

LTRBE

Learn to Read the Bible Effectively

8 Week Seminar Notes

The Christadelphians

January 2021

The Learn to Read the Bible Effectively seminar notes are available online.

Contents

Session One

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Background of the Bible | 6 |
| The Bible Interprets Itself | 9 |
| Overview of the Books of the Bible | 11 |
| Workshop – The Bible Interprets Itself..... | 17 |

Session Two

| | |
|--|----|
| Challenges in Bible Reading | 20 |
| Why Two Testaments? | 22 |
| Using Cross References | 24 |
| Workshop – Cross References..... | 28 |
| Overview of the Books of the Bible - Genesis | 32 |

Session Three

| | |
|--|----|
| Terminology (Part 1) | 35 |
| Overview of the Books of the Bible - Exodus to David | 38 |
| Study Tools (Part 1) | 45 |
| Workshop – Study Tools 1 – Concordance..... | 48 |

Session Four

| | |
|---|----|
| Critics of the Bible | 51 |
| The Purpose of God Revealed..... | 54 |
| Overview of the Books of the Bible – Solomon to Northern Exile..... | 56 |
| Workshop – Using Bible charts..... | 66 |

Session Five

| | |
|---|----|
| Tips on Reading | 71 |
| Versions of the Bible | 76 |
| Overview of the Books of the Bible – Southern Exile to Christ | 78 |
| Study Tools (Part 2) | 85 |
| Workshop – Study Tools..... | 89 |

Session Six

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| The Jews and the Law of Moses | 89 |
| Terminology (Part 2) | 91 |
| Workshop - Mystery | 93 |
| The Role of Prophecy | 95 |

Session Seven

| | |
|---|-----|
| Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ | 97 |
| Life and Death in the Bible | 102 |
| Terminology (Part 3) | 105 |
| Workshop – Soul..... | 107 |

Session Eight

| | |
|---|-----|
| Overview of the Books of the Bible - Apostles | 111 |
| Good vs Evil | 125 |
| Terminology (Part 4) | 129 |
| Conclusion | 131 |

NOTES

SESSION # 1

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME!

We know that your time is valuable, so we promise to make your time with us productive and enjoyable.

Our goal is to help you to read the Bible more effectively. You may be here tonight because at times you have found Bible reading to be:

- frustrating because of archaic language
- confusing because of apparent contradictions
- boring because of seemingly irrelevant material
- overwhelming because of the mass of information

We hold the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and believe that it is able to enrich your life. To do so, however, will require overcoming the obstacles mentioned above. We think we can provide you with keys and tips in doing so.

Why we are giving this seminar:

- To help you become familiar with the *content* of the Bible
- To assist you in learning the *meaning* of the Bible
- To give you confidence in the Bible as God's *inspired* word

Introduction

AN IMPORTANT BEGINNING TIP:

Look for Bible "echoes."

Ask: Where else (in the Bible) have I seen this?

Consider this example of when the Pharisees and Herodians attempted to catch Jesus in his words, so they could arrest him. They asked, *"Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give or shall we not give?"*

Jesus recognized their treachery and asked for a coin. He asked, *'Whose is this image and superscription?'* They replied *'Caesar's,'* to which Christ responded, *'Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.'*

(Mark 12:13-17)

Fair enough. Pay your taxes, because they belong to man's system of things, is the clear answer. But what are the things we ought to render unto God?

Look for Bible "echoes"

Remember Genesis 1:27 - *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him."*

Whose image and superscription are we? Jesus' full message is not merely to pay your taxes, but also that we belong to God and must render to Him His due by reflecting His image and character correctly.

This is not a mysterious connection. It is merely an association gained by careful reading.

Let's learn more...

Background of the Bible

BACKGROUND

Holy Bible - "Separate Book"

66 Books

Old Testament - 39 books

New Testament - 27 books

40+ writers - kings and peasants, doctors and fishermen, princes and herdsman, poets and laborers, rich and poor, educated and illiterate

Written over a period of 1600 years

2,930 characters in 1,551 places

Many literary forms (poetry, prose, etc.).

Even with so many different writers, subjects, etc., all parts of the Bible agree with one another. Though the writers were separated by time, geography, social standing, and so on, there is wonderful harmony in all they wrote. There is no contradiction, no disagreement. This could only come from God! They all wrote by divine inspiration. They were God's agents, proclaiming His message to humanity.

INSPIRATION

God is the Author.

2 Tim. 3:15-17

All scripture is inspired - "God Breathed"

Scripture is sufficient in itself

Examples:

David - *2 Samuel 23:1-2*

Jeremiah - *Jer. 30:1-2*

How often you read in the Bible:

"Thus saith the LORD . . ."

"The word of the LORD came unto me saying . . ."

Men recorded God's words, not their own.

1 Peter 1:10-12

2 Peter 1:19-21

Background of the Bible

God's Word never fails, nor should it be added to.

Is. 40:6-8

Prov. 30:5-6

The Bible is the Source of Truth.

Ps. 19:7-9 - perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY

Makes us wise unto salvation.

2 Tim. 3:15-17

Gives us Hope.

Romans 15:4

Power of God unto Salvation.

Romans 1:16-17

Neglect brings death.

Prov. 13:13

Essential in developing faith.

Rom. 10:17

Provides direction for daily living.

Psalms 119:105

Joshua 1:8

HOW READEST THOU?

It is one thing to read the Bible through,
Another thing to learn and read and do.
Some read it with desire to learn, and read
But to their subject pay but little heed;
Some read it as their duty every week,
But no instruction from the Bible seek;
While others read it with but little care,
With no regard to how they read or where;
Some read it as a History, to know
How people lived two thousand years ago,
Some read it to bring themselves into repute,
By showing others how they can dispute;
While others read because their neighbors do,
To see how long it takes to read it through.
Some read it for the wonders that are there,
How David killed a lion and a bear;
While others read it with uncommon care,
Hoping to find some contradictions there.
Some read as though it did not speak to them
But to the people at Jerusalem.
One reads it as a book of mysteries,
And won't believe the very thing he sees;
One reads with father's specs upon his head,
And sees the thing just as his father said;
Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,
Hence understanding but little as they read,
For every passage in the book they bend
To make it suit that all-important end.
Some people read, as I have often thought,
To teach the Book, instead of being taught;
And some there are who read it out of spite,
I fear there are but few who read it right.
One thing I find, and you may find it too,
The more you read, the more you find it true;
But this to find, an open eye is needful,
With often prayer, and humble heart all heedful;
The man who reads with pride or inattention,
Will only find full causes of dissension,
The man who reads with modest penetration,
Will find the joy of comfort and salvation.

The Bible Interprets Itself

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

How many times have you heard of a person who spent a frustrating evening assembling his child's bike only to find out after the fact that he has assembled the handlebars backwards! Of course, we all know the modern proverb "when all else fails, read the instructions."

This is of course true when reading the Bible. We need to learn from our life's experiences and recognize that the key to easier (not easy) understanding of the Bible is found within its own pages. Our tendency is to not look far enough for answers within the book when we encounter something we do not understand.

A basic principle to reading the Bible more effectively lies in this simple fact:

Your questions about what the Bible teaches are answered in the Bible.

We know that is like asking who is buried in Grant's tomb. However, given human nature, the obvious solution is often our last resort. Read the instructions first - is the obvious solution to preventing frustration with most of life's projects.

ANSWERS ARE FOUND NEAR AND FAR

Look in the same chapter or surrounding chapters:

Christ's explanation of the parable of the Sowers

Matt. 13:3-8 compare Matt. 13:18-23

(note they are not adjacent)

Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the Image

Daniel 2:31-45

Note that Daniel recognized the dream would be revealed by God.

vs 22 "He revealeth the deep and secret things. "

Look in other books of the Bible (especially New vs Old Testament)

It was an angel who spoke to Moses in the burning bush

Exodus 3:4 compare Acts 7:30-31

Why Jesus Said " *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*

Matt. 27:46 compare Psalm 22

DO

Look first to the Bible for answers to questions
Read all of the Bible to find answers to your questions
Write down your questions (it may be awhile until you get to the answer)

DON'T

Expect quick answers
Look at isolated passages and draw conclusions

The "Canon" of Scripture is an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture. The Bible is broken into two testaments, Old and New. The Bible contains the following Table of Contents:

OLD TESTAMENT

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Genesis | II Chronicles | Daniel |
| Exodus | Ezra | Hosea |
| Leviticus | Nehemiah | Joel |
| Numbers | Esther | Amos |
| Deuteronomy | Job | Obadiah |
| Joshua | Psalms | Jonah |
| Judges | Proverbs | Micah |
| Ruth | Ecclesiastes | Nahum |
| I Samuel | Song of Solomon | Habakkuk |
| II Samuel | Isaiah | Zephaniah |
| I Kings | Jeremiah | Haggai |
| II Kings | Lamentations | Zechariah |
| I Chronicles | Ezekiel | Malachi |

NEW TESTAMENT

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Matthew | Ephesians | Hebrews |
| Mark | Philippians | James |
| Luke | Colossians | I Peter |
| John | I Thessalonians | II Peter |
| Acts of the Apostles | II Thessalonians | I John |
| Romans | I Timothy | II John |
| I Corinthians | II Timothy | III John |
| II Corinthians | Titus | Jude |
| Galatians | Philemon | Revelation |

Overview of the Books of the Bible

HEBREW ARRANGEMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

The Law (5 books):

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The Prophets (8 books):

1. The Former Prophets (4 books):

Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings

2. The Latter Prophets (4 books):

Major (3 books):

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel

Minor (1 book) The Twelve:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

The Writings (11 books):

1. Poetical (3 books)

Psalms, Proverbs, Job

2. Five Scrolls (5 books)

Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

3. Historical (3 books)

Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles

Overview of the Books of the Bible

APOCRYPHA:

A Greek word meaning "hidden things."

They were not part of the Hebrew Scriptures. They were included in the Greek version of the Old Testament made for the Greek speaking Jews in Egypt. Later were included by Jerome into the Latin Bible. Protestants do not consider them a part of the inspired Canon which makes up the Bible today. The Catholic church does include them in their Bible. We will not be covering them in this seminar. The books are generally accepted as being written between 200 - 50 B.C. Today, if included, they typically find their placement between the Old and New Testament.

The Apocrypha consists of 14 books or parts of books. They are:

- I Esdras
- II Esdras
- Tobit
- Judith
- The Rest of the Chapters of the Book of Esther
- The Wisdom of Solomon
- Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jesus son of Sirach
- Baruch (with The Epistle of Jeremiah)
- The Song of the Three (Hebrew Children)
- The History of Susanna
- Bel and the Snake
- The Prayer of Manasseh
- I Maccabees
- II Maccabees

Each class will contain a section devoted to an overview of the books of the Bible. We will cover the Old Testament books in chronological order. We will cover the New Testament books in Biblical (canonical) order.

SESSION OUTLINES

Session 1 - Overview of Bible

- (a) Background/Structure/Chronology
- (b) Genesis

Session 2 - Exodus to David

- (a) Exodus to Promised Land
- Job

Overview of the Books of the Bible

- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua

- (b) Period of Judges
 - Judges
 - Ruth

- (c) Saul & David
 - 1st & 2nd Samuel
 - Psalms

Session 3 - Solomon to Exile of Northern Kingdom

- (a) Reign of Solomon
 - Introduction to:
 - 1st & 2nd Kings
 - 1st & 2nd Chronicles
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Solomon

- (b) Northern Kingdom
 - Amos
 - Hosea

- (c) Southern Kingdom
 - Isaiah
 - Micah

- (d) Nations
 - Jonah
 - Nahum

Overview of the Books of the Bible

Session 4 - Southern Exile to Christ

- (a) Pre Exile
 - Jeremiah
 - Zephaniah
 - Habakkuk
 - Lamentations

- (b) 70 years captivity
 - Joel
 - Daniel
 - Ezekiel
 - Obadiah

- (c) Exile and Return
 - Ezra
 - Nehemiah
 - Esther
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
 - Malachi

Session 5 - New Testament - Part 1

- (a) Gospels
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John

- (b) Acts of the Apostles

- (c) Paul's Epistles to the Churches
 - Romans
 - 1st & 2nd Corinthians
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - 1st & 2nd Thessalonians

Overview of the Books of the Bible

Session 6 - New Testament - Part 2

(a) Paul's Personal Epistles

1st & 2nd Timothy

Titus

Philemon

(b) General Epistles

Hebrews

James

1st & 2nd Peter

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

Jude

(c) Prophecy

Revelation

Workshop – The Bible Interprets Itself

Please complete these two exercises to show yourself how the Bible interprets itself.

Exercise 1

Turn to Matthew 13 and read the first 8 verses. Jesus spoke to the people in parables. In this parable he told a story about a sower who went out to sow and the seed fell on four different types of ground. Complete the chart with just a few words indicating the interpretation that Jesus reveals to his disciples in verses 18-23.

| The Parable | The Interpretation |
|--|---|
| some <i>seeds</i> fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up v3 | V19 – people who hear God’s word but do not understand |
| some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. V5-6 | V20-21 |
| some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: V7 | V22 |
| but other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.V8 | V23 |
| the seed | Take a guess and then look up Luke 8:11 to see if you got it right. |

The Bible interprets itself. Following the parable there is an explanation of the parable; in this case the explanation was close by, but sometimes it takes more reading and more patience.

Later you may wish to try and understand what Jesus meant in verses 9-17, but for now move to the next exercise.

Exercise 2

Read Daniel 2. Nebuchadnezzar had a very special dream. This dream troubled him greatly and he determined to know the significance of this dream. He asked his advisors to tell him the dream and also the interpretation. Under normal circumstances these advisors could invent a meaning to a dream, but Nebuchadnezzar wanted to be sure they were telling the truth this time. Of course they could not tell him what he dreamed so he declared that they would all be put to death. In the meantime a report came to the king that Daniel a Jew who had been brought captive into the Babylonian empire to serve the interests of the king was able to foretell the dream. Daniel was able to tell the dream and the interpretation. Complete the chart with the interpretation using verses 36-45.

| The Dream | The Interpretation |
|---|---------------------------|
| this image's head <i>was</i> of fine gold | |
| his breast and his arms of silver | |
| his belly and his thighs of brass | |
| his legs of iron | |
| his feet part of iron and part of clay | |
| Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet <i>that were</i> of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. | |
| Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. | |

For a real challenge identify the specific kingdoms through your knowledge of history. History books are the one other source of information that really help us understand parts of the Bible.

SESSION # 2

Why the Bible is Challenging to Read

If you find the Bible challenging to read, it's probably because it contains challenging material!

Always remember:

"It is the Glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter. "
Proverbs 25:2

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?

The disciples posed this question to him in *Matthew 13:10*.

His answer reveals that it is a separation process. *"It is given unto you. . . unto them it is not given."* (If a question of whether or not this is fair arises, consider Paul's comment in *Romans 9:18-21*)

TO WHOM IS TRUTH REVEALED?

1. To "babes." *Matt. 11:25-26*
2. To humble seekers of truth. *1 Cor. 1:17-31*

HOW DOES ONE GAIN UNDERSTANDING?

1. *By application of time and energy.*

Social status or financial position will not give anyone an advantage over another.
Understanding requires an investment made "without money."
Isaiah 55:1,3
Prov. 23:23

2. *Incrementally*

God's revelation has occurred over time expressed by many voices, each contributing to the complete message.
Hebrews 1:1

UNDERSTANDING IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO SEEK DILIGENTLY

We must ask in faith (and this involves prayer), but understanding is assured if we are patient to receive it.
Matt. 7:7-8
James 1:5-6

**SOME PEOPLE READ THE BIBLE
TO FIND WHAT THEY BELIEVE**

**SOME PEOPLE READ THE BIBLE
TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY FIND**

Why Two Testaments?

WHAT IS A TESTAMENT?

The Contents Page of the Bible shows it as divided into two parts: the Old and New Testaments.

"Testament" means covenant, that is, an agreement, promise, or pledge between two parties.

The teaching of the Bible is based upon covenants of promise that God made with faithful men in times past.

It teaches that *"Jesus Christ (came) . . . to confirm the promises made unto the fathers; and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy (Rom. 15:8-9)."*

Again: *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:4)."*

The Lord Jesus Christ is described as the Mediator of the New Covenant – *Heb. 9:15*.

WHY OLD and NEW TESTAMENT?

The events surrounding the Lord Jesus Christ provide a natural division of the scripture, between those writings dealing with the Old Testament written in Hebrew and the New Testament written in Greek. However, it must be remembered that this division of the Bible into Old and New Testaments is man-made.

It is true that the old covenant refers to the Law of Moses which is no longer binding on people, but the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) actually contains far more than just the old covenant. In fact, it contains the promises which were made before the old covenant which the Lord Jesus Christ came to confirm. He becomes the mediator of the new covenant based on these promises.

The whole Bible is the revelation of God, and is one complete and indivisible book. Some claim that the Old Testament became outdated when Christ appeared nearly 2000 years ago, but that is not so. The New Testament constantly refers the reader back to the Old, time and time again.

Christ, in preaching, told his listeners to *"search the Scriptures"* (*John 5:39*), meaning the Old Testament. It would be better to call the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scripture, as the concept of the Old Testament is misleading and even the Bible itself calls this material the Scriptures.

Christ appealed to those same Scriptures to expound the things concerning himself: "*Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them*" (the disciples) "*in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:27).*" The Bible will never be properly understood if the Hebrew Scripture is neglected. The Gospel, itself, is based upon an Old Testament promise: "*God preached the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed (Gal. 3:8).*"

To illustrate this, consider the following promises (or covenants) made by God in the Old Testament:

1. In Eden following the sin of Adam and Eve - *Gen. 3:15.*
2. To Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the "fathers of old."
3. To David - *2 Samuel 7:12-17*
4. Promises of the Kingdom to the prophets - *Isaiah 9:6-7.*

Also, in the New Testament we read the angel's testimony in *Luke 1:31-33*:

- v. 31 - relates to the "seed (descendant) of the woman" promised to Adam & Eve
- v. 32 - relates to the promise of the "Son of God" made to David
- v. 33a - relates to "the seed" (descendant) that was promised to Abraham
- v. 33b - relates to the promises made to the prophets concerning the Kingdom of the Messiah

Consider also Zacharias' proclamation in *Luke 1:67-79.*

Another example of how God's promises span the testaments is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Gal. 3:28-29 - Promises concerning Abraham, Christ, Believers.

God's Promises are not yet complete. This is made evident through the prophecy of Jeremiah, given in chapter 31, verses 31-34 concerning the restoration of Israel.

Using Cross References

There is no better commentary on the Bible than the Bible itself. No source is more appropriate for interpreting God's Word than God Himself. It is in this area that the use of cross references can be so valuable.

WHAT IS A CROSS REFERENCE?

They are verse "references" supplied by the publishers which direct the reader to other locations in the Bible where the same word or the same or similar event or phrase may be found.

TYPES OF CROSS REFERENCES INCLUDE:

1. Center Column References
2. End of Verse/Footnotes
3. Separate books (Treasury of Scripture Knowledge)

USES OF CROSS REFERENCES:

1. Link Teachings/Prophecies Between OT & NT
 - A. Luke 1:31-33 - Gabriel's words to Mary
- throne of David
Cross Reference to:
2 Samuel 7:11
 - B. John 1:19-28 - Jew's question to John the Baptist
- "*Art thou that prophet?*"
Cross Reference to:
Deut. 18:15-18
 - C. Luke 4:16-21- Christ reading from Isaiah
- "*the Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . .*"
Cross Reference to:
7 Isaiah 61:1,2

Leviticus 25:9-10 (Jubilee) – does not appear in all Bibles D. Acts 13:16-37 - Paul speaks to the Jews in Antioch

- numerous quotes . . .

Cross References to:

Psalm 2:7

Isaiah 55:3

Psalm 16:10

2. Fill in details on Persons, Places, Subjects, etc.

A. Hebrews 5:6 - Melchizedek - who is he?

Cross References to:

Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 7:17,21 – does not appear in all Bibles

Passage in Hebrews 7 also references:

Genesis 14:18-20

B. Matthew 12:38-42 - Queen of the South

- who is she?

Cross Reference to:

1 Kings 10:1

C. Acts 1:1- The former Treatise

- what was it?

Cross Reference to:

Luke 1:3

D. Ezekiel 21:25-27

- "*whose right it is*"

Cross Reference to:

Gen. 49:10 – does not appear in all Bibles

3. Filling in of details of Parallel Accounts

A. History of Kings of Israel & Judah

1. 1 Kings 15:34 - King Baasha

- walked in the ways of Jeroboam . . .

Cross References to some of:

1 Kings 12:28-29

1 Kings 13:33

1 Kings 14:16

2. 1 Kings 15 :23-24 - King Asa

- diseased in his feet

Cross References to:

2 Chronicles 16:12

3. 1 Kings 22:41-45 - King Jehoshaphat

- he made peace with the king of Israel

Cross References to some of:

2 Chronicles 18:1

2 Chronicles 21:6

2 Chronicles 22:2

2 Kings 8:18

B. Gospel Accounts

1. Luke 21:5-36 - Mt. Olivet Prophecy

- who are the "they" that asked him in v.7?

Cross References to:

Matthew 24:1-51 (disciples, privately)

Mark 13:1-37 (in particular, Peter, James, John, and Andrew, privately)

2. Luke 9:7-9 - Concerning John the Baptist

- John was beheaded by Herod, why?

Cross References to:

Matthew 14:1-3

Mark 6:14-16

3. Luke 23:39-43 - Repentant Thief

- Thief repents on cross

Cross References to:

Matthew 27:44 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Mark 15:29-30 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

4. Clarification of Passage/Meaning

A. Matthew 9:10-13 - "Mercy, and not sacrifice

- "I will have mercy... "

Cross References to:

Matt. 23:23 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Micah 6:8

1 Sam. 15:22 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

B. Acts 8:27-40 - Philip and the Eunuch

- Reading from Isaiah

Cross Reference to:

Isaiah 53: 7, 8

C. John 4:3-42 - Preaching to Samaritans

- Location (v. 5)

Cross References to:

Genesis 33:19

Joshua 24:32 (note context of chapter 24) – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Workshop – Cross References

Please complete these three exercises to practice using cross-references.

Exercise 1

Gabriel's words to Mary

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Luke 1: 31-33 in your Bible otherwise refer to the following page where the text for this is displayed (page 29):

In Luke we are reading the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary the mother of Jesus. The angel refers to the fact that her son, who will also be the Son of God will sit on the throne of his father David. Find the cross-reference in the Old Testament where the throne of David was originally promised to Jesus.

(Hint: In the centre margin you will find listed the verse numbers. Go to the number 32. Look for something in "2 Samuel")

Exercise 2

"the former treatise"

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Acts 1:1 in your Bible otherwise refer to page 31:

The writer tells Theophilus that he has already written a book "the former treatise" about the things that Jesus began to do and teach. What is the name of this book? Who wrote both of these books? Use a cross reference to answer both of these questions.

Exercise 3

Story of Philip and the Eunuch

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Acts 8:27-40 in your Bible otherwise refer to page 32

Philip joined a eunuch in a chariot who was reading in the book of Isaiah. He was really interested in this part of Isaiah and was in fact learning about Jesus. Using your cross references find the place in Isaiah where the eunuch was reading.

10 ^aAnd the whole multitude of the people were praying ¹without at the ²time of incense.

An Angel Announces the Birth of John the Baptist

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of ^athe altar of incense.

12 And when Zach-a-ri'-as saw him, ^ahe was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zach-a-ri'-as: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and ^athou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and ^amany shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be ^agreat in the sight of the Lord, and ^bshall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, ^ceven from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the ¹children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 ^aAnd he shall go before him in the spirit and power of E-li'-as, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Zacharias Is Unable to Speak

18 And Zach-a-ri'-as said unto the angel, ^aWhereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well ¹stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am ^aGabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee ¹these glad ²tidings.

20 And, behold, ^athou shalt be ¹dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their ²season.

21 And the people waited for Zach-a-ri'-as, and marvelled that he ¹tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as ^athe days of his ¹ministration were ²accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to ^atake away my reproach among men.

10 ^aLev. 16:17
¹outside
²Lit. hour

11 ^aEx. 30:1

12 ^aLuke 2:9

13 ^aLuke 1:57, 60, 63

14 ^aLuke 1:58

15 ^a[Luke 7:24-28]
^bNum. 6:3
^cJer. 1:5

16 ¹Lit. sons

17 ^aMal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 3:2; 11:14

18 ^aGen. 17:17
¹advanced

19 ^aDan. 8:16
^bLuke 2:10
¹this good news

20 ^aEzek. 3:26; 24:27
¹mute
²own time

21 ¹delayed

23 ^{a2} Kin. 11:5
¹service
²completed

25 ^aGen. 30:23

27 ^aMatt. 1:18
¹betrothed

28 ^aDan. 9:23
^bJudg. 6:12
¹Rejoice

29 ^aLuke 1:12
¹considered
²greeting

30 ^aLuke 2:52

31 ^aIs. 7:14
^bLuke 2:21

32 ^aMark 5:7
^{b2} Sam. 7:12, 13, 16
^{c2} Sam. 7:14-17
^aMatt. 1:1
¹Most High

33 ^a[Dan. 2:44]

34 ¹am a virgin

35 ^aMatt. 1:20
^b[Heb. 1:2, 8]
¹Most High
²zone

36 ¹relative

37 ^aJer. 32:17

38 ¹maid-servant

39 ^aJosh. 21:9

40 ¹greeted

41 ^aActs 6:3
¹greeting

42 ^aJudg. 5:24

43 ¹why

Gabriel Announces Christ's Birth

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin ^aespoused¹ to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, ^aHail,¹ *thou that art highly favoured,* ^bthe Lord is with thee: *blessed art thou among women.*

29 And when she saw him, ^ashe was troubled at his saying, and ¹cast in her mind what manner of ²salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found ^afavour with God.

31 ^aAnd, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and ^bshalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, ^aand shall be called the Son of the ¹Highest: and ^bthe Lord God shall give unto him the ^cthrone of his ^dfather David:

33 ^aAnd he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Mary Miraculously Conceives

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I ¹know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, ^aThe Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the ¹Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy ²thing which shall be born of thee shall be called ^bthe Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy ¹cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For ^awith God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the ¹handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elisabeth

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, ^ainto a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zach-a-ri'-as, and ¹saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the ¹salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was ^afilled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, ^aBlessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And ¹whence is this to me, that

THE ACTS

of the Apostles

JESUS' last recorded words have come to be known as the Great Commission: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (1:8). The Book of Acts, written by Luke, is the story of the men and women who took that commission seriously and began to spread the news of a risen Savior to the most remote corners of the known world.

Each section of the book (1—7; 8—12; 13—28) focuses on a particular audience, a key personality, and a significant phase in the expansion of the gospel message.

As the second volume in a two-part work by Luke, this book probably had no separate title. But all available Greek manuscripts designate it by the title *Praxeis*, "Acts," or by an expanded title like "The Acts of the Apostles." *Praxeis* was commonly used in Greek literature to summarize the accomplishments of outstanding men. While the apostles are mentioned collectively at several points, this book really records the acts of Peter (1—12) and of Paul (13—28).

Prologue to Acts

THE former treatise have I made,
TO ^aThe-oph'-i-lus, of all that Je-
sus began both to do and teach.

2 ^aUntil the day in which he ¹was
taken up, after that he through the
Holy Ghost ^bhad given command-
ments unto the apostles whom he
had chosen:

CHAPTER 1

1 ^aLuke 1:3

2 ^aMark 16:19

^bMatt. 28:19

¹Ascended
into heaven

3 ^aMark

16:12, 14

¹presented

²suffering

Appearances of the Resurrected Christ—Luke 24:44-49

3 ^aTo whom also he ¹shewed him-
self alive after his ²passion by many
³infallible proofs, being seen of them
forty days, and speaking of the

³unmistakable

called Simon, which beforetime in the same city ^aused¹ sorcery, and ²bewitched the people of Sa-ma'-ri-a, ^bgiving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they ¹had regard, because that of long time he had ²bewitched them with ³sorceries.

12 But when they believed Philip ¹preaching the things ^aconcerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and ¹wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the ^aapostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Sa-ma'-ri-a had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, ^athat they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For ^aas yet he was fallen upon none of them: only ^bthey were baptized in ^athe name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then ^alaid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because ^athou hast thought that ^bthe gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor ¹lot in this matter: for thy ^aheart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, ^aif perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art ¹in ^athe gall of bitterness, and ²in the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, ^aPray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Sa-mar'-i-tans.

Philip Witnesses to the Ethiopian Treasurer

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto ^aPhilip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the

⁹ ^aActs 8:11; 13:6 ^bActs 5:36 ¹practised ^{magi}c ²astonished

¹¹ ¹paid attention ²astonished ³magic arts

¹² ^aActs 1:3; 8:4 ¹as he preached

¹³ ¹was amazed

¹⁴ ^aActs 5:12, 29, 40

¹⁵ ^aActs 2:38; 19:2

¹⁶ ^aActs 19:2 ^bMatt. 28:19 ^cActs 10:48; 19:5

¹⁷ ^aActs 6:6; 19:6

²⁰ ^a[Matt. 10:8] ^b[Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17]

²¹ ^aJer. 17:9 ¹portion

²² ^{a2} Tim. 2:25

²³ ^aHeb. 12:15 ¹poisoned by bitterness ²bound by

²⁴ ^aJames 5:16

²⁶ ^aActs 6:5 ¹deserted

²⁷ ^aPs. 68:31; 87:4 ^bJohn 12:20

³¹ ¹asked

³² ^aIs. 53:7, 8 ^bJohn 19:9 ¹silent

³³ ^aLuke 23:1-25 ^bLuke 23:33-46 ¹justice

³⁵ ^aLuke 24:27

³⁶ ^aActs 10:47; 16:33

³⁷ ^a[Mark 16:16] ^bMatt. 16:16

³⁹ ^aEzek. 3:12, 14

⁴⁰ ^aActs 21:8 ¹Ashdod, Josh. 11:22

CHAPTER 9

¹ ^aActs 7:57; 8:1, 3; 26:10, 11 ¹murder

² ^aActs 22:5 ¹asked ²the Way

way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Ga'-za, which is ¹desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, ^aa man of E-thi-o'-pi-a, an eunuch of great authority under Can-da'-ce queen of the E-thi-o'-pi-ans, who had the charge of all her treasure, and ^bhad come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read E-sa'-ias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet E-sa'-ias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he ¹desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, ^aHE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND LIKE A LAMB ¹DUMB BEFORE HIS SHEARER, ^bSO OPENED HE NOT HIS MOUTH:

33 IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS ^aJUDGMENT¹ WAS TAKEN AWAY: AND WHO SHALL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS ^bTAKEN FROM THE EARTH.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, ^aand began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here* is water; ^awhat doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, ^aIf thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, ^bI believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, ^athe Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at ¹A-zo'-tus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to ^aCaes-a-re'-a.

Saul Is Converted and Blinded Acts 22:4-11; 26:13-18

9 And ^aSaul, yet breathing out threatenings and ¹slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And ¹desired of him ^aletters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of ²this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Overview of the Books of the Bible – Genesis

GENESIS

The single most important book of the Bible.

Beginning or foundation of the Bible, from which everything is built. Everything revealed in the other books of the Bible has its beginning in the book of Genesis. It is the first book of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

The name itself means "origin, source, or begetting."

It, with the book of Revelation, stand as two end posts bridging the revelation of God to man; the first telling how it all began, the second revealing in symbol how it all will finish. In Genesis there is seen the beginnings of all that which Revelation predicts as the consummation of the Divine purpose in the earth.

For example:

Genesis speaks of a natural creation (*Gen. 1*); Revelation of a spiritual creation (*Rev. 3:14*);

In Genesis the serpent speaks (*Gen. 3:1-5*); in Revelation it is restrained (*Rev. 20:2*).

In Genesis, the curse is imposed (*Gen. 3:17*); in Revelation it is removed (*Rev. 22:3*).

In Genesis, sorrow and death make their appearance (*Gen. 3:16-19*); in Revelation they are taken away (*Rev. 21:4*).

In Genesis, access to the tree of life is denied (*Gen. 3:24*); in Revelation, access to it is opened (*Rev. 2:7*).

In Genesis, the first paradise is closed to man (*Gen. 3:23*); in Revelation it is opened to him (*Rev. 21:25*).

Genesis basically can be divided into two parts:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| EARLY HISTORY | Chapters 1 to 11 |
| PATRIARCHAL HISTORY | Chapters 12 to 50 |

The first division records four outstanding events:

1. The Creation
2. The Fall of Man
3. The Flood
4. The Confusing of Tongues (Tower of Babel)

Patriarchal history is concerned with four outstanding individuals:

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

In addition to the natural separation into two periods of time, the book of Genesis is also divided naturally into 12 sections. These natural breaks are as follows:

1. Creation - Introduction (*Gen. 1:1 - 2:3*).
2. The Generations of the heavens and the earth (*Gen.2:4 - 4:26*).
3. The Book of the Generation of Adam (*Gen. 5:1 - 6:8*)
4. The Generations of Noah, a just man (*Gen. 6:9 - 9:29*).
5. The Generations of the sons of Noah (*Gen. 10:1 - 11:9*).
6. The Generations of Shem (*Gen. 11:10-26*).
7. The Generations of Terah (Abraham) (*Gen. 11:27 - 25:11*).
8. The Generations of Ishmael (*Gen. 25:12-18*).
9. The Generations of Isaac (*Gen. 25:19 - 35:29*).
10. The Generations of Esau (*Gen. 36:1-8*).
11. The Generations of the Sons of Esau (*Gen. 36:9-43*).
12. The Generations of Jacob (*Gen. 37:1 - 50:26*).

Some Points to Consider from Genesis:

1. Harmony of the Creation account. *Gen. 1-2*
2. God's First Promise to Man. *Gen. 3:15*
3. God called Abram *Gen. 12:1*
4. God's Covenant with Abram/Abraham. *Gen. 12, 13, 15, 22*
5. How Israel came to be in Egypt. *Gen. Chapters 15, 37-50*

SESSION # 3

Terminology (Part 1)

FAITH - belief or trust

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. "
(Hebrews 11:1)

ATONEMENT - to cover, purge, make reconciliation, cover over with pitch

"And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses."
(Leviticus 16:34)

HELL - grave, pit

"(David) seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. " *(Acts 2:31)*

LORD OF HOSTS - Yahweh = "The eternal one"
Sabaoth = "hosts"

the proper name of the one true God + that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. " *(2 Samuel 17:45)*

CHRIST - "anointed", Hebrew equivalent is Messiah

"Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? " *Mark 14:61*

JESUS - Greek form of Hebrew name Joshua; meaning "Yahweh (Yehovah) is salvation"

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. " *(Matthew 1:21)*

JUSTIFICATION - the act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to him

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."
(Romans 5:18)

BAPTISM - immersion, submersion in water, to dip (as in dye).

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. "
(Romans 6:4)

SANCTIFICATION - consecration, make separate or holy

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. " (2 Peter 1:2)

RESURRECTION - a rising from the dead

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. " (Romans 6:5)

SOUL - that which breathes, the breathing substance/being, life, creature

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. " (Genesis 2:7)

IMMORTALITY - undying, not subject to death, everlasting

"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen. "
(2 Timothy 6:16)

HOLY - apartness, sacredness, separate

"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, 'Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.'" (Leviticus 19:2)

HOSANNA - meaning "save now"

"Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. " (John 12:13)

GOSPEL - meaning "Glad Tidings" or "Good news"

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." (Matthew 4:23)

CHRONOLOGICAL - the order in which events occurred; according to time.

METAPHOR - A figure of speech, a word or phrase suggesting a resemblance, thereby aiding in understanding.

SYMBOL - with respect to Bible teaching or meaning, a symbol can be verbal and is then the same as a metaphor, or it can be an object such as a sacrificial animal. Symbols are used both to aid understanding and encourage thoughtful consideration, and they are used as a shorthand for various concepts.

PARABLE - a short story designed to teach a truth or a moral lesson.

*"And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it."
(Mark 4:33)*

Overview of the Books of the Bible – Exodus to David

Job

Author: Unknown

Time: Apparently around 1900 B.C.

Summary: Job is the first poetic book of the O.T. It relates the anguish of a righteous man as he and his friends struggle to explain the affliction which has befallen Job and has stripped him of his wealth, his family, and his health. The dialogue continues between Job and his friends as each presents his opinion on the reasons behind such troubles. The purpose of the book of Job is to counter the belief of "Exact Retribution." [Justification by Works]

AFFLICTION OF JOB - Chapter 1:1 - 2:13

1. Description of Job - Ch. 1:1-5
2. Affliction of Job - Ch. 1:6 - 2:10
3. Arrival of Job's Three Friends - Ch. 2:11-13

DEBATES BETWEEN JOB AND HIS THREE FRIENDS - Chapter 3:1 - 31:40

1. First Cycle of Debate - Ch. 3:1 - 14:22
2. Second Cycle of Debate - Ch. 15:1 - 21:34
3. Third Cycle of Debate - Ch. 22:1 - 31:40

THE SPEECHES OF ELIHU - Chapter 32:1 - 37:24

RESTORATION OF JOB - Chapter 38:1 - 42:17

1. God's First Challenge to Job - Ch. 38:1 - 40:5
2. God's Second Challenge to Job - Ch. 40:6 - 41:34
3. Job's Submission and Restoration - Ch. 42

Exodus

Author: Moses

Time: 1650-1500 B.C.

Summary: The title "Exodus" means "a going out." It records the great population growth of the Israelites during their enslavement in Egypt. It introduces Moses and records the plagues God brought upon Egypt to secure His people's release from the bondage of slavery. From this point, the people are given the proclamations of the covenant of the Law at Mt. Sinai. The book concludes with a description of worship centered around the Tabernacle and the Law of Moses. This is the second book of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Jewish Scriptures.

THE LIBERATION OF ISRAEL- Chapter 1:1 - 18:27

1. Introduction - Ch. 1:1-7
2. Bondage in Egypt- Ch. 1:8-22
3. Preparation of the Deliverer - Ch. 2:1 - 4:31
4. The Mission of Moses to Pharaoh - Ch. 5:1 - 7:7
5. God's Wonders in the land of Egypt - Ch. 7:8 - 11:10
6. The Passover and the departure of Israel - Ch. 12:1 - 15:21
7. Israel in the Wilderness - Ch. 15:22 - 18:27

ISRAEL AT SINAI - Chapter 19:1 - 40:38

1. Establishment of the covenant at Sinai - Ch. 19:1 - 24:11
2. Directions for the Tabernacle and the Priesthood - Ch. 24:12 - 31:18
3. The Covenant broken and restored - Ch. 32:1 - 34:35
4. Building of the Tabernacle - Ch. 35:1 - 39:43
5. Erection and Consecration of the Tabernacle - Ch. 40:1-38

Leviticus

Author: Moses

Time: 1500 B.C.

Summary: The third book of the Pentateuch takes its name from Levi, (one of the 12 sons of Jacob) whose family was ordained by God to minister as priests. The book covers the laws of the Jewish people regarding worship and religious activities, both personal and national, including the Day of Atonement and sacrificial offerings. It contained laws regarding cleanliness, morality, ethics, and hygiene which pertained to the Jews on a day to day basis. Animal sacrifice was introduced as an atonement for the individual and national sins of the people.

ACCESS: SACRIFICE AS THE BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP- Chapter 1:1-17:16

1. The Offerings (Propitiation) - Ch. 1:1 - 6:7
2. The Priesthood (Mediation) - Ch. 6:8 - 10:20
3. The People (Purification) - Ch. 11:1 - 16:34
4. The Altar (Reconciliation) - Ch. 17:1-16

WALK: OBLIGATIONS OF FELLOWSHIP (HOLINESS) - Chapter 18:1 - 27:34

1. Regulations for the People - Ch. 18:1 - 20:27
2. Regulations for the Priests - Ch. 21:1 - 22:33
3. Regulations for the Nation - Ch. 23:1 - 24:23
4. Regulations for the Land - Ch. 25:1 - 27:34

Numbers

Author: Moses

Time: 1500-1460 B.C.

Summary: Numbers is the fourth book of the Pentateuch. It is an historical book taking its Greek name from the word "Arithmathai", meaning numbering, because two censuses were taken. However, it was known to the Jewish people as "In the Wilderness," because it primarily tells of the rebellion of the Israelites in the Wilderness after the exodus from their bondage in Egypt. Because of this rebellion, only 2 men of the adults leaving Egypt were to enter into the promised land of Canaan. The book covers a period of thirty-eight years.

PREPARATION IN THE WILDERNESS - Chapter 1:1 - 10:10

1. Census of Warriors - Ch. 1:1-54
2. Order of Worshippers - Ch. 2:1-34
3. Service of Workers - Ch. 3:1 - 4:49
4. The Camp Cleansed from Defilement - Ch. 5:1-31
5. Separated to God - Ch. 6:1-27
6. Cooperating with God - Ch. 7:1-88
7. God with His People - Ch. 7:89 - 10:10

PROVOCATION IN THE WILDERNESS - Chapter 10:11 - 19:22

1. Journeying at God's Command - Ch. 10:11-36
2. Murmuring and Discontent- Ch. 11:1 - 12:16
3. Lack of Faith and Rejection- Ch. 13:1 - 14:45
4. Instructions for the Next Generation - Ch. 15:1-41
5. Revolt Against God's Appointments - Ch. 16:1 - 19:22

VINDICATION IN THE WILDERNESS - Chapter 20:1 - 36:13

1. The Fortieth Year: From Kadesh to Hor - Ch. 20:1 - 21:3
2. To Moab via Ezion-Geber - Ch. 21:4 - 22:1
3. Balaam's Curse Turned into a Blessing - Ch. 22:2 - 25:18
4. Preparations to Enter the Land - Ch. 26:1 - 36:13

Deuteronomy

Author: Moses

Time: 1460 B.C.

Summary: This book is the last of the Pentateuch. Its Greek name means "second law" which was the repetition of the law recorded in Leviticus. It was given on the plains of Moab just prior to the entrance into the promised land of Canaan by the nation of Israel under the command of Joshua. This was Moses' last address to the nation as a whole prior to his death. At this time only two men (Joshua and Caleb) were left of the generation which escaped from Egypt. Therefore, the repetition of the law was important to the welfare of the new generation.

FIRST DISCOURSE: RETROSPECT- ISRAEL'S FAITHLESSNESS AND GOD'S CARE - Chapter 1:1 - 4:43

1. Failure at Kadesh-Barnea - Ch. 1:1-46
2. Thirty-eight Years of Wandering - Ch. 2:1 - 3:29
3. Lessons of the Past Impressed Upon the New Generation - Ch 4:1-40
4. Appointment of Cities of Refuge - Ch. 4:41-43

SECOND DISCOURSE: REVIEW - WHAT THE PRESENT GENERATION SHOULD HEED - Chapter 4:44 - 26:19

1. Review of the Divine Covenant- Ch. 4:44- 5:33
2. What the Covenant Demands - Ch. 6:1 - 26:19

THIRD DISCOURSE: WARNING - THE NATION'S SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY - Chapter 27:1 - 28:68

1. A Ceremony of Remembrance in the Land - Ch. 27:1-26
2. The Blessings of the Law - Ch. 28:1-14
3. The Cursings of the Law - Ch. 28:15-68

FOURTH DISCOURSE: COVENANT - TERMS THAT WOULD ENSURE ISRAEL'S CONTINUED OCCUPANCY OF THE LAND - 29:1 - 30:20

1. With Whom the Covenant was Made - Ch. 29:1-15
2. Punishment Resulting from Breaking the Covenant - Ch. 29:16-29
3. Divine Mercy in Spite of Failure - Ch. 30:1-20

FIFTH DISCOURSE: COUNSEL - MOSES' FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE - Chapter 31:1-23

SIXTH DISCOURSE: INSTRUCTION - THE WRITTEN LAW PRESERVED AS A WITNESS - Chapter 31:24-29

SEVENTH DISCOURSE: SONG - A PSALM OF WITNESS AGAINST ISRAEL - Chapter 31:30 - 32:52

1. Repetition of Divine Goodness and Human Folly- Ch. 31:30 - 32:43
2. Sequel to the Song - Ch. 32:44-52 (compare Ex. 15)

EIGHTH DISCOURSE: BLESSING, FUTURE GLORY OF THE TRIBES - Chapter 33:1-29

1. Introduction - Ch. 33:1-5
2. The Blessings - Ch. 33:6-25
3. The Source and Summary of the Blessings - Ch. 33:26-29

NINTH SECTION: AN EPITAPH - DEATH - GOD BURIES HIS WORKMAN - Chapter 34:1-12

Joshua

Author: Joshua

Time: 1460-1420 B.C.

Summary: Joshua was selected by God to succeed Moses and lead the nation into the Promised Land. The book outlines the conquest and occupation by Israel under his military leadership. God explicitly states that all the inhabitants of the land were to be utterly driven out or destroyed.

ENTRANCE INTO THE PROMISED LAND - Chapter 1:1 - 5:12

1. God's Commission to Joshua - Ch. 1:1-9
2. Joshua's Mobilization for crossing the Jordan - Ch. 1:10-18
3. Mission of the spies - Ch. 2:1-24
4. Crossing of the Jordan - Ch. 3:1 - 5:1
5. Renewal of Circumcision and Passover observance - Ch. 5:2-12

CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND - Chapter 5:13 - 12:24

1. Appearance of the Captain of the Lord's Host- Ch. 5:13 - 6:5
2. The Central Campaign- Ch. 6:6 - 8:29
3. Establishment of Israel's covenant as the Law of the Land - Ch. 8:30-35
4. The Southern Campaign - Ch. 9:1 - 10:43
5. The Northern Campaign Ch. 11:1-15
6. Summary of the Conquest - Ch. 11:16-23
7. Appendix: Catalog of the defeated kings - Ch. 12:1-24

DIVISION OF THE PROMISED LAND - Chapter 13:1 - 22:34

1. God's command to divide the land - Ch. 13:1-7
2. Territory of the tribes west of the Jordan river- Ch. 13:8-33
3. Beginning of the division of Canaan - Ch. 14:1-15
4. Territory of the tribe of Judah - Ch. 15:1-63
5. Territory of the Joseph tribes - Ch. 16:1-17:18
6. Territories of the seven remaining tribes - Ch. 18:1 - 19:51
7. Inheritance of Levi- Ch. 20:1 - 21:42
8. Summary of the conquest and apportionment - Ch. 21:43-45
9. Appendix: Departure of the tribes east of the Jordan river - Ch. 22:1-34

JOSHUA'S FINAL SPEECHES - Chapter 23:1 - 24:33

1. Joshua's Farewell address to the leaders of Israel - Ch. 23:1-16
2. Renewal of the Covenant commitment at Shechem - Ch. 24:1-28
3. Appendix: Death of Joshua and subsequent conduct of Israel - Ch. 24:29-33

Judges

Author: Probably Samuel

Time: 1420-1140 B.C.

Summary: The book of Judges, ("champions or rescuers"), covers the period from the death of Joshua to the establishment of the monarchy under Saul. This was a time of great immorality as the result of the failure of the Israelites to drive out the inhabitants of the land. There were "judges" set up by God who were to direct and judge the affairs and people of Israel. The book of Judges closes by setting the stage for the people's desire for a human king.

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1 - 2:5

1. Political background of the period of the Judges - Ch. 1:1-36
2. Religious background of the period of the Judges - Ch. 2:1-5

HISTORY OF THE JUDGES - Chapter 2:6 - 16:31

1. Israel's failure to subdue the enemy nations - Ch. 2:6 - 3:6
2. The oppressors and the deliverers of Israel - Ch. 3:7 - 16:31

LAWLESS CONDITIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES - Chapter 17:1 - 21:25

1. Appendix 1: Corruption of Doctrine - Ch. 17:1 - 18:31
2. Appendix 2: Corruption of Practice - Ch. 19:1 - 21:25

Ruth

Author: Uncertain

Time: 1250 B.C.

Summary: The book of Ruth is dated during the period of the Judges. It shows that in a time of national decline and immorality, God preserved a remnant who could serve as the core for a future revival. This would be accomplished in Ruth's descendant, David, from whom the Messiah would come. No indication of the author is given. It is thought that the book was written after the period of the Judges and describes customs of that time period.

1. Ruth's Noble Choice - Ch. 1:1-22
2. Ruth's Faithful Service - Ch. 2:1-23
3. Ruth's Virtuous Appeal- Ch. 3:1-18
4. Ruth's Blessed Reward - Ch. 4:1-22

I & II Samuel

Author: Samuel, Nathan, and Gad

Time: 1150-1000 B.C.

Summary: I Samuel is the first of two historical books which illustrates Israel's transition from a loose confederation of tribes to a strong and united nation. It portrays the anointing of the first king of Israel, Saul, by a great prophet, Samuel. It recounts the degenerating reign of Saul and the succession of his throne by David, a man after God's own heart. In the original Hebrew text, the books of Samuel were considered one book by the Hebrew scribes. The second book begins with the death of Saul and the ascension of David to the throne. The rest of the book records the reign of David regarding conquered lands, as well as political intrigues. It concludes with the blessing of Solomon by David.

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL - Chapter 1:1 - 7:17

1. The birth and childhood of Samuel - Ch. 1:1 - 4:1a
2. The capture and return of the ark - Ch. 4:1b - 7:1
3. The victory over the Philistines - Ch. 7:2-17

THE LIFE OF SAUL- Chapter 8:1 - 14:52

1. Israel's request for a king - Ch. 8:1-22
2. Political life of Saul - Ch. 9:1 - 12:25
3. War of independence - Ch. 13:1 - 14:52

THE EARLY LIFE OF DAVID - Chapter 15:1 - II Sam. 20:26

1. Saul rejected by Samuel - Ch. 15:1-35
2. David anointed to be king - Ch. 16:1-13
3. David in the court of Saul - Ch. 16:14 - 19:17
4. David in exile - Ch. 19:18 - 31:13
5. David, king at Hebron - II Sam. 1:1 - 4:12
6. David, king at Jerusalem - Ch. 5:1 - 8:18
7. David's life as King - Ch. 9:1 - 20:26

THE LAST DAYS OF DAVID - Chapter 21:1 - 24:25

1. The famine - Ch. 21:1-14
2. Heroic exploits - Ch. 21:15-22
3. David's psalm - Ch. 22:1-51
4. David's testament- Ch. 23:1-7
5. Heroic exploits - Ch. 23:8-39
6. Census and plague - Ch. 24:1-25

Psalms

Author: David and others

Time: 1000 - 700 B.C.

Summary: The Psalms are divided into five books, each according to a specific classification. The Psalms are a form of Hebrew poetry, many of which were accompanied by music. The content of the Psalms includes Messianic prophecy, supplication, praise, and visions of the future Kingdom. David is named as author of approximately half of the Psalms. A handful of other men are responsible for approximately fifteen, while the remaining are unnamed.

BOOK I - PSALMS 1-41 Concerns Man- Gives the Counsel of God to Man

BOOK II - PSALMS 42-72 Concerns Israel - The Counsel of God to Israel

BOOK III - PSALMS 73-89 Concerns the Sanctuary and the Law

BOOK IV- PSALMS 90-106 Concerns Israel and the Nations of the Earth

BOOK V- PSALMS 107-150 Concerns God and His Word

Study Tools (Part 1)

CONCORDANCES & LEXICONS:

Concordance - an alphabetical index of all the principle words in the Bible listed with their immediate contexts

Lexicon - a kind of dictionary; it is an alphabetical arrangement of the words in a language with their definitions

USING A CONCORDANCE:

1. Useful when trying to locate a verse when you just remember a word or phrase of that verse.
2. Useful in performing word studies by looking at other related passages.

Recommendations:

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (includes lexicons)
- Young's Analytical Concordance
- Englishman's Hebrew-Chaldee Concordance of the Old Testament
- Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament
- Cruden's
- On-Line Bible (Free Software for Computers)

Study Tools (Part 1)

USING A LEXICON:

1. Its principal use is for looking up definitions
2. It provides insight into how else a given word is used

Recommendations:

- Strong's
- Young's
- Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament
- Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

WHEN HEBREW & GREEK MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

1. Genesis 6:14 -

"Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."

There are two different words for "pitch." According to Strong's concordance, the first occurrence is #3722 and the second one is #3724. Looking it up in Strong's Lexicon we have:

3722 - kaphar, kaw-far'; a prim. root; to cover (spec. with bitumen); fig. to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: -appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile (-liation).

3724 - kopher, ko'-fer; from 3722; prop. a cover, i.e. (lit.) a village (as covered in); (spec.) bitumen (as used for coating), and the henna plant (as used for dyeing); fig. a redemption price:- bribe, camphire, pitch, ransom, satisfaction, sum of money, village.

2. John 21:15-17 -

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

Two different words are used for "love" in this passage. Christ uses one and Peter another.

Study Tools (Part 1)

Christ uses #25 and Peter #5368. Looking it up in Strong's Concordance we have:

25 - agapao, ag-ap-ah'-o; perh. from agan (much) [or comp. 5689]; to love (in a social or moral sense):- (be-) love (ed). Comp. 5368

5368 - phileo, fil'-eh'-o; from 5384; to be a friend to (fond of [an individual or an object]), i.e. have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling; while 25 is under, embracing espec. the judgment and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety: the two thus stand related very much as 2309 and 1014, or as 2372 and 3563 respectively; the former being chiefly of the heart and the latter of the head); spec. to kiss (as a mark of tenderness):- kiss, love.

Workshop – Study Tools 1: Concordance

Please complete these two exercises to practice using the concordance.
These exercises are based on the King James Version of the Bible.

Exercise 1

Meekness

Moses was said to have been “very meek”. Where in the Bible does it say this?

What is the Strong’s number for “meek” in this verse?

What is the Hebrew word for “meek” in this verse?

What is the meaning of the word “meek” in this verse?

Who else in the Bible is said to be “meek”?

What will the “meek” inherit” and where does it say this?

Workshop - Study Tools - Concordance

Exercise 2

Immortality

How many times does the word "immortal" occur in the Bible? _____

How many times does the word "immortality" occur in the Bible? _____

What two Greek words are behind the English word "immortality"?

Strong's number: Greek word:

Strong's number: Greek word:

What do these Greek words mean?

Look up the references that use the word "immortality" to find support for the following statements.

- _____ God has immortality
- _____ Jesus brought to light immortality
- _____ Believers must seek for immortality
- _____ Believers will have their nature changed from mortal to immortal

SESSION #4

Critics of the Bible

We can not be students of the Bible without recognizing the fact that such a book, one which claims Divine inspiration, is continually being attacked by critics who doubt its claims. We acknowledge this. Though the scope of this class is not aimed at proving the critics wrong, we have summarized a few of the most often cited criticisms of the Bible.

CRITICISM 1: The Bible is an ancient document written by primitive men who were only trying to force their will on others by claiming a book of divine origin. This makes the Bible nothing more than a compilation of crude facts, fiction, folklore and legend.

This criticism is disproved by:

- Archaeology
- Geology
- History

CRITICISM 2: The Claim of the Bible to be an inspired revelation is an out of date concept in the light of "scientific" progress. Moreover, the predictions made in the Bible could have occurred due to coincidence or natural phenomena.

This criticism is disproved by:

- Prophecy
- Fair application of scientific methods and principles

CRITICISM 3: Even if the Bible were originally the inspired Word of God, languages, constant revision, etc., would remove any hope of using the Bible as a standard of life for all of mankind.

This criticism is disproved by:

- Bibliographical Test
- Dead Sea Scrolls

CRITICISM 4: If the men who wrote the Bible were inspired by God, why are there different accounts of the same event? Should not the accounts recorded be identical and not in seeming contradiction?

This criticism is disproved by:

- Harmony of Facts
- Consistent Message

-
- Different Accounts actually give credibility
 - Proximity to Events

CRITICISM 5:

- 5,300 manuscripts catalogued of parts of the NT
- 200,000 variants in the NT, but these are limited to 10,000 places
- Only one eighth carry any weight – the rest are trivialities (Westcott&Hort)
- Using this assumption the text would be **98.33% pure** whether you use Textus Receptus or Westcott & Hort Greek Text – King James Version Only Controversy (KJVOC), p 38-40
- Only 400 variants that affect the sense of the passage (Philip Schaff)
- Only 50 variants were actually important (Philip Schaff)
- **None affected “an article of faith or a precept of duty which is not abundantly sustained by other and undoubted passages, or by the whole tenor of Scriptural teaching.”** (Philip Schaff)
- Areas of real concern are limited to **“One thousandth part of the entire text”** (Dr. A.T. Robertson)

“The simple fact of the matter is that **no textual variants in either the Old or New Testaments in any way, shape, or form materially disrupt or destroy any essential doctrine of the Christian faith.** That is a fact that any semi-impartial review will substantiate.”

KJVOC page 40

‘Even “liberal” scholars will admit the **outstanding purity of the NT text and the validity of the belief in the tenacity of that text.**’

KJVOC page 62

On the other hand, the Byzantine Textform differs more significantly from the current “critical text” editions, whether those of early text-critical pioneers such as Lachmann, Tischendorf, Tregelles, Westcott and Hort, or those reflected in modern critical editions such as the current Nestle/UBS or the newly published Holmes/SBL versions. The difference between the critical editions and the Byzantine Textform should be kept in perspective, however: for approximately **94% of the entire Greek New Testament both the Byzantine Textform and the critical editions are in precise agreement; only in the remaining 6% of the text do differences occur, and most of these are minor, involving primarily matters of orthography or word order, or essentially equivalent synonym substitutions.** Yet the more substantial differences that remain (affecting perhaps some 3% of the New Testament text) indeed are translatable, and often affect basic meaning, translation, and exegetical interpretation; these include cases of words, phrases, or

passages that are either included or excluded among the various textual traditions, as well as word or phrase substitutions that otherwise impact the translation, exegesis, or interpretation of the text.

The Byzantine Textform in Relation to the History of the New Testament Text by Maurice A. Robinson, PhD

“The result of those thirty years’ of study which I have given to the text has been this: I can affirm that there is not a page of the Old Testament concerning which we need have any doubt. We can be absolutely certain that substantially we have the text of the Old Testament that Christ and the Apostles had and which was in existence from the beginning.”

Robert Dick Wilson (1856-1930) Which Bible? Page 44

Textual Witnesses:

What if manuscripts were separated and independent for long periods of time?

We could then test to see whether they were transmitted without substantive error. Good examples of this technique exist to show us that we have a very reliable text.

- ✓ Samaritan Pentateuch
- ✓ Targums
- ✓ Septuagint
- ✓ Biblical Quotations (over 35,000)
- ✓ Dead Sea Scrolls

| SURVIVING NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| GREEK | | OTHER | |
| Uncials | 267 | Latin Vulgate | 10,000+ |
| Minuscules | 2,764 | Ethiopic | 2,000+ |
| Lectionaries | 2,143 | Slavic | 4,101 |
| Papyri | 88 | Armenian | 2,587 |
| Recent Finds | 47 | Syriac Pashetta | 350 |
| Bohairic | 100 | | |
| Arabic | 75 | | |
| Old Latin | 50 | | |
| TOTAL: 24,000+ | | | |

A COMPARISON OF ANCIENT DOCUMENTS

| AUTHOR | NO. OF COPIES |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Caesar | 10 |
| Tacitus | 20 |
| Pliny | 7 |
| Thucydides | 8 |
| Suetonius | 8 |
| Herodotus | 8 |
| Demosthenes | 200 |
| Sophocles | 193 |
| Aristotle | 49 |
| Homer (Iliad) | 643 |

THE TIME BETWEEN THE DOCUMENT AND KNOWN COPIES

| AUTHOR | WRITTEN | EARLIEST COPY | TIME SPAN |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Caesar | 100-44 BC | 900 AD | 1000 years |
| Tacitus | 100 AD | 1100 AD | 1000 years |
| Pliny | 61-113 AD | 850 AD | 750 years |
| Thucydides | 460-400 BC | 900 AD | 1300 years |
| Herodotus | 480-425 BC | 900 AD | 1300 years |
| Demosthenes | 383-322 BC | 1100 AD | 1300 years |
| Sophocles | 496-406 BC | 1100 AD | 1400 years |
| Aristotle | 384-322 BC | 1100 AD | 1400 years |
| Homer (Iliad) | 900 BC | 400 BC | 500 years |
| New Testament | 35-70 AD | 130 AD | 60 years |

The Purpose of God Revealed

WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?

We often ask the question, “What was the divine motive? Why did God create the earth and its habitants?”

God revealed his purpose to Moses in Numbers 14:21

“But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.”

Creation was for God’s glory and honor.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power: for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Rev. 4:11, NRSV)

The earth was created to be inhabited according to Isaiah 45:18

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”

From these few verses we learn:

1. God created the earth to be inhabited
2. Those inhabitants are created for the glory of God.
3. His purpose involves filling the earth with His glory

WHAT IS GOD’S GLORY?

How does one define glory? In the simplest but perhaps most complete terms:

God = glory = righteousness, love, truth, wisdom

Hence, to fill the earth with his glory is to fill it with his character, ways and thoughts. To manifest God is to show His glory.

Manifestation is defined as “to reveal or make known.”

The Purpose of God Revealed

PURPOSE OF GOD REVEALED IN HIS MEMORIAL NAME

Note in Isaiah 45:18 (previous page) *"I am the LORD"*

LORD, Capitalized in KJV, RSV, etc. Actually the word Yahweh. In the Hebrew meaning, "I will be who I will be."

The name of God was revealed to Moses in the incident of the burning bush:

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'the God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites. I AM has sent me to you/" (Exodus 3:13-14 NIV)

God was revealed in the burning bush.

Whose superscription? We are in the image of God. (Gen.1: 26) As children reflect (or manifest) the qualities of their parents, so we must learn to reflect the glory of God by assuming His character. This was the case in Christ which is why he could say, *"He who hath seen me hath seen the Father."* (John 14:9)

As you read the Scriptures, pay attention to how many times the "Name" is referred to. Consider the Lord's prayer, *"Our Father, Hallowed be thy Name."* (Matthew 6:9)

Names are given great importance in scripture. *"Thou shalt call his name..."* (Matt. 1:21) They are to reveal the purpose of the person. So it is true with God.

SUMMARY

We are created in God's image and for His glory. His desire is satisfied in a creation who willingly chooses to manifest His own thoughts and ways. As of yet, this has only been perfectly accomplished in his son, the Lord Jesus Christ, but God's purpose to completely fill the earth with his glory cannot be thwarted.

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Solomon to Northern Exile

I & II Kings

Author: Scribes of the times, prophets, kings

Time: 1000 - 586 B.C.

Summary: In the original Jewish texts, these books were regarded as one book. The two books contain the history of the Jewish monarchy from the death of David (around 970 B.C.) to the Babylonian exile (586 B.C.). They trace the division of the Jewish nation into the Kingdom of Judah in the south and the Kingdom of Israel in the north. I & II Kings record Israel's history from a religious, rather than a civil, viewpoint. As such, it records the religious progress of the nation and sets forth the various steps in the moral growth and decay of the kingdom. I Kings opens with Israel in its glory, and II Kings closes with Israel in ruins. The purpose of the Book of Kings is to record the lives and characters of the nation's leaders as a warning and exhortation to all subsequent generations of covenant bearers. Focuses on the Northern Kingdom.

THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM SOLOMON TO REHOBOAM - I Kings 1:1 - 11:43

1. Solomon's ascension to the throne - Ch. 1:1 - 2:46
2. The wisdom and wealth of Solomon - Ch. 3:1 - 4:34
3. Solomon's building activity- Ch. 5:1 - 9:28
4. The Golden Age of Solomon- Ch. 10:1-29
5. Solomon's apostasy, decline, and death - Ch. 11:1-43

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM, FROM REHOBOAM TO THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL - I Kings 12:1 - II Kings 17:41

1. Early antagonism between Israel and Judah, from Jeroboam to Omri - Ch. 12:1 - 16:28
2. From Ahab to the ascension of Jehu - I Kings 16:29 - II Kings 9:10
3. From Jehu to the destruction of Israel - Ch. 9:11 - 17:41

THE KINGDOM IN JUDAH TO THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH - II Kings 18:1 - 25:30

1. The kingdom under Hezekiah - Ch. 18:1 - 20:21
2. The reigns of Manasseh and Amon - Ch. 21:1-26
3. Reform in Judah and Israel under Josiah - Ch. 22:1-23:30
4. The last days of Judah - Ch. 23:31 - 25:26
5. Epilogue - The release of Johoiachin - Ch. 25:27-30

The Purpose of God Revealed

I & II Chronicles

Author: Ezra and/or other scribes

Time: 1050-536 B.C.

Summary: Like the Book of Kings, I & II Chronicles were originally one book according to Jewish tradition. However, the Chronicles are not simply a repeat of the history already recorded in the books of Samuel and Kings. The Book of Chronicles was written to remind the nation of their entire history, and of their position among other nations, emphasizing the history of priestly worship from the death of Saul to the end of the Babylonian captivity. The Chronicles contain more detail on the organization of public worship, of religious ceremonies, of Levites and singers, and of the relationship of Kings to the worship of God, than does the Book of Kings. The history of the Northern Kingdom is omitted from the Chronicles because the Northern Kingdom had no bearing on the development of true worship of God in Jerusalem.

GENEALOGIES - Chapter 1:1 - 9:44

1. Patriarchs - Ch. 1:1-54
2. Judah- Ch. 2:1 - 4:23
3. Simeon- Ch. 4:24-43
4. Tribes east of the Jordan River - Ch. 5:1-26
5. Levi- Ch. 6:1-81
6. Six other tribes - Ch. 7:1 - 8:40; 9:35-44
7. Jerusalem's inhabitants - Ch. 9:1-34

THE REIGN OF DAVID - Chapter 10:1 - 29:30

1. Background: the death of Saul - Ch. 10:1-14
2. David's rise - Ch. 11:1 - 20:8
3. David's latter days - Ch. 21:1 - 29:30

The Purpose of God Revealed

THE REIGN OF SOLOMON - II Chronicles 1:1 - 9:31

1. Solomon's inauguration - Ch. 1:1-17
2. Solomon's Temple - Ch. 2:1 - 7:22
3. Solomon's kingdom - Ch. 8:1 - 9:31

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH - Chapter 10:1 - 36:23

1. The division of the kingdom - Ch. 10:1 - 11:23
2. The rulers of Judah- Ch. 12:1 - 36:16
 - Rehoboam- Ch. 12:1-16
 - Abijah- Ch. 13:1-22
 - Asa - Ch. 14:1-16:14
 - Jehoshaphat- Ch. 17:1-20:37
 - Johoram- Ch. 21:1-20
 - Ahaziah- Ch. 22:1-9
 - Athaliah - Ch. 22:10-23:21
 - Joash - Ch. 24:1-27
 - Amaziah- Ch. 25:1-28
 - Uzziah - Ch. 26:1-23
 - Jotham - Ch. 27:1-9
 - Ahaz - Ch. 28:1-27
 - Hezekiah- Ch. 29:1-32:33
 - Manasseh - Ch. 33:1-20
 - Amon - Ch. 33:21-25
 - Josiah - Ch. 34:1-35:27
 - Johoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah - Ch. 36:1-16
3. The Exile - Ch. 36:17-23

Proverbs

Author: Solomon and others

Time: 1000-700 B.C.

Summary: In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is the attitude which puts God first as man's rightful guide and master. The book does not hesitate to link good and bad with reward and penalty. Much can be learned by testing personal conduct against the positive and negative standards and warnings as recorded in the Proverbs. Throughout the book, the view is set forth that all people fall into two basic classes. Both are known by their habits, their deeds, their "fruits", their chosen "ways" in life, and their fitting ends. They are either with God or without Him, good or evil, or wise or foolish. There is even a mutual tension between the two classes, the two ways of life, which shows up in every aspect of life.

SUPERIORITY OF THE WAY OF WISDOM - Chapter 1:1 - 9:18

1. Introduction- Ch. 1:1-7
2. The righteous woman, Wisdom, versus the evil woman - Ch. 1:8 - 9:18

The Purpose of God Revealed

MAIN COLLECTION OF SOLOMON'S PROVERBS - Chapter 10:1-22:16

1. Contrasting proverbs - Ch. 10:1 - 15:33
2. Proverbs largely parallel - Ch. 16:1 - 22:16

THE WORDS OF THE WISE, THIRTY SAYINGS - Chapter 22:17-24:22

1. Sayings paralleled in Egyptian Wisdom - Ch. 22:17 - 23:12
2. Sayings with no parallel in Egyptian Wisdom - Ch. 23:13 - 24:22

THE WORDS OF THE WISE, APPENDIX - Chapter 24:23-34

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON, COMPILED BY HEZEKIAH'S MEN - Chapter 25:1 - 29:27

FINAL APPENDICES - Chapter 30:1-31:31

1. The Words of Agur - Ch. 30:1-33
2. The Words of Lemuel - Ch. 31:1-9
3. Alphabetical poem on the virtuous woman - Ch. 31:10-31

Ecclesiastes

Author: Solomon

Time: 960 B.C.

Summary: Ecclesiastes is the final book in the "wisdom literature". The name Ecclesiastes comes from the root meaning "to assemble together." As such, the book forms a collection of many wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon. The book is mainly comprised of observations of life. Solomon, having lived a full life with all its pleasures, concludes that life is vanity. What better man to speak about life than a man who was given all it had to offer. Without God, life would be meaningless. All his worldly possessions would amount to nothing. Therefore, the conclusion of his studies states that man should love and fear God and obey his commandments.

1. The Futility of All Human Endeavors - Ch. 1:1-11
2. The Test of Practical Experience - Ch. 1:12 - 2:26
3. Men's Opportunity Limited by Time - Ch. 3:1-22
4. Human Vanity Greatly Increased by Oppression - Ch. 4:1-16
5. Vanity in Insincere Worship - Ch. 5:1-9
6. Vanity of Riches - Ch. 5:10 - 6:2
7. Vanity of Human Desires - Ch. 6:3 - 11:6
8. Advice and Warning to Youth - Ch. 11:7 - 12:8
9. Conclusion - Ch. 12:9-14

The Purpose of God Revealed

Song of Solomon

Author: Unknown

Time: about 900 B.C.

Summary: Its content includes speeches in Hebrew poetry. It depicts the beauty and pure love between a man and a woman which develops into a mature undying relationship. More in-depth symbolism shows the relationship between Christ and his bride, the body of believers, which will be consummated at his return. The basic message is the purity and sacredness of love.

PART ONE: THE BRIDE SELECTED FROM ISRAEL- Chapter 1:1 - 5:1

1. Song 1: The ardent love and becoming humility of the bride - Ch. 1:1-8
2. Song 2: Love's communion and self-sacrificing devotion - Ch. 1:9 - 2:7
3. Song 3: Signs of his coming - Ch. 2:8-17
4. Song 4: His sudden appearance - Ch. 3:1-5
5. Song 5: The splendor of the marriage - Ch. 3:6 - 4:7
6. Song 6: Entering the inheritance - Ch. 4:8 - 5:1

PART TWO: THE BRIDE SELECTED FROM THE GENTILES - Chapter 5:2 - 8:14

1. Song 7: The first advent call and espousal of the bride - Ch. 5:2 - 6:10
2. Song 8: Anticipating his coming - Ch. 6:11-13
3. Song 9: The flowing beauty of the bride - Ch. 7:1-9
4. Song 10: The bride's deep longing and ardent desire for the groom's return - Ch. 7:10 - 8:4
5. Song 11: The joy and communion of true marriage - Ch. 8:5-7
6. Song 12: Love's labor in the future - Ch. 8:8-14

Jonah

Author: Jonah

Time: 775-760 B.C.

Summary: The book is concerned with the commission of Jonah to warn the city of Nineveh (capital of Assyria) to repent and obey God's commandments to avoid assured destruction. Jonah is reluctant to preach this message and is therefore swallowed by a great fish and remains in the belly of the fish for three days. Upon his release, he preaches the message to the people of Nineveh, who believe his message and repent of their sins.

FLEEING - Chapter 1:1-17

1. The Lord's Command - Ch. 1:1-2
2. A ship to Tarshish - Ch. 1:3
3. A storm at sea - Ch. 1:4-14
4. Cast overboard - Ch. 1:15-17

The Purpose of God Revealed

PRAYING - Chapter 2:1-10

1. Cast out- Ch. 2:1-4
2. Brought up - Ch. 2:5-6
3. Paying vows - Ch. 2:7-9
4. Delivered - Ch. 2:10

PREACHING - Chapter 3:1-10

1. The Lord's second command - Ch. 3:1-2
2. Declaring the message - Ch. 3:3-4
3. Nineveh's repentance- Ch. 3:5-9
4. Judgment withheld - Ch. 3:10

LEARNING - Chapter 4:1-11

1. Complaint- Ch. 4:1-3
2. The gourd and the worm- Ch. 4:4-7
3. The wind and the sun - Ch. 4:8
4. The lesson- Ch. 4:9-11

Amos

Author: Amos

Time: 765-750 B.C.

Summary: The book of Amos was written during a period of national optimism in Israel. King Jeroboam II was ruler, and politically and materially the northern kingdom rivaled the age of Solomon and David. Amos, a shepherd by trade, was called by God to pronounce judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel by denouncing Israel's luxurious living, idolatry, and moral depravity. Amos urges the people to repent before the judgments of God came upon them. "Seek God and live" was Amos' plea to the nation. He also foretells of the dispersion of the Israelites, but points to a day when God would regather them in the land of their forefathers.

JUDGEMENTS AGAINST THE NATIONS - Chapter 1:1 - 2:16

1. Superscription and proclamation - Ch. 1:1-2
2. Indictment of neighboring nations - Ch. 1:3 - 2:3
3. Indictment of Judah - Ch. 2:4-5
4. Indictment of Israel - Ch. 2:6-16

THREE DISCOURSES AGAINST ISRAEL- Chapter 3:1 - 6:14

1. A declaration of judgment- Ch. 3:1-15
2. The depravity of Israel - Ch. 4:1-13
3. A lamentation for Israel's sin and doom - Ch. 5:1 - 6:14

FIVE VISIONS OF ISRAEL'S CONDITION - Chapter 7:1 - 9:10

1. The devouring locusts - Ch. 7:1-3

The Purpose of God Revealed

2. The flaming fire - Ch. 7:4-6
3. The plumb line - Ch. 7:7-17
4. The basket of ripe fruit- Ch. 8:1-14
5. The judgment of the Lord - Ch. 9:1-10

THE PROMISE OF ISRAEL'S RESTORATION - Chapter 9:11-15

Hosea

Author: Hosea

Time: 755-710 B.C.

Summary: The book of Hosea describes the patient long-suffering of God towards the rebellious and unfaithful northern kingdom of Israel. However, it is made clear to the Israelites that punishment will engulf anyone who remains willfully rebellious. A key theme is Hosea's marriage to the unfaithful Gomer, who is a symbolic representation of Israel.

THE PROPHET'S MARRIED LIFE - Chapter 1:1 - 3:5

1. His marriage to Gomer- Ch. 1:1-9
2. A message of hope - Ch. 1:10-11
3. Judgment on faithless Israel - Ch. 2:1-13
4. The restoration of faithless Israel - Ch. 2:14-23
5. Hosea's redemption of his faithless wife - Ch. 3:1-5

ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS AND CONSEQUENT JUDGMENT - 4:1 - 13:16

1. The guilt of the people - Ch. 4:1-3
2. The guilt of the priests - Ch. 4:4-8
3. Punishment for all - Ch. 4:9-10
4. Immoral cult practices - Ch. 4:11-19
5. Judgment on kings and priests for leading the people astray - Ch. 5:1-7
6. Disastrous foreign policies of Ephraim and Judah - Ch. 5:8-15
7. Israel's plea and God's rejoinder- Ch. 6:1-6
8. The crimes of Israel - Ch. 6:7 - 7:7
9. Israel's disastrous foreign policy- Ch. 7:8 - 8:3
10. Israel's idolatry and wicked alliances - Ch. 8:4-14
11. The exile of Israel foretold - Ch. 9:1-9
12. Israel's ancient apostasy at Baal-peor - Ch. 9:10-14
13. Israel's apostasy at Gilgal - Ch. 9:15-17
14. Destruction of the Baal cult prophesied - Ch. 10:1-8
15. The sin at Gibeah - Ch. 10:9-10
16. The ruin of Israel - Ch. 10:11-15
17. God's love; Israel's ingratitude - Ch. 11:1-7
18. God's pity for his people - Ch. 11:8-11
19. The sins of Jacob - Ch. 11:12 - 12:14
20. The wicked bull worship - Ch. 13:1-3

The Purpose of God Revealed

21. The gracious God to bring destruction- Ch. 13:4-11
22. Inescapable ruin- Ch. 13:12-16

ISRAEL'S CONVERSION AND RENEWAL- Chapter 14:1-9

1. The call to repentance - Ch. 14:1-3
2. The promise of pardon - Ch. 14:4-8
3. A parting admonition - Ch. 14:9

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah

Time: 740-690 B.C.

Summary: Isaiah ministered during the rule of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His primary focus dealt with the coming judgment on the Southern Kingdom of Judah due to its great wickedness. Isaiah identified the root of Judah's trouble in its idolatry and apostasy. Although he spoke of judgments on other nations as well, the prophet Isaiah urged the kings and the people to put their trust in God rather than in alliances with earthly powers. He comforted his people with the realization that God loves those who are faithful to Him and keep His commandments. He spoke of the future Messiah who would come to redeem the nation and restore the Kingdom.

REBUKE AND PROMISE- Chapter 1:1 - 6:13

1. Rebellion confronted with judgment and grace - Ch. 1:1-31
2. Punishment for sin as preparation for glory - Ch. 2:1 - 4:6
3. Judgment and exile in store for Israel - Ch. 5:1-30
4. The prophet cleansed and commissioned by God - Ch. 6:1-13

IMMANUEL - Chapter 7:1 - 12:6

1. Immanuel rejected by worldly wisdom- Ch. 7:1-25
2. Messianic deliverance foreshadowed - Ch. 8:1 - 9:7
3. Boastful Samaria doomed to exile - Ch. 9:8 - 10:4
4. World empire crushed; glorious empire to come - Ch. 10:5 - 12:6

BURDENS OF JUDGMENT UPON THE NATIONS - Chapter 13:1 - 23:18

1. Fall of Babylon; her king's descent into Hades - Ch. 13:1 - 14:27
2. Downfall of Philistia - Ch. 14:28-32
3. Downfall of Moab - Ch. 15:1 - 16:14
4. Downfall of Damascus and Samaria - Ch. 17:1-14
5. Downfall and conversion of Ethiopia - Ch. 18:1-7
6. Afflictions of Egypt - Ch. 19:1 - 20:6
7. Babylon to be conquered and her idols destroyed - Ch. 21:1-10
8. Defeat for Edom; victory for Israel - Ch. 21:11-12
9. Dedan and Kedar to be routed - Ch. 21:13-17
10. Fall of Jerusalem foreseen; Eliakim to replace Shebna - Ch. 22:1-25
11. Downfall and enslavement of Tyre - Ch. 23:1-18

The Purpose of God Revealed

JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL AND PROMISE, I - Chapter 24:1 - 27:13

1. Universal judgment upon universal sin - Ch. 24:1-23
2. God praised as deliverer and comforter of Zion - Ch. 25:1-12
3. Song of joy over Judah's consolation - Ch. 26:1-21
4. Oppressors to be punished but God's people preserved - Ch. 27:1-13

WOES UPON THE UNBELIEVERS OF ISRAEL- Chapter 28:1 - 33:24

1. Judgment of Ephraimite drunkards and Jewish scoffers - Ch. 28:1-29
2. Disaster ahead for hypocrites - Ch. 29:1-24
3. Confidence in Egypt versus confidence in God - Ch. 30:1-33
4. God, not Egypt, to be Jerusalem's defense - Ch. 31:1-9
5. Israel's final deliverance, and her spiritual renewal - Ch. 32:1-20
6. Punishment of the Treacherous, and Triumph of Christ - Ch. 33:1-24

ISRAEL'S REBUKE AND PROMISE, II - Chapter 34:1 - 35:10

1. Utter destruction of Gentile world powers - Ch. 34:1-17
2. Blessing on the way of holiness - Ch. 35:1-10

THE VOLUME OF HEZEKIAH - Chapter 36:1 - 39:8

1. Destruction of Judah averted - Ch. 36:1 - 37:38
2. Destruction of Judah's king averted - Ch. 38:1 - 39:8

THE VOLUME OF COMFORT - Chapter 40:1 - 66:24

1. The Purpose of Peace - Ch. 40:1 - 48:22
2. The Prince of Peace - Ch. 49:1 - 57:21
3. The Program of Peace - Ch. 58:1 - 66:24

Micah

Author: Micah

Time: 735-700 B.C.

Summary: Micah, who was contemporary with Isaiah, was to the Southern Kingdom of Judah what Amos was previously to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Both were fierce critics of the rich and powerful who exploited the poor. Though Micah's prophecies refer especially to Judah, they concerned all of Israel. Micah's leading ideas are the regeneration of Israel's remnant through judgment, the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the line of David, and the conversion of the nations through that kingdom. The conclusion of his prophecy is a triumphant expression of faith, which is seen in its true quality against the background of the materialism and the corruption of the reign of Ahaz.

SUPERSCRPTION - Chapter 1:1

The Purpose of God Revealed

APPROACHING JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT SIN - Chapter 1:2-16

1. The call to attention- Ch. 1:2
2. Terrible coming of God announced and described - Ch. 1:3-4
3. Sins of the capital city representative of those of the nation - Ch. 1:5
4. Fearful consequences of this judgment- Ch. 1:6-7
5. The prophet's reaction and his vision of this judgment- Ch. 1:8-16

DOOM OF CORRUPT OPPRESSORS AND FALSE PROPHETS -

Chapter 2:1 - 3:12

1. Woe upon the land monopolizers - Ch. 2:1-5
2. False preaching of lying prophets - Ch. 2:6-13
3. Denunciation of the leaders of the people - Ch. 3:1-7
4. Micah's consciousness of power from the Spirit of God - Ch. 3:8
5. Gross sin and crime to bring destruction upon Jerusalem - Ch. 3:9-12

VISION OF HOPE FROM THE COMING ONE - Chapter 4:1 - 5:15

1. Final triumph of Jerusalem - Ch. 4:1 - 5:1
2. Coming mighty leader to be born in Bethlehem and to restore the remnant of Jacob - Ch.5:2-15

THE LORD'S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL - Chapter 6:1 - 7:20

1. First complaint of God - Ch. 6:1-5
2. Israel's first reply- Ch. 6:6-8
3. Second complaint of God - Ch. 6:9-16
4. Israel's second reply- a confession of sin- Ch. 7:1-10
5. Israel's promised blessing to follow judgment - Ch. 7:11-13
6. Final plea for Israel - gathered from many nations - Ch. 7:14-17
7. Doxology: The triumph of grace - Ch. 7:18-20

Nahum

Author: Nahum

Time: 620 B.C.

Summary: The book of Nahum was written approximately 140 years after the recorded events in the book of Jonah. During that period of time, Nineveh had turned from its repentant attitude and had taken the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity. Whereas Jonah proclaimed a message of mercy and repentance, Nahum proclaimed an indictment of doom upon Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. They, who were once used as God's tool against the people of Israel and Jerusalem, would now be destroyed because of their great wickedness.

NINEVEH'S DOOM DECLARED - Chapter 1:1-15

1. Character of Nineveh's Judge - Ch. 1:1-8
2. Declaration of Nineveh's Doom - Ch. 1:9-11
3. Comfort to Nineveh's Oppressed - Ch. 1:12-15

The Purpose of God Revealed

NINEVEH'S DOOM DESCRIBED - Chapter 2:1-13

1. City Besieged - Ch. 2:1-5
2. City Overwhelmed - Ch. 2:6-10
3. City Made Desolate - Ch. 2:11-13

NINEVEH'S DOOM DESERVED - Chapter 3:1-19

1. Cause of the Overthrow - Ch. 3:1-5
2. Lesson of the Overthrow - Ch. 3:6-13
3. Certainty of the Overthrow - Ch. 3:14-19

Workshop – Using Bible Charts

Please complete this exercise to practice using a Bible timeline chart.

Exercise 1

The Kings and Prophets Chart

- Who was the first king of Israel?
- Approximately how long did the kingdom of Israel exist from the first king after Solomon to the last king?
- What prophet lived during the time of Ahab and also during the time of Jehu?
- What is the name of the Syrian king who lived at 830 BC?
- What Assyrian King ruled at the time that the Northern kingdom of Israel came to an end?
- What two prophets wrote books to Israel?

Turn to the first verses of these books to see if you can prove it!

Looking Ahead!

- Who was the last King of Judah?
- What king of Babylon took Judah captive?
- How long did they go into captivity for?
- Who were the last three prophets?
- What empire took over from the Babylonian empire?

SESSION #5

Tips on Reading

The importance of reading is summed up in *2 Timothy 3:15-17*.

ALL SCRIPTURE . . .

Makes one wise unto salvation.

Is profitable for:

- doctrine
- reproof
- correction
- instruction in righteousness

"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

Steady, consistent diet of the Word of God.

We recommend regular intake of God's Word. Read every day, and cover all the Bible. The inhabitants of Berea (in Greece) are described in Acts as being *"more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, [to determine] whether those things [Paul's preaching] were so (Acts 17:11)."*

There are many different reading plans available. One such plan, the Daily Bible Companion, is structured to take a person through the Bible in a year, reading three portions daily. By doing two readings from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament daily, at the end of the year a person has read the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice.

We can learn a lesson from ancient Israel: they had daily morning and evening sacrifice. They were to begin and end the day with prayer and meditation with God.

TIP # 1: PREPARATION

- Allow Time
- Select a Good Translations
- Be Comfortable

HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH READING THE BIBLE?

If we are to gain what we can from Bible study, we need to approach it with the right attitudes. We need an openness to new ideas. If we approach all ideas with a "fortress mentality" -- thinking that our main job is to defend the walls that make up the fortress of Christianity--we have very little space for growth.

The Bible is a book of strength that has withstood all kinds of attacks during its history. As in all other areas of study, scholars build upon and re-evaluate the work of earlier scholars. We need not fear examining new ideas and evaluating them carefully in the light of all the teachings of the Bible.

We need an attitude of willingness to meditate on what we are learning and to think through for ourselves how our learning can and should be applied in our own lives. To do this, it is usually helpful to share our ideas and interpretations with other Bible students for discussion and evaluation. We can learn from each other.

Bible study is trying work. It is also exhilarating and life changing. Study of the Bible can enrich us as no other study can. As you experience the exhilaration of learning to make your own judgments based on firm principles, the Bible will become alive and powerful in your life. Remember, you are intended to understand this remarkable book and to meet God in its pages.

TIP #2: HOW TO READ

- Read Aloud
- Listen for Echoes
- Ask Yourself Questions
- (Deut. 11:18-19; Joshua 1:8)

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR READING THE BIBLE

1. Study every passage within its literary context. Literary context includes both a text's immediate setting (the verses around it) and its relationship to the entire book.
2. Recognize that the social, historical, and cultural environment of a biblical passage differs from that of today, and then understand a passage in light of those differences.
3. Translations often reflect the translator's understanding. Therefore, when studying a passage, compare several translations, or versions, to estimate the most likely meaning of a word or phrase.

-
4. Interpret any single passage in light of what the author has written elsewhere.
 5. Interpret the Bible as a whole. That is, interpret the Bible in light of the entire message of the Bible.

TIP #3: WHEN YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND

- **Be patient (Isaiah 55:9; Prov. 25:2)**
- **Use Other Translations**
- **Use Study Tools**
- **Seek Qualified Teachers (Acts 8:26-40)**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN READING:

1. What is the main subject?
2. Who are the main people?
3. What does it say about God?
4. What does it say about Christ?
5. What is the key or main verse?
6. What is the central lesson?
7. What are the main promises?
8. What are the main commandments/instructions?
9. What example is there to follow?
10. What do I need most in this chapter to apply to my life today?
11. Are there cross references that I can use to develop the theme of the passage or add clarity of understanding?
12. What are the key words and phrases? Do they appear in other sections of the same book as well as other books?
13. Are there any words I should look up to clarify a definition?

Versions of the Bible

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The attached chart depicts the historical development of the Biblical Text.

RECEIVED TEXT & LATIN TEXT

Two distinct paths were followed in arriving at the modern translations which we have today.

The first path is that followed by the Catholic Church. It is predominately based on the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible compiled by Jerome in approximately 382 A.D. It has roots in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, written for the Jews in Alexandria, Egypt.

The second path is the Received Text or Traditional Text. It is derived from Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament and Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.

KING JAMES AUTHORIZED VERSION - 1611

The most notable version translated from the Received Text path is the King James Version. It was produced in 1611 and has been one of the most influential versions ever written. It is still one of the most widely used versions today.

WESTCOTT & HORT TEXT -1870

They used Greek manuscripts, coupled with the theory of textual criticism. This resulted in the publication of the 1881 Revised Version.

WHAT IS A LITERAL TRANSLATION?

This refers to a version of the Bible which is translated, as closely as possible, word-for-word directly from the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.

Examples of such are the King James, Revised, and RSV.

WHAT IS A PARAPHRASED TRANSLATION?

As the name implies, these translations of the Bible are restatements of the text or passages, putting them in different terms.

Examples of such are the Living Bible and the Children's Bible.

When considering which translation to read, we must always keep in mind that we should often consult different translations of the Bible. On this issue, most of us are dependent on scholars who are well versed in Hebrew and Greek. Translators are human, and they, like the rest of us, are not able to come to the Bible free of all preconceived ideas. We all tend to read the Bible in light of the cultural attitudes and practices with which we are familiar and comfortable. This is also true of translators.

We recall from the previous session on Tips on Reading, that it is helpful, when studying any passage in depth, to consult several versions. Most words in any language have more than one meaning. The meaning chosen by the translator will tend to be the one that fits his or her own preconceptions and traditions. Trying to translate so that the meaning is clear, the translator is influenced by his or her own beliefs and understandings.

MODERN TRANSLATIONS

- 1. Revised Standard Version (RSV)**
- 2. New International Version (NIV)**
- 3. New American Standard Version (NASB)**
- 4. New King James Version (NKJV)**
- 5. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**
- 6. New English Bible (NEB)**

WHICH TRANSLATION IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Each person is different, and as such, not all translations are good for the same person. It is recommended that for reading, a version be selected which is easy and comfortable for the individual. In addition to this, it is desirable to maintain a King James version for use in more detailed study. It provides important linkages to Lexicons and Concordances.

Overview of the Books of the Bible – Southern Exile to Christ

Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah

Time: 635- 615 B.C.

Summary: Zephaniah prophesied during King Josiah's reign. He was responsible for a great religious reform. This reform followed the wicked reigns of Kings Manasseh and Amon, who led the nation into various forms of idolatry. Zephaniah pronounces inescapable judgments against Jerusalem for their sins and exhorts national repentance. He further speaks of the "*day of the LORD* ", when God will intervene to judge sin.

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1

A WARNING OF IMPENDING JUDGMENT- Chapter 1:2-18

1. The judgment announced - Ch. 1:2-6
2. The judgment defined - Ch. 1:7-13
3. The judgment described - Ch. 1:14-18

AN EXHORTATION TO IMMEDIATE REPENTANCE - 2:1-3:8

1. An invitation to repentance - Ch. 2:1-3
2. A detailed warning of judgment- Ch. 2:4-3:8

A PROMISE OF FUTURE BLESSING - Chapter 3:9-20

1. The promise of conversion - Ch. 3:9-13
2. The promise of restoration - Ch. 3:14-20

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah and Baruch

Time: 630-575 B.C.

Summary: Jeremiah warns of the impending military force of Babylon that would destroy Jerusalem and enslave the Jews. He urges Jerusalem to turn from its wicked ways, but there is no response. He further warns of the false prophets who are leading the people astray with deceptive doctrines and falsehoods. He urges the Israelites to submit to the Babylonian authority as the instrument of God's judgment. They do not heed his warnings and the people are carried away to Babylon. He predicts that the captives will return after 70 years to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

INTRODUCTION: THE PROPHET'S CALL- Chapter 1:1-19

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

PROPHETIC ORACLES AGAINST JERUSALEM AND JUDAH - Chapter 2:1-45:5

1. In the reign of Josiah and Johoiakim - Ch. 2:1 - 20:18
2. Various Periods until Jerusalem's Destruction - Ch. 21:1- 39:18
3. After the Fall of Jerusalem - Ch. 40:1 - 45:5

PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS - Chapter 46:1 - 51:64

1. Against Egypt- Ch. 46:1-28
2. Against Philistia - Ch. 47:1-7
3. Against Moab - Ch. 48:1-47
4. Against Ammon - Ch. 49:1-6
5. Against Edom- Ch. 49:7-22
6. Against Damascus - Ch. 49:23-27
7. Against Arabia - Ch. 49:28-33
8. Against Elam- Ch. 49:34-39
9. Against Babylon - Ch. 50:1 - 51:64

HISTORICAL APPENDIX - Chapter 52:1-34

1. Judah's Fall and Captivity- Ch. 52:1-30
2. Jehoiachin's liberation - Ch. 52:31-34

Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk

Time: 620-605 B.C.

Summary: The book begins with Habakkuk complaining of injustice in Judah and his inability to understand God's failure to judge the wicked and morally deprived nation of Babylon. Habakkuk is shown that God's people must continue to trust in His mercy regardless of the circumstances about them. The wicked appear to prosper while the righteous are chastened. However this prosperity of the wicked is only temporary. God will not abandon those who obey and follow His commandments: "the just shall live by faith. " (Cp. Psalm 73)

INTRODUCTION - Ch. 1: 1

THE PROPHET'S COMPLAINT OF UNCHECKED VIOLENCE IN JUDAH - Ch. 1:2-4

THE LORD'S ANSWER: THE CHALDEAN IS HIS INSTRUMENT OF PUNISHMENT- Ch. 1:5-11

A SECOND PROBLEM: THE CHALDEANS ARE MORE WICKED THAN THE JUDEANS - Ch. 1:12 - 2:1

THE LORD'S SECOND ANSWER: THE PURPOSE IS CERTAIN, AND FAITH WILL BE REWARDED - Ch. 2:2-4

FIVE WOES UPON INIQUITY, WHETHER JEWISH OR CHALDEAN - Ch. 2:5-20

A VISION OF DIVINE JUDGMENT - Ch. 3:1-16

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH - Ch. 3:17-19

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Lamentations

Author: Jeremiah

Time: 580 B.C.

Summary: Lamentation means "to express suffering". In this book, Jeremiah expressed his sorrow regarding the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity of the nation at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar's army. The book describes and explains the afflictions brought against the city of Jerusalem as well as surrounding nations who scoff at Jerusalem's affliction. He emphasizes that this is the result of divine judgment for the sins of the people. The book further underlines lessons that Jerusalem should learn from its afflictions, namely the vanity of glory, leadership and pride, in an attempt to overcome them in the future.

THE SUFFERING, RUINED CITY OF ZION - Chapter 1:1-22

1. Wretched condition of devastated Jerusalem - Ch. 1:1-11
2. Lament of the daughter of Jerusalem - Ch. 1:12-22

THE SUFFERING, RUINED HOLY PLACE OF ZION - Chapter 2:1-22

1. God's judgments upon the ramparts and upon his sanctuary- Ch. 2:1-10
2. Lament of the eyewitness of this judgment- Ch. 2:11-19
3. Terrors of this day of God's anger - Ch. 2:20-22

THE SUFFERING REPRESENTATIVE OF SMITTEN ZION - Chapter 3:1-66

1. The sorrows God sent his servant- Ch. 3:1-18
2. The servant's prayer of reassurance - Ch. 3:19-42
3. The servant's prayer for vindication - Ch. 3:43-66

THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF ZION - Chapter 4:1-22

1. Horrors of the siege, and the sad fate of Zion's nobility- Ch. 4:1-11
2. Causes and climax of Zion's catastrophe - Ch. 4:12-20
3. A prophecy against haughty and gloating Edom - Ch. 4:21-22

SUPPLICATIONS OF PENITENT ZION - Chapter 5:1-22

1. Zion's plea to God to regard her affliction and disgrace - Ch. 5:1-18
2. A final address to the eternal Sovereign - Ch. 5:19-22

Joel

Author: Joel

Time: Uncertain, possibly 830 B.C. or 725 B.C.

Summary: The book of Joel begins by describing a devastating swarm of locusts which cause national disaster to the agriculture of Israel. Joel calls the nation of Judah to a day of repentance due to the Divine Judgment. The last portion of the book is concerned with events associated with the "Day of the Lord". The message illustrated is that if Judah repents, God will richly bless them and forgive them.

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

THE LOCUST PLAGUE AS THE HARBINGER OF THE DAY OF THE LORD - Chapter 1:2 - 2:17

1. A threefold calamity: locusts, drought, and fires - Ch. 1:2-20
2. The scourge as the forerunner of the judgment day - Ch. 2:1-17

THE AVERTING OF JUDGMENT AND BESTOWAL OF BLESSINGS - Chapter 2:18 - 3:21

1. The blessings in the immediate future - Ch. 2:18-27
2. The outpouring of the divine Spirit- Ch. 2:28-32
3. Judgment upon the nations - Ch. 3:1-16
4. The blessings on God's people - Ch. 3:17-21

Daniel

Author: Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar

Time: 605-535 B.C.

Summary: The book of Daniel predicts the destiny of two opposing powers: The Kingdom of Men and The Kingdom of God, stressing that *"The most high rules in the kingdom of men"*. Daniel's prophecies generally do not deal with Israel as much as with the nations that control Israel. The book of Daniel contains prophecies that span the time from Daniel's day until the coming Kingdom Age.

THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - AS REVEALED THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - Chapter 1: 1- 6:28

1. Human Learning Judged - Ch. 1:1-21
2. Human Philosophy Judged - Ch. 2:1-49
3. Human Worship Judged - Ch. 3:1-30
4. Human Pride Judged - Ch. 4:1-37
5. Human Impiety Judged - Ch. 5:1-31
6. Human Oppression Judged - Ch. 6:1-28

THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - AS REVEALED BY PROPHETIC REVELATION - Ch.7:1- 12:13

1. Judgment on the Western Dominion - Ch. 7:1-28
2. Judgment on the Eastern Dominion - Ch. 8:1-27
3. Judgment on Israel After the Flesh - Ch. 9:1-27
4. Judgment on Israel After the Spirit - Ch. 10:1-21
5. Judgment on the Oppressors of the Land - Ch. 11:1-45
6. Judgment on the Oppressors of the People - Ch. 12:1-13

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel

Time: 593-560 B.C.

Summary: This book records the activity of the prophet Ezekiel during the exile in Babylon. His message was directed to fellow captives and to Jews still present in Palestine. Both groups refuse to listen and remain unwilling to accept the rule of Babylon. Ezekiel proclaimed good news to the exiles that Israel, after being chastened, would be restored and God's Kingdom would rise. This yet future Kingdom will last forever and God's people will never again be cast out.

PROPHECIES AGAINST JUDAH AND JERUSALEM - Chapter 1:1 - 24:27

1. Introduction: The call of Ezekiel - Ch. 1:1 - 3:27
2. Overthrow of city and state predicted - Ch. 4:1 - 7:27
3. The sin and fate of Jerusalem - Ch. 8:1 - 11:25
4. Moral necessity of the captivity- Ch. 12:1 -19:14
5. Israel's coming downfall inevitable and necessary- Ch. 20:1 - 24:27

ORACLES AGAINST FOREIGN NATIONS: THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD -

Chapter 25:1 - 32:32

1. Ammon- Ch. 25:1-7
2. Moab - Ch. 25:8-11
3. Edom- Ch. 25:12-14
4. Philistines - Ch. 25:15-17
5. Tyre - Ch. 26:1 - 28:19
6. Sidon - Ch. 28:20-26
7. Egypt- Ch. 29:1 - 32:32

PROPHECIES OF THE RESTITUTION OF ISRAEL - Chapter 33:1 - 39:29

1. The prophet: His function in preparation for the new age - Ch. 33:1-33
2. The royal house: The selfish shepherds of Israel and the Good Shepherd - Ch. 34:1-31
3. The land: Israel to be restored and made fruitful - Ch. 35:1 - 36:38
4. The people: Resurrection of the dry bones of Israel; reunion of Judah and Israel - Ch. 37:1-28
5. Peace: The Lord to defend Israel against Gog's invasion - Ch. 38:1 - 39:29

VISION OF THE RESTORED COMMUNITY: THE NEW TEMPLE AND THE NEW LAW -

Chapter 40:1 - 48:35

1. Description of the new Temple - Ch. 40:1 - 43:27
2. A new service of worship with an ideal ministry and sacrificial system - Ch. 44:1-46:24
3. Israel reorganized according to tribal divisions - Ch. 47:1 - 48:35

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Obadiah

Author: Obadiah

Time: 585-565 B.C.

Summary: Obadiah, whose name means "servant of Yahweh," was a prophet who pronounced judgment upon the nation of Edom for its antagonism against Israel. Edom is the nation that is descended from Esau, the twin brother of Jacob (Israel). Edom was to be punished for the violence against Israel they committed when invading the land.

TITLE AND INTRODUCTIONS - Verse 1

JUDGMENT AND EDOM- Verse 2-14

THE DAY OF THE LORD - Verses 15-21

Ezra

Author: Ezra

Time: 538-516 B.C.

Summary: In general, Ezra covers the events of the Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity. The decline of Babylon and its eventual overthrow by the Persians expedited this returning to Jerusalem. The Jews are numbered and are allowed to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple. Samaritan assistance is rejected and their opposition is a contributing factor to the slow progress of the Temple construction. Despite the delays, the Temple is completed and dedicated during this period.

THE EXILES' RETURN FROM BABYLON - Chapter 1:1 - 2:70

1. The decree of Cyrus - Ch. 1:1-4
2. Preparations for the journey- Ch. 1:5-11
3. Those who returned - Ch. 2:1-70

TEMPLE BUILDING BEGINS - Chapter 3:1 - 4:24

1. The altar and the foundation- Ch. 3:1-13
2. Opposition to the work- Ch. 4:1-24

THE BUILDING COMPLETED - Chapter 5:1- 6:22

1. Work resumed - Ch. 5:1-5
2. Tattenai's letter to Darius - Ch. 5:6-17
3. Decrees of Cyrus and Darius - Ch. 6:1-12
4. The Temple finished - Ch. 6:13-22

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM - Chapter 7:1 - 8:36

1. Ezra introduced - Ch. 7:1-10
2. Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra - Ch. 7:11-28
3. The journey to Jerusalem - Ch. 8:1-36

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

THE GREAT REFORMATION - Chapter 9:1 -10:44

1. The tragic report and Ezra's prayer - Ch. 9:1-15
2. The abandonment of mixed marriages - Ch. 10:1-17
3. List of those with foreign wives - Ch. 10:18-44

Nehemiah

Author: Ezra and Nehemiah

Time: 500-460 B.C.

Summary: The book of Nehemiah begins with Nehemiah returning from Babylon as Governor of Jerusalem. He plans and oversees the rebuilding of the city wall despite discouraging opposition and disunity within the Jewish population. The wall is completed and more exiles are returned and registered as Jewish citizens. Nehemiah's dedication to God drives him to make several religious reforms. A public reading of the Law and arrangements for worship are among these reforms.

NEHEMIAH'S ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 1:1 - 2:20

1. Tragic news from Jerusalem, and Nehemiah's prayer - Ch. 1:1-11
2. The granting of Nehemiah's request- Ch. 2:1-8
3. Nehemiah's survey of the walls, and his report - Ch. 2:9-20

THE BUILDING OF THE WALL - Chapter 3:1 - 7:4

1. The workmen and their tasks - Ch. 3:1-32
2. The opposition of enemies - Ch. 4:1-23
3. Reforms of Nehemiah as governor- Ch. 5:1-19
4. The wall finished despite intrigues - Ch. 6:1- 7:4

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS REFORMS IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 7:5 -10:39

1. List of Jews who returned with Zerubbabel - Ch. 7:5-73
2. The reading and observance of God's Law - Ch. 8:1-18
3. A public confession and covenant- Ch. 9:1-10:39

LISTS OF INHABITANTS OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM - Chapter 11:1 - 12:26

DEDICATION OF WALLS AND ORGANIZATION OF TEMPLE SERVICES -
Chapter 12:27-47

NEHEMIAH'S FINAL REFORMS - Chapter 13:1-31

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Esther

Author: Not known for certain

Time: 510 B.C.

Summary: Esther is an historical book, written during the period of the captivity. It records the plot of Haman, the Prime Minister to the Persian king, to exterminate the Jewish race. This plot is foiled by Esther, the Queen of Persia, who was a Jew. This book gives us the origin of the Feast of Purim.

Vashti divorced- Chapter 1:1-22

Esther made queen - Chapter 2:1-23

Haman's plot against the Jews - Chapter 3:1-15

Esther's decision - Chapter 4:1-17

Esther's first banquet- Chapter 5:1-14

Haman humiliated before Mordecai - Chapter 6:1-14

Esther's second banquet- Chapter 7:1-10

Mordecai's counterdecree - Chapter 8:1-17

The Jews victorious, and Purim instituted - Chapter 9:1 -10:3

Haggai

Author: Haggai

Time: 520-505 B.C.

Summary: Haggai writes to the few Jews who have returned to Judah from the captivity in Babylon. He exhorts them to "*consider their ways*" and to complete the Temple whose foundation had been laid 18 years before. The people responded and the Temple was completed in 516 B.C. Haggai further pronounces that pagan empires will be overthrown by God, and Judah will be elevated during the time of the Messiah.

A Message To Arouse - Chapter 1:1-11

A Message To Commend - Chapter 1:12-15

A Message To Encourage - Chapter 2:1-9

A Message To Confirm - Chapter 2:10-19

A Message To Assure - Chapter 2:20-23

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Zechariah

Author: Zechariah

Time: 520-490 B.C.

Summary: Zechariah was a younger contemporary of Haggai. He also encouraged the people to rebuild the Temple. Like Daniel and Revelation, this book contains Apocalyptic visions. It contains detailed references to the coming Messiah. The book concludes with descriptions of the enemies of Jerusalem being judged and of the future glory of God's kingdom.

INTRODUCTION: THE CALL TO REPENT - Chapter 1:1-6

THE NIGHT VISIONS OF ZECHARIAH - Chapter 1:7 - 6:15

1. Vision of the horns and riders - Ch. 1:7-17
2. Vision of the horns and artisans - Ch. 1:18-21
3. Vision of the surveyor- Ch. 2:1-13
4. Vision of Joshua the high priest- Ch. 3:1-10
5. Vision of the golden lamp stand - Ch. 4:1-14
6. Vision of the flying roll - Ch. 5:1-4
7. Vision of the woman in the ephah - Ch. 5:5-11
8. Vision of the chariots - Ch. 6:1-8

THE CROWNING OF JOSHUA - Chapter 6:9-15

QUESTIONS CONCERNING FASTING - Chapter 7:1 - 8:23

1. The question- Ch. 7:1-3
2. The lesson from history- Ch. 7:4-14
3. God's purpose of blessing for Israel - Ch. 8:1-23

THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONS, ISRAEL, AND MESSIAH'S KINGDOM - Chapter 9:1 -14:21

1. The first burden - Ch. 9:1-11:17
2. The second burden - Ch. 12:1-14:21

Malachi

Author: Malachi

Time: 500-475 B.C.

Summary: Malachi's message comes to the people in a time of great spiritual decline. It is approximately eighty years after the rebuilding of the temple and the promises of the coming Messiah have yet to be realized. As a result, the people have become lax in their attitude toward God and worship. Malachi states that their sacrifices are unacceptable to God, husbands are unfaithful, and the priests have neglected God's covenants.

An unholy nation - Chapter 1:1-14

A faithless priesthood - Chapter 2:1-10

A treacherous people - Chapter 2:11-16

A nation of robbers - Chapter 2:17 - 3:15

A faithful remnant to be vindicated - Chapter 3:16 - 4:6

Study Tools (Part 2)

BIBLE DICTIONARIES

- Unger's Bible Dictionary
- Smith's Bible Dictionary

BIBLE ATLASES

- The Macmillan Bible Atlas
- The Oxford Bible Atlas

HISTORY

- World History (Any good history book)
- Old Testament Bible History - Edersheim
- The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah - Edersheim
- Josephus

COMMENTARIES

- Barnes' O.T. & N.T.
- Speaker's
- Pulpit
- Eerdman's Bible Handbook
- Halley's Bible Handbook

Study Tools (Part 2)

GENERAL

- Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words
- Nave's Topical Bible
- Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge
- Robertson's "Harmony of the Gospels", Harper-Row

A WORD OF WARNING

Commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. are the work of uninspired men commenting about inspired scripture passages. Such reference books can be useful, but read carefully with an eye toward skepticism. Never place total confidence in the writings of uninspired men. Use Scripture to verify or reject their conclusions.

Workshop – Study Tools part 2

In the first four sessions you have learned to apply the following four techniques to improve your Bible Reading:

- 1 Using the Bible to Interpret Itself
- 2 Cross references
- 3 Concordances
- 4 Bible Charts
- 5 Bible Dictionary

In this workshop you will have opportunity to apply each of these techniques to improve your understanding of Isaiah 14. To reduce time - focus on verse 4-27.

For each question decide what technique/tool you will use and then try to use it to answer the following questions – sometimes more than one technique is possible:

| | Technique(s): 1,2,3,4,5 | Answer |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|
| When was this book written? | | |
| To whom was it written? | | |
| What was the status of Israel? | | |
| What was the major empire at the time Isaiah was writing? | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>V4... who is the subject of the prophecy?</p> | | |
| <p>List all the general and specific terms used in this chapter to refer to the subject you identified above:</p> | | |
| <p>V12...do a mini-study on Lucifer – list out what you can prove from the Bible.</p> | | |
| <p>Does anyone in the Bible quote anything from this chapter?</p> <p>If so, what do we learn about these quote(s)?</p> | | |

God's purpose against Assyria, and Palestina

ISAIAH 15

heart, ^aI will ascend into heaven, ^bI will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon ^cthe mount of the congregation, in ^dthe sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet ^ethou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that ^fopened not the house of his prisoners?

18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

20 ^gThou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: ^hthe seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

21 Prepare slaughter for his children ⁱfor the iniquity of their fathers; ^jthat they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

22 For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and ^kremnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

24 ¶ The LORD of hosts hath

^a Mt. 11. 23.
^b Dan. 8. 10.

^c ch. 2. 2.
^d Ps. 48. 2.
^e ch. 37. 36.

^f ch. 10. 27.

^g Ob. 4.
^h Mt. 11. 23.

ⁱ Or, did not let his prisoners loose home-ward?
^j 2 Ki. 16. 20.
^k ch. 13. 1.
^l ver. 31.
^m Or, adder.

ⁿ Ecc. 6. 3.

^o Ps. 21. 10.

^p Or, he shall not be alone.

^q Or, assemblies.

^r Ex. 20. 5.

^s Ps. 140. 10.

^t Ps. 87. 1. 5.

^u ch. 10. 2.

^v Zech. 11. 7. 11.

^w Or, betake themselves unto it.

^x Jer. 51. 62.

^y ch. 13. 1.

^z 1 Sa. 14. 47.

^{aa} Jer. 48. 1-47.

^{ab} Ezek. 25. 8-11.

^{ac} Or, cut off.

^{ad} Jer. 48. 13.

^{ae} Nu. 21. 30.

sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

25 ^eThat I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and ^fhis burden depart from off their shoulders.

26 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

28 In the year that ^hking Ahaz died was this ⁱburden.

29 ¶ Rejoice not thou, whole ^jPalestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a ^kcockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

30 And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

31 Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and ^lnone shall be alone in his ^mappointed times.

32 What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That ⁿthe LORD hath founded Zion, and ^othe poor of his people shall ^ptrust in it.

CHAPTER 15

THE ^qburden of ^rMoab. Because ^sin the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and ^tbrought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, and ^ubrought to silence;

2 He is gone up to ^vBá-jith, and to ^wDi-bön, the high places,

Th
to v
No
all
nes
3
girc
on
in t
hov
4
El
hea
for
sha
gri
5
Mo
unt
yea
up
sha
wa
rai
6
sha
is
fail
7
hav
the
car
the
8
abc
hov
anc
Be
9
sha
bri
up
an
lar
S
the
of
2
wa
ne
sh
3
me

SESSION# 6

The Jews and the Law of Moses

The Bible not only documents the Plan of God for mankind and this earth, but it also follows the history of a special people, the Jews. It outlines their birth as a people and nation and follows their development and the establishment of the Kingdom under David and Solomon. It records the steady decline and turning away from God, resulting in their exile from the land, and it records the beautiful prophecies about their re-gathering to the land and their future reconciliation with God at the coming of Christ.

WHO ARE THE JEWS?

1. The People - Descendants of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

- Abram is called by God - Genesis 12:1
- He is promised a seed and to inherit the land - Genesis 12:1-7;
- Genesis 13:14-17;
- Covenant is made by God with Abraham - Genesis 15:1-18
- Promises repeated to Isaac and Jacob - Genesis 26:1-5;
- Genesis 28:13
- Jacob's name changed to ISRAEL - "Prince of God" -
- Genesis 32:24-32

2. The Nation - Established by God

- God delivers the people from Egypt under Moses - Exodus 1-14
- God chose the nation - Deuteronomy 7:6, 7-8; Exodus 19:3-6

WHAT IS THE LAW OF MOSES?

The Law of Moses consists of the commandments and laws given by God to the nation of Israel while encamped at Mt. Sinai. It consisted of not only the Ten Commandments, but many other instructions for the people.

It established:

1. An Order of Worship
Levites and the Tabernacle

2. A Means of Government

Theocracy - God is King

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

The Bible records the failings of the nation of Israel. It documents their course through:

- Wilderness wanderings
- Period of Judges
- Glory and Decline - Period of the Kings
- Christ - Crucifixion of the Messiah
- A.D. 70 - Exiled, until the "times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24)

WHAT IS TO HAPPEN TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes concerning the Jews, "Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. " (Romans 11:1).

He goes on to write that "they are beloved for the sakes of their forefathers. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Roman 11:28-29 RSV)

Paul also described his hope, that which was found through Christ, as the "hope of Israel. " (Acts 28:20)

Passages for consideration:

Zechariah 8 and 12

Jeremiah 31:31-34

ISRAEL – GOD'S PEOPLE – GOD'S LAND

Terminology (Part 2)

CIRCUMCISION - cutting off the fold of skin (foreskin) of all Jewish males.

"And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. " (Genesis 17:11)

PHARISEE -The Pharisees were a religious party or school among the Jews at the time of Christ. The word means "separated". The fundamental principle of the Pharisees is that by the side of the written law there was an oral law to complete and to explain the written law. It was given to Moses on Mount Sinai and transmitted by him by word of mouth. The first portion of the Talmud, called the Mishna or "second law", contains this oral law. It is a digest of the Jewish traditions and rituals and was esteemed far above the written law.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer. " (Matt. 23:14)

SADDUCEE - The Sadducees, meaning "the righteous", were a religious party among the Jews at the time of Christ. They denied that the oral law was a revelation of God to the Israelites, and deemed the written law of Moses alone to be obligatory on the nation, as the divine authority.

"For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. " (Acts 23:8)

SCRIBE - a clerk, especially a public servant, secretary, recorder, whose office and influence differed in different time periods. A religious teacher.

"Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words. " (Jeremiah 36:32)

PRIEST - Male descendant of Aaron of the tribe of Levi, who performed the necessary duties within the tabernacle as laid out in the Levitical Law. In a wider sense, a priest is one who performs the role of a teacher, judge and mediator.

"But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. " (Leviticus 1:9)

SACRIFICE - to slaughter, kill; metaphorically anything offered to God

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. " (Romans 12:1)

Terminology (Part 2)

TABERNACLE - dwelling place, tent, portable temple of worship

"Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubim of cunning work shalt thou make them. "
(Exodus 26:1)

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. " (Revelation 21:3)

TEMPLE - sanctuary, place of worship

"So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. " (1 Samuel 1:9)

SIN - to miss the mark. Disobedience of God's commandments

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. "
(1 John 3:4)

APOSTLE - messenger, one sent

"Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the Truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." (1 Timothy 2: 7)

DISCIPLE - a learner, pupil, student

"The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. " (Luke 6:40)

REPENT - to be sorry, to turn away from (sin)

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. " (Ezekiel 18:30)

RIGHTEOUSNESS - to be spiritually correct, faultless, without blame

"Awake to righteousness and sin not." (1 Cor. 15:34)

WORKSHOP – MYSTERY

During the ministry of Christ, his disciples preached the Gospel of the Kingdom without teaching about his sacrificial death. They never thought that such a thing would happen.

"He sent them to preach the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:2)

"Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.' But they understood not this saying and it was hid from them that they perceived it not." (Luke 9:44)

Had the apostles understood the things spoken by Jesus, his death would have confirmed their belief that he was the Christ.

"For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead." (John 20:9)

"These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they these things were written of him, (and of his death also), and that they had done these things unto him." (John 12:16)

After Christ's ascension to heaven, the Spirit revealed this mystery of the Gospel to the apostles before they resumed their preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Look up Ephesians 3:1-9; Romans 16:25-26 and Colossians 1:25-27.

From these verses write down what you think the mystery is as described in the Bible. Is the mystery something that cannot be understood? Is it something that could be understood but was not known? Is it something that is known now or is it still hidden?

The prophecies concerning Jesus Christ were not at first understood, but once they were fulfilled they became **known** and were preached in connection with the gospel message to both Jew and Gentile.

"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:31) see also Acts 8:12.

SUMMARY related to Mystery

"...The mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles... " (Ephesians 3:4-5)

"The preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest. " (Romans 16:25,26)

"The mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest." (Col 1:26)

1. Aspects of the Kingdom of God involving Jesus were a "mystery" to the world until the apostles' day.
2. The word "mystery" comes from the Greek word "mysterion," which means something hidden or secret.
3. The Apostles received an understanding of the mystery of Christ.
4. What was once a mystery is no longer a mystery.
5. God has revealed His plan slowly through the ages.
6. The revelation is complete.

The Role of Prophecy

TWO-FOLD PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

Forthtelling - Prophecy, according to *1 Corinthians 14*, involves building up, exhortation, and comfort (*14:3*), edification (*14:4*), conviction and conversion (*14:24,25*), and instruction (*14:31*). (See also *2 Peter 3:1-3*, "to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.")

Foretelling - Prophecy also served to warn man regarding his failure and need of repentance and salvation at the hand of God, while at the same time confirming the certainty of God's plan. (Example: *Heb. 11:7*)

NOTE: Prophecy is not for the purpose of satisfying idle curiosity about future events, but to assist believers to develop their faith.

PRINCIPLES IN UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY

1. Analyze the passage in terms of history, context, and its literal meaning.
2. Note exactly to whom or to what the passage refers. Observe whether the prophecy is forthtelling or foretelling. Is it directed at comfort, exhortation, or edification, or is it speaking about what will happen?
3. Distinguish between direct and symbolic predictions.
4. Remember that God's ultimate revelation in Christ illuminates all earlier revelations.
5. Keep in mind that some imagery is difficult to interpret, and to be successful interpreters, we must follow the basic principles for interpreting all figurative language. The imagery should have made sense to the original readers.

EXAMPLE OF FULFILLED PROPHECY - DANIEL 2

Prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar's Image
Head of Gold - Babylon
Breast & Arms of Silver - Medo-Persia
Belly & Thighs of Brass - Greece
Legs of Iron - Rome

SOME FAMOUS PROPHETS:

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|
| Moses | Nathan | Isaiah | Christ |
| Elijah | Jeremiah | Ezekiel | Daniel |

SESSION #7

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ

Gospels

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all take a similar approach in their accounts and therefore these three are known as the Synoptic Gospels, meaning "taking a common view." The differences among them are described below. The Gospel of John takes a different approach from these three. Except for Luke, the Gospel writers did not emphasize *when* events in Jesus' ministry happened. Therefore, many of the events are not given in chronological order.

Matthew

Author: Matthew

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: Matthew is aimed at a Jewish audience. Its purpose is to witness that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the O.T. Matthew emphasizes the words of the Lord regarding the Kingdom of Heaven.

Theme - Jesus Christ as King

Key Verse: *"Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matt. 1:1)*

Unique Features:

Matthew makes no less than sixty references to the Old Testament writings as fulfilled in Christ, so that the word "fulfilled" becomes characteristic of the book. The word "Kingdom" is met with fifty-five times; "Kingdom of Heaven" thirty-two times; "Son of David" seven times.

The Jews laid great store on Scripture and this Gospel, written particularly for them, abounds in O.T. references.

PREPARATION - Chapter 1:1 - 4:16

1. His Relation to the Past - Chapter 1:1 - 2:23
2. His Relation to God - Ch. 3:1-17
3. His Relation to Humanity- Ch. 4:1-11

PREACHING - Chapter 4:17 -18:35

1. Proclaiming the Kingdom - Ch. 4:12-25
2. What Jesus Taught - Ch. 5:1 - 7:29
3. What Jesus Wrought - Ch. 8:1 - 10:42
(Ten mighty works showing his ability to rule)
The cleansing of the leper- Ch. 8:1-4
Centurion's servant- palsy- Ch. 8:5-13
Peter's wife's mother- fever- Ch. 8:14-15

The stilling of the storm- Ch. 8:16-27

Gergesene demoniacs healed - Ch. 8:28-34

The man cured of the palsy- Ch. 9:1-17

The woman with hemorrhage- Ch. 9:18-22

The ruler's daughter raised - Ch. 9:23-26

Two blind men given sight- Ch. 9:27-31

The dumb demoniac healed - Ch. 9:32-38

The Apostles empowered to preach - Ch. 10:1-42

(There are a couple of digressions - see Ch. 8:18-22; 9:9-17 - but they are related to the miracles performed. The miracles revealed physically what the Gospel can do spiritually)

4. What People Thought - Ch. 11:1 - 18:35

(Ten reactions to his call)

John the Baptist - in doubt - Ch. 11:1-15

"This generation" - unresponsive - Ch. 11:16-19

Galilean cities - unrepentant- Ch. 11:20-30

The Pharisees - unreasonable - Ch. 12:1-45

His family - misunderstanding - Ch. 12:46-50

The multitudes - undiscerning - Ch. 13:1-58

Herod the king- unintelligent- Ch. 14:1-13

The disciples - of little faith - Ch. 14:14-36

Jerusalem scribe - unimpressionable - Ch. 15:1-20

Gentile multitudes - seeking - Ch. 15:21-39

Pharisees, Sadducees - unrelenting - Ch. 16:1-12

The Apostles - needing education - Ch. 16:13-18:35

PASSOVER - Chapter 19:1 - 28:20

1. Presentation- Ch. 19:1- 25:46

2. Condemnation- Ch. 26:1- 27:66

3. Vindication- Ch. 28:1-20

Mark

Author: Mark

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The book of Mark describes in detail Jewish customs and is therefore thought to be aimed at a non-Jewish audience (in particular, Romans). Mark describes in very life-like terms the miracles of Jesus and great detail is given to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Some people think that Mark was the first of the four gospels, probably written shortly after the resurrection. Possibly the book was taken by dictation from the Apostle Peter because some events contained in the book are unique to Peter.

Theme - Jesus Christ as Servant

Key verse: *"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ

Unique Features:

Being originally written (as is thought) for Romans, there are very few references to the Old Testament Scriptures contained in this Gospel. Jewish words are explained (Ch. 3:17; 5:41; 7:11,34; 14:36); and also Jewish customs (Ch. 7:3-4;14:12; 15:42). Latin expressions are frequently used such as Legion, Centurion, etc. The Romans admired action, and this Gospel depicts the Lord as a worker.

SANCTIFICATION - Chapter 1:1-13

1. The Witness of John - Ch. 1:1-8
2. The Anointing of Jesus - Ch. 1:9-13

SERVICE - Chapter 1:14- 8:30

1. First Disciples and first work - Ch. 1:14 - 3:12
2. Appointed of Apostles and Extension of Labor- Ch. 3:13 - 6:6
3. Co-operating in Service - Ch. 6:7 - 8:30

SACRIFICE - Chapter 8:31-15:47

1. Anticipated - Ch. 8:31 -10:52
2. Approached - Ch. 11:1 -14:42
3. Accomplished - Ch. 14:43 -15:47

SERVICE RENEWED - Chapter 16:1-20

Luke

Author: Luke

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The book of Luke gives us the most complete look at the life of Jesus. Luke uses eyewitnesses as sources for his writings. He stresses Jesus' humanity and compassion as well as the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer.

Theme - Jesus Christ as the perfect man

Key Verses:

"When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man." (Lk. 23:47)

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. " (Lk. 19:10)

Unique Features:

It was written particularly for Greeks who delighted in wisdom, beauty and system. Luke, therefore, tells the story of Jesus, unfolding his development in a systematic manner, setting the facts in chronological order in a manner not attempted by the other writers. Luke was an artist with the pen, drawing the portrait of Jesus as the perfect man. He followed up by writing the book of Acts (the Acts of the Apostles).

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ

THE SON OF MAN IN HIS HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS - Chapter 1 :1- 4:13

1. Prologue - Ch. 1:1-4
2. In the Days of Herod - Ch. 1:5 - 2:52
3. Thirty Years Later - Ch. 3:1 - 4:13

THE SON OF MAN AS PROPHET - KING IN GALILEE - Chapter 4:14 - 9:50

1. Introductions - Ch. 4:14- 9:17
2. Culminations - Ch. 9:18-50

THE SON OF MAN IN HIS JUDEAN/PEREAN MINISTRY - Chapter 9:51 - 19:27

1. In Judea - Ch. 9:51 -13:21
2. In Perea - Ch. 13:22 -19:27

THE SON OF MAN REJECTED AS ISRAEL'S KING - Chapter 19:28 - 23:56

1. Before the Arrest- Ch. 19:28-22:46
2. After the Arrest - Ch. 22:47 - 23:56

THE SON OF MAN GLORIFIED - Chapter 24:1-53

1. The initial Appearance - Ch. 24:1-8
2. Forty Days Later- Ch. 24:9-53

John

Author: John

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The Book of John was written in order that men may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and consequently the Redeemer of all who believe in Him and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. John cites eight signs (miracles) to establish and prove this point, culminating in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. John is the only book of the four Gospels that does not cite any parables; instead John emphasizes Jesus as the manifestation of God.

Theme - Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh

Key Verse:

"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31)

Unique Features:

There are many key words in John's Gospel, and dominant throughout is the word "believe" which occurs over eighty times. This word implies a belief that has developed into faith or conviction. As such, this Gospel was written for believers. They are enabled thereby to perceive the inner strength of Jesus, and to see his faith also came from a greater source, even God. Another peculiarity is the frequent use of the word "Jew." It is only found once in Matthew, twice in Mark and in Luke, but over sixty times in John.

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ

John concerns himself more with the Judean ministry which Matthew and Mark hardly touch upon, and he records only eight miracles (which he terms "signs") that set in sequential order the whole purpose of God in Christ.

Prologue - Chapter 1:1-18

The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry - Chapter 1:19-51

Jesus' Public Ministry - Chapters 2 - 11

The Passion Week - Chapters 12 - 19

The Resurrection - Chapter 20:1-29

Closing and Epilogue - Chapter 20:30 - 21:25

Life and Death in the Bible

WHERE DOES LIFE COME FROM?

The formation of life is outlined for us in the first couple of chapters of the book of Genesis in the account of creation. The verse to note especially is found in Genesis 2: 7,

"The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. "

Another similar description of "life" can be found in the account of the flood, in Genesis 7:21. Here it describes the living beings which died in the flood.

"All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died."

LIFE--> God supplies it through "the breath of life."

WHERE DID DEATH COME FROM?

Death was not a part of the original creation. Everything God had made was deemed "very good." However, God did give one simple law to Adam and Eve in the garden:

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. " (Gen. 2:17)

That promise was kept following the eating of the fruit by Adam and Eve. The curse of death was pronounced upon them by God in *Genesis 3:15-19*. Note especially the end of verse 19 where we have the familiar words, *"for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. "*

Though death was not originally part of creation, it now passed on to all men. This is brought out in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans in the 5th chapter. Verse 12 says,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

And later in verse 18 it says,

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. "

Genesis 5 shows that death now reigns because of sin. The persons listed in the generations of Adam are described by the phrase, *"and he died."*

Romans 6:23 says,

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

SIN--> Death is brought about as a consequence of sin and applies to all mankind.

WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?

Throughout the ages people have wrestled with this question. Everyone wants to know what lies beyond death. The Bible teaches that death is simply the REVERSAL of life. We turn to the book of Job for further testimony of this fact. . Job 33:4 reminds us that life is from God. It says,

"the Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

In the next chapter, verse 14 and 15 say,

"If he (God) set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust."

See also: *Ecc. 12:7; 3:18-20;*

Death likened to sleep: *Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:18,20; 1 Thess. 4:13-18*

WHAT LIES BEYOND DEATH?

In the prophecy of Daniel, in chapter 12 and verse 2 it is written:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

The Lord Jesus Christ declared:

"The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29)

And Paul, in his defense before Felix, declared:

"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. " (Acts 24:14-15)

See also: 1 Cor. 15 (note argument of verse 12);

John 6:39-40;

John 11:23-27

Terminology (Part 3)

PATRIARCH - Father and ruler of a family, Abraham & his immediate descendant.

"Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils." (Hebrews 7:4)

PSALM - music of a stringed instrument, by implication, a poem set to music.

"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. " (Chron. 16:9)

BLASPHEMY - Railing, evil speaking. To limit the power of God in any way.

"Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men." (Matt. 12:31)

TEMPTATION - To try or tempt. A trial. The trial of man's integrity, virtue, constancy; also an enticement to sin, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances.

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. " (1 Timothy 6:9)

MEEK - Humble, lowly, submissive to God's power and control, forbearing.

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth. " (Numbers 12:3)

ANTICHRIST - Those found in opposition to Christ. Can be singular or plural, as in antichrists.

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." (1 John 2:18)

MEDIATOR - One who intervenes between two to restore peace and friendship.

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (1 Timothy 2:5)

MESSIAH - Anointed; the Hebrew form of the Greek word Christ

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. " (Daniel 9:25)

Terminology (Part 3)

PASSOVER - to pass over; connected with the final plague and Israel's deliverance from Egypt

"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover." (Exodus 12:11)

SAVIOUR - One who saves; deliverer

"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." (2 Samuel 22:3)

ISRAEL - Israel meaning "a prince of God," was a name given to the patriarch Jacob; the family or descendants of Jacob; the nation of Israel.

"And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." (Genesis 32:28)

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" (Hebrews 8:10)

EXHORT - Beseech, comfort, entreat

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. "
(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

CHURCH - "called out ones," assembly, gathering of people

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. " (Matthew 18:17)

WORKSHOP – SOUL

1 The English word for “soul” first appears in the King James Version in Genesis 2:7. Look up this word in Strong’s concordance. *(Remember Strong’s concordance lists all the English words in alphabetical order in the main part of the concordance. Once you have found the word, then find the passage; the passages are listed from Genesis to Revelation according to the table of contents.)*

2 What is Strong’s number for this word? 5 ____

FACT: There are 8,674 Hebrew and Chaldean words and 5,624 Greek words in the Strong’s dictionaries.

3 Look this number up in the Hebrew and Chaldee dictionary in the back of the concordance.

4 Write down the Hebrew word. n e _ _ _ _ _

5 What is the basic meaning of this word? *(the basic meaning usually appears right after the word, its pronunciation, and root words)*

6 How else is this word translated? List examples which begin with “b” and “c”. *(After the explanation about the literal and figurative usage of the word, an alphabetic list of words occurs after a colon “:” indicating how the word has been translated in the King James Version.)*

FACT: The Hebrew word “nephesh” occurs 752 times, and is translated 44 different ways.

7 In the English “soul” first occurred in Genesis 2:7. That word turned out to be number 5315 in Strong’s corresponding to the Hebrew word “nephesh”. We have determined that the word is translated into a large number of other words. One of these other words is “creature”.

-
- 8 Look up “creature” in the concordance and look for the first two occurrences of the word with Strong’s number 5315 next to it. These will be examples of where “nephesh” is translated “creature”.
- 9 What does “creature” refer to in these places? _____
- _____

FACT: The Hebrew word “nephesh” is translated “creature” 9 times. However, the most popular words used are “soul” (475 times) and “life” or “lives” (120 times).

- 10 At this stage you would normally review the use of the word throughout the Bible. Since there are so many occurrences of “nephesh” lets look at just a few of interest. *(If you wish, you can review other occurrences later.)*
- “nephesh” refers to “people”.
See Genesis 2:7 where it is translated “soul”
 - “nephesh” refers to “animals”. *(you have already seen this)*
See Genesis 1:21 (creature),24 (creature),30 (life)
 - It can touch.
See Leviticus 7:21 (soul)
 - It can eat.
See Leviticus 17:12 (soul)
 - It can be killed.
See Leviticus 24:17 (man),18 (beast)
 - It can die.
See Ezekiel 18:4 (soul), Psalm 22:29 (soul)
 - It is identified with the blood.
See Genesis 9:4-5 (life, lives)

- 11 Based on your findings, what would you say “soul” refers to in the Hebrew?
- _____
- _____

FACT: The Hebrew word “nephesh” corresponds to the Greek word “psuche” which occurs 105 times and is translated “soul” (58 times) and “life” or “lives” (40 times).

Note: If you wish, you can review the Greek occurrences later.

12 Does the term “immortal soul” occur in the Bible? We know that “soul” occurs a large number of times, so it would take a couple of hours to check this out if we looked at every occurrence of “soul”. It would be easier to look up “immortal” and check for “immortal soul” since the occurrence(s) are far fewer.

Review your findings on the word “immortal” in the workshop on page 52.

Session # 8

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Apostles

Acts of the Apostles

Author: Luke

Time: 30-60 A.D.

Summary: Acts records the foundation, growth, and activities of the first century church. It illustrates the struggles and problems that they faced as well as the solutions to overcome the problems. It describes the power that was given to a select number of men by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to promote the Gospel. The book also traces the missionary journeys of Paul as he helped form Churches throughout Asia Minor and Rome.

The Witness to Christ and the persecution of the Jews

Key Verse:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

PREPARATION FOR PREACHING - Chapter 1:1 - 2:4

IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 2:5 - 7:60

IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA - Chapter 8:1-25

THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH - Chapter 8:26 - 28:31

1. Towards Africa- Ch. 8:26-40
2. Towards Asia- Ch. 9:1 - 16:5
3. Towards Europe - Ch. 16:6 - 18:17
4. In Asia- Ch. 18:18 - 26:32
5. In Europe - Ch. 27:1- 28:31

Romans

Author: Paul

Time: 58 - 60 A.D.

Summary: Paul was instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ to be a Minister to the Gentile people. Paul begins the letter by showing how all men are sinners in the eyes of God and therefore worthy of death. However, Paul explains that Jesus Christ was the "second Adam" in whom no sin was found, and is able to provide an acceptable covering for men's sin if they accept all that Jesus said and follow after

him in their own lives. With this in mind, Paul explains the distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles and the final outcome of all things when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God.

Christ: The Power of God to Us

Key Verse:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:16-17)

INTRODUCTION - Ch. 1:1-15

DOCTRINAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO SALVATION - Ch. 1:16 - 8:39

1. Condemnation- Ch. 1:16 - 3:20
2. Justification- Ch. 3:21-5:21
3. Sanctification - Ch. 6:1-8:17
4. Glorification- Ch. 8:18-39

NATIONAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO ISRAEL - Chapter 9:1-11:36

1. Selection- Ch. 9:1-33
2. Rejection - Ch. 10:1-21
3. Restoration- Ch. 11:1-36

PRACTICAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO CONDUCT- Ch. 12:1 - 15:13

1. Social Responsibilities - Ch. 12:1-21
2. Civil Responsibilities- Ch. 13:-1-14
3. Congregational Responsibilities - Ch. 14:1-15:13

EPILOGUE: PERSONAL MATTERS - Chapter 15:14 -16:27

I Corinthians

Author: Paul

Time: 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary: Written to the church at Corinth by the apostle Paul. He deals with a series of problems, sins and false teachings that were present in the newly formed church. Most members were from a promiscuous pagan background and were exhorted to put away their previous ways. There also were problems with those who tried to "blend" the teachings of Christ with the Levitical law.

Christ: The Wisdom of God to Us

Key Verses:

"Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." (1 Cor. 1:17)

"Unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)

"We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Cor. 2:7-8)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-9

REPROOF: CONCERNING SCHISMS - Chapter 1:10 - 4:21

CORRECTION: CONCERNING INCONSISTENCIES - Chapter 5:1 - 6:20

INSTRUCTION: ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS - Chapter 7:1 -15:58

1. Concerning the Marriage State - Ch. 7:1-17
2. Regarding Circumcision and Slavery - Ch. 7:18-24
3. Regarding Virgins and Marriage - Ch. 7:25-40
4. Regarding Meat Offered to Idols- Ch. 8:1-11:1
5. Regarding Sisters in the Ecclesia - Ch. 11:2-16
6. Regarding the Lord's Supper- Ch. 11:17-34
7. Regarding Spirit Gifts - Ch. 12:1 -14:40
8. Regarding the Resurrection - Ch. 15:1-58

GENERAL MATTERS - Chapter 16:1-24

II Corinthians

Author: Paul

Time: 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary: This second letter to the church at Corinth was penned by Paul also. It was written after he made a "painful" and unsuccessful visit to the small church in an attempt to give instruction and guidance on several divisive issues. Upon learning that a majority of members had repented, he wrote the letter of 2nd Corinthians. It gives encouragement, yet teaches of the suffering that each member must face for the Lord Jesus' sake. He concludes by surmising when he is weakest, then God is able to work through him most powerfully. This letter was, in all likelihood, written about six months after the first letter to the Corinthians.

Christ: The Comfort of God to Us

Key Verse:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor. 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION: THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE - Chapter 1:1-11

EXPLANATION: PAUL THE MINISTER - Chapter 1:12 - 5:21

1. Concerning His Motives - Ch. 1:12- 2:11
2. Concerning the Ministry- Ch. 2:12 - 5:21

EXHORTATION: PAUL THE FATHER - Chapter 6:1 - 9:15

1. Concerning Things Spiritual - Ch. 6:1 - 7:16
2. Concerning Things Material - Ch. 8:1 - 9:15

VINDICATION: PAUL THE APOSTLE - Chapter 10:1 -12:18

1. The Critics and their Pretensions - Ch. 10:1 - 11:15
2. The Apostle and His Credentials - Ch. 11:16 - 12:18

CONCLUSION: FUTURE INTENTIONS - Chapter 12:19 -13:14

Galatians

Author: Paul

Time: 48 - 50 A.D.

Summary: The letter to the church in Galatia focuses on the divisions that Jewish-Christians were causing among new Gentile converts. These Judaizers were trying to convince the Gentiles that Paul's authority was given by men and not by God, and that they needed to be circumcised and to keep the ritual law in order to be saved. Paul argued that both Jew and Gentile alike enjoy in Christ complete salvation. They are justified, adopted, renewed, and made heirs according to the promises of the Abrahamic covenant. Reliance on the Law was only a bondage to death and could not produce life-giving freedom, as only Christ could grant that freedom. Paul was showing that all

legalistic variations of the Gospel are perversions of it and should be shown as such.

Christ: The Righteousness of God for Us

Key Verses:

"If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Gal. 2:21)

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Gal. 3:6)

"If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law." (Gal. 3:21)

"We ... wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Gal. 5:5)

INTRODUCTION AND SALUTATION - Chapter 1:1-5

THE PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE - Chapter 1:6-9

NARRATION: PERSONAL DETAILS - ILLUSTRATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF PAUL'S GOSPEL
-Chapter 1:10- 2:21

EXPOSITION: DOCTRINAL - A DECLARATION OF THE GOSPEL - Chapter 3:1 - 4:31

1. Justification by Faith - Ch. 3:1-14
2. Faith's Relation to the Law - Ch. 3:15-29
3. Relationship of Faith to the Law Illustrated - Ch. 4:1-31

EXHORTATION: PRACTICAL - THE DEMANDS OF THE GOSPEL - Chapter 5:1 - 6:10

1. The Call Unto Liberty- Ch. 5:1-12
2. Liberty in Reality - Ch. 5:13-26
3. Freedom in Christ Must be Mutually Enjoyed - Ch. 6:1-10

CONCLUDING REVIEW- Chapter 6:11-18

Ephesians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary: The letter is divided into two sections. The first outlines the blessings and spiritual riches in Christ; the second the walk in imitation of Christ. The intent was to illustrate the abundance of spiritual riches that Christ himself received or would receive, namely grace, glory, mercy, immortality, and to foster the incentive to walk as Christ himself did. By doing so, the believer would learn to walk worthy of his vocation; not as Gentiles which know not God, but as children of light who show forth love and walk correctly in all manner of conversation and action until the return of the Lord Jesus. It is thought that this letter was one of several letters which were circulated to the different churches in Asia.

Christ: The Riches of God to Us

Key Verse:

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places." (Eph. 1:18-20)

OUR WEALTH IN CHRIST- Chapter 1: - 3:21

1. Salutation- Ch. 1:1-2
2. Predestination, or the Origin of the Church - Ch. 1:3-23
3. Edification, Or the Construction of the Church - Ch. 2:1-22
4. Vocation, Or the Function of the Church - Ch. 3:1-21

OUR WALK IN CHRIST- Chapter 4:1- 6:20

1. Church Responsibilities - Ch. 4:1-16
2. Individual Conduct- Ch. 4:17 - 6:9
3. Faith's Warfare - Ch. 6:10-20

Philippians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 A.D.

Summary: The tone of this letter is very personal in nature. Paul outlines his own beliefs and relates the attitude that all believers must not be self centered in their own lives. Each believer must look to Christ for an example of self-sacrifice and unity in purpose. He further contrasts enemies of the cross with those who are friends of the Lord Jesus and the cross. It is thought that Paul wrote this epistle while he was in prison.

Christ: The Sufficiency of God to Us

Key Verses:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil. 3: 7-8)

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." (Ch. 3:13-15)

CHRIST OUR LIFE - Chapter 1:1-30

CHRIST OUR MIND - Chapter 2:1-30

CHRIST OUR GOAL- Chapter 3:1 - 4:1

CHRIST OUR STRENGTH - Chapter 4:2-23

Colossians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary: The letter to Colossae was written in response to the Judaizing that was brought to Paul's attention. Paul states that this philosophy was based on human tradition and therefore worthless. He teaches love, humility, submission to authority, and finally prayer to establish a believer in the wisdom of God.

Christ the Fullness of God to Us

Key Verse:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: in

whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." (Col. 2:8-12)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-14

DOCTRINAL - 'That you may be filled' - Ch. 1:15 - 2:23

PRACTICAL - 'Seek those things above' - Ch. 3:1 - 4:6

PERSONAL - 'That you may know our estate' - Ch. 4:7-18

I & II Thessalonians

Author: Paul

Time: 50 A.D.

Summary: The main focus in these letters is an exhortation to continued good works and faith. He also discusses the state of the dead in Christ. It deals with their resurrection and the future of the Kingdom of God. Paul appears to have written these letters due to the large amount of newly baptized believers in Thessalonica. He was forced out of the city by jealous Jews. The occurrence of "you know" in the letters indicates that the teachings were begun but were interrupted and therefore Paul wishes to solidify the subject matter. Further encouragement is given in the second letter regarding the punishment of those wicked men who were persecuting them.

I Thessalonians

Christ as Our Hope

Key Verse:

"Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thess. 1:9-10)

LOOKING BACK: HOW THEY WERE CALLED - Chapter 1:1 - 3:13

1. Through Conversion - Ch. 1:1-10

2. Through Preaching - Ch. 2:1-20

3. Through After-care - Ch. 3:1-13

LOOKING ON: HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE - Chapter 4:1-18

LOOKING FORWARD: WATCHING AND WAITING - Chapter 5:1-28

II Thessalonians

Christ As Our Victory

Key Verse:

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe in that day (II Thess. 1:7-10)."

CONSOLATION - FROM THE FACT OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 1:1-12

CAUTION: INSTRUCTION ON THE TIME OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 2:1-17

COMMAND: INJUNCTIONS IN VIEW OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 3:1-18

I & II Timothy

Author: Paul

Time: 67 A.D.

Summary: Both letters were written by Paul from Rome during his imprisonments. Paul gives Timothy encouragement and reminds him of the work at hand. He reveals his fears to Timothy of the dangers within the church and lends advice for godly conduct of all individuals. The two letters to Timothy along with that to Titus are often called the Pastoral letters due to the nature of their material.

The Charge: Guard That Which Has Been Committed Unto Thee

Key Verses:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy . . . that thou mightest war a good warfare." (1 Tim. 1:18)

"O Timothy, guard that which is committed unto thee." (1 Tim. 6:20 - RV)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-20

CHURCH CONDUCT- Chapter 2:1 - 3:16

CHURCH PROBLEMS - Chapter 4:1-16

PERSONAL ADMONITION - Chapter 6:11-21

II Timothy

The Challenge: Stir Up the Gift of God

Key Verses:

*"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee."
(II Tim. 1:6)*

"The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (II Tim. 2:2)

"Perilous times shall come." (II Tim. 3:1)

"The time of my departure is at hand." (II Tim. 4:6)

HOLD ON TO THE CHARGE - Chapter 1:1-18

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TAKE UP THE CHARGE - Chapter 2:1-26

GUARD THE CHARGE IN FACE OF APATHY - Chapter 3:1-17

PREACH THE CHARGE IN ALL SEASONS - Chapter 4:1-8

PAUL'S FINAL WORDS - Chapter 4:9-22

Titus

Author: Paul

Time: 67 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written by Paul from Rome to Titus who was teaching the churches on the island of Crete. The letter provides Titus with instruction and advice for his conduct as well as guidance for dealing with the believers in Crete.

The Caution: What a Church Must Aim For

Key Verse:

"That thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting." (Tit. 1:5)

AN ORDERLY CHURCH - Chapter 1:1-16

A SOUND CHURCH- Chapter 2:1-15

A PRACTICAL CHURCH - Chapter 3:1-15

Philemon

Author: Paul

Time: 61-62 A.D.

Summary: Paul writes to Philemon whose slave, Onesimus, had run away to Rome where he met Paul and became a Christian. Paul sends him back to his rightful owner with his personal letter of recommendation to accept him back with love and charity.

Responsibilities in Christ

Salutation - vv. 1-3

Paul's Praise of Philemon - vv. 47

Paul's Plea for Onesimus - vv 8-17

Paul's Pledge of Repayment- vv. 18-22

Final Greetings - vv. 23-25

Hebrews

Author: Probably Paul

Time: 63 A.D.

Summary: This letter persuasively presents the distinctiveness of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The letter is primarily written to Jewish Christians who were wavering between Judaism and Christianity. Its primary message was to prove that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of all O.T. prophecy and symbol. With Christ as the fulfillment, there was no longer a need to make the animal sacrifices, etc. required under the Mosaic Law. Christ is the High Priest and mediator of all believers in all ages who look for the Redemption of God.

Christ: The New and Living Way

Key Verse:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a

new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his

flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised); and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:19-25)

CHRIST THE SON: BETTER THAN HIS PREDECESSORS - Chapter 1:1 - 7:28

A Better Voice Than the Prophets - Ch. 1:1-3

A Better Name Than the Angels - Ch. 1:4 - 2:18
A Better Apostle Than Moses - Ch. 3:1-19
A Better Leader Than Joshua - Ch. 4:1-13
A Better Priest Than Aaron - Ch. 4:14 - 7:28
A Better Priestly Order Than the Levitical - Ch. 7:1-28

CHRIST THE SACRIFICE: CONFIRMING THE BETTER COVENANT - Chapter 8:1 -10:18

1. Christ the antitype of the Mosaic Order - Ch. 8:1-5
2. Christ the mediator of a better covenant - Ch. 8:6-13
3. The Mosaic Tabernacle - Ch. 9:1-5
4. The lessons it taught - Ch. 9:6-10
5. Christ Provided a better Sanctuary- Ch. 9:11-14
6. Christ Provided a better Sacrifice - Ch. 9:15-28
7. The limitations of animal sacrifices - Ch. 10:1-4
8. The effectiveness of Christ's offering - Ch. 10:5-10
9. The completeness of his offering- Ch. 10:11-18

CHRIST AND FAITH: THE TRUE AND BETTER WAY-
Chapter 10:19 -13:25

1. Faith - The True Response - Ch. 10:19-39
2. Faith - The Moving Power of the Ages - Ch. 11:1-40
3. Faith Leads Unto Christ- Ch. 12:1-13
4. Faith Expresses Itself in Practical Morality- Ch. 12:14- 13:21

FINAL WORDS - Chapter 13:22-25

James

Author: James

Time: A.D. 43-50

Summary: The letter of James contains practical information pertaining to every day life as a Christian. It is not directed at any Church in particular, but rather to Jewish believers, revealing their responsibilities to the principles of the Law as manifested in Christ. It focuses on real Faith and shows that there is a need to develop faith as an energizing power that would find its

outworking in a changed life; therefore, the epistle dwells on practice and not doctrine.

Faith in Action

Key Verse:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (Jas. 2:26)

HOW FAITH CAN TRIUMPH OVER TRIALS - Chapter 1:1-27

HOW FAITH CAN GOVERN ACTIONS TOWARDS OTHERS - Chapter 2:1-26

HOW FAITH CAN DISCIPLINE THE TONGUE - Chapter 3:1-18

HOW FAITH CAN PURIFY CHARACTER - Chapter 4:1-17

HOW FAITH CAN CREATE CONFIDENCE IN GOD - Chapter 5:1-20

I Peter

Author: Peter

Time: 60 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written to Christians in Asia Minor to help establish a joyful hope in the face of coming persecution. Peter sternly warns that persecution would come and that each individual must stand fast against it. He also illustrates man's relation to God as well as to mankind.

Triumph in Tribulation

INTRODUCTION- Chapter 1:1-2

THE CALL AND WHAT IT INVOLVES - Chapter 1:3 - 2:10

THE PILGRIM LIFE AND HOW TO LIVE IT - Chapter 2:11 - 4:11

THE FIERY TRIAL AND HOW TO BEAR IT - Chapter 4:12 - 5:11

FINAL WORDS - Chapter 5:12-14

II Peter

Author: Peter

Time: 66 A.D.

Summary: The theme of this letter is true knowledge. The newly formed church was threatened by false teachers and therefore Peter exhorts the Christians to be aware of this danger. Peter explains that false teachers had crept in and were secretly subverting the true doctrine of the Gospel.

The True Knowledge and the Sure Hope

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO MORAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 1:1-21

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO DOCTRINAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 2:1-22

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO POLITICAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 3:1-18

I John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written to a community who faced Judaistic heresy. John teaches how to walk in the light and also to keep in their remembrance the sacrifice which the Lord Jesus Christ made for them.

The Truth and The Ecclesia

INTRODUCTION: WHY THE EPISTLE WAS WRITTEN - Chapter 1:1-4

GOD IS LIGHT- Chapter 1:5- 2:29

GOD IS LOVE - Chapter 3:1 - 4:21

GOD IS LIFE- Chapter 5:1-21

II John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: The letter is addressed to "an elect lady" who is advised to eschew fellowship with legalistic Judaisers. The ideas of love, truth, and obedience are emphasized.

The Truth and the Home

INTRODUCTION - vv. 1-4

EXPOSITION - Love Defined - vv. 5-B

EXHORTATION - vv. 7-9

APPLICATION - False Charity to be Avoided - vv. 10-11

INFORMATION - vv. 12-13

III John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: The letter commends Gaius for his piety and charity by allowing Christian teachers use of his home and financial means. He is urged to receive only good men which were known by their works and to shun evil men.

The Truth and the Individual

GAIUS: THE SINCERE, DEDICATED, LOVABLE - vv. 1-8

DIOTREPHES: THE DOMINEERING, SELF-ASSERTIVE, ARROGANT- vv. 9-11

DEMETRIUS: OF GOOD REPUTE TO ALL- v. 12

LAST WORDS FROM JOHN - vv. 13-14

Jude

Author: Jude

Time: 65 - 70 A.D.

Summary: The primary message Jude is trying to relate is the danger of the false teachers who have "slipped in" unawares by the newly converted Christians. Jude further outlines the past judgments upon evil men who forsook the Word of God and perverted it into the traditions of men.

Contending Earnestly for the Faith

INTRODUCTION - vv. 1-2

THE NEED TO CONTEND - APOSTATE TEACHERS - vv. 3-16

THE WAY TO CONTEND - AVAILABLE RESOURCES - vv. 17-25

Revelation

Author: John

Time: 65-70 A.D.

Summary: This is the final book of the N.T. and the Bible as a whole. John, one of the apostles, is given the Revelation of Jesus Christ pertaining to the events of the return of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The vision is highly symbolic and signifies the apostasy of the church as well as the judgments of those who are held accountable.

The Unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ

Key Verse:

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John." (Rev. 1:1)

JESUS CHRIST AND THE REDEEMED - Chapter 1:1-20

JESUS CHRIST AND THE ECCLESIA - Chapter 2:1 - 3:22

JESUS CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM - Chapter 4:1 - 22:21

1. Introduction- Ch. 4:1 - 5:14

2. The Seven Seals - Ch. 6:1 - 7:17

3. The Seven Angelic Trumpeters - Ch. 8:1 - 11:19

4. The Development and Destruction of the Beast, His Image and Organization - Ch. 12:1 -14:20

5. The Seven Vials of Divine Wrath- Ch. 15:1 -16:21

6. The Judgment of the Great Whore and Triumph of the Lamb - Ch 17:1 - 20:15

7. New Heavens and New Earth- Ch. 21:1 - 22:21

Good vs. Evil

ORIGIN OF EVIL

In the Genesis account of creation it says, *"God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. "* (Gen. 1:31) Elsewhere it is written, *"thou (God) didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created. "* (Rev. 4:11, RSV) The Bible is quite clear that evil was not part of creation and present at the beginning, but it soon appeared on the scene, for it came with SIN.

WHAT IS SIN?

In John's first epistle he writes, *"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."* (1 John 3:4 NIV) The Greek word for lawlessness is "anomia." It indicates not merely a transgression of a given law, but involves also an attitude of rebellion. In other words, when one defies God either through thought, word, or deed, it is considered sin.

DOES GOD TEMPT ANYONE OR CAUSE THEM TO SIN?

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:13-15)

THE SOURCE OF SIN: Lust and Pride (I John 2:16)

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. "

Classic Example: Eve's sin in the Garden (Gen. 3:1-7)

Fruit was *"good for food"* - lust of the flesh

"pleasant to the eyes " - lust of the eyes

"ye shall be as gods" - pride of life

RESULT: Enmity Between Man & God
Flesh versus Spirit

Good vs Evil

IS MAN INHERENTLY GOOD or EVIL?

The Bible clearly shows, in each book of the Bible, that man is essentially "evil" by nature. The enmity between man and God has continued throughout the ages.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9)

"That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. " (Mark 7:20-23).

See also: *Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Isaiah 59:1-8; Rom. 3:10-12,23*

BOTTOM LINE: Man is evil and God is good. Evil may prevail for a while, but ultimately good will prevail forever according to God's timetable. Consider the wonderful promise found in Paul's epistle to the Romans:

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.(Rom. 8:18-21, NIV)"

Also, *Revelation 21:3-4* says,

"I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. "

Good vs Evil

WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

Sin and suffering are a part of the present state of things, not caused by the design or purpose of God, but by the folly of mankind in the very beginning of history - and perpetuated, in many cases, by the foolish actions of an ignorant and disobedient world. Man's disobedience has introduced into the arena of God's work the cause of all the suffering, evil, bloodshed, disease, anger, impediments, and inequities that the long and sad history of the world ever since has witnessed. The problems that society faces today - slums, murder, gambling, terrorism, etc. are the products of man's lusts and folly.

People tend to be disinterested in heeding the Word of God, at the same time continuing to wonder at the presence of evil and suffering. Much of the suffering in the world is a direct result of man's actions. Stress, heart disease, cancer, mental illness, respiratory ailments due to pollution, and such curses upon humanity as AIDS, bring trauma and distress even to innocent families and communities.

WHY DOESN'T GOD INTERVENE?

Some say God could remove all these dreadful circumstances. Certainly, He could. But if He did so without reason and purpose, providing sinful mankind with every blessing and benefit without restriction, He would never accomplish His ultimate purpose which is to produce a people *"for His Name "* (Acts 15:14), and to teach mankind the wisdom of His ways.

Without an understanding of God's Word, people do not acknowledge divine instruction, and are not prepared to accept God's teaching. We will not naturally follow the way of righteousness. Our evil characteristics are the cause of much of humanity's suffering. A society that throws off the restraint of the Scriptures causes the glaring injustices against its fellows which are so evident today.

The Bible invites us to separate from such a society; to recognize the evil condition of life about us; to acknowledge that we are no longer *"very good"*, but inherently *"desperately wicked"*, and therefore to seek for the means to raise ourselves above the hopelessness of sin, and seek for righteousness.

The Bible is the key to such a positive attitude. It clearly shows the way in which men and women can find real satisfaction in life, and obtain answers to the perplexing questions that otherwise seem to have no solution.

Good vs Evil

IS SUFFERING NECESSARY? WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS ALSO SUFFER?

The qualities that Almighty God seeks in His creatures, are summed up in Galatians 5:22-23, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."* These characteristics are not natural to us; they only come by development. Instead, we are born with selfish desires. These are uppermost in our consideration, and in most people remain the prime force of their lives.

But God wants to change that, and the means employed are often trial and suffering. Indeed, the Apostle Paul taught that it is *"through much tribulation"* that believers will *"enter the Kingdom of God"* (Acts 14:22). God does not exempt His servants from suffering and trials, for it is by such means that we are able to prove our courage and our conviction about the things we believe. Not only so, but it is through difficulties that a person is made stronger in character, more understanding and compassionate, and more faithful in disposition. These are characteristics with which God is pleased, and which will bring us peace.

There will be an end of suffering. Those who *"by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality"* will be granted *"eternal life"* (Romans 2: 7), the promise of *"divine nature"* (2 Peter 1:4), and the privilege of reigning as *"kings and priests"* with Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:10) by the grace of God. No more will the weaknesses of human nature be felt; no longer the diseases, distresses and frustrations of life; no longer the realization of increasing age, with all its weaknesses and concerns. The joy of immortality is beautifully expressed in the words of the prophet Isaiah: *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (ch. 40:31).

In the midst of a time of trouble the Psalmist confidently asserted, *"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock"* (Psalm 27:4-5). David knew that whatever trials he was required to face, God would protect him, so that ultimately he might achieve his heart's desire. So he tells us, *"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord"* (verse 14).

Terminology (Part 4)

PRECEPT - Commandment. An order, command, charge

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. " (Mark 10:5)

STATUTE - A commandment, decree, law, or ordinance

"And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. " (Leviticus 23:41)

SABBATH - rest

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. " (Exodus 20:11)

TONGUE - A language used by a particular people in distinction from that of other nations

"Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. " (Acts 2:11)

SAINT - Holy one

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus. " (Ephesians 1:1)

SATAN - adversary, one who withstands; adversary (in general - personal or national)

"But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. " (Matthew 16:23)

DEVIL - prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6: 70)

Terminology (Part 4)

LUCIFER - means "The morning-star", title given the King of Babylon

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12)

GENTILE - A Greek by nationality, whether a native of the mainland or of the Greek islands or colonies. 2) In a wider sense the name embraces all nations not Jews that made the language, customs, and learning of the Greeks their own.

"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. " (Romans 2:10)

ANGEL - A messenger, envoy, one who is sent, a messenger from God

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." (Acts 8:26)

SERAPHIM - Literally, "Burning, fiery." Specifically, a seraph or symbolic creature.

"Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly." (Isaiah 6:2)

CHERUBIM - The cherubs or symbolic figures. Plural of cherub. Not to be confused with angels.

"So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. " (Genesis 3:24)

Conclusion

After the death of Moses, Joshua was set up as the leader of the nation of Israel by God. God told Joshua to "be strong and of a good courage." He also told him,

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. " (Josh. 1:8)

Joshua heeded those words and led the people successfully into the land. The words proved true, for Joshua's way prospered and he had good success. At the end of his life, he gathered all Israel to him and said these words:

"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. " (Josh. 24:14-15)

These words echoed those of Moses, as he addressed the people of Israel prior to his death. In chapters 28-30 of Deuteronomy, Moses exhorts the people on obedience to God, outlining the blessings and cursing they would receive, whether obedient or disobedient. At the end of this discourse Moses says, *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. " (Deut. 30:19-20)*

As we bring this seminar to a close, we bring to remembrance that we are all created in the image of God, and therefore should be rendering unto God the things which are God's. The Bible contains His plan for mankind and the earth, and it alone contains the keys to salvation. Life is to be found in the Bible, and we have attempted to put you on the path to obtaining it.

As you move forward, you, too, have a choice: life or death. We encourage you to choose life, for both you and your families.

THE CHRISTADELPHIANS