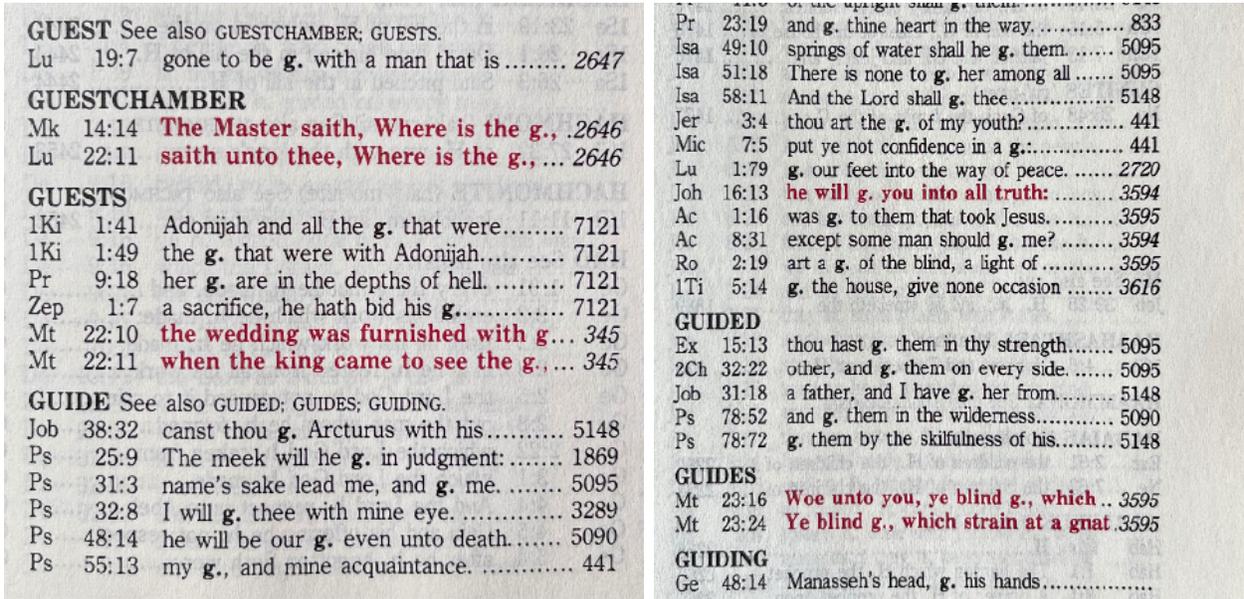
II Cor. 1:12 - Again, the general topic is our behavior, but this time, it was Paul's behavior in the world. Instead of impressing people with his credentials, Paul "conducted himself in simplicity and godly sincerity."

II Cor. 11:3 - In reading the verses above and below, I noticed that the general topic is Paul's concern that we would be led astray. The path to safety and security is our sincere and undivided love for Jesus. All three references hint at "sincere and generous: Generous as in giving without any hindrances, not necessarily the amount, but the motive.

Summary - We are to give our devotion to Jesus with singleness of heart, freely giving all we have, united with Him, and clear in purpose. Generous = uninhibited

Let's study the topic of "guidance."

Case Study: What does the Bible say about guidance from God?



How many references to "guide, guided, guides, guiding" are there? _____

How many Old Testament references? _____ New Testament? _____

How many references refer to divine guidance? _____

How many books in the Bible have references about guidance? _____

List the eleven references that promise God's guidance for you and any specifics that the Holy Spirit seemed to emphasize.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

Write a prayer requesting guidance here: _____ . In Jesus' Name, Amen.

The scriptures you have not highlighted are inspired, too.

FOUR TIPS FOR TOPICAL STUDY

1. Context rules everything -- After reading the verses above and below your scripture, ask yourself, "Does my interpretation support the rest of this chapter? How do these three scriptures relate?" (the scripture above and below your reference) There are no discrepancies in Scripture, so back up and reread it if it doesn't support other scriptures.
2. The Law of First Mention - The first time a topic is mentioned will usually become the foundation for your interpretation. Learn to emphasize what God emphasizes. The more frequently a topic is mentioned, the more attention we should give to it.
3. List contrasting topics - A balanced Bible study requires this. For example, if you're studying healing, you'll need to also list any sicknesses in the Bible.
4. Become non-negotiable about "What does the Word say?" Exclude personal experience! This rigid suggestion is a difficult task, but we must interpret the Word in light of the Scriptures, not in the light of emotional experiences. Adhering to this Bible principle will protect you from deception.

CULTURALLY CORRECT

As you travel through the Bible in a topical study, you will come across some scriptures that need some knowledge of their culture and customs to get the correct interpretation. When scripture is unclear and doesn't support the overarching message of the Father's love, you're probably colliding with an ancient custom or culture of that day. For example, does I Corinthians 11:6 -15 forbid a woman to cut her hair?

"...it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered." I Cor. 11:6

"... if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given to her as a covering." I Cor. 11:15

If you read I Cor. 11:6 and 11:15 out of context, ladies should be canceling their haircuts today, but, instead, read the entire chapter and notice these words:

- I Corinthians 11: 2 - traditions
- I Corinthians 11:10 - a symbol of authority

From a brief study, you'll learn that only adultress and prostitutes had shaven heads or no veils, and it served as a message of punishment or independence. This specific chapter is not about hairstyles, but about reverence and mutual submission. God used a physical element to demonstrate a spiritual law.

The hidden principle here is that submission to God and each other is beautiful and will be noticed by all. Never build a doctrine on your tradition, experiences, opinions, or religious sources other than the Bible.



JOHN
Apostle of Love
1 Jn. 4:7

HOW TO STUDY A TOPIC

01

Studying a topic gives you a total picture of what God has to say.

02

Cross-referencing links scriptures together for additional insight.

03

The big rule for cross-referencing is "Scripture interprets Scripture."

04

Never build a doctrine on opinion or a few selected scriptures.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Prv. 3:1

Jos. 1:8

Ezra 7:10

Heb. 4:12

I Th. 2:13

Jn. 5:39

ADDENDUM ANSWER KEY

Chapter	Exercise	Answers
Chapter 1	Old and New Testament Review	39, 4, 27, 4
Chapter 1	Ten Reasons to Memorize God's Word	changes, sin, Word, answer, truth
Chapter 2	Ten Reasons You Can Trust Your Bible	endorsed, confirms, secular, destroy
Chapter 2	The Bible Is	Incapable, communication
Chapter 3	Hermeneutics	basics, context, cultural, Learn, live, advents, Scripture
Chapter 3	Which Study Bible Is Best?	translation, who, manuscripts
Chapter 4	Five types of Bible Study	book, chapter, verse, person, topic
Chapter 4	Inductive Bible Study	say, mean, apply
Chapter 6	Study A Verse	Panoramic, Devotional, Studying
Chapter 7	Studying A Person	Outlining
Chapter 8	Studying a Topic	other scriptures
Chapter 8	Study A Topic: Guidance	31, 23, 8, 19, 15

Credits: *(Recommended Bible Helps Books are Bolded)*

An Exposition Of The Whole Bible Morgan G. Campbell, Fleming H. Revell 1959

A General Introduction to the Bible Norman Geisler and William Nix Moody Press 1968

Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible John W. Haley Whitaker House, 1992

Building Your Biblical Studies Library Erich A. Kiehl Concordia Publishing House 1998

Halley's Bible Handbook Henry H. Halley Zondervan 1965

How To Search The Scriptures Dr. Fuschia Pickett Charisma House 1999

How To Study Your Bible Kay Arthur Harvest House 1994

Is My Bible Inspired? Edward W. Goodrick Multnomah Press 1988

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (1890) Dr. James Strong Thomas Nelson 2009

The Bare Bones Bible Handbook, Jim George, Harvest House Publishers, 2014

The Emperor Who Ate The Bible Scot Morris Doubleday 1991

The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict Josh McDowell Thomas Nelson 1999

Thompson Chain Reference Bible Dr. Frank Thompson Kirkbride Co.1908 (Zondervan 2020)

Word Hand illustration by The Navigators 1976

What The Bible Is All About Henrietta C. Mears Regal Books 1985

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words W.E. Vine Thomas Nelson 1985

BIBLE GLOSSARY

Abba - An Aramaic word that means "Father," and describes the protective, affectionate part of God's nature towards His children. This intimate "Daddy-God" word is found three times in Scripture - Mk. 14:36, Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6

Abrahamic Covenant - God's unconditional covenant with Abram who was promised a great land, nation, name and blessing (of redemption) that would extend to all the families of the earth. Gen. 12:1-3

Administration - One of the nine "Grace Gifts" of Romans ch. 12; Coordinating the activities of others to reach a common goal

Adultery - Sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife

Agape - The unconditional love of God; not determined by a person's value or performance, but based on the heart of God; the three Greek words for "love" are agape (God's love), phileo (brotherly love), and eros (sexual love)

Anointing - The tangible presence of God in a person, place, or thing; Two types: Believer's anointing and Corporate

Anti-Semitism - Hostility toward or discrimination against the Jews

Apostasy - Desertion of one's faith or religion; renunciation of religion

Apostle - One of the five-fold ministry gifts which is anointed to build a ministry and establish His kingdom where it is not yet been, whether that be in Katy, TX or Thimphu, Bhutan; a pioneer, a sent one; an Eph. 4:11 equipper

Arrogance - Haughtiness; a feeling of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner; exaggerating one's own worth or importance in an overbearing manner; being exceedingly proud

Atheist - A person who denies the existence of Almighty God

Atonement -Kaphar, Hbw., to cover; the Old Testament's remedy for sin

Attentiveness - Showing the worth of a person by giving undivided attention to his words and emotions

Availability - Making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I am serving

Backsliding - To lapse, or fall away from morally and spiritually from God and religion

Believing (in) God - Not a mental assent, but a total relying on, trusting in, putting all our confidence in the sterling character of the God of the universe; a verb!

Bigotry - Total intolerance of any idea, theory, party, belief, or opinion that differs from one's own

Blasphemy - The act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God; the act of claiming the attributes of deity; irreverence toward something considered sacred

Boldness - Confidence that what I have to say or do is true and right and just in the sight of God

Brokenness - A repetitive state of responding and repenting to any area of darkness in my life which the Holy Spirit reveals; its purpose is not for crushing, but to release me into revelation and liberty

Carnal mind - Mindset based on temporal, worldly, sensual self-gratification of bodily desires, pleasures, and appetites

Circumcision -- The literal meaning is "cutting around" or surgical removal of the tip of a male's penis. It was a physical reminder of a spiritual covenant with Abram that their seed was blessed, but it evolved into legalism.

Commitment - The determined mindset that keeps us on course, binding our allegiance to the purpose

Compassion - Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others; your hurt in my heart

Contentment - Realizing God has provided everything that I need for my present happiness

Covenant - An oath that seals the relationship between two or more people or God and His people

Covet - To wish for, crave, and be greedy for what belongs to someone else

Decisiveness - The ability to finalize difficult decisions based on the will and ways of God

Dependability - Fulfilling what I consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice

Determination - Purposing to accomplish God's goals in God's time regardless of the opposition

Diligence - Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it

Discernment - The God-given ability to understand the source of why things happen

Disciple - a student; In the New Testament it would be a learner and follower of Jesus Christ

Doctrine - Teaching drawn from a literal interpretation of the Scriptures; fifty references in the Bible

Double-minded - A set of principles that applies differently to one group of people or circumstances than to another; wavering or undecided in mind

Endurance - The inward strength to withstand stress to accomplish God's best

Envy - A feeling of discontentment and ill because of another's advantages, possessions, or success

Evangelist - One of the five-fold ministry gifts who have an anointing to win the lost and do miracles; An Eph. 4:11 equipper

Faithfulness - The strength of character that compels us to do what is pleasing to our Master regardless of circumstances

Exhorter - A person who is motivated to stimulate the faith of others

Familiar Spirits - A demon spirit that provides information, often pretending to be a deceased, loved one.

Fasting - A form of worship to God where food (or other pleasures) are withheld for the purpose of revelation or deliverance; both Spirit-led and self-disciplined fasts are biblical.

Favor - An invisible force from God that causes people to notice, applaud and promote you

Flexibility - Not setting my affections on ideas or plans which could be changed by God or others

Five-Fold Ministry Gifts - The Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher - Eph. 4:11 Equippers

Forgiveness - Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and allowing God to love them through me

Fornication - Human sexual intercourse other than between a man and his wife; sexual intercourse between a spouse and an unmarried person

Generosity - Realizing that all I have belongs to God and using it for His purposes

Gentleness - Showing personal care and concern in meeting the needs of others

Giving - Entrusting personal assets to others to further the gospel

Gossip - The destructive habit of sharing negative information about someone when the motive for sharing it does not include the solution to that person's problem

Glory of God - The infinite beauty of greatness of God's manifold perfections; Jesus in His resurrected state

Grace - Charis, Hbw., - unmerited favor; a favor freely bestowed upon those totally unable to return the favor. God's Riches At Christ's Expens

Gratefulness - Making known to God and others in what ways they have benefitted my life

Hades - The Greek equivalent for Sheol, Hbw. meaning the "place of the dead" while waiting for the final resurrection; aka heaven, paradise, Abraham's bosom; Lk 23:43, II Cor. 5:8, Ph. 1:23

Heaven - The place where God dwells with angelic beings and His redeemed family

Hell - Hinnom, Hbw., A place and state of punishment after death for those who have rebelled against God; also known as Gehenna or Tartarus.

High priest - A mediator who represented Israel before God. In the Old Testament, it was a human. After Calvary, Jesus became our High Priest and Intercessor.

Homosexual - Sexual desire toward a member of one's same gender

Hospitality - Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, and hope with those God brings into my life

Humanism - A philosophy centered on human ability, interests, and values instead of God's eternal values

Humility - Recognizing that God and others are actually responsible for the achievements in my life

Hypocrites - the false assumption of an appearance of virtue or religion; an act to make others believe something which is false as though it is genuine

Initiative - Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it

Joyfulness - The spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with the Lord

Justification - Dikaiosis, Gr., the act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to Him based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ, thereby counting them righteous; it is a legal term which pictures the believer's new status before God as not only pardoned but just. Just-as-if-I've-never-sinned

Judgment Seat of Christ - This glorious future event involves believers giving an account of their lives to Christ. This "Awards Ceremony" does not determine salvation, but the rewards of faithfulness. Rom. 14:10-12, II Cor. 5:10

Judaizers - Jewish Christian who insisted Gentile converts abide by strict Old Testament rites, especially circumcision

Law of Moses - The first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.

Lake of Fire - the final hell and place of eternal punishment and agony for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human. Rev. 19:20, Rev. 20:14

Legalist - an extreme rule-keeper to gain God's approval where life is a ledger and you're always trying to measure up

Logos - The written Word of God (Holy Bible) which is the standard of all truth and received intellectually. The two Greek words for God's "Word" are logos (written Word) and rhema (spoken Word) They never contradict each other.

Loyalty - Demonstrating my commitment to God and to those whom He has called me to serve

Marriage Supper of the Lamb - A glorious celebration supper with Jesus, the Lamb of God, and His people. Rev. 19

Meekness - Yielding my personal rights and expectations to God; strength under control such as a stallion. The only two biblical men described as meek were Moses and Jesus.

Mercy - A disposition of compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power; punishment erased

Millennial Reign - Revelation 20:2-7 refers six times to a literal, physical Kingdom set up by Jesus Christ when He returns to Earth to rule for a thousand years.

Miracle - the suspension or superseding of natural laws which is unexplainable to natural thinking

Necromancy - Conjurment of the spirits of the dead for purpose of revealing the future or influencing the course of events; magic, sorcery, and condemned in the Bible

Obedience - Freedom to be compliant to another's law or request under the protection of divinely inspired authority

Oppression - To suppress; to crush or burden by abuse of power or authority; to burden spiritually or mentally as if by pressure; weigh down

Orderliness - Preparing myself and my surroundings so that I will achieve the greatest efficiency

Pastor - One of the Five-Fold Ministry Gifts to the Body of Christ; teaches, guides, guards; an Eph. 4:11 equipper

Paradise - A place where Old Testament saints waited for the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and completion of the redemptive work of Christ Lk. 23:43

Patience - Accepting a difficult situation without giving God a deadline to remove it

Philosophy - A mindset created by man's attempt to find meaning in life and solutions for suffering without God

Powers & Principalities - a vast array of evil and malicious demonic spirits who make war against the people and purposes of God; subordinate to the Name of Jesus

Praise - Halal, Hbw. - to be clamorously foolish about the adoration of God (to praise Him with passion and fervency, yielding all hang-ups about who we are or are not)

Prophecy - to bubble up, to gush, boil up and over for the purpose of edification, exhortation, and comfort; Different from the Ministry Office of a prophet, but available to all New Testament believers. The ability to prophecy doesn't make you a prophet.

Prophet - One of the Five-Fold Ministry gifts to the Body of Christ; a person anointed to proclaim truth, discern the mind and purposes of God, and speak it forth. An Eph. 4:11 equipper

Propitiation - The removal of wrath by the offering of a gift; ie., God's wrath was removed by the death and sacrifice of Jesus

Prudent - practical wisdom; good management of talents and resources and the showing of wisdom with others

Psychic Medium - An individual who functions as a channel of communication between the earthly world and a world of demonic spirits; condemned in the Bible

Punctual - Showing high esteem for other people and their time by supporting the mutually agreed to timeline.

Rapture - I Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes this glorious experience when the Church will be "caught up" to meet the Lord in the clouds. Jesus' Second Coming is actually in two parts: first, He comes for His Church (rapture) and later, He'll come with His Church (Millennial Reign)

Renewing your mind - A continual process of adjusting our thoughts until they agree with God's Word. Rm. 12:1

Repent -- To change one's mind and behavior with respect to sin; agreeing with God's perspective on sin

Resourcefulness - Wise use of that which others would normally overlook or dread

Responsibility - Knowing and doing what both God and others are expecting from me

Rhema - An instant and spoken "living word" from God to a person for a specific occasion. A "rhema" occurs when the logos "jumps-off-of-the-page" and moves from our head to our heart; A rhema (spoken Word) will always agree with the logos (written Word)

Righteousness - Dikafosune, Gr., the ability to stand in the presence of the Father without any sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority; as if your sin never existed. A gift, not a reward

Salvation - Sozo, Gr., the all-inclusive word of the gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes; there are seven Hebrew and Greek words for salvation. They are used 388 times and are translated by 23 English words, some with various endings

Security - Structuring my life around what is eternal and cannot be destroyed or taken away

Second Death - A reference to the Lake of Fire where those who are separated from God (by denying Jesus as Savior) will dwell for eternity. Rev. 20:14, Rev. 21:8

Self-control - Instant obedience to the initial promptings of God's Spirit; the ability to say "no" now so I can say "yes" later. Valuing the benefits of long term success over instant gratification

Sensitivity - Exercising my senses so that I can perceive the true spirit and emotions of those around me

Serving - Demonstrating love by meeting practical needs

Sin - A thought or action that transgresses the law of God and displays rebellion against God; to miss the mark

Sincerity - Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives

Stronghold - a mindset impregnated with hopelessness so that an individual accepts as unchangeable that which God's Word says can and should be changed.

Teacher - One of the Five-Fold ministry gifts that teaches with revelation, explaining God's truth in a simple, easy-to-understand manner; An Eph. 4:11 equipper

The Tribulation - A future seven-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. Rev. 6 - 16

Thoroughness - Knowing what factors will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words if neglected; giving attention to detail

Tithe - The first tenth of all produce or profit due to God for the maintenance of the ministry as taught in Leviticus, endorsed by Jesus, and includes great rewards from God.

Truthfulness - Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts

Type and Shadow - an Old Testament historical fact that illustrates a New Testament description of the Person or work of Christ. There are at least 50 types of Christ hidden in the Old Testament.

Virtue - The moral excellence and purity of spirit that radiates from my life as I obey God's Word

Washed in the Blood - A description of a person who has trusted in the shed Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin.

Waiting on the Lord - the determination to adjust one's schedule and heart posture to focus on receiving divine guidance or simply to bring Him pleasure through worship

Wisdom - Seeing and responding to life situations from God's frame of reference

World - the worldly system or political and social order that rejects God, is ruled by Satan and governs the minds and manner of the unsaved.

Zeal of the Lord - The energy or enthusiasm of God in a person(s) for the pursuit of a godly cause.

DOES THE BIBLE HAVE CONTRADICTIONS?

Q. Does the Bible contradict itself?

A. Absolutely not!

Q. Does the Bible have contradictions?

A. If you read it with your head, yes. If you read it with your heart, no. Until you know all of the facts, it may appear to.

Q. Why did God allow that to happen?

A. God often allows circumstances to occur where faith and reason collide. "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him." Heb. 11:6

Common Alleged Contradictions

Don't be confused as you come across scriptures that seem to contradict. This is to be expected in a document from ancient times and from another culture. Many of these alleged "contradictions" have been solved by new discoveries about ancient practices and languages. Other remaining questions have been answered by archeological discoveries, proving the Bible was harmonious after all. Factual problems continue to be answered to the satisfaction of a host of scholars today.

Brace yourself! Here's just a few of the list.

- The Creation Story seemingly has two accounts; *Gen. ch. 1 and 2.*
- The Flood – two animals or seven clean animals? *Gen. 6*
- Abraham/Isaac's deceit; same story or repeated? *Gen. ch. 20, 26.*
- Judas Iscariot's death; hung himself or fell headlong? *Mt. 27/Acts 1*
- Jesus and blind men; how many, where? *Mk. 10, Mt. 20, Lk. 18*

Explanation #1: Supplemental, Not Contradictory

Two statements can differ without being in contradiction. For example, one witness in a court case might testify that he saw two people at a crime scene, Jake and Sam, while another witness may only testify to see Sam. These statements are not contradictory. Under legal Rules of Evidence and the Law of Non-contradiction, these aren't contradictory scriptures and could be considered complementary. #CreationStory #Judas'Death

Explanation #2: Context Is Everything

To understand any conversation, it needs to be taken in context. For example, if I said, "I missed my family," could mean I was homesick.

"I missed my family," could mean they left five minutes before I arrived.

"I hit my friends with water balloons. I missed my family," could mean the family didn't get wet.

The correct context changes the meaning of the statement dramatically. Many of the "alleged contradictions" fall into this error.

What I Believe

These supposed difficulties are often the result of our ignorance of Bible lands, customs, and languages. Most problems fade away with deep, earnest, prayerful Bible study. The sincere Christian should not be daunted in the slightest by these alleged contradictions. The Bible is a book of faith and you must read it by faith and accept it by faith. Although I don't support naïve ignorance, much more of a concern to me are the evils of Reason and unsanctified intellectualism. Being led by Reason is a byproduct of the Fall. Eat the fish, and spit out the bones! "We walk by faith, not by sight." II Cor. 5:7

"No properly trained evangelical scholar has anything to fear from the hostile arguments and challenges of humanistic rationalists or detractors of any and every persuasion. There is a sufficient answer in Scripture itself to refute every charge that has ever been leveled against it."

Dr. Gleason Archer

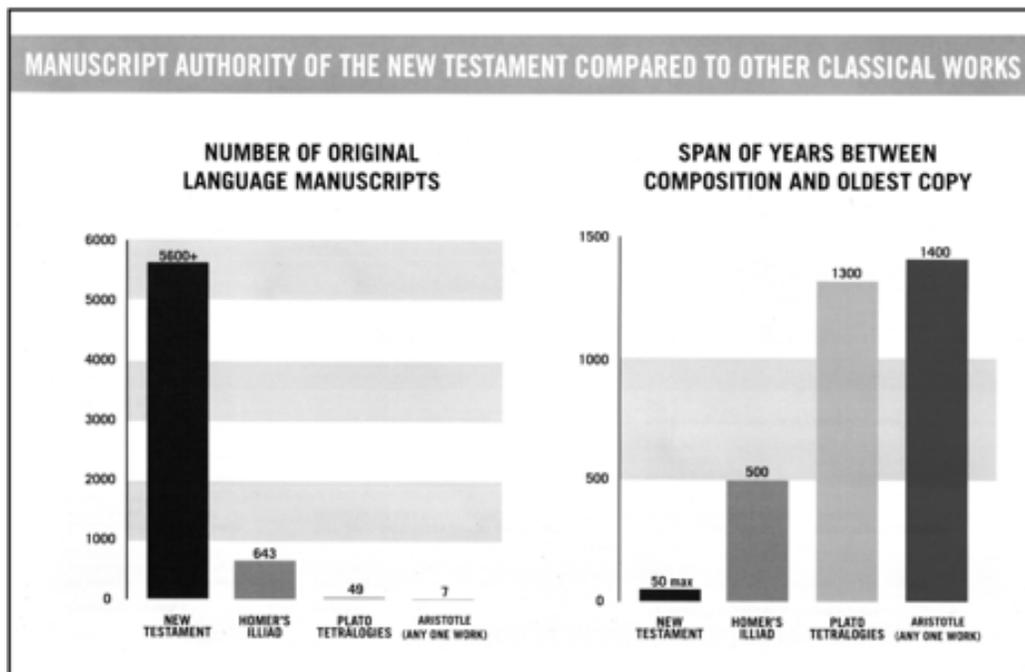
** Study Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties by Dr. Gleason Archer, The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell, and my favorite - Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible by John W. Haley*

BIBLIOGRAPHY CHARTS

The New Testament is the most remarkably preserved book in the ancient world. Not only do we have a great number of manuscripts, but they are very close in time to the originals they represent. Some partial manuscripts are from the second century, and many are within four centuries of the originals.

No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers as the New Testament.

Author	Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	No. of Copies
Homer	Illiad	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs	643
Plato		400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 yrs	7
Demosthenes		300 B.C.	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,400 yrs	200
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000 yrs	10
New Testament		A.D. 50-100	c. 114 (fragment) c. 200 (books) c. 250 (most of NT) c. 325 (complete NT)		



TEN REASONS TO TRUST YOUR BIBLE

1. God Declared It

Over 3,800 times the Bible writers claim that God spoke what they wrote. The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God. The New Testament refers to the Old Testament as “the Scriptures” a total of fifty-nine times. Over 2,000 times the words “Thus saith the Lord” or their equivalent are found in the Bible. There are 1,300 such passages in the Books of the Prophets alone, which Jesus Himself quoted from. Unquestionably, the Scriptures teach their own inspiration.

2. Jesus Believed It

Keep in mind that Jesus was a good Jewish boy. This required honoring the Sabbath and attending the synagogue weekly.

“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah...(and after reading Is. 61:1,2 He said) ...today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He (Jesus) expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning themselves ... “Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me,’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Luke 24:27, 32, 44-45

During His three-year earthly ministry, Jesus quoted at least 24 Old Testament books. He made reference to Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Elisha, Jonah, and many others. In fact, the ultimate scripture that confirms Jesus believed the Scriptures can be found in Luke chapter 24.

The Lord Jesus validated the Old Testament by quoting from all three sections: The Law, The Prophets, and The Psalms. What more credibility would you want? Do we think even for a moment that the Lord Jesus, the Author Himself, would put stock in any writings that were not credible?

He endorsed the authority of the Old Testament in detailing Matthew 5:17-18. The Lord also prepared His disciples for the coming of the New Testament (John 16:12), and so endorsed it in principle.

3. The Apostles Defended It

Just like Jesus, all twelve disciples were Jewish. After His death and resurrection, Matthew took Judas Iscariot's place, and they were known as Apostles. Their “Bible” was what we call the Old Testament. At that time, it was divided into three sections;

- The Law
- The Prophets
- The Writings

There are over 284 quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament, and they appear in seventeen different books. “As the Scripture said” is all the only introduction a text needed to indicate the general understanding that a saying, story, or book was the very Word of God from the prophets of God. Clearly, the Apostles believed the Old Testament was the written, inspired Word of God.

- Matthew 21:24, 22:29, 26:54, 56
- Luke Ch. 24
- John 5:39
- Acts 17:2, 11, 18:28
- Romans 1:2, 4:3, 9:17, 11:2, 15:4, 16:26
- I Corinthians 15:3-4
- Galatians 3:8, 3:22, 4:30
- I Timothy 5:18
- II Timothy 3:16
- II Peter 1:20-21, 3:16

Clearly, the Apostles believed the Old Testament was the written, inspired Word of God.

4. The Early Church Fathers Validated It.

Several of the Church Fathers left extensive writings that have been revered throughout the Church age. Some of these men knew the Apostles. J. Harold Greenlee wrote, “These quotations are so extensive that the New Testament could virtually be reconstructed from them without the use of New Testament manuscripts.” In these manuscripts are 36,289 quotations from what we know as the New Testament. Those quotes are from just seven Church Fathers! This gives overwhelming support to the existence of and their allegiance to the twenty-seven authoritative books of the New Testament canon.

(Expanded edition)

Quotations of the New Testament's Church Fathers

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6 (266 allusions)	3	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement (Alex)	1,107	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Grand Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

5. Prophecy Warrants It

Fulfilled prophecy fulfills the Bible's credibility. Prophecy is foretelling an event in such detail before it happens so as to require divine guidance. One-third of all scripture is prophetic. How many prophecies does the Bible contain? Approximately 2500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about two thousand prophecies which have already been fulfilled to the letter – no errors. Of course, this number is changing rapidly.

Since the probability for any one of these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance averages less than one in (figured very conservatively) and since the prophecies are for the most part independent of one another, the odds for all these prophecies have been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in 109 (2000) (that's 1 with 2000 zeros written after it!)

Historical and Political Prophecies

The City of Babylon --- There are more than 100 specific prophecies concerning Babylon's fate. Consider the magnificent city of Babylon, perhaps the greatest city in ancient times, built first by Hammurabi (1728BC-1686 BC) and later Nebuchadnezzar II (604BC-562 BC). Inside her 196 square miles was world-renowned architecture, hanging gardens, palaces, temples, and towers. Her people were far advanced in the alphabet, science, and mathematics.

The city would have seemed impregnable. The historian Herodotus tells us that these fifteen-foot walls with towers that extended above the two hundred-foot walls to a height of three hundred feet. At the base, these walls were 187 feet thick. But God said of those 3 towers and that city: The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken...it shall be desolate forever." Jer. 51:58, 62

The Great Wall of China is not nearly as large or as strong; though it is older, it still stands today. The walls of Jerusalem still stand. But what about the walls of Babylon? Long story short, those walls were destroyed, yet gradually and over hundreds of years, battles and empires. Yet, as the prophecy declared, they were destroyed and skeptics themselves describe Babylon today as nothing more than "trackless mounds of wastes and heaps."

Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 109

*The prophet Isaiah foretold that a conqueror named Cyrus would destroy seemingly impregnable Babylon and subdue Egypt along with most of the rest of the known world. He would also decide to let the Jewish exiles in this territory go free without any payment of ransom (Is. 44:28; 45:1; 45:13) Isaiah gave this prophecy 150 years before Cyrus was born, 180 years before Cyrus performed any of these feats and 80 years before the Jews were taken into exile. What are the odds?

15 Probability of chance fulfillment – 1 in 10

Numerous other prophecies have been fulfilled, including the destruction of Edom (Obad. 1), the curse on Babylon (Is. 13), the destruction of Tyre (Ezek. 26) and Nineveh (Nah.1-3), and the return of Israel to the Land (Is. 11:11).

Messianic Prophecies

Throughout the New Testament, the apostles appealed to two areas of the life of Jesus of Nazareth to establish His messiahship. One was the resurrection and the other was fulfilled messianic prophecy. More than 60 prophecies with over 300 specific details about Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and ascension were fulfilled in detail. Not only were they made 1,000 years before Christ came from heaven to earth, but they were made 500 years before crucifixion was first used anywhere in the world as a form of capital punishment. Crucifixion didn't even exist when the prophecies were made. All of these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and they establish a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah.

I found that the chances of any man who has ever lived and fulfilled even eight prophecies are 1 in 1000,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeros after the one).

Jesus Himself gave 39 prophecies about His purpose and last days of which 31 were fulfilled in detail. Someone has counted eight times as many prophecies regarding His second coming as His first. Should we adhere closely? I think so.

Fulfilled Bible prophecy provides overwhelming evidence for the inspiration of the Bible.

Of all the attacks that have ever been made against the Scripture, there has never been one book written by a skeptic to disprove the prophecies of the Scripture. The one place that God rests His inspiration is that the things He foretells come infallibly to pass.

We constantly thank God that when you received the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God. I Th. 2:13

Other books claim divine inspiration, such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon, and parts of the [Hindu] Veda, but none of those books contains predictive prophecy.

Numerous other prophecies have been fulfilled, including the destruction of Edom (Obad. 1), the curse on Babylon (Is. 13), the destruction of Tyre (Ezek. 26) and Nineveh (Nah.1-3), and the return of Israel to the Land (Is. 11:11).

Messianic Prophecies

Throughout the New Testament, the apostles appealed to two areas of the life of Jesus of Nazareth to establish His messiahship. One was the resurrection and the other was fulfilled messianic prophecy. More than 60 prophecies with over 300 specific details about Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and ascension were fulfilled in detail. Not only were they made 1,000 years before Christ came from heaven to earth, but they were made 500 years before crucifixion was first used anywhere in the world as a form of capital punishment. Crucifixion didn't even exist when the prophecies were made. All of these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and they establish a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah.

I found that the chances of any man who has ever lived and fulfilled even eight prophecies are 1 in 1000,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeros after the one).

Jesus Himself gave 39 prophecies about His purpose and last days of which 31 were fulfilled in detail. Someone has counted eight times as many prophecies regarding His second coming as His first. Should we adhere closely? I think so.

Fulfilled Bible prophecy provides overwhelming evidence for the inspiration of the Bible.

Of all the attacks that have ever been made against the Scripture, there has never been one book written by a skeptic to disprove the prophecies of the Scripture. The one place that God rests His inspiration is that the things He foretells come infallibly to pass.

We constantly thank God that when you received the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God. I Th. 2:13

Other books claim divine inspiration, such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon, and parts of the [Hindu] Veda, but none of those books contains predictive prophecy.

6. The Miraculous Harmony Authenticates It

The harmony and unity of its sixty-six books are nothing short of miraculous. Many saw the writings of the other authors, yet no contradiction is found between any two of them. Consider this:

1. Variety of authors – written over 1600 years by forty authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, military leaders, philosophers, tax collectors, musicians, fishermen, statesmen, scholars, and shepherds.
2. Variety of locations – Moses wrote in the wilderness, Jeremiah in a dungeon, Daniel in a palace, Paul inside prison walls, Luke while traveling, John while on exile on the isle of Patmos.
3. Variety of circumstances – David wrote in times of war and peace, Solomon wrote in times of peace and prosperity, Paul and Luke wrote during Rome's world domination and John wrote during a time of religious heresy.
4. Variety of different moods – Some writing is from the height of joy, others write from the depth of sorrow and despair. Some wrote during times of certainty and conviction; others during days of confusion and doubt.
5. Variety of literary styles – poetry, historical narrative, romance, didactic treatise, satire, song, memoirs, personal correspondence, biography, autobiography, law, prophecy, parable, and allegory
6. Variety of controversial subjects. These hot topics such as marriage, divorce, remarriage, homosexuality, the origin of man, and obedience to authority create opposing opinions when mentioned or discussed anywhere else, yet from Genesis to Revelation these writers address them with an amazing degree of harmony.
7. Written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe
8. Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek

In spite of its diversity, the Bible presents a single, unfolding story: **God's Redemption For Mankind.** Through all sixty-six books, the unifying thread is salvation from sin, a complete transformation in Christ, and eternal restoration to God's original plan of fellowship with man forever. Finally, and most important, among all of the people in the Bible, the leading character throughout is the one, true living God made known through Jesus Christ.

7. Secular Historical Evidence Upholds It

Josephus, the governor of Galilee, a military commander in the wars with Rome, and a Jewish historian, wrote extensively about the Old Testament books, a historical Mary, and crucifixion of Jesus. God's wisdom allowed this respected leader to record history that validates the Bible.

Archaeology Confirms Historical Facts

A substantial proof for the accuracy of the Old Testament text has come from archaeology, which is the "scientific study of the material remains (as fossils, relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities.

Renowned archaeologist Nelson Glueck asserts, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements of the Bible."

Archaeological excavations of great interest to Bible students include:

- Sodom and Gomorrah's Destruction – although previously thought to be a myth, archaeological studies have now proven the reality of five ancient cities of commerce with the exact location and description found in the Bible. Further evidence points to earthquake activity and that the various layers of the earth were disrupted and hurled high into the air. Bitumen is plentiful there, and an accurate description would be that brimstone (bituminous pitch) was hurled down on those cities that rejected God.

- Gartang's excavation of Jericho (1930-36) confirmed that the walls of Jericho fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to completely climb up and into the city with ease. In fact, all walls fell except the northern city wall where Rahab was promised safety for she and her household for helping Israel.
- The Bible records that David captured Jerusalem by entering through a tunnel that led to the pool of Siloam. The critics scoffed stating that the pool was outside the city walls until a discovery in the 1960s confirmed the pool was inside city walls.
- The Bible lists Belshazzar as king of Babylon, but he isn't found in any lists of Babylonian Kings. Archaeologists later discovered that Belshazzar was appointed acting king by his father, King Nabodonius, for a period of a few years.
- David's cave of Adullam --- Discovered in the Judean wilderness on the precipitous southern cliff of the Wadi Khureitun. It was the secret headquarters for David and his 400-600 men while living as a fugitive from King Saul. This cave has only one circular opening, about seven feet high which leads to a small room, and then through a long, passage another very large room which could easily accommodate 1000 men and meets every biblical description.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The greatest and most important archaeological discovery of our age was the Dead Sea Scrolls. Scientists confirmed Old Testament manuscripts that dated 1,000 years earlier than those previously used to establish Hebrew text.

8. Global Influence Affirms It

The Bible takes preeminence over all other literature as to contents, circulation, and influence.

More books, songs, and paintings revere the person and work of Christ than all other great men of history. Why would that be? Until recently, all of humanity's history was divided by the advent of Jesus Christ.

9. Satan's Attempts To Destroy it

The preservation of the Bible is miraculous. Satan's attempt to destroy and discredit God's authority is not a new one. His frequent trick, "Has God indeed said" worked on Eve but backfired with Jesus. In A.D. 303, the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to stop Christians from worshiping and to destroy their Scriptures. The historic irony of this event is recorded by the fourth-century church historian Eusebius, who wrote that twenty-five years after Diocletian's edict, the Roman Emperor Constantine issued an edict ordering that fifty copies of the Scriptures should be prepared at the government's expenses. In the seventh century, Muslims burned 100,000 volumes in the Alexandrian library.

Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of Christians in his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, "Sire, the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers."

If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the book still lives. Whole kingdoms and religions have sought in vain to destroy it.

The noted French infidel Voltaire, who died in 1778, declared that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Only fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used Voltaire's press and house to produce stacks of Bibles. In 1963, Satan-inspired atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair won a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that ended Bible readings in public schools. My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Powell, defied it and I read the Twenty-Third Psalm in front of my class on the first day of school.

Supreme Court case that ended Bible readings in public schools. My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Powell, defied it and I read the Twenty-Third Psalm in front of my class on the first day of school.

10. Believers Love It

The Bible has been translated into far more languages than any other book at great sacrifice. The earliest who dared, such as William Tyndale, was burned at the stake, while Wycliffe Associates announced in 2016 that four of their translators in the Middle East were martyred by bludgeoning blows and gunshots. Nevertheless, Christians still esteem the inspiration of their Bibles, which is the best-selling book of all time with five billion copies sold to date. To show the vast popularity of God's Word, consider the second best seller, Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, with one billion sold and eight hundred million copies of the Qur'an.

No, the Bible is not merely a book written by men; it is a book written by God through men, and the heart of its message is Jesus Christ.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE

Gifted storytellers passed on the earliest stories from God. It's possible that Noah's father knew Adam! The final collection of books known as the canon of the Scripture was accepted gradually as the books were accepted by a council of God-approved spiritual leaders. The dates are approximate.

- 2000 BC** **Abraham** - Abram came from the Persian Gulf region where the art of writing was at least 1,000 years old. Excavators have found large libraries in the ancient city of Ur where he lived. Is it possible that he was among the first to record his adventures of the One True God that we find in Genesis? Many scholars believe so.
- 1450 BC** **Moses** is the first person identified as a contributing writer. He was trained in the best schools of Egypt, so it is easy to believe that his literary skills were well developed. As early as 1400BC, Moses wrote down the many laws which God gave him on Mt. Sinai. Ancient Jewish tradition credits him with the writing of the Pentateuch which ultimately became the first five books of the Old Testament. They were taken immediately and put in the Holy of Holies. (Dt. 31:24) Of course, he could have gathered information previously recorded by Job, Abraham, and even Jethro, his father-in-law.
- 1400 BC** **Joshua** wrote his book and upon his death, it was added to Moses' collection. (Jos. 24:26)
- 1030 BC** **Samuel**, Israel's first prophet, priest, and judge recorded David's early years and Israel's history during the reign of King Saul. (I Sam. 10:25, Zech. 5:12)
- 1000 BC** **Israel's History Recorded**
After Israel became a powerful nation, priests and scribes began to make an earnest attempt of recording and collecting their history. Collections of poems, prophecies, sermons, stories, and words of wisdom were gathered, organized by authors, dates, and subjects, and written onto scrolls.
- 1000 BC** **David** writes songs that became the Book of Psalms.
- 950 BC** **Solomon** writes wise sayings which became the book of proverbs
- 750 BC** **Isaiah**, a major prophet of Israel wrote extensively of Israel's history, political destructions and the coming Messiah.
- 700-500 BC** Subsequent prophets such as **Jeremiah**, **Ezekiel**, and others recorded their visions, prophecies, and historical records and added to the previous inspired writings. **Daniel** had a collection of Moses' books and prophetic writings (up to that time) including the book of his contemporary, Jeremiah. (Dan. 9:2)
- Before 586 BC** **Pentateuch Divided** ---- Before the Babylonian captivity, the Pentateuch, known as the Books of Moses/Law had already been divided into 154 groupings and designed to provide lessons sufficient to cover a three-year cycle of reading.
- 550 BC** The Pentateuch was divided into 54 sections and later sub-divided into 669 sections for reference purposes. These sections were utilized for a single-year [reading] cycle.
- 450 BC** Ezra's Council Collected Old Testament
It is generally accepted that at the Great Synagogue, Ezra led the council of 120 scribes and priests who collected and formed the Old Testament canon.
- The Hebrew Bible consisted of 24 books and were divided into three parts:
1) The Law 2) The Prophets 3) The Psalms
- The reason for the discrepancy of the 24 book count versus today's Old Testament count of 39 is because several books began as one volume and were later divided. Such books are:
I and II Samuel I and II Kings I and II Chronicles
- These books were lost for a long period of time and later discovered by Ezra. You can read about his Bible Marathon in Nehemiah 8-10 where they found these lost books and brought them back to the forefront of God's people.
- 285 BC** The Hebrew (Old Testament) scriptures known as the Septuagint were translated into Greek. By 300BC, Alexander the Great swept through the Middle East causing Greek to become the prevailing language. By 285BC, seventy Hebrew scholars gathered to translate the five Books of Moses into the Greek language. This was the first Bible translation and it was called the Septuagint because 'sept' means 'seventy.' Within the next hundred years, the rest of the Hebrew Bible was also translated into Greek.
- 165 BC** The Old Testament books called the Prophets were sectioned.

- 30 AD** Jesus Endorsed the Old Testament
The books in the Old Testament were written between 1500-400BC. Jesus and the apostles considered the thirty-nine books which make up our present-day Old Testament to be the Word of God. The New Testament has 284 quotations from the Old Testament. He confirmed what He considered to be the complete Old Testament in Luke 11:51 where he mentioned both the first and last martyr. (Chronicles was the last Old Testament book at that time. Jesus Himself again made reference to the three Hebrew divisions of this Holy Book: the Law of Moses, the Prophets, the Psalms. (Lk. 24:44)
- 33 AD** **JESUS' DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION**
- 45-95 AD** The New Testament was written during this time period.
- 70-100 AD** Questionable "Holy" Books
Since Rome destroyed Jerusalem in 70AD. The Jews had no temple for offering their animal sacrifices, so they began to offer sacrifices of praise and prayer by reading some of the revered books. What a mess. There were many revered books with a wide variety of questionable content.
- 95 AD** The historian Josephus identified the Old Testament canon (literary works officially accepted as the Scripture) as the 39 books we have now. Some people believe Ezra had collected them all as early as the fifth century BC.
- 125 AD** The scroll is gradually replaced by a book form called a codex.
- 125 AD** The Rylands Papyrus - Valuable New Testament text which is almost identical with the Alexandrian Text.
- 148 AD** Justin was an early Church Father, martyred for the faith in 148 who had written, "I am entirely convinced that no scripture contradicts another."
- 250 AD** The study of ancient manuscripts called textual criticism was practiced by Christian scholars at least since Origen of 250, only by those thoroughly trained in the language.
- 250 AD** The Greeks first made paragraph divisions before the Council of Nicea 325, perhaps as early as 250.
- 300 AD** Alexandrian Text – One of the oldest known manuscripts of the Bible dating around the 300's.
- 350 AD** The oldest system of chapter divisions originated and appears in the margins of Codex Vaticanus.
- 397 AD** New Testament accepted as Scripture. A meeting of Church fathers known as the Council of Carthage acknowledged the 27 books of the New Testament as we know them.
- 410 AD** The entire Bible was translated into Latin known as the Vulgate.
- 600-950 AD** The Hebrew manuscripts had no system of vowel indications. Jewish scholars called the Masoretes invented a full system of vowels and accents to punctuate the text.
- 1330 AD** Divisions were first placed in the margins of the Old Testament.
- 1380 AD** An English theologian named John Wycliffe began a translation of the Bible into English. His friends completed the translation after his death.
- 1456 AD** The Gutenberg Bible was printed on the first printing press.
- 1516 AD** Erasmus was the Greek scholar who translated the first Greek New Testament in 1516 since the early manuscripts.
- 1536 AD** William Tyndale, a scholar involved in the reform movement, translated the New Testament and the Pentateuch into English despite persecution.
- 1548 AD** Members of the Council of Trent voted to accept the 12 books of the Apocrypha as part of the biblical canon – a decision that was rejected by the Protestants.
- 1551 AD** Bible organized and divided by verses apparently in an effort to further facilitate cross-references and make public reading easier.
- 1611 AD** King James I of England commissioned a translation of the Bible that would become the primary Bible of English-speaking people for more than 300 years and the King James Bible was printed
- 1884 AD** A group of English and American scholars assembled to translate The Revised Version of the Bible, using manuscripts that had not been available at the printing of the King James Bible.
- 1900-1901 AD** The American Standard Version of the Bible was translated.
- 1947 AD** The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered which validated the accuracy of earlier manuscripts.
- 1952-2020 AD** Many modern translations were completed; RSV, AMPC, NIV, NKJV, (TLB, The Message - Paraphrases)

A LETTER FROM HEAVEN

My Dear TBI Friend,

I've been in Heaven for over 600 years, but if I had known while I was on earth what I know now, I would have been even bolder. Let me explain...

I lived in England from 1329-1384. I was a teacher and scholar at Oxford University. Just like you TBI students, I asked God to use me in a great way, but I didn't realize that He would choose my two strongest convictions to guide me.

My two life burdens were some of the abuses and false teachings in the Church. They grieved me to despair, so I began to speak out against them. My second burden was that the average person couldn't read the Bible. You see, they spoke English, but the Bibles were all in the Greek and Latin languages.

I began the laborious task of translating the Bible from Latin into the English language. ("Blasphemy!" Said the Church leaders.)

I sacrificed greatly. I was expelled from my respectable Oxford position, lost my reputation and Church friends, but I completed the first-ever English Bible in 1382. Oh, the joy! I died in 1384 at fifty-five years of age (what a foolish expression, as I am more alive than ever) knowing that I had obeyed my God.

Oh! How I wish that I had known...

- I was going to be called a man ahead of my time; the "Morning Star of the Reformation"
- In 1517, my teachings would inspire a young monk, named Martin Luther, to begin the Reformation; the Protestant movement.
- In 1942, my example would birth an international ministry (Wycliffe Translators) now in 90 countries, that has since translated the Bible into 2,200 languages.
- One hundred years after my death, the Pope still hated me so violently that he ordered my bones exhumed and burned. (Don't grimace. My new body is glorified.)
- WOW... You just never know what God will do if you simply follow your convictions. My dear TBI friend, what burdens you today? It just might be the promptings of the Lord.

Still In His Service,
On the Other Side,
JOHN WYCLIFFE



*I was killed for
translating your Bible to
English.*

This fictional letter is historically accurate.

Bible Comparative Chart

Bible	Translation	Published	Reading Level	# of Scholars
King James Version (KJV)	word-for-word	1611	12th Grade	50
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	word-for-word	1971	11th Grade	32
New King James Version (NKJV)	word-for-word	1979	9th Grade	119
New International Version (NIV)	thought-for-thought	1978	7th Grade	100
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	thought-for-thought	1990	High School	30
New Living Translation (NLT)	thought-for-thought	1996	6th Grade	90
Living Bible (LVB)	Paraphrase	1971	8th Grade	1 man - Kenneth Taylor
Amplified Bible (AMP)	Paraphrase	1965	11th Grade	13
The Message Bible (MSG)	Paraphrase	2002	8th Grade	NavPress

Different Bible Translations - Same Message - God's Redeeming Love

39 States

TBI WORLD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

42 Countries

Dedicated to our Sons and Daughters in the Texas Bible Institute World Alumni Association

May God continue to use you to share the good news of Jesus Christ in your nation!

English

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Spanish

Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que ha dado a su hijo unigénito, que todo aquel que cree en él no debe pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Juan 3:16

Arabic

لما احب الله العالم اذ لم

Amharic (Ethiopia)

ከግዚአብሔር ዓለምን ወደታልና

Belize Creole

Yu si, Gaad lov di peepl dehn eena dis werl soh moch

Bengali (India)

কারণ ঈশ্বর জগৎকে এমন প্রমে করলিনে যে

Bulgarian

Защото Бог толкова възлюби света

Chamorro (Guam)

Sa taegüenao na jaguaeya si Yuus y tano

French

Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde

German

Denn also hat Gott die Welt geliebt

Haitian Creole

Paske, Bondye sitèlman renmen lèzòm

Hausa (Nigeria)

Gama Allah ya yi kamnar duniya

Hebrew

כי ככה יאהב את העולם

Hindi (India)

परमेश्वर को जगत से इतना प्रेम था

Hungarian

Mert úgy szerette Isten e világot

Japanese

神は世を愛された

Jamaican Creole

Kaa, yu si, Gad lov di worl so moch

Korean

신이 세상을 너무 사랑했기 때문에

Mandarin Chinese

神愛世人

Maori (New Zealand)

Koia ano te aroha o te Atua ki te ao

Romanian

Fiindcă atât de mult a iubit Dumnezeu lumea

Russian

Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир

Setswana (Botswana)

Gonne Modimo o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo

Swahili

Kwa maana jinsi hii Mungu aliupenda ulimwengu

Tagalog (Philippines)

Sapagkat pag ibig ng Diyos sa sanlibutan

Tamil (Sri Lanka/India)

தவேன் இவ்வளவு உலகத்தில் அன்புகூர்ந்தார்

Thai

เพราะว่าพระเจ้าทรงรักโลก

Ukrainian

Так бо Бог полубив світ

Foundations-For-Life Reference Tools

Stand-Alone Teachings, Topical Index, Illustrations

The Foundations-For-Life curriculum serves as a reference tool for TBI Alumni and Christian leaders of all ages. The reader has permission to use these materials in any way that develops a healthy lifestyle and Christian growth. For printed purposes, please cite your reference as *Burchfield, Rachel, Foundations-For-Life, 2022.*

Ten Workbooks, 80+ Pages Each

- **115 Stand-Alone Teachings**
- **200 Indexed Topics**
- **65 Supplemental Charts/Lists**
- **40 Illustrations for Sermons**
- **40 Personal Stories**
- **80 Devotionals**

Stand-Alone Teachings

Volume One - Strong-In-Life Choices	Page	Volume Four - Who We Are In Christ	Page
- Ten Attributes of a Disciple (The One Choice)	3	- An Intro - Who We Are in Christ	4-5
- Eight Reasons A Correct Worldview Is Important	5	- The Miracle Mirror	5
- Humanistic vs. Biblical Worldview	6	- The Divine Exchange	8
- Four Questions To Develop a Christian Worldview	6	- Spirit, Soul, Body	11
- Five "Musts" to Choose a Christian Worldview	11	- What Happened At The Fall Of Man?	13
- Six Competing Worldviews	12	- Understanding Confessions Of Faith	19
- Five Lies That Keep You Stuck	20	- Six FAQ About The New Birth	27
- Four Signs You Need Resilience	21	- Four Facts About The New Creation	28
- Building Blocks For Resilience	22	- Ten Things About The New You	30
- Eight Reasons For Personal Convictions	35	- Understanding Righteousness (Turkey/Eagle)	35
- Five Signs Of A Seared Conscience	36	- Four Pictures of Righteousness	38
- Five Questions In Choosing Convictions	38	- Healing Explained In Four Sentences	43
- Four Counterfeits To Biblical Marriage	44	- Five Things Jesus Overcame For You	51
- Preparing For A Biblical Marriage	46	- Six Things Jesus Did For You	54
- Five Reasons Accountability Is Important	51	- Let God Use You! (Five "Prepares")	59
- Three Types Of Accountability	51	- Six FAQ About Biblical Meditation	60
- Christian Worldview Of Success	60	Volume Five - Recognizing God's Voice	
- Seven Attributes Of True Success	62	- The "What" Behind This Voice	5
Volume Two - Following Jesus		- Ps. 19 - The Creator's Silent Sermons	11
- What Being Born Again Is And Is Not	5	- Four Ways To Prepare Your Heart	12
- Four Reasons Why You Need A Savior	5	- 20 Ways God Speaks To You Today	19
- Five Evidences of True Salvation	6	- Three Ways God Speaks Through His Word	20
- Why Water Baptism?	11	- Four Facts About God's Voice	23
- Lordship - Five Descriptions	13	- Six FAQs About The Believer's Inward Witness	28
- Eight Rewards For Obedience	14	- The Inward Witness (Four Facts)	31
- Six FAQ About The Anointing	30	- Four Facts About The Confirming Voice	47
- Sermon on the Mount Facts	35	- The Truth vs. Deception Test	53
- Top Ten Topics Jesus Taught	37	- Four Facts About Deception	55
- Six Types Of Prayer	51	- Four Tips To Develop A Quiet Heart	59
- Five Victories Jesus Won For You	60	Volume Six - God's Great Love	
- 15 Reasons To Follow Jesus	67	- Four Facts About Identity	3
- Eight Attributes Of A Disciple	68	- Ten Descriptions Of Your Father's Love	5
- From the Cross to the Throne	71	- Human Love Vs. God's Love	12
Volume Three - Bible Basics		- Eight Pathways To Healing	13
- Five Ways the Bible is Superior	3	- Redemption Requires Blood	21
- Eight Reasons You Can Trust Your Bible	5	- Two Types Of God's Restoring Love	28
- Make Much of the Blood	13	- *What To Say To A Victim	30
- Four Plots (Themes) About The Bible	13	- Five Tips For Dealing With Depression	36
- Ten Doctrines of the Bible	22	- Four Ways God's Inspired Word Profits You	46
- 12 Historical Highlights of the Old Testament	28	- Delivered From Shame	53
- Five Types of Bible Study	61	- Six Facts About Compassion	60
- Eight Devotionals - Descriptions of the Word	8	- Eight Devotionals - Emotional Needs	8

Volume Seven - How To Study The Bible

- *The Bible Story At A Glance	3
- *Old Testament Review	4
- *New Testament Review	4
- Three Ways To Enjoy Your Bible	5
- Ten Reasons To Memorize God's Word	7
- *Books of the Bible Chart	8
- Ten Reasons You Can Trust Your Bible	14, 79-82
- Checklist To Accept Old and New Testaments	16-17
- 11 Laws To Interpret the Bible (Hermeneutics)	23-24
- The Seven Dispensations Of Man	23
- How To Choose A Study Bible (Four Questions)	26
- Five Types of Bible Study	31
- How To Study A Bible Book	32-35
- *A Book-by-Book Bible Review	36
- How To Study A Bible Chapter	41-43
- *The Golden Chapters	44
- How To Study A Bible Verse	49-52
- How To Study A Bible Character	57-60
- How To Study A Bible Topic	65-68
- Bible Glossary	72-76
- Does The Bible Have Contradictions?	77
- A Bible Comparative Chart	86
- Eight Devotionals - Bible Reading Excuses	10

Volume Eight - Strong-For-Life Relationships

- The Seven Benefits of Good Relationships	5
- Six Signs Of A Healthy Relationship	12
- Four Building Blocks For Relationships	13
- Relational Red Flags	19
- Breaking An Abusive Cycle	22
- Ten Facts About Anger	27
- Seven Types Of Anger	27
- Ten Facts About Forgiveness	35

Volume Eight - Strong-For-Life Relationships, cont.

- Forgiveness Review	39
- Resolving Family Conflict	47
- Managing Your Emotions	51
- Six Benefits Of Healthy Boundaries	53
- A Guide For Singles	55
- Ten Tips To Guard Your Marriage	62
- Eight Devotionals - "How We ____ Matters"	8
- <i>See Navy Triangles for Fruit of the Spirit info</i>	

Volume Nine - Faith Principles

- Six Descriptions Of Faith	5
- The Seven Compound Names Of God	19
- The Rewards of Faith	20
- The Two Types Of Christians	35
- How To Develop A Word-Ruled Lifestyle	35
- Abraham's Five Faith Moments	50
- FAQ About Standing In Faith	58
- Faith Extenders	59
- Eight Devotionals - Bible Promises	8

Volume Ten - Discovering God's Will

- Biographies of Christian Heroes	3,46
- Seven Misconceptions About The Will Of God	5
- The Three-Fold Will Of God	6
- *Abraham and God's Will	14
- God's Nine Compound Names	21
- Quit Praying This Prayer	30
- God's Will Regarding Healing	36
- The P-16 Formula	44
- Three Words That Unlock God's Will	45
- When You Don't Know What To Do	51-54
- General Truths About God's Will	59-60
- God's Sovereign Will	66
- Scriptures About God's Will	67

Topical Index

*Charts, Lists, Poems, Narratives

Topic	Volume	Page	Topic	Volume	Page
Abraham	9	50-54	Bible Interpretation	7	23-24
* A Case Study	9	67-68	* Bible Glossary	3 / 7	67, 72-76
Abuse	6 / 8	30 / 20-23	Bible - Secular Evidence	3 / 7	6 / 14
Accountability	1	51-55	Bible Memorization	7	7
Acts, Book of	3	37	Bible Prophecy	7	14, 80
* Acts Facts	2	62	Bible Promises	9	55-56, 65
Agape Love	6 / 8	67 / 60	Eternal Life	9	8
* Human Love vs. Agape	6	12	Forgiveness	9	16
* An Amazing Truth	6	66	Guidance	9	24
Ambition	1 / 10	63 / 19	Protection	9	32
American Dream	1	13	Health	9	40
Angels	5	37	Finances	9	47
Anger	8	26-31	Family	9	55
Anointing	2	30	Church	9	63
Apostles	3 / 7	5 / 14	Bible Reading	3 / 7	8 / 5
Baptism in Holy Spirit	2	29	* Golden Chapters of Bible	3 / 7	72 / 44
Bible Basics	3	76	* A Letter From Heaven	7	85
Bible Contradictions?	7	77	Bible Reading Excuses		
Bible Doctrines	3	22	I'm not the studying type.	7	10
Bible's Inspiration	3 / 7	3 / 13-14	I don't have time.	7	20
*Ten Reasons To Trust Your Bible	7	14, 79-82	I don't understand the Bible.	7	28
			I don't know where to start.	7	38
			What if I get it wrong?	7	46

Topic	Volume	Page	Topic	Volume	Page
Bible Reading Excuses, cont.			Dead Sea Scrolls	7	26
The Bible isn't relevant.	7	54	Diet	6	40
I can't live up to it. Why try?	7	62	Discipleship	1 / 2 / 3	3 / 13 / 48
Been there. Done that.	7	70	* 15 Reasons to Follow Jesus	2	67
Bible Story	3 / 7	11-15, 3	* Eight Attributes of a Disciple	2	68
* The Bible Story	3	73	* Fast Facts for Jesus Followers	2	70
* The Bible Story at a Glance	7	3	* Resume of Disciples - funny	2	72
* Golden Chapters	7	44	* I Am A Disciple	2	73
Bible Structure	3 / 7	27,35 / 4	Divorce	1 / 6	44 / 27-28, 31, 67
Bible Study Types	3 / 7	61 / 31,37	Deception	5	49-56
* Bible Comparative Charts	7	86	Dispensations	7	23
Bible Study Methods	7	88	* Dispensations of Man	3	70
Inductive Bible Study	7	33-35	Divine Order	8	59
Color-Coding	7	42	Dreams	5	35-36
Bible Marking System	7	43	Emotions	4 / 8	9-12 / 51
Word-Studies	7	50-51	Eschatology	3	38, 46
Verse Mapping	7	52	* Bible Timeline For Future Events	10	66
Outlining	7	57-59	Faith Principles	9	74
Cross-Referencing	7	65	Author and Finisher	9	42
Bible Timeline	7	25	Description of	9	5-6
* A Bible Timeline	7	83-84	How Faith Works	9	11-12
* From The Cross To The Throne	2	71	Seed-Faith Miracles	9	22-23
Biographies	3 / 9 / 10	3 / 46 / 56	Faith Extenders	9	59
* TBI Alum One-Liners	2	vi	Rewards of Faith	9	20
* Ordinary Ppl., Extraordinary God	9	69-72	Faith Building Songs	4	67
Boundaries	8	13, 53	Family	8	13, 41-47, 54
Blood of Jesus	3 / 6	13 / 21-22	* The A-B-Cs of Faith Focused Families	8	66-67
Bitterness	8	30	Favor	6	56
Born Again	2 / 4	5 / 26-31	Forgiveness	6 / 8	16 / 33-40
Character	1 / 7	35 / 60	Freedom	4 / 6	50-56 / 19, 24
Choices	1	72	* The Way Out	6	24
Church	2	61-64	Fruit of the Spirit	8	8
* The 59 One Anothers	8	68-69	See navy triangles	8	8,16,24,32, 40,48, 56,64
Church Fathers	7	14, 17, 79	Guilt	6	16, 24
* Quotations of ...	7	80	God's Great Love	6	73
Compassion	6	60-64	Ten Descriptions of	6	5
Compound Names Of God	9	19	Redeeming Love	6	19
Compromise	1	35-39,41	Restoring Love	6	27
Confessions of Faith	4 / 9	19,64 / 12-14	Chastening Love	6	43
* 30 Things God Says	4	66	Compelling Love	6	59
* 14 Scriptures To Pray Over Your Children	4	68	Evil Vs. Good	6	66
* 14 Scriptures To Pray Over Your Future	4	69	Eight True Stories by Rachel	6	70-71
Concordance	7	49-51	Healing	2 / 4	26-28, 69 / 41-48
Confirmations	5	43-44	* Jesus' 27 Healings	4	46
Convictions (personal)	1	33-40	* Real People, Real Miracles	2	74
Social Drinking	1	37, 66-67	* FAQ About Healing	10	36
Social Media	1	51-53	Holy Spirit		
Complaining	1	37	Baptism of H.S.	2	29, 31
Nightclubs	1	38	Speaking in Tongues	2	29, 32
Sexual Purity	1 / 8	40 / 61	Anointing	2	30
Marriage	1 / 8	43-48 / 58-64	Gifts of Holy Spirit	5	36
Honoring Parents	8	54, 64	Homosexuality	1	44-45, 68-70
Finances	1	57-63	Honor	8	54, 64
Courage	1	35	Identity in Christ	4	4-7, 64
Council of Carthage	7	17	* The Divine Exchange	4	8
Covenants	3	21	* "In Christ" Scriptures	4	48
* Contrast of Covenants	3	66	* 30 Things God Says	4	66
Dating	1 / 8	52 / 56	Insecurity	6	16

Topic	Volume	Page	Topic	Volume	Page
Inward Witness	5	26-32	Redemption	6	19-24
Jesus Christ, <i>Following</i>	2	76	<i>*The Sailboat</i>	6	68
Savior	2	2-7	Regret	1	17-24
Lord	2	9-15	Rejection	6	5-8
The Word	2	18-25	Relationships	8	v, 4-7, 80
Miracle Worker	2	26-32, 69	Resilience	1	17-24
Teacher	2	34-40, 69	<i>* Building Blocks For Resilience</i>	1	22
Servant	2	41-47	Restoration	6	25-32
High Priest	2	50-55	Rhema Word	9	20
Risen King	2	58-63, 71	Righteousness	4	40
Seven "I AMs"	2	37	Salvation	1 / 2	2-3 / 5-8
<i>* Jesus In Every Bible Book</i>	3	74	<i>* What Does Choosing Jesus Mean?</i>	1	3
<i>* Healings / Miracles of Jesus</i>	2 / 4	69 / 46	Seared Conscience	1	36
<i>* Parables of Jesus</i>	2	69	Sermon on Mount.	2	35
Kindness	8	46	Serving	2	41-48
Life Skills	1	27-31	Sexual Abuse	1 / 6 / 8	22 / 30 / 20-21
<i>* Decision Making</i>	1	27	<i>* The Cycle of Abuse</i>	8	20
Listening	8	24	Shame	1 / 6	20-24 / 16, 24, 53
Logos	9	20	Single, <i>Unmarried</i>	1 / 8	46 / 49-56
Lordship	2	13	Spirit, Soul, Body	4 / 5	9-16 / 28
Marriage	1 / 8	43, 47 / 57-64	<i>* The Cousins' Parable</i>	4	14
Masturbation	1 / 8	51-52, 53	Spiritual Warfare	2 / 10	21-23 / 38
Mental Health Issues	6		Strife	8	44-47
Abandonment	6	13-14	Submission	8	13, 59-61
Anxiety	6	14	Success	1 / 10	58-64 / 19
Depression	6	36	Temptation	2 / 4	20 / 49-56
Shame	1 / 6	24 / 16, 53	Tetelestai, <i>Paid in full</i>	4	51
<i>* Paid In Full</i>	6	69	Tongues, <i>Speaking in</i>	2	29, 32
Miracles	2 / 5	25-27 / 35-37	Types & Shadows	3	49-55
<i>* Miracles of Jesus Overview</i>	2	28	Victory	2 / 4	60 / 64
<i>* Lists of Jesus Miracles</i>	2	69	Visions	5	36
<i>* Real People, Real Miracles</i>	2	74	Voice, <i>Hearing God's</i>	5	72
New Birth	4	25-31	<i>* My "I've-Heard-From-God" Checklist</i>	5	61-62
New Creation	4	31	<i>* 21 True Stories by Rachel</i>	5	66-70
<i>* The Funeral</i>	4	32	Water Baptism	2	9-15
Obedience	2 / 6	13-14 / 42-48	Who We Are In Christ	4	71
Offense	8	43-44	<i>* The Divine Exchange (D. Prince)</i>	4	8
Overcomer	4	50-56	<i>* Two Mirrors</i>	4	16
<i>* A Punchy Poem With A Potent Point</i>	6	62	<i>* In Christ Scriptures</i>	4	48
Parables	2	38	<i>* 30 Things God Says About You</i>	4	66
<i>* The Parables Listed</i>	2	69	Wholeness	8	11-12
Parents	2 / 8	13 / 54, 64	Will of God	10	31, 44, 51, 59, 75
Peacemakers	8	43-46	<i>* Seven Misconceptions About God's Will</i>	10	5
Pornography	1 / 8	51-54 / 61	<i>* Ten Absolutes About God's Will</i>	10	61
Prayer	2 / 9 / 10	50-56 / 28 / 30	<i>* Scriptures - God's Will</i>	10	67
Prophecy	3 / 7	6, 38 / 80	Word-Ruled Lifestyle	2 / 9	21 / 36-37
Protection	3 / 9	49-56 / 32	Word of God	3 / 7	2-4 / 12-15
Rachel's Stories			<i>* God's Word Summarized</i>	2	71
<i>* From The President's Desk</i>		iii	<i>* Four Benefits Of God's Word</i>	6	46
<i>* Born To Be Wild</i>	2	64	<i>* 14 Descriptions Of God's Word</i>	9	66
<i>* Raised From The Dead</i>	2	25	Worldview	1	9-15
<i>* Tommy's Journey</i>	4	62	<i>* What Is A Worldview?</i>	1	4
<i>* Rachel's Cheerleader Song</i>	4	62	<i>* Humanistic vs. Biblical Worldview</i>	1	6
<i>* 21 True Stories / God's Voice</i>	5	66-70	<i>* Christian Worldview Of Success</i>	1	60
<i>* Eight Ex. of Chastening Love</i>	6	70-71	Worship	10	68
<i>* A Rhema In A Graveyard</i>	9	21	<i>* I Am A Worshiper</i>		
<i>* The Performer's Promise</i>	9	22	Wrath of God	2	6
<i>* We Know What To Do</i>	9	27	<i>* Love Thoughts From Your Father</i>	6	67
<i>* They Said "No," But God Said "Yes"</i>	9	29			
<i>* Scoliosis Healed</i>	9	43			
<i>* Faith Unfolds As You Obey</i>	9	51			

Illustrations

Topic	Title	Volume/Page	Summary
Choices	<i>Eight "Great Day" Choices</i>	1 / 1	Our lives and our eternity are based on our choices.
Brainwashed	<i>Brainwashed</i>	1 / 9	Evaluate info by God's Word, not popular consensus.
* Compromise	<i>How To Boil A Frog</i>	1 / 41	Compromise is so gradual that it often goes unnoticed.
* Contentment	<i>Acres of Diamonds</i>	1 / 57	After a man sold his farm to pursue wealth, diamonds were discovered.
Sin	<i>The Sin Virus</i>	2 / 8	A computer virus causes billions of dollars of damage.
Die To Self	<i>Mistake at the Morgue</i>	2 / 16	Funny. What it means to "die to self."
* Tongues	<i>Cannibals</i>	2 / 32	True story - Speaking in tongues saved a missionary's life.
Words of Jesus	<i>Words</i>	2 / 33	The words of Jesus are the most important words.
Who You Are In Christ	<i>The Mystery Man</i>	2 / 57	The peasant girl married a king, gaining his name and kingdom.
Bible Study	<i>Fools Gold</i>	3 / 8	Stats about California's 1849 Gold Rush (Psalm 19:11)
Trust God	<i>The Center Of Everything</i>	3 / 17	The central message of the Bible is the center verse.
Who You Are In Christ	<i>The Miracle Mirror</i>	3,4 / 40,16	God's Word is as a mirror reflecting your inner man.
Understand Your Bible	<i>Don't Forget The Oil</i>	3 / 49	The oil of the Holy Spirit makes your Bible come alive.
Habits	<i>The Secret To Success</i>	3 / 57	Our daily habits will make us or break us.
Identity in Christ	<i>Rewards of Identity</i>	4 / 1	Rewards belong to those whose identity is in Christ.
Guidance	<i>God's GPS</i>	4 / 9	God guides believers through their spirit man.
Faith's Confession	<i>Clean and Strong</i>	4 / 17	Confession of sin + confession of faith = clean + strong
Inward Witness	<i>Fully Charged</i>	4 / 25	Your inward man is like swallowing a cell phone.
Righteousness	<i>Daddy's Home</i>	4 / 33	Twins' different responses to their Daddy's arrival.
Prayer	<i>Never Pray This!</i>	4 / 41	Two types of prayer Christians should never pray.
* Overcomers	<i>The Neighborhood Tour</i>	4 / 49	Funny. Demons tippy-toe past the believer's house.
Hidden In Christ	<i>The Secret Room</i>	4 / 57	Those <i>In Christ</i> are storm-proof and satisfied.
God, Is That You?	<i>The Litmus Test</i>	5 / 17	Dip that "voice" into God's Word to test its source.
Deception	<i>Protection From Deception</i>	5 / 49	Deception changes your perception of God.
* Father's Love	<i>My Father Owns It All</i>	6 / 1	Two campers compare their fathers.
Restoration	<i>A Knack For A Shack</i>	6 / 32	God sees us through His eyes as a finished prize.
God Loves You	<i>God's Billboard Top Ten</i>	6 / 35	God sings over us, just as a lullaby or a lover's ode.
The Bible Is Inspired	<i>It's Alive!</i>	7 / 11	The "breath of God" makes your Bible come alive.
* Hungry for the Word	<i>Eat The Word</i>	7 / 46	An Ethiopian Emperor ate pages of his Bible and died.
Grace	<i>It's Who You Know</i>	7 / 62	Heaven is gained by Who you know, not works.
A Real Fool	<i>April Fools Day!</i>	7 / 63	A freshman proves his atheist professor is a true fool.
* Forgiveness	<i>Louis Zamperini Story</i>	8 / 40	WWII vet in Japanese war camp returns to forgive.
Emotions	<i>The Cracked Windshield</i>	8 / 49	The tiny ding left unfixed became a large crack.
Inner Man	<i>The Mall Of America</i>	9 / 1	Our spirit man is like a mall, everything we need.
Spirit Man	<i>The X-Rays Missed This</i>	9 / 9	X-rays show our natural man, but not our spirit man.
Confession of Faith	<i>How Faith Works</i>	9 / 13	A bicycle; confess with your mouth, believe in your heart.
Why Faith Fails	<i>A Wedding Disaster</i>	9 / 17	Mix your problem or promise with faith.
Salvation Benefits	<i>It's Paid For!</i>	9 / 41	Salvation is like an all-inclusive resort. Paid in full.
Faith Works!	<i>Faith Has No Plan B</i>	9 / 47	Our son's response to a marriage proposal setback.
God's Will	<i>A Fun and Faithful Father</i>	10 / 16	God's will unfolds with maturity.
Special Inheritance	<i>That's Billion With A "B"</i>	10 / 27	True story. Two brothers in poverty inherit billions.
* Rich in Christ	<i>The Wealthy Pauper</i>	10 / 32	A pauper didn't know she had inherited a fortune.
Describing God	<i>Artwork By Alyssa</i>	10 / 33	A kindergartener attempts to draw a picture of God.

* Rachel's favorites

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

- I. Bible Basics**
- A. Summary: Jesus restores Father's family at Calvary
 - B. Old and New ways to reach God
 - C. Memorizing and Meditating on the Scripture
 - D. *Ps. 40:7, Ps. 119:11, Rom. 14:5*
- II. Can You Trust Your Bible?**
- A. Ten reasons you can trust your Bible
 - B. Criteria for both testaments
 - C. How did we get the Bible?
 - D. *II Tim. 3:16, I Pet. 1:21, Heb. 6:18*
- III. Laws To Interpret Your Bible**
- A. Hermeneutics 101
 - B. Comparing study Bibles
 - C. Three methods of translation
 - D. *Is. 40:8, Mat. 24:35, Heb. 6:18*
- IV. How To Study A Book**
- A. Five types of disciplined Bible study
 - B. Study a book, chapter, verse, person, topic
 - C. Bible study method: Inductive Bible Study
 - D. *Ps. 19:7, Ps. 19:8, Ps. 19:11-14*
- V. How To Study A Chapter**
- A. The purpose of a chapter study
 - B. One sentence summary - OSS
 - C. Bible study method: Color-coding/Bible markings
 - D. *Ps. 119:11, Ps. 119:89, Ps. 119:165*
- VI. How To Study A Verse**
- A. Bible study - an unhurried, methodical mindset
 - B. The purpose of a Bible concordance
 - C. Bible study method: Verse mapping
 - D. *Prv. 6:6, Prv. 10:14, II Tim. 2:15*
- VII. How To Study A Person**
- A. The purpose of character studies
 - B. Character studies reveal God's interaction
 - C. Bible study Method: Outlining
 - D. *I Cor. 11:1, Ph. 3:7, I Jn. 2:6*
- VIII. How To Study A Topic**
- A. Topical study reveals a complete understanding
 - B. Rule #1 - Scripture interprets Scripture
 - C. Bible study method: Cross-referencing
 - D. *Prv. 3:1, Ezra 7:10, Jn. 5:39*

