

**An
Introduction To
And
How To
Understand The
Bible**

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Instructions for this study:

1. Read and study the book titled **“AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE & NOTES ON HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE”**
2. Memorize the following scriptures:
 - a. I Timothy 3:16-17
 - b. II Peter 1:3
 - c. Ephesians 3:3-5
 - d. Romans 16:25-
 - e. II Peter 1:20-21
 - f. Jude 3
3. Complete questions at the end of this book and cut them out and return them to your teacher for grading.

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Introduction

Bible is the most Wonderful and Amazing book ever written:

Although the word “Bible” means “the book”, it is actually a library of 66 books. Thirty nine books are found in the Old Testament and Twenty seven books are found in the New Testament.

There are about 40 different men who wrote the books of the Bible through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We are uncertain who some of the men were who wrote some of the passages in Psalms. There are 32 men who wrote the Old Testament and 8 men who wrote the New Testament.

The men who wrote the Bible came from different backgrounds. Some were kings, others were shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors, priests and farmers. These men wrote over a period of about 1500 years. These men wrote in different languages. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic and the New Testament was written in Greek.

When these men wrote their parts of the Bible, many of them did not know the other men who wrote other parts. They could not talk with one another and see that they wrote the same thing. Yet, when all the books they wrote were put together in the Bible as we have today, they all tell one story. They tell about where man came from, his fall into sin and God’s plan for salvation.

The 66 books of the Bible are telling us the same story. They are in harmony with one another. There is no contradictions in the word of God.

The Bible’s Inspiration, Completeness, and Purpose

When you consider the Bible and its authority, you should notice that not only is it in harmony, but it has other characteristics as well. The Bible had a source from which it was written, a purpose for the contents within it and it is complete.

Let us study these three verses below and others which help us look more closely to these concepts. Then, we can understand how God has revealed His word, purpose and how complete it was given to us.

1. I Timothy 3:16-17

- a. The word “**inspiration**” is a compound word. A compound word is a word that comes from more than one word. It is only used here in the New Testament. The word used is properly translated “inspired of God.” (Greek - theopneustos - inspired of God). If you take the compound word and separate it, it literally means “God breathed.”
 - 1) There is a difference between “revelation” and “inspiration.”
 - a) “Inspiration” has to do with the recording of this communication in a way that is dependable.
 - b) “Revelation” is communication of truth to man by God.
- b. The work of the inspired word is seen in four different areas. Notice how God helps us:
 - 1) “**For Teaching**” {what is right} - The important element here is content. The Scriptures provide inspired information to the preacher or teacher. Any other doctrine or teaching which does not come from the Scriptures is opinion. Therefore, one should only teach what Christ teaches (II Jn. 9) and not add or subtract (Rev. 22:18-19). So, we must speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.

- 2) “**For Reproof**” {what is not right} - Once Scriptures are accepted as God’s word, we can be convicted to remove all that is wrong. The word used here means to convict or show someone. The same kind of language is used in Matthew 18:15 (If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault), I Timothy 5:20 (Those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all) and Hebrews 11:1 in relation to what faith is.
- 3) “**For Instruction**” {how to get right} - The word for instruction can also be translated discipline or correction. The meaning of the word has reference to cutting straight or to make straight. Therefore, the inspired word is a manual for spiritual life.
- 4) “**For Training in Righteousness**” {how to stay right} - This is the same word that is used in Ephesians 6:4 and is translated ‘discipline.’ In other words, it is used to help discipline us to do what is right.

c. The result of inspiration: By using the Bible as a guideline it will affect man in two ways:

- 1) Make the man of God “**Complete**” - This word is also translated perfect. It literally means to “be complete, in fit shape, and in fit condition.” Thus, it can create a whole man (mature) of God.
- 2) Make the man of God “**Equipped for every good service**” - The word “equipped” can also be translated ‘furnished.’ In other words, the inspired word equips or furnishes the believer so that he can do what pleases God. Once a man is made complete and equipped, then, he can help others to do so.

2. II Peter 1:3

a. The Divine power has granted to us all things:

- 1) “**Pertaining to Life**” - This is the word which means life as far as a living thing (Greek - zoe - life). In other words, God’s power has granted to us the right way to live physically.
- 2) “**Pertaining to Godliness**” - This word refers to religion or spiritual living. The word here means to have a godly life so that one can do good deeds (Greek - eusebeia - godliness, godly life, religion).

b. The medium of Divine power is “the true knowledge” - We become aware of those things which are right when become conscious or we understand and recognize what is truth. This can only come from God as we looked at in II Timothy 3:16-17.

3. Ephesians 3:3-5

a. The Gospel of Christ is called a “**mystery**” - The Gospel of Christ is often referred to as a mystery in the New Testament (Eph. 1:9; 5:32; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27). This is because the worldly man can not understand it without help.

b. The “mystery” revealed - The mystery can only be understood if it is revealed from the one who knows the mystery. The mystery of God was revealed to Paul by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:7-11; Gal. 1:11-12). The term “**revealed**” (Greek - apokalyto - revealed) is used of our current knowledge of God’s plans which were previously hidden from the Old Testament people of God (Rom. 1:17-18; 16:26; I Cor. 2:10; 14:6; Gal. 1:12; 3:23; E[h. 3:3-5). The same term is used of historic knowledge unveiled by the Old Testament prophets (I Pet. 1:12). When the word is used in this way, the implication is the revelation written in the Scriptures.

4. Romans 16:25-27

a. Revelation of the mystery has been kept secret:

- 1) From earliest times, God had prepared the good news about Jesus. But, God kept His way of saving men a secret until it was revealed by Christ. Now the mystery is no longer a secret.
- 2) In times past, God spoke to men in many different ways, but it was not the summation of all things (Hebrews 1:1-2).

- b. The mystery has been revealed!
 - 1) The word had been revealed to the apostles through Christ (Jn. 17:17-20).
 - 2) The word was revealed to Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9).
 - 3) The mystery was summed up in Christ (Eph. 1:9).

5. II Peter 1:20-21

- a. No scripture is a matter of matter of one's own
 - 1) The word describing "**one's own**" gives the idea of coming from man to have knowledge (Greek - ginetai - arrive, possess). The idea presented is that the source of Scripture is not of man (it does not come from a man).
 - 2) The word for "**interpretation**" literally means to have an explanation (Greek - epilusis - interpretation, explanation).
 - 3) No Scripture is of man's opinion, but a revelation of the mind of God. **We search the Scriptures not to prove what we think is right, but to find what God says is right!**
- b. Not by human will -
 - 1) The wording used here shows us where the origin of Scripture did not come
 - 2) The word "**will**" means 'desire.' Therefore, the Scriptures did not come from man's desire or wish. The Scriptures came because God desired that we know His word. (Greek - theolotai - wish, desire, want, will) & (Greek - anthropou - man as in mankind).
- c. It was made by men moved by the Holy Spirit as spoken from God
 - 1) The medium (transmitter) - The Holy Spirit. It was made known (Greek - proheteuo - proclaim God's message, speak God's message intelligibly). Therefore, proclaimed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) The source (idea) - God - This is the source of the revelation. Therefore, the Bible is verbally inspired or God breathed. (II Timothy 3:16-17).

6. Jude 3

- a. "**Once for all**" - The word here is an adverb of time meaning one time for all time. (Greek - apas - once, one time, once for all time). Therefore, there is no other time of revelation or inspiration. It is finished.
- b. "**Delivered**" - The word here denotes a deliverance of a passing on of something. It also carries the idea of committing or entrusting something to someone (Greek - paradidomi - hand, give over, deliver, entrust).

In this chapter, we have seen that God has given us a precious gift. He has communicated His message to the writers of the Bible through the Holy Spirit. God did a very thorough job because His will has been given to us completely. It is no longer a mystery to us. We now can read and understand what the Creator expects of the created. Now, we have the responsibility to pass it on to others!

CHAPTER TWO

THE HISTORY AND DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

Introduction:

In this chapter, we will look at the periods of time found within the Old Testament times as well as the periods of time found within the New Testament times. After that we will see the books and how they are divided into different divisions.

Periods of Time as found in the Old Testament

There are twelve different periods of time seen in the Old Testament. Below these periods of time will be mentioned with the books listed that fall within them:

1. Antediluvian Period (Period before the flood) - from Creation until the Flood. Mankind went rapidly into sin. Because of this, God destroyed the world by a flood. This period of time lasted over 1600 years. (Gen. 1-8).
2. Postdiluvian Period (Period after the flood) - Man goes back into sin after the flood. (Gen. 9-11).
3. Patriarchal Period (Period of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) - God calls Abraham and his family. God plans to bless all nations through them. (Gen. 12-50; Job)
4. Period of Bondage - 400 years of captivity in Egypt. (Ex. 1-12).
5. Period of Wandering - 40 years of wandering in the desert. (Ex. 13-40; Lev.; Num.; Deut.)
6. Period of Conquest - Israel begins to conquer kingdoms. (Joshua)
7. Period of Judges - God chooses people to lead Israel. (Judges - I Sam. 1-7).
8. United Kingdom - The reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon. (I Sam. 8-31; II Sam.; I Kings 1-11; I Chron. 1-29; II Chron. 1-9) (Poetic books of Ps.; Prov.; Ecc.; Song of Sol. were written).
9. Divided Kingdom - The history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. (I Kings 12-22; II Kings; II Chron. 10-36) (Prophetic books of Isaiah, Jer.; Lam.; Hosea, Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; and Zeph. were written).
10. Period of Captivity in Babylon - 70 years of captivity in Babylon. (Dan.; Ezek.; and Ps. 127).
11. Period of Return and Restoration - (Ezra; Neh.; Esther; Haggai; Zech.; Mal.)
12. 400 years of silence between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Four Divisions of the Old Testament

There are four different divisions of the Old Testament. You will find each of these divisions defined below. You can also find a brief description of each book that is found within each division.

1. Law

- a. The Hebrew word for law is “torah.”
 - 1) The basic meaning for “torah” is ‘teaching or instruction.’
 - 2) It denotes instruction based on how one should live rather than on academic subjects.
 - 3) The law consists of all the statutes, ordinances, precepts, commandments, and testimonies given by God to guide His people.
 - 4) In time, the law came to indicate everything that God had revealed through Moses and in on sense it indicates the Pentateuch.
- b. The Greek word “Pentateuch.”
 - 1) This is a compound word which came to mean the five-fold book.
 - 2) Thus, it was the common name given to the five books of Moses.
- c. The books of the Law include:

- 1) **Genesis** (meaning “beginning”) - This book covers 2369 years - from the creation of Adam to the death of Joseph. The date of the writing was probably during the wanderings in the wilderness which was about 1491-1451 BC.
- 2) **Exodus** (meaning “going out”) - This book was also written during the wanderings in the wilderness. The book can be divided into two parts:
 - a) Historical (1:1-18:27) - This included Israel’s captivity after Joseph’s death and Moses’ education, flight, and return.
 - b) Legislative (19:10; 38) The early history of Israel as a nation is described in three parts: 1) A nation enslaved, 2) A nation redeemed, and 3) A nation set apart.
- 3) **Leviticus** (derived from the tribe of Levi) - This book was also probably written during the wanderings. The book explains how the worship and life of covenant people was to be organized.
- 4) **Numbers** (meaning the numbering of the tribes) - This book takes its name because it records two numberings of the people of Israel (Chapters. 1 and 26). Most of the book tells of the 40 years that the people wandered in the wilderness before they reached the promised land.
- 5) **Deuteronomy** (meaning the “repetition of the law”) - This book consists of three discourses delivered by Moses shortly before his death. It is also concluded by Moses’ death as recorded by a different writer.
 - a) The last 40 years in the wilderness (1:1-4:40)
 - b) The Law given on Sinai (5:1-16:19)
 - c) The elders of Israel are associated with Moses (27:1-30; 20).

2. History

- a. These are books which record events concerning the beginning and history of the nation of Israel under the leadership of God.
- b. Books of History:
 - 1) **Joshua** - Israel crosses the Jordan and begins to conquer the land under the leadership of Joshua.
 - 2) **Judges** - Records 305 years of history in which 13 judges were raised to deliver God’s people. In this period an interesting pattern was followed by God’s people in their lives.
 - a) Sin - Israel goes into idolatry.
 - b) Servitude - God allows other nations to enslave Israel.
 - c) Sorrow and Supplication - The people begin to be sorry for leaving God’s leadership.
 - d) Salvation - God sends a judge to save them. (see Judges 2:11-19).
 - 3) **Ruth** - A story of the love Ruth had towards her mother-in-law, which was written in the time of the judges. The lineage of Jesus is also mentioned.
 - 4) **I & II Samuel** - These books begin with the judging by Samuel and tells of the reigns of Saul and David.
 - 5) **I & II Kings** - These books begin with the reign of Solomon, the division of the kingdom, and ends in Babylonian captivity.
 - 6) **I & II Chronicles** - These books were written by Ezra and recorded basically the same things as I and II Kings except emphasis is given on different things.
 - 7) **Ezra** - This book tells about the return of Israel from captivity in Babylon and the restoration of Jewish worship and religion.
 - 8) **Nehemiah** - Records the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem after their return from Babylonian captivity.
 - 9) **Esther** - This book shows how God took care of the Jews who were scattered among the nations.

3. Poetry

- a. This is a type of writing that displays a certain literary form. It provokes the thoughts of the reader (it makes you think). These are basically, books which show the thoughts of certain individuals. Their thoughts involve many different matters about life.
- b. There are three types of poetry found in the Old Testament.
 - 1) Lyric poetry - Literature that abounds in illustrative embracing principles.
 - 2) Gnostic poetry - A type of literature that provokes philosophical thought.
 - 3) Dramatic poetry - A type of literature base on recital.
- c. The books of poetry:
 - 1) **Job** - A story (drama) of the faithfulness of Job during his personal tragedy.
 - 2) **Psalms** - A collection of sacred writings concerning the greatness of God and the coming Christ.
 - 3) **Proverbs** - A collection of wise sayings from Solomon.
 - 4) **Ecclesiastes** - Solomon's search for happiness is found in this book.
 - 5) **Song of Solomon** - Description of God's love for His people.

4. Prophecy

- a. These are the books in which God used men to tell about His will and warn the people as well as call them to repentance.
- b. Predictive prophecy is at once a part and an evidence of revelation. At the time delivered and until its fulfillment, a part: after it has been fulfilled, an evidence.
- c. The prophetic books are divided into two categories.
 - 1) **Major Prophets (5 books)**
 - a) **Isaiah** - Directed toward the people in the days of the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah. It concerns prophecy of the coming Messiah.
 - b) **Jeremiah** - Also written during the divided kingdom which speaks of the coming 70 years of captivity and release.
 - c) **Lamentations** - Written by Jeremiah and shows his grief over the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem.
 - d) **Ezekiel** - Written by a priest in Babylonian captivity telling of the destruction of Jerusalem. It tells of the coming kingdom in highly symbolic language.
 - e) **Daniel** - Written by a Jew who was taken into captivity. In it we see some of his experiences in Babylon. It also has prophecies about the coming kingdom.
 - 2) **Minor Prophets (12 books)**
 - a) **Hosea** - A book of prophecy aimed at Israel (usually called Ephraim), with a few references to Judah. It describes God's people in relationship to a marriage relationship.
 - b) **Joel** - When the country had been devastated by a plague of locusts, Joel tells of its spiritual significance.
 - i) The judgment past (locusts).
 - ii) The judgment at hand (the nations).
 - iii) The availability of God's mercy and His demand for repentance.
 - c) **Amos** - Amos preached to a prospering society. Although the society had many problems. His preaching is full of judgment and doom.
 - d) **Obadiah** - Records that the history of Israel would be blessed even though they were suffering from their enemy at the present time.
 - e) **Jonah** - Tells of the fate of a prophet who runs away from God. After spending three days in the stomach of a great fish, he returns to preach repentance to Ninevah. He then becomes mad because the people repent.
 - f) **Micah** - Micah lived during the time of Isaiah. He tells of the many problems coming upon

Samaria and Jerusalem because the people are full of wickedness. It contains prophecy about the birth of Christ.

- g) **Nahum** - Tells about the coming destruction of Ninevah because of their wickedness. This was written 150 years after Jonah.
- h) **Habakkuk** - The first part of the book is a dialogue with the prophet complaining to God and demanding an answer. No solution is given. It reveals the holiness of God.
- i) **Zephaniah** - This was written about the same time as Jeremiah. It tells of a people in their sins and calls them to repentance. A special emphasis is given in the context of “the day of the Lord.”
- j) **Haggai** - Haggai is not a typical fire and brimstone type of prophet. He is quiet not loud. He is sometimes thought of as more of a teacher than a prophet. He leads the people step by step and manages to get them to respond.
- k) **Zechariah** - The prophecy is divided into two parts: 1) Seven visions, and, 2) Themes of judgment and salvation.
- l) **Malachi** - This prophecy was written after the period of exile when many Jews returned to their land. It was a time of spiritual decline for Jewish religion where worship had become a formality.

Periods of Time as found in the New Testament

There are two periods of time referred to in New Testament times. This time frame includes the period of history that we now live in called the Church or Christian age. The periods of history in New Testament times are:

- 1. Life of Christ - This is the period of time from the birth of Christ until His resurrection into heaven. (Matt.; Mk.; Lk.; Jn.)
- 2. Church Age - This is the period of time beginning with the apostles taking the gospel into the world and will end when Christ returns. (Acts; Rom.; I & II Cor.; Gal.; Eph.; Phil.; Col.; I & II Thess.; I & II Tim.; Tit.; Phile.; Heb.; Jas.; I & II Pet.; I & II & III Jn.; Jude; Rev.)

The Four Divisions of the New Testament

There are four different divisions of the Old Testament. You will find each of these divisions defined below. You can also find a brief description of each book that is found within each division.

1.

- a. This begins the birth of John the Baptizer and continues until the resurrection of Christ.
- b. There are four books in this division which are commonly referred to as the Gospels.
- c. The four books:
 - 1) **Matthew** - This book was written primarily for Jewish readers by a tax collector. There are 65 references to the Old Testament in this book. He speaks of the kingdom of heaven 33 times. The book records the life of Christ Jesus being the King of the Jews. This shows the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. (Date: 61 AD)
 - 2) **Mark** - This book seems to be written for the Roman way of thinking. It pictures Christ as being the mighty Son of God. It seems to be the most vivid and dramatic, yet the shortest of the Gospels. (Date: 63 AD)
 - 3) **Luke** - Written to Greek speaking Gentiles by a doctor. It portrays the Christ as a compassionate Son of Man. Special interests can be seen in prayer, the Holy Spirit, and the theme of joy. (Date: 60-62 AD)

- 4) **John** - Written primarily to Christians by an endeared apostle of Jesus. The book portrays the life of Christ with a special interest on His eternal existence with God. It seems to have been written to fight against false ideas concerning Christ and His nature. (Date: 66 AD)

2. History

- a. This covers the period of time from the ascension of Jesus until the time Paul proclaims the Gospel in Rome.
- b. This division includes one book:
Acts - This is the second book written by Luke to tell the result of the Life of Jesus. It tells of the establishment of the church shortly after the ascension and tells about the growth that follows for the next 30 years. It tells of the 3 missionary journeys of Paul as well as his trip to Rome. (Date: 63 AD).

3. Epistles

- a. These are letters written to both churches and individuals.
- b. There are 21 books included in this division of the New Testament writings.
- c. The epistles can be divided into two categories:

1) Epistles of Paul

- a) **Romans** - This letter was dictated to Tertius (a friend of Paul) in Corinth. The book tells of the power of the Gospel to save men in contrast to the Law of Moses. It was a letter sent to the Church of Christ in Rome. (Date: 57 AD)
- b) **I Corinthians** - The first letter was written to a church full of division (there seems to be either 3 or 4 letters written to this church, but, only two survived) in Corinth. Its purpose was to correct some sinful practices among the Christians in the church at Corinth. (Date: 55 AD)
- c) **II** - This was another letter written by Paul to the Christians in Corinth. Paul here reveals his happiness over the good way that the church received his previous letter (s?). He also defends himself against enemies who were present in the church. The enemies were carrying in Jewish traditions and corrupting the work. (Date: 56 AD)
- d) **Galatians** - This was a letter written to the church in Galatia. These Christians were trying to hold onto the Old Law. Paul tells these people that they can not hold on to both laws. (Date: 48 AD)
- e) **Ephesians** - This was written to the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison. It was written about the same time he wrote the letters to the Colossians and Philemon. (Date: 62 AD). The main themes are: 1) Salvation by the grace of God, 2) The name of Jesus exalted, and, 3) The work of Christians in the church.
- f) **Philippians** - Paul wrote this letter from prison. (Date: 62 AD) It is a thank you letter to the church in Philippi for their continued support as he traveled to spread the Gospel. It is a letter of encouragement.
- g) **Colossians** - This letter is very similar to the letter written to the Ephesian church. It was probably written at the same time. It warns of false teaching being taught and being practiced. (Date: 62 AD).
- h) **I** - The letter is a follow up letter to the new converts in the city of Thessalonica. It was written to remind them of some basic truths that they had been taught before. Its purpose was to correct some bad practices. (Date: 52 AD)
- i) **II Thessalonica** - This was the second letter written to the church in Thessalonica. It was written to correct some misunderstandings about the second coming of Christ. (Date: 53

AD)

- j) **I & II Timothy** - These two letters were written to a young evangelist named Timothy who was strengthening the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote this young evangelist giving him instructions for evangelists and the leadership of the local congregation. (Date: 63 AD)
- k) **Titus** - Paul wrote Titus after he had been left in Crete. He had been left behind to straighten out some things within the church. He was also to set forth elders in the church there. (Date: 67 AD)
- l) **Philemon** - This is a letter written to a wealthy Christian who lived in Colossae. Philemon's slave Onesimus had ran away and met Paul. Paul converted him. Therefore, Paul appeals to Philemon to accept this slave back because Onesimus desired to repent and return. (Date: 63 AD)

2) General Epistles

- a) **Hebrews** - The writer of this letter is not known. It was written to Jewish believers who were struggling with their new religion found in Christ. The author of the letter writes with the purpose of showing the power of the Old Testament Law was broken when Christ died. Therefore, they are no longer under the Law of Moses. Christ established a new and better covenant built upon better promises. A special theme is the superiority of Christ. (Date: 64 AD)
- b) **James** - This letter was written by the brother of Jesus. It was written to suffering Christians. These Christians were facing hardships, oppression, and persecution. These people were scattered throughout the world. He writes to warn them that having the faith and knowledge were not enough, you must live the life of a Christian. (Date: 62 AD)
- c) **I & II Peter** - In these letters written by Peter, he warns Christians about false teachers and falling away. He gives instructions to Christians in general, wives, husbands, and elders. (Date: 64 AD)
- d) **I & II & III John** - Written by the apostle John when he was an old man. He seems to concentrate on the dangers of false teachers in the churches. He also spends much time on teaching and fellowship. (Date: 70 AD)
- e) **Jude** - A letter written by the brother of Jesus to warn people to take a stand for the Gospel. Christians must keep the Gospel pure and stay away from false teachers. (64 AD)

4. Prophecy

- a. This division of the New Testament contains one book.
- b. This book is written in highly symbolic language.
- c. It was written to encourage the persecuted Christians.
- d. The book is:

Revelation - This letter was written by John as he had seen a vision. It was written to the church in general. It was written to give the Christians encouragement as they were facing problems with persecution. It shows that in the end Christ's Church and His people will win over Satan and the world that is persecuting them. (Date: 95 AD)

Conclusion:

In this chapter, we have seen periods of time found within the Old Testament times as well as the periods of time found within the New Testament times. After that saw the books and how they are divided into different divisions thus giving us the complete word of God.

CHAPTER THREE

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

UNDERSTANDING

The word of God was written in such a way that we might understand what God wants of us (Ephesians 3:4; II Timothy 3:16-17). By following a few simple rules of study, the Bible will be much more interesting and meaningful for us. This is one of the main purposes of this course. We need to learn “How to Study the Bible” in a better more effective way.

There are certain steps that when they are followed, will help you to understand God’s word. This is called a plan or method of study. We will discuss some of those steps in this next section of study.

I. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE PROPER DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE.

We have just looked at the divisions of the Old and New Testaments, but, there are some things which we need to understand concerning them.

1. We are no longer under the Old Testament. (Col. 2:14)
2. The Gospel of Christ came into effect after the death and resurrection of Christ. (Heb. 9:15-17)
3. Some things which Jesus taught during His ministry anticipated truths of the Gospel. Examples:
 - a. The contrast between the Law of Moses and His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt. 5:17,21-22, 28, 32-34,38-39,43-45)
 - b. Jesus’ teaching concerning marriage and divorce. (Matt. 19:9)
4. Some things Jesus said were limited to the time that He was on earth and directed towards specific people. Examples:
 - a. Telling the rich young ruler to sell all that he had and follow Him. (Mk. 10:17-31)
 - b. Saying to the thief on the cross that today he would be with Him in Paradise. (Lk. 23:39-43)

II. WE MUST ASK FOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EACH PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE THAT WE STUDY.

We must do more than just read a scripture and see only the words. There is a message or teaching to be found in the words of God that are recorded in the Bible. If we can learn to ask some important questions, we will begin to understand how to study the Bible in a better way.

1. We must ask, **Who is the speaker?** Is it God, the Devil, an inspired apostle or evangelist? Could it be an uninspired person who is just expressing an opinion? This is one of the first things we must determine! The Bible accurately records what people said on different occasions. We need to determine just who it is that is speaking to understand their motivation for the words that they speak.
2. We must ask, **To whom is the statement addressed?** Is the statement being made or is the command given, being spoken to a Christian, alien sinner, an elder in the church, perhaps a deacon, or husband or wife, child or servant. Are the words intended for an Old Testament character or is it something that concerns us today?
3. We must ask, **What is the purpose or intent of the statement?** Does it concern a Christian duty? Is it a historical or geographical fact, a warning or a request? Just what is the purpose for the words being spoken?
4. We must ask, **How does this passage fit into its setting or context?** (The word “context” means: ‘How is it related to the adjoining passages or the other passages around it?’) What is said before

and what comes after the passages you are studying? How do these things relate to the words you are reading? A single passage must not be interpreted in a way to conflict with its setting among the surrounding passages. It is not intended to conflict with its setting or what the Bible teaches somewhere else.

III. WE MUST USE COMMON SENSE OR GOOD THINKING.

God has given us minds which allow us to see and understand things. Good thinking lets us see the facts and understand how they relate to other things. We can look at and understand all of the ideas which are being presented. The problems we face in six things which give us problems in trying to understand God's word.

1. **Prejustice** - (holding opinions which many times are not based upon fact). No one is free of prejustice. Feelings or beliefs of what is right or wrong, what is good or bad are given to us as children, taught by our heritage, background and traditions. Prejustice will keep us from good thinking concerning God's word, because we will feel things should be different than what God's word says.
2. **Preconceived Opinion** - (The word "preconceived" deals with ideas which we bring with us in trying to understand God's word.) This comes from the practice of supposing something exists or assuming something is true without having studied it or having proof from God's word.
3. **Wishful Thinking** - We all have our desires and our wants, things we "wish" were true. Wishing things were true and even teaching or telling people that they are true will not make them true.
4. **Generalizations** - This is a practice of making broad statements or conclusions concerning God's word. We do it in everyday life. We say things like "every time I get a little more money, the price of maize goes up!" This is a generalization, we take something that sometimes might be true and say that it is true "all" of the time. Many people do this with God's word, but have little understanding. They make statements like "Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would go to Paradise without being baptized, therefore, all we need to do today is believe on Jesus to be saved." That is a generalization, which is not backed up by the rest of God's word.
5. **Appeals to Human Authority** - This is a practice of throwing out the names of big men or authorities to try to prove a teaching. People say things like, "My church teaches" or "The missionaries teach" or "Don't you think" There is no authority in humans, it is "ALL" found in the "Word of God" alone.
6. **Appeals to be Popular** - Many people want to do what other people are doing. They see someone following a religious practice and say, "Others are doing it, so it must be all right." People say, "In many churches they beat the drum, therefore it must be all right. There are many big men in that church, and for sure they would not do something against God's word." Yet we know that is not true.

IV. TO STUDY THE BIBLE CORRECTLY, WE MUST DEVELOP THE PROPER ATTITUDES.

One of the main reasons that people misunderstand the Bible, is that the student studies the Bible with the wrong attitude. This is the problem that Jesus faced as He began His ministry. Read Matthew 13:1-23. This is the same reason why many people of Jesus' own nation never understood God's great words as taught by Jesus. In this section, we will study eight attitudes that we must have to study correctly.

1. **Be willing to work** - There is not other attitude or activity that will do more for the student. You must work to harvest the fruit that you also labor to plant and raise. (Gen. 3:19; I Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11-12)
2. **Trust the Word of God** - To study properly, the student must study the Bible, never wavering in his faith that it is the Word of God. Unbelief will cause us to stumble (II Cor. 4:3-4). We can not understand the great truths of God if we can not accept the Bible as His full and complete word.
3. **Show reverence for the Word of God** - It must be held with the highest respect, regarded as more important than anything else in life (Job 23:12; Lk. 4:4).
4. **Expect to find Joy** - Read Psalms 119:162 and 1:2. Avoid making Bible study a thing of work. Find joy in studying God's Word.
5. **Love the Word of God** - Read Psalms 119:97,113,159,167. It is natural that we will desire to learn more about the scripture if we truly love it.
6. **Desire to understand the Word of God** - Ask yourself the following questions:
 - a. Are you willing to seek the truth even if you must stand alone in holding to the truth?
 - b. Are you willing to yield to the Bible, wherever it leads you?
 - c. Are you able to endure the truth, no matter how uncomfortable it makes you?
 - d. Are you willing to arrive at the truth, putting away your own opinion, desire, hope and previous teaching?
 - e. Are you willing to search each new fact without fear of what you might find?
 - f. Are you willing to study what you dislike as well as what you like?
 - g. Are you willing to give up all the concepts of wrong thinking we discussed earlier?
7. **You must stay away from corruption of the word** - This means we must stay away from false teachers among denominations and stop reading books which teach false doctrines. We can not invite a denominational preacher to come and teach in our congregations or pass out their printed material to our churches. Read carefully what God's word says about this. (II Tim. 3; II Cor. 2:17; Gal. 1:6-8; Eph. 4:14; Col. 2:4,8; I Tim. 6:3-5; II Tim. 2:14-16; Titus 1:10-14; II Pet. 2:1-3; II Jn. 7-11).
8. **You must cement the Word of God to your heart with Prayer** - It is so important that God has promised to reward our prayers (James 1:5).

V. HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.

We know that reading the Word of God is important, but how we read it is important also.

Notice four things that are involved in the proper reading of God's Word.

1. **The Reading Itself** - Reading is one of the most difficult things for many people to do. Many people fall asleep trying to read God's Word after a hard day of working. Concentration is sometimes hard. Notice some suggestions on "How to Read":
 - a. **Read Aloud** - You will begin to learn some many more things as you hear your own voice speaking words and sentences you may never have said before. Read with feeling and put meaning into the words you read.
 - b. **Read Carefully** - Study the Bible as a traveler who does not leave the road he is traveling. Stop as you walk through the paths in the Bible and look across the fields for truth. Climb the mountains of vision, cross the valleys of trial, cool yourself in the streams of inspiration.
 - c. **Read Repeatedly** - Return often to the beginning of a scripture. Don't ever say that you have learned all there is to know about a verse or scripture just because you know all the words by memory.
 - d. **Read noticing the surrounding verses** - In the Bible you should keep your eyes open to the surrounding context of the words that you are reading.
2. **Stop and Think about what you Read** - In the Bible reading reflection (stopping and thinking) is the

mind and heart at work. We need to think over what the eyes have seen (Ps. 119:11)

3. **Recording** - It is impossible for you to remember very long all of the things that you see when you study the Bible correctly. This is because the Bible contains so many truths from God. As you find new things in your study, write them down, both on paper and in the margin of your Bible. Underline words and phrases that touch your heart. Not only does this provide a permanent record of what you have learned, it helps you find other questions to investigate. Notice some suggestions of things which you might write down.
 - a. What is the main point being made in the passage?
 - b. What do other portions of the Bible say that relates to some of the same truths?
 - c. What in the passage is difficult to understand and that problems does it deal with?
 - d. How does the passage apply to life today?
4. **Respond to your Reading** - We need to practice what we read as well as reflect upon it. As we study God's Word, we need to begin to take some action in our life to apply what we learn. There are three main ways in which we can respond.
 - a. *Respond with confession* - Whenever we read the Bible, it should always be with a heart that knows if sin and confesses sin to God. When we do that the channel is cleared for further communication with God and we begin to receive the blessings of peace which comes through a greater knowledge of God.
 - b. *Respond in faith* - Faith involves every part of our Christian life, including our Bible reading. If we do not read the Bible with a believing heart we are the losers. Read Hebrews 4:2.
 - c. *Respond with obedience* - When we obey God's Word, we are demonstrating where our faith rests and how strong it is. We may not always understand God's ways, but we must always walk in His steps.

CHAPTER FOUR

HOW TO USE RESOURCES WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION:

One of the main assets to making a proper lesson for teaching or preaching is learning how to use other resources in our lesson preparations. Today, we will learn how to use the following tools in order to enhance our study skills. It will also help us to broaden our minds as we use the resources from others. All of us are limited in our thinking. It helps when we can read the ideas, history, and word studies that others have labored for hours in assisting us to help others understand.

We will be looking how to use the following resources in today's lessons. The resources are: 1) Bible 2) Atlases 3) Commentaries 4) Concordances 5) Dictionaries 6) Handbooks and, 7) Miscellaneous Resources.

1. Bible

First you need a Bible. In Africa it is difficult to find a good Bible for study that people can afford. You will need to find one that you can read easily. It is always a good idea to have one that is written in your mother tongue. If you choose to use an English translation of the Bible, I would recommend the NIV (New International Version) or the Simple English Version. The New King James Version is very good also. If possible find a Bible that is large enough that you can read it easily.

2. Atlases

Maps and atlases are a good study tool. The Bible is a historical record. Locating and understanding where events happened helps us to better understand the message it contains.

Atlas was the mythical Greek god who was condemned to carry the world on his shoulders. So it was a stroke of genius when Gerald Mercator used a picture of Atlas on the cover of his map collection entitled: Atlas, or a Geographical Description of the World. He did this in 1667. Today, few people remember who Mercator is, but the name of Atlas has continued to be applied to many map collections even until today.

A Bible Atlas is important to any serious Bible student because it helps him not only understand where certain cities were, but, it also helps him to appreciate the journeys of different Bible characters and nations.

It is important to note that not all locations referred to in the Bible have been located by today's scholars. However, most places have been given an identity.

a. What You Should Expect in a Good Atlas:

- 1) Maps from various eras of Bible
- 2) Maps which include major rivers, mountains and, other geographical features.
- 3) Maps which identify cities that figure significantly in Bible history.
- 4) A gazetteer of places and features shown on its maps.

b. How to Use a Bible Atlas:

- 1) Remember that the city or feature you are trying to locate may have an alternate name.
- 2) Beware of duplicate names.

- 3) Be sure to consult the proper map for the proper period of history you are studying.
- 4) Compare the scale of a Bible map to that of a map of an area that you know, to get an idea of relative sizes and distances.
- 5) Keep a supply of tracing paper in your atlas.

3. Commentaries:

There are so many commentaries and books available that it does nothing but confuse many people just trying to decide what to buy. I suggest that you talk to someone that is familiar with commentaries or books before purchasing any.

A commentary is a book written by a commentator (a man or woman) to try to help explain what different passages are trying to state. Many times it gives you ideas of other things that relate to the same scripture idea or gives you background as to why a certain thing was done a certain way.

A commentator (writer of a commentary) is one “who builds bridges between the past and the present.” He rephrases the Word so that the common man has a better understanding. He explains the history and meanings of words that may not be realized by the average man. And he applies the Word to its application for today’s society.

a. What to Expect in a Commentary

- 1) Presentation of the Scriptures simply and purely as possible.
- 2) It should explain (if possible) any confusing words or phrases in each passage.
- 3) It should identify the major themes of the book.
- 4) It should sketch the cultural background against which the book was written.

b. Types of Commentaries

- 1) Devotional - designed to give inspirational thoughts of Scripture without many details.
- 2) Practical - Emphasizes the daily application of Scripture to daily living.
- 3) Scholarly - uses extensive research to unlock Bible truths giving much pertinent
- 4) Expository - this is the most common type of commentary which explains a scripture in its text form linguistics, theology, and ancient history.
- 5) Exegetical - An exegesis based on terminology, archaeological finds, and word studies taken from the Greek and Hebrew text.

c. How to Use Commentaries

- 1) Pray that God will help you understand what you read.
- 2) Read and reread the Bible passage you plan to study.
- 3) Read the Bible passage in another version, for comparison.
- 4) Outline the scripture passage.
- 5) Reflect on what this Bible passage means to you in your life.
- 6) Consult a more than one commentary for further insights.

WATCH OUT FOR FALSE TEACHINGS!!!!!! They are only the words of men.

4. CONCORDANCES

A Bible concordance is the Bible student’s best friend. The concordance lists each time a word is found in the Bible and gives the passage in which the word is found. You simply look up a word or part of the verse you desire to find and the concordance will tell you where to turn in the Bible to find the passage. This allows you to find a verse when you only remember a part of it or find verses dealing with certain subjects.

Bible concordances were being published long before the King James version was ever written, In fact, the first Bible concordance was compiled before the Bible had even been divided into verses. The original purpose of the Bible concordance was not to help people find elusive verses. They were originally written as people put together similar phrases or words.

As the years followed, men began to compile similar concordances of the Hebrew Bible, Septuagint, and the Greek New Testament. The first English concordance was written by Thomas Gibson in 1540 for the New Testament. In 1550, John Marbeck published the first concordance in English to include both the Old and New Testaments. Probably the most recognized concordance today is the Cruden's Concordance or the Strong's Concordance.

a. What to Use a Concordance for:

- 1) Find a familiar scripture.
- 2) Proof texting.
- 3) Word studies.
- 4) Topical studies.

b. Concordances are not:

A SUBSTITUTE FOR MEMORIZATION!

5. BIBLE DICTIONARIES

This is much like any other dictionary with which you may be familiar, except that it contains Bible things, persons, places, events, mountains, rivers, cities, etc. It gives us the meaning of the words in the Bible times when the words were written.

Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias are not something new. They have been in circulation for centuries. The first Bible Dictionary was compiled by Eusebius of Caesarea in the fourth century (339 AD). Thus, Eusebius aroused the desire of people to learn facts and details of the Holy Lands that is greater today than it has ever been.

a. What a Bible Dictionary is Used for:

- 1) Filling in the gaps of our Bible
- 2) Finding relevant facts pertaining to Bible history.

b. Difference Between a Dictionary and an Encyclopedia:

- 1) Dictionary - is a list of important words or phrases and explains them.
- 2) Encyclopedia - it discusses all things the editors feel might help in understanding the Bible. It may include: history, archaeology, astrology, astronomy, and even philosophy.

c. How to Use These Aids:

- 1) To find more detailed information about a Bible person or place.
- 2) To define the meaning of an obscure Bible term.
- 3) To follow the history of an ancient culture.
- 4) To research the origins of a Christian or Jewish doctrine.
- 5) To compare the lifestyles of ancient Bible culture and modern lifestyle.
- 6) To visualize what you are reading in the Bible.
- 7) To analyze the Bible as a book of literature.

6. BIBLE HANDBOOKS

The first Bible Handbook that was published was in 1924. It was the Halley's Bible Handbook. It is probably the most used handbook even until today.

Unlike encyclopedias and dictionaries that make listings in alphabetical order, the handbook takes things in chronological order or according to the order as listed in order of the Bible books.

a. *What Does a Handbook do?*

- 1) It should give a synopsis of each book.
- 2) It should refer to related items of history and archaeological finds.
- 3) It should provide a minimal outline of scripture.

b. *Basically it only covers the highlights of Biblical research.*

7. MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES

Some other valuable resources in aiding your studies might include:

- 1) **Analyses and Outlines** - These give a simple review of a Bible story or study.
- 2) **Harmonies** - This allows the student to analyze parallel passages which are written by different authors.
- 3) **Chronologies** - These are attempts to place dates to Bible events in terms of our modern day calendar.
- 4) **Character Studies** - To study a Bible character and his activities or the character of his writings.
- 5) **Archaeological Studies** - Archaeological facts often make the best evidence in placing truths and events together.

CONCLUSION

As you can see a good student must be aware of the resources available to expand his knowledge of God's Word. It is essential to have good resources in order to understand where places were and to us in understanding the culture in which the Bible was written. All the information we can gather will not only give us a better understanding, but those in whom we teach.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF STUDY

INTRODUCTION:

When one wants to study God's Word, he must first consider which type of study method to use. There are many different methods to choose from. Some of these methods are:

1. *Topical* - using a topic as the basis of study.
2. *Devotional* - a thought or idea with emphasis on praise and self application.
3. *Grammatical* - to use the grammar and make the appropriate applications.
4. *Word* - the study of a word and its meaning.
5. *Exegetical* - the study of a scripture in its context.
6. *Historical* - the study of the history behind a passage.

All these methods of study have their place and advantages. You can also include more than one type of method in your study. However, it does not matter what method you use if you have not learned how to take proper notes. In this short lesson we will learn how to take notes and apply them to study. We will also discuss how to keep these notes.

I. STORING YOUR NOTES:

It is important that we keep our notes in an orderly manner. This is because that we may need to refer to them again someday in the future. I would like to make a few suggestions regarding this.

1. Start a filing system.
2. Keep your files in order.
3. Keep a record (or index) of where each file is located within your filing system.

Illustration: If I want to find out about the word love. I can go to the files under "L" and see the topic "of love." I will also find a reference to look under the file for I Corinthians 13:1ff under the file for the letter to the Corinthians. Therefore, I have several files to choose from.

4. You should keep your files in a safe environment and away from damp or wet areas.

II. TAKING NOTES:

There are many different methods of taking notes. However, there are some basic fundamental methods which are helpful. Some helpful hints are as follows:

1. *Make a heading* of what you are taking notes about (example: Love)
2. *State your source* (example: Young's Concordance, Evangel Press, 1985, pages 23-24)
3. *Write neatly*, someone else may want to read your notes sometime.
4. When studying a passage *notice*:
 - a. What is the main point being made?
 - b. What do other portions of the Bible say that relate to the same truths found in the passage?
 - c. What in the passage is difficult to understand?
 - d. What problems does the passage deal with?
 - e. How does this passage apply to my life?

APPLICATION:

In this section of the lesson, we will begin to apply what we have learned. This practice will enlighten our understanding of a meaningful way to take notes. We will begin by taking notes on a specific book or letter, then a specific passage, and finally a specific topic.

1. Taking Notes of a Book or Letter

Let us begin by making a page of study notes concerning a letter or book of the New Testament. You may want to have a file for each letter or book of the New Testament. This gives you a quick and easy reference in your study.

1. *Label the top of your paper with the letter* you intend to make notes about.
2. *Create the following headings:*
 - a. Author (Who wrote the Book)
 - b. Recipient (Who were the readers)
 - 1) Who were they?
 - 2) Where were they?
 - 3) What was the circumstances of their culture?
 - c. Date (When was the book written)
 - d. Purpose (Why was the book written)
 - e. Main Themes in the book
 - f. Outline (Brief)
3. Always *document where you get your information* (whether from a source book or from scripture)
4. Always leave space under each heading so you can add information in later studies or show places of reference found in other files.

2. Taking Notes of a Specific Passage

Viewing a passage in its context is very essential in preaching or teaching God's Word. Too many times people take the Scriptures out of their context and try to establish an idea in which they are trying to prove. Before you research and take notes, you should read the passage several times using the guidelines that we discussed above. When taking notes or researching a passage you may want to follow the following example.

1. *Label the top of your paper with the passage* you intend to study.
2. Next *make a subheading and label it "Facts"* then answer the four following questions:
 - a. Who is the speaker?
 - b. To whom is the statement addressed?
 - c. How does this passage fit into its setting or context?
 - d. What is the purpose or intent of the passage?
3. Next *separate the verses accordingly*. Note the flow of ideas and distinctions between explanations, illustrations, and conclusions.
4. Make *notes from different sources*:
 - a. Look for different things which need defined, such as:
 - 1) Words - which stand out or have a big emphasis within the passage.
 - 2) Customs or Traditions - things which were a common practice in the first century.
 - 3) Ideas or Phrases - which need explanation.
 - b. Find other Scriptures which relate to the idea expressed in the passage.

- c. Write down any applications or illustrations which can help make the passage clear.
4. Always *document where you get your information* (whether from a source book or from scripture).
5. Always leave space under each heading (when space allows) so you can add information in later studies or show places of reference found in other files.

3. Taking Notes on a Specific Topic

Researching a specific topic can be important if one desires to have a clear understanding. There are several things one must consider when studying a topic. You should consider the definition of the word and how it came into being. You should see if the word developed its meaning through time and how that came to be. You should also consider if the word has more than one meaning and how to fit the proper definition in the proper context. You may want to follow the following pattern to research a topic:

1. *Label the top of your paper with the topic* you intend to study.
2. Next *define the term* that you will study.
 - a. Note if there is an equivalent Hebrew or Greek term for the word.
 - b. If the term is not clear to you define it in English or your own vernacular.
3. Try to *discover what is behind the term*:
 - a. Historically
 - b. Grammatically
 - c. Culturally
4. Find *Scriptures which relate to the idea* expressed in the passage
 - a. Discover how the term is used.
 - b. How many times is the term used.
5. Always document where you get your information (whether from a source book or from scripture).
- 6 Always leave space under each heading (when space allows) so you can add information in later studies or show places of reference found in other files.

CONCLUSION:

It becomes evident after a study on “How to Study” that good study habits are essential in understanding God’s Word. If one is going to speak with authority, he must study diligently and take proper notes. When notes are available, it gives one confidence and credibility. Therefore, he not only gains self confidence, but also, the confidence of those in whom he teaches. When the teacher has a good understanding, he can then help those who have not studied become more aware of God’s Word. Let us all strive to master the art of studying so that we do not waste the time of those who sit and listen to us.

**FINAL TEST -
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE & NOTES ON HOW TO STUDY THE**

Name: _____
ID (student) # _____ / _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Please tick the correct answer (s). It is possible for a question to have more than one correct answer.

1. The word "BIBLE" means:

- a. "From the beginning"
- b. "God breathed"
- c. "The Book"
- d. "The Holy Writings"

2. The Bible contains how many books (or letters)?

- a. 66
- b. 32
- c. 27
- d. 45

3. How many books (or letters) are contained in the New Testament?

- a. 66
- b. 32
- c. 27
- d. 45

4. How many men wrote the Old Testament

- a. 66
- b. 32
- c. 8
- d. 27

5. How many men wrote the New Testament?

- a. 66
- b. 32
- c. 8
- d. 27

6. How many years did it take to write the whole Bible?

- a. 300
- b. 1200
- c. 1500
- d. 3000

7. The word "Inspired" literally means:

- a. "From God"
- b. "The thoughts of God"
- c. "God breathed"

8. Inspiration has to do with:

- a. Recording the communication of God in a dependable way.
- b. Receiving the Holy Spirit
- c. Communication of truth to man by God

9. Revelation has to do with:
- a. Recording the communication of God in a dependable way.
 - b. Receiving the Holy Spirit
 - c. Communication of truth to man by God
10. The inspired word of God has what work?
- a. Teaching
 - b. Reproof
 - c. Instruction
 - d. Training
11. What is the result of inspiration?
- a. to make men complete
 - b. to condemn men
 - c. to equip the man of God
 - d. to confuse the unbelievers
12. What has been revealed concerning the gospel through the Bible?
- a. How God looks
 - b. The Mystery
 - c. What Heaven is like
13. How is the Bible to be interpreted (or explained)?
- a. as each person pleases
 - b. as each person understands it
 - d. by what is revealed by God
14. Concerning revelations of His will, God has:
- a. continued to give new revelations of His word
 - b. given it once for all time in the Bible
 - c. continued to send new prophets with new revelations even today
15. There are two "Times" into which the Bible is divided, they are?
- a. The times of the Prophets and Kings
 - b. The times of the Judges and Priests
 - c. the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - d. The times of Abraham and Jesus
16. How many periods is the Old Testament divided into?
- a. 9
 - b. 2
 - c. 12
 - d. 25
17. The "Antediluvian period" was,
- a. the period before the flood
 - b. the period that God was against "diluvians"
 - c. the time of Abraham
18. The "Postdiluvian period" was,
- a. the period in which God sent his word by the post
 - b. the period after the flood
 - c. the time of Adam

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19. The “Patriarchal period” was,
 a. the period after the flood
 b. the period of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 c. the period when God ruled through judges
20. The Hebrew word, “TORAH” means,
 a “the book Law” .
 b. “Sent by God”
 c “God Bless You”
21. The Greek word, “PENTATEUCH” means,
 a. Five fold books
 b. The book of the law
 c. The books of the judges
22. The name “Genesis” means,
 a. “Created by God
 b. “The beginnings”
 c. “The first born”
23. The name “Exodus” means,
 a. “Created by God”
 b. “the beginnings”
 c. “Going Out”
24. The word “Epistles” means,
 a. “A follower of Jesus
 b. “a part of the law”
 c. “a letter written to both the church and individuals”
25. The book of Revelation was,
 a. a book which no one can understand
 b. a letter written by John as he had seen a vision
26. The word of God was written in such a way that,
 a. only special people can understand it
 b. we might understand what God wants
 c. only people who have been to bible colleges can understand it
27. Concerning the Old Testament,
 a. we are still under parts of it.
 b. we are still under all of it.
 c. we are no longer under any of it.
28. One of the four questions we must ask about each passage we study is:
 a. Why should I read this?
 b. Who is the speaker?
 c. What is the purpose or intent of the statement?
29. The word “Prejudice” means,
 a. “holding opinions which many times are not based on fact”
 b. “following the common belief of your family”

c. “thinking and acting in the wrong way”

30. The word “Preconceived” means,

- a. to be born outside of marriage
- b. describes the way Jesus was born
- c. assuming something is true without having studied it.

31. To study the Bible correctly we must,

- a. pray every day
- b. listen carefully to our Bible teachers
- c. develop the proper attitudes

32. A “Atlas” is,

- a. a very strong man
- b. a book of maps
- c. the pages in the back of your Bible

33. Commentaries are:

- a. inspired writings from God
- b. a book written by someone to help explain what different passages are trying to say
- c. common writings concerning places men travel

34. Concordances are:

- a. something we should avoid
- b. the Bible students best friend
- c. something to help us find verses of scripture by looking up part of the verse

35. When storing your study notes, you should:

- a. start a filing system
- b. keep your files in order
- c. keep your files in a safe environment

36. When taking notes, the first thing you should do is,

- a. Make an outline
- b. Write down the main themes
- c. Label the top of your paper

When you have finished memorizing all of the verses and saying them from memory to a friend please sign below.

I have read the assigned book and memorized all of the assigned memory work found on page 2 of this book.

Signed: _____

