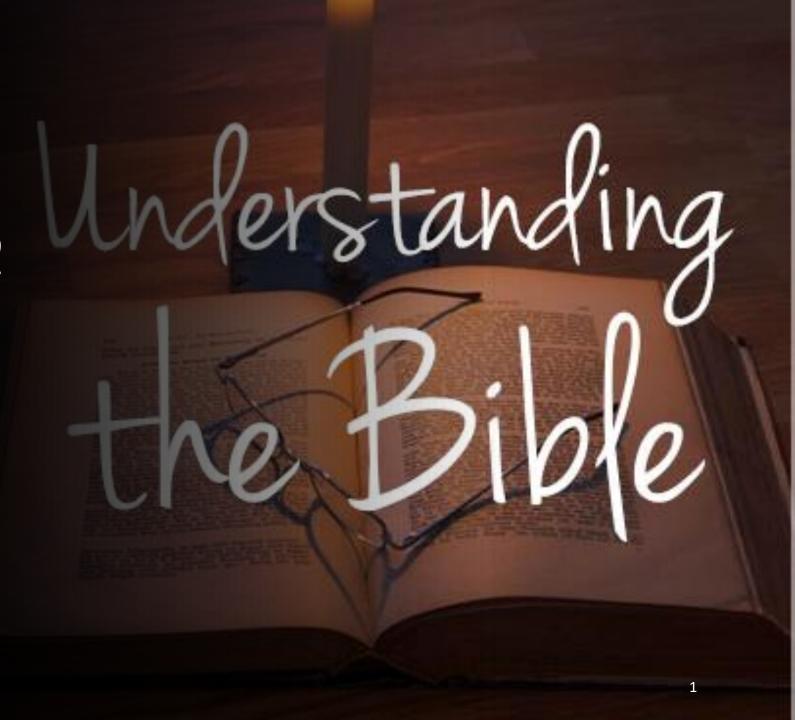
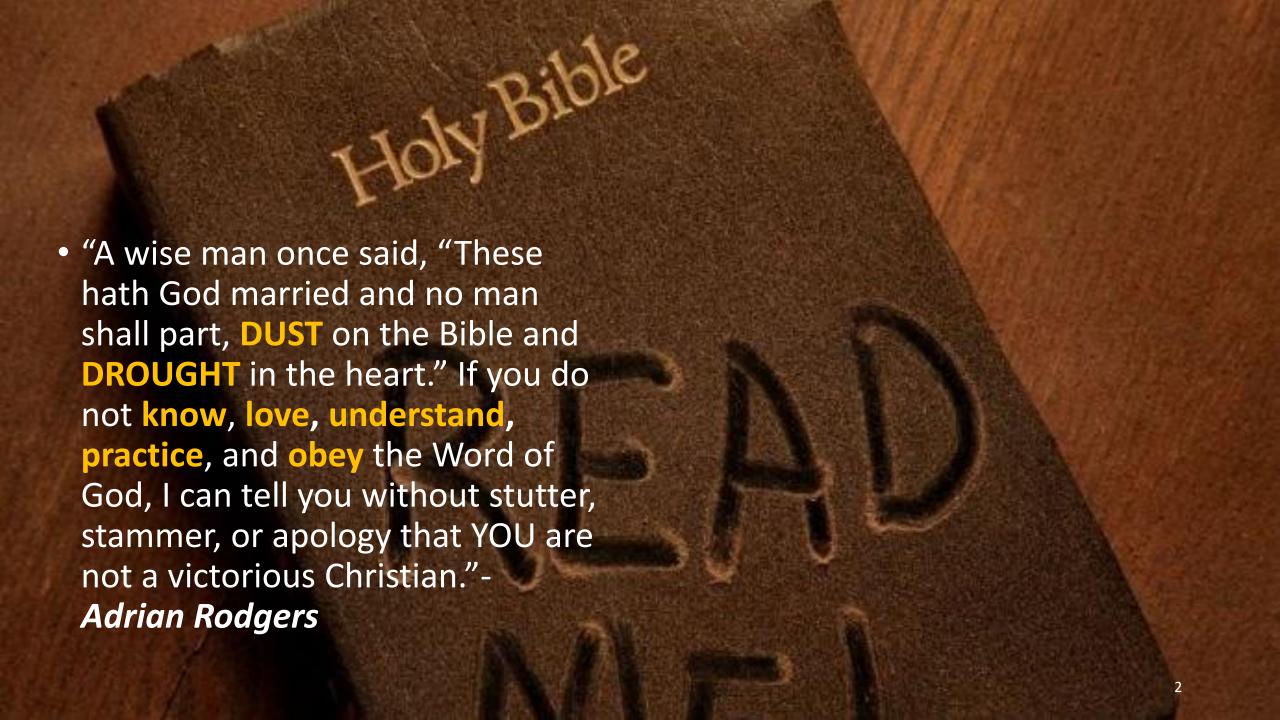
# WHATEVERY CHRISTIAN OUGHTTOKNOW HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

"Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law." (Psa. 119:18)





#### INTRODUCTION

- Here at Mount Carmel we are totally dependent upon the word of the living God, the "SCRIPTURE," the Bible. We are committed to the Word of God as absolutely TRUE. We believe every phrase, verse, chapter, and book as having come from God Himself. The only way we can know God and His will is to have it given to us in a way that is unmistakable, and God has chosen to do that in a book, the Bible.
- The Bible is calling people to the single authority of the Word of God as over against all **HUMAN OPINION**, and to the only Savior, **JESUS CHRIST** as over against all **HUMAN RELIGION**. God gave us a book, and in that book, He spoke, and what He said is exactly what He wanted to say and He desired to say it in a way that we would understand it, because we are accountable for it. And God has sworn in His revelation, the holy Bible, that He has spoken the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

- The Bible is true, it is all true, and it is also all the truth that God desired to reveal to us. The rest is left for us to know in eternity. The Bible alone is the true word of the one true God, who does not contradict Himself, who does not write other books that say other things that are contrary to what He has said in this book. There is only one God, and He has spoken in one book.
- All other supposed revelations from God are not at all from God; they are the concoctions of men, and for the most part, demon-inspired men. For example, the KORAN, the BHAGAVAD-GITA, (Hindu-scripture) the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE) Joseph Smith (Book of Mormon), to all the false prophets, seers, cultists, all the religious leaders, all the world religions – IT IS ALL DECEPTION!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Notice (Dt. 4:2) "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."
- Notice (Prov. 30:6) "Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar."

- Through human history, what God wanted to say to men, He has put in this book one book made up of two sections, the *OLD Testament* and the *NEW Testament*, 66 specific books given to just over 40 writers over a period of about 1500 years. The Holy Spirit authored it all, put it all together in what we know as the Bible, and it is established as the sole divine authority on God's Word. This is why it is the singular duty of man to respond obediently to this one book. It is man's response to this one book and what this book says that God requires that determines everyone's eternal destiny, and nothing else determines it nothing else. WHAT A PERSON DOES WITH THE BIBLE DETERMINES HEAVEN OR HELL.
- Whether the Bible is attacked by rationalism, liberalism, pluralism, mysticism, inclusivism, political correctness, tolerance, or any other assault, it changes nothing about the nature of this book. Remember, it was JESUS who said in (Matt. 5:18) "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." The Bible is an eternal, unchanging book. It is the anvil in the old story of the man pounding the hammers, the blacksmith, and after many years the anvil stood, but many hammers had been destroyed. The hammers that have hit the Scripture lie in the rubble;

#### THE SCRIPTURE STILL STANDS!!!!!

- So, WHO can believe the Bible? The Bible is exactly what it claims to be, we know this to be true because the Spirit of God has convinced us of it by a supernatural work of awakening our understanding. But what we now understand is that the Bible is true, and as we look at the Word of God, we find that conviction is supported by what the Bible claims.
- If you do what the Bible tells you to do, you will experience the result. If you confess your sin, and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be **REGENERATED** (SAVED). Your life will be transformed. In what way? God will change **WHAT** you love, and **WHO** you love, and **HOW** you love, and you will see a dramatic **CHANGE** in your life.
- BIBLICAL EXPERIENCE VERIFIES THE VERACITY OF SCRIPTURE. However, there are other people reading other holy books that are having other kinds of experiences, and experience isn't always and never should be the final authority, because experience can be falsified.

- In **1903** a man died by the name of **HERBERT SPENCER**. Herbert Spencer was a scientist and was heralded by the world; he was given all kinds of prizes as a ground-breaking scientist.
- His greatest achievement was categorical. It was Herbert Spencer who announced to the scientific world that everything that exists in the universe falls into five categories TIME, FORCE, ACTION, SPACE, and MATTER. Nice going, Herbert, you discovered what the Bible already said in (Gen. 1:1) watch this:
- "In the beginning," THAT'S TIME!
- "God," THAT'S FORCE!
- "created" THAT'S ACTION!
- "the heavens," THAT'S SPACE!
- "and the earth," THAT'S MATTER!
- Poor Herbert, he was trying to find this truth without using the Bible. We could go to science, and we could say that science verifies the Bible but while we would get a general affirmation a little better than experience, we'd get a general affirmation, that's pretty amazing stuff.

# You must settle in your heart that THE **BIBLE** IS THE WORD OF GOD!

- The Devil hates this book and would love to destroy it. Some despise the Bible. Some deny, distort, twist, misuse, and abuse the Bible. The greatest enemy of the Bible is the so-called Christian who simply *ignores* or *disregards* it.
- Why is "Truth" so important?
- 1. Your salvation depends on understanding the gospel message of the Bible.
- 2. Your assurance depends on resting in the truth of the Bible.
- 3. Your spiritual growth depends on living by the principles of the Bible.
- 4. Your **power in witness** depends on the confidence you have in the Word of God.
- (John. 10:27–28) "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; (28) and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

# Three Great Terms YOU NEED TO KNOW!

- 1. **REVELATION:** Is the process by which God unveils Himself and His will to human messengers.
- 2. <u>INSPIRATION</u>: This refers to God's inbreathing into the chosen human messengers through the Holy Spirit, enabling them by divine guidance to deliver or record God's revealed message. In a scriptural sense it means God breathing into His Messenger.
- 3. <u>ILLUMINATION</u>: Is the Holy Spirit's work as He enlightens the human mind with spiritual understanding in order that persons might grasp the revealed truth.

#### WHAT IS REVELATION?

- GOD'S REVELATION! When we speak of the Bible or the Holy Scriptures, we are talking about 66 books divided into the Old and New Testaments. This Book is different from any other book, for it is not a collection of human opinions about God but is in fact GOD'S OWN WORD.
- BAPTISTS LOVE AND RESPECT THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD. As God's written revelation of Himself to humankind, the Bible is one of God's most precious gifts to us.
- IN HIS WRITTEN WORD GOD HAS SPOKEN TO HIS PEOPLE. He took the initiative to reveal Himself to us and to disclose Himself in a very real and understandable way. Without this divine self-disclosure we would have no certain knowledge of God, and all humanity would be left groping for answers in the dark. Each individual would have his or her own idea about God's existence, character, and expectations of us.
- GOD'S REVELATION IS A BEAUTIFUL DEMONSTRATION OF HIS LOVE FOR US. He did
  not leave us in the dark. The Bible acknowledges that God has revealed Himself to all
  humanity through creation itself. As the psalmist reminds us, "The heavens declare
  the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands." (Psa. 19:1)

#### GENERAL/NATURAL/SPECIAL REVELATION!

- Every atom and molecule of creation reveals the wonder of God's marvelous design.
- The intricate balance of creation, the beauty of the earth and its varied landscapes, the wonder of a sunset—all these declare God's greatness and glory.
- Beyond this, God reveals Himself to all persons through the moral faculty we call *CONSCIENCE*. Our undeniable knowledge of good and evil, of right and wrong, points us to the perfect moral character of our Creator. These types of revelation, which God gave to all people who have ever lived, are called General Revelation or Natural Revelation.
- God's revelation of Himself through the Bible and through His Son Jesus Christ is called <u>SPECIAL REVELATION</u>.

#### **EXAMPLES OF REVELATION!**

- 1. **GENERAL REVELATION**: The beauty of creation, The beauty of mountains and rivers, The *conscience* within man.
- 2. **SPECIAL REVELATION**: The book of Isaiah, John.3:16, The Bible.
- Notice (Rom. 1:20) "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."
- What do learn about God in (Rom. 1:20)? Because of this Special Revelation (The Bible) we have a better understanding of God's General Revelation in that God's creation reveals His power and divine nature.

# Why Did We Need SPECIAL REVELATION?

- If GENERAL REV. is available to all people, why do we need the Bible?
- The Apostle Paul answered this question by explaining that our sin blinds us to a full understanding of God's revelation of Himself in NATURE and in our CONSCIENCE. As he wrote to the Christians in Rome, human beings "exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator" (Rom. 1:25).
- Our sin so distorts our spiritual vision that we love the lie and hate the truth.
- God graciously provided humankind Special Revelation through His divine Word to teach us more about His nature, His redemptive purpose, and His will for our lives.

#### **GOD FOR ITS AUTHOR!**

- The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to humanity, and God is rightly known as the Author of all Scripture. (2 Tim. 3:16)
- <u>CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON</u>: said in a sermon in 1855, "This volume is the writing of the living God. ... everywhere I find God speaking it is God's voice, **NOT MAN'S**; the words are God's words, the words of the Eternal, the Invisible, the Almighty, the Jehovah of this earth. This Bible is God's Bible; and when I see it, I seem to hear a voice springing up from it, saying, 'I am the book of God: man, read me."
- THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN BY MEN DIVINELY INSPIRED. What does this mean? We commonly hear that a particular human author like William Shakespeare was inspired. After an especially moving musical performance, someone may remark that the composer or performer was inspired. Is the Bible inspired in this same way? Of course not. If the Bible were merely a collection of particularly insightful writings about God, we would not stake our lives on its truth.

# THREE THEORIES WHICH ONE IS CORRECT?

- Some have erroneously taught that the Bible is merely the product of an elevated human consciousness. Others have suggested that the Bible is unevenly inspired. Some parts, they argue, are more inspired than other parts. This view places the human reader over Scripture as judge, deciding what parts are most inspired and what parts can be ignored or denied. Other people have argued that God merely inspired the ideas contained in the Bible, not the words of Scripture itself.
- 1. THE DYNAMIC THEORY: Holds that God gave the human authors basic ideas that they developed in their own ways.
- 2. THE DICTATION THEORY: Which sees the human authors as passive instruments of the Holy Spirit's inspiration, simply taking down divine dictation for the record.

### THIS WE BELIEVE THE VERBAL PLENARY THEORY!

#### 3. WE BELIEVE THE VERBAL PLENARY:

This expresses the way the Bible describes its own inspiration. The Bible's word for its inspiration is "GOD-BREATHED" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit breathed this Word through human authors divinely chosen for this task.

- God used their personalities, writing styles, and personal experiences to accomplish His perfect purpose. These human authors were not passive stenographers; rather, the Holy Spirit worked through them, inspiring them so thoroughly that they were moved to write exactly what God intended—right down to the very words.
- As the Bible records, the will and initiative were God's own, "because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God" (2 Pet. 1:21). The result of divine inspiration is that we have exactly the Bible God intends for us to have. Nothing is missing. Nothing is included that should not be there. For this reason we affirm that the Bible is the very Word of God and does not merely contain the Word! Amen!!!!!!!!!!

#### THE VERBAL PLENARY THEORY!

- I. THE BIBLE AS A WHOLE IS THE WORD OF GOD, so that in every part of Scripture there is both infallible truth and divine authority.
- II. THIS IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE BIBLE'S INSPIRATION.

  Put simply, this means that the Bible's inspiration is

  VERBAL—extending to the very words themselves—and

  PLENARY, or full. Thus, we affirm that every word of the

  Bible is inspired and that every word is fully inspired.

#### **▶1. THE BIBLE IS INFALLIBLE!**

• The Bible, in its entirety, has no mistakes. Specifically, in its original autographs it is without errors. In **(Psa. 19:7)** the Bible says of itself, "The law of the Lord is perfect." It is flawless because it was authored by God—and He is flawless. Therefore, if God wrote the Bible, and if He is the ultimate authority, and if His character is flawless, then the Bible is flawless and is the ultimate authority. You see, the fact that God is perfect demands that the original autograph, the original giving of the Word of God, must also be perfect. So, the Bible is infallible, and that's the first reason to study it; it is the only Book that never makes a mistake—everything it says is the truth!

#### **▶2. THE BIBLE IS INERRANT!**

• The Bible is not only infallible in total, but inerrant in its parts. In (Prov. 30:5–6) "Every word of God is tested (Pure); He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. 6 Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar." This means, every word in the Word of God is pure and true!

#### 3. THE BIBLE IS COMPLETE!

 Nothing needs to be added. Now that may be a surprise to some people, because there are those today who believe we need to add to the Bible. There exists a *philosophy/theology* combination known as **neo-orthodoxy**. It tells us that the Bible was simply a comment in its day on man's spiritual experiences, and today man is still having spiritual experiences, therefore he needs another comment. One writer said that we need a Bible to be written today, just as we did when the Bible we hold in our hands was written, because we need somebody to comment on what God is doing now. He also said that when Tom or Mary stand up in your church and say, "Thus says the Lord," they are as equally inspired as ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, or any of the other **PROPHETS**. In other words, they claim that the Bible is not complete. That's the current philosophical/theological thought.

- (Rev. 22:18-19) says "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."
- The Bible ends with a warning not to **TAKE AWAY** anything, and not to **ADD ANYTHING**. That's a testimony of its completeness. This principle applies to **ALL** of scripture, not just the book of Revelation!
- It is <a href="INFALLIBLE">INFALLIBLE</a> in its total, <a href="INFALLIBLE">INFALLIBLE</a> in

#### 4. THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE!

- If it is perfect and complete, then it is the last Word—the final authority. (Isa. 1:2) says, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord hath spoken." When God speaks everybody listens, because His is the final authority; the Bible demands obedience. We can discuss its implications, its applications, and its meanings, but we shouldn't discuss whether or not it is true.
- IN JOHN 8 Jesus was confronted by some of the Jewish leaders, and there were other people present. (John. 8:30–32) "As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. (31) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." In other words, He demanded a response to His Word. It is AUTHORITATIVE
- (Gal. 3:10) "For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law, to perform them." Amazing! Cursed was anyone who didn't continue in everything that was written in the law. That's a tremendous claim to ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY!
- (Jam. 2:9–10) "But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (10) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." To violate the Bible at one point is to break God's law. The Bible is authoritative in every part.

# THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT FOR A NUMBER OF THINGS!

#### 5. THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT FOR:

#### 1. SALVATION

- In (2 Tim. 3:15) "and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
- First of all, the Bible is sufficient to make you wise unto salvation. Ask yourself this question: What is more important than salvation?
   NOTHING! It is the greatest reality in the universe—and the Bible reveals that salvation.

#### 2. PERFECTION

- (2 Tim. 3:16) "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"
- "REPROOF" that means you're able to go to someone and say, "Hey, you're out of line. You can't behave like that; there's a standard and you're not keeping it." Scripture is also profitable "FOR CORRECTION"—that says to the person you've just reproved, "Now don't do that, do this instead; this is the right path." You teach, you reprove, you show the correct way—and further it is profitable "FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS." Now you point to the new way and show them how to walk in it.
- The Bible is a fantastic Book. It can take somebody who doesn't know God, who isn't saved, and then save them. Then it will **TEACH** them, **REPROVE** them when they do wrong, **POINT OUT** the right thing to do, and then **SHOW** them how to walk in that right path.
- The result is stated in (2 Tim. 3:17) "So that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." The incredible reality of the Bible is that it is sufficient to do the WHOLE job.

#### 3. HOPE

• In (Rom. 15:4) "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." The Bible is the source of patience and comfort, ultimately giving us hope now and forever.

#### 4. EFFECTIVE

- Listen to the words of (Isa. 55:11) "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."
- That's great! **God's Word is effective**. One of the incredible things about being a teacher of the Word of God is that it will do what it says it will do.
- (1Thess. 1:5) "for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake." In other words, when you hear the Word of God, it isn't just words. When the Word goes forth it has power; it is powered by the Holy Spirit, and we have the assurance that it will do what it says.

#### 5. DETERMINATIVE!

- The Bible is determinative because how you respond to the Word of God determines the essence of your life and your eternal destiny.
- Notice (John. 8:47) "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God." In other words, the determination of whether an individual is of God or not of God is based on whether he/she listens to the Word of God.
- Notice (1 Cor. 2:9–14) "but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." (10) For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (11) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, (13) which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (14) But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

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#### CONFIRMATION of The INSPIRATION of The BIBLE

#### **SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY!**

- Job Knows! The Earth Is Suspended in Space! Ancient cultures had no idea about the Earths shape, or how it was supported. Here are a few myths concerning the Earth in the days of antiquity.
- 1. The ancient **Egyptian's** believed that the Earth was supported by pillars.
- 2. The Greeks believed the Earth was carried on the back of a giant named Atlas.
- 3. The Hindus believed that the Earth was resting on the backs of giant elephants, who were standing on the back of a huge turtle, who was standing on the back of a huge snake while swimming in a great cosmic sea.
- >The book of Job is probably the oldest piece of literature known to man, and yet he knew that the Earth is suspended in space.
- (Job 26:7) "He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the <u>earth on</u> nothing.'
- Job could not have known without *DIVINE INSPIRATION*. Notice (2 Tim. 3:16) "All Scripture is <u>inspired</u> by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"

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# CONFIRMATION of The INSPIRATION of The BIBLE Jesus/Miracles.

#### B. JESUS HIMSELF BELIEVED IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.

In (Matt. 5:18) Jesus says, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law till all be fulfilled." Furthermore, He showed His trust in the authority of Scripture by quoting from every part of the Old Testament. Jesus believed in the absolute inspired authority of the Word of God. Miracles

#### c. MIRACLES PROVE THAT THE BIBLE IS DIVINE.

And that proves that God is involved in it. It's got to be a supernatural Book because of all the supernatural activity it contains. Now some might say, "Well, how do you know all the miracles are true?" Because miracles are given in Scripture and there is supportive information. For example, when Jesus rose from the dead, more than five hundred people saw Him after the resurrection. Those are enough witnesses to convince any jury. The miraculous nature of the Bible speaks of God.

• So **EXPERIENCE**, **SCIENCE**, the **TESTIMONY OF CHRIST**, and the **MIRACLES** of the Bible all **PROVE** that **Scripture is INSPIRED**, and **TRUE**.

#### CONFIRMATION of The INSPIRATION of The BIBLE

#### D. <u>Historical Accuracy.</u>

- People and events mentioned in the Bible can be found in the historical writings of other nearby countries. Also, historical records of the Israelite nations other than the Bible prove the history of the Bible is correct. The earliest records of the Israelites were written on papyrus, rather than clay tablets that were used by other cultures at that time. Many of those papyri have been destroyed. And yet proof of Biblical events exist.
- HERE'S WHAT THE SMITHSONIAN D.O.A. HAD TO SAY.

"Much of the Bible, in particular the historical books of the old testament, are as accurate historical documents as any that we have from antiquity and are in fact more accurate than many of the **Egyptian**, **Mesopotamian**, or **Greek** histories. These Biblical records can be and are used as are other ancient documents in archeological work. For the most part, historical events described took place and the peoples cited **really existed**. This is not to say that names of all peoples and places mentioned can be identified today, or that every event as reported in the historical books happened exactly as stated."

#### IS THERE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT CHRIST

#### **Existed Out-side Of The Bible?**

- TACITUS: A Roman historian who wrote between 115-117 A.D. had this to say:
- "They got their name from Christ, who was executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. That checked the pernicious superstition for a short time, but it broke out afresh-not only in Judea, where the plague first arose, but in Rome itself, where all the horrible and shameful things in the world collect and find a home." From his Annals, xv. 44.
- Here is a pagan historian, hostile to Christianity, who had access to records about what happened to Jesus Christ.
- **JEWISH RABBINICAL WRITINGS:** From what is known as the Tannaitic period, between **70-200 A.D**. In Sanhedrin 43a it says:
- "Jesus was hanged on Passover Eve. Forty days previously the herald had cried, 'He is being led out for stoning, because he has practiced sorcery and led Israel astray and enticed them into apostasy. Whoever has anything to say in his defense, let him come and declare it.' As nothing was brought forward in his defense, he was hanged on Passover Eve."
- That there is any mention of Jesus at all is unusual. As far as the Roman world was concerned, Jesus was a nobody who live in an insignificant province, sentenced to death by a minor procurator.

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#### IS THERE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT CHRIST

#### **Existed Out-side Of The Bible?**

- **JOSEPHUS**: In Rome, in the year **93**, he published his lengthy history of the Jews. While discussing the period in which the Jews of Judaea were governed by the Roman procurator Pontius Pilate, Josephus included the following account:
- "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared."
   Jewish Antiquities, 18.3.3 §63

### CONFIRMATION of The INSPIRATION of The BIBLE IT'S WONDERFUL UNITY.

#### E. IT'S UNITY IS WONDERFUL.

- The Bible is one book, Genesis through Revelation, but it is also sixty-six books---thirty-nine books in the O.T. and twenty-seven in the N.T. It has at least forty authors, by people who lived in a period of time that would span at least sixteen hundred years. These people lived in about thirteen different countries, and on three different continents. The Bible was written in three different languages **Hebrew, Aramaic**, and **Greek** by men from all walks of life.
- 1. The Bible has one THEME= REDEPTION.
- 2. The Bible has one HERO= THE LORD JESUS.
- The Bible has one VILLAIN THE DEVIL
- 4. The Bible has one PURPOSE THE GLORY OF GOD!!!!!!!!
- The unity of the Bible is one of the wonderful proofs of the inspiration of God's Wordthat all Scripture is given by inspiration of God!

- F. PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY CHRIST ALONE NUMBER OVER 353.
- 1. THE LAMB OF GOD PROMISED! O.T. (Gen. 22:8) "Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together."

  N.T. (John. 1:29) "The next day he saw lesus coming to him and said
  - N.T. (John. 1:29) "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 2. <u>HIS VIRGEN BIRTH!</u> O.T. (Gen. 3:15) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

  N.T. (Gal. 4:4–5) "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

#### 3. HIS DEATH!

O.T. (Psa. 22:16) "For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet."

N.T. (John. 19:34) "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."

#### 4. HE WAS BURIED IN A RICH MAN'S TOMB!

O.T. (Isa. 53:9) "His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth."

N.T. (Matt. 27:57–60) "When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. (58) This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. (59) And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, (60) and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against, the entrance of the tomb and went away."

#### 5. HIS RESURRECTION!

- O.T. (Psa. 30:3) "O LORD, You have brought up my from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit."

  N.T. (Acts. 2:32) "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses."
- 6. HIS ASCENSION! O.T. (Psa. 110:1) "The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

  N.T. (Mark. 16:19) "So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."

#### 7. HALLELUJAH HE'S COMING BACK.

- O.T. (Zech. 14:4) "In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south."
- N.T. (Acts. 1:11) "They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

#### THIS IS THE BOOK OF ALL BOOKS!

- GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISE MADE TO ISAIAH MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO:
- NOTICE (Isa. 59:21) "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."

## THE **CANONICITY** OF THE BIBLE!

#### **≻**Here are some DEFINITIONS YOU ought to Know!

- 1. <u>SEPTUAGINT</u>: A Greek version of the Jewish scriptures redacted (put in writing) in the third and second centuries *b.c.* by Jewish scholar's and adopted by Greek speaking Christians. First known use 1633
- 2. <u>VULGATE</u>: A Latin version of the Bible authorized by the Roman Catholic Church. First known use 1728.
- 3. APOCRYPHA: Books included in the Septuagint and Vulgate but excluded from the Jewish and Protestant canons of the Old Testament. First known use 1539.
- 4. **CANON** An authoritative list of books accepted as "Holy Scriptures."
- CANONICAL Conforming to a general rule or acceptable procedure. "How these books were selected."

## THE **CANONICITY** OF THE BIBLE!

- HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT YOUR BIBLE AND WONDERED, "How do we know that these 66 books, and no others, comprise the inspired Word of God?" THIS IS A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION, since there are many today who would deny that these 66 books truly make up the complete canon of Scripture.
- THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, For example, claims that the Apocryphal books which were written during the intertestamental period (that time between the Old and New Testaments) ought to be included in the Bible.
- <u>CULT GROUPS</u>, like the Mormons want to add their own books to the Bible—things like the *Book of Mormon*, *The Doctrines and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*. And then there are popular books and movies, like *The Da Vinci Code* from several years back, that claim later Christians (like Constantine) determined what was in the Bible centuries after these books were written.

## THE **CANONICITY** OF THE BIBLE!

- THE DOCTRINE OF CANONICITY: Ultimately comes back to the lordship of Jesus Christ. If we believe in Him and submit to His authority, then we will simultaneously believe in and submit to HIS WORD. Why? Because He affirmed the O. T. canon, we also affirm it. Because He authorized His apostles to write the N. T., we likewise embrace it as well.
- IT WAS NOT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: They didn't determine the canon. Constantine did not determine the canon. Joseph Smith certainly did not determine the canon. No, it is the authority of CHRIST HIMSELF, the Lord of the church and the incarnate Son of God, on which the canon of Scripture rests.
- WHEN IT COMES TO THE OLD TESTAMENT, JESUS HIMSELF affirmed the Jewish canon of His day—consisting of the very same content that is in our Old Testaments today.

### THE *OLD* TESTAMENT CANON!

- A STUDY OF THE GOSPELS SHOWS THAT, throughout His ministry, Jesus affirmed the Old Testament in its entirety (Matt. 5:17–18) "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."
- 1. HISTORICAL RELIABILITY: (cf. Matt. 10:15; 19:3–5; 12:40; 24:38–39),
- 2. PROPHETIC ACCURACY: (Matt. 26:54),
- **3. SUFFICIENCY**: (Luke 16:31),
- **4. UNITY:** (Luke 24:27, 44),
- 5. **INERRANCY**: (Matt. 22:29; John 17:17),
- 6. **INFALLIBILITY:** (John 10:35)
- 7. **AUTHORITY:** (Matt. 21:13, 16, 42).

- JESUS AFFIRMED: the Law, the Writings, and the Prophets and all that was written in them; clearly seeing the Old Testament Scriptures as the Word of God (Matt. 15:16; Mark 7:13; Luke 3:2; 5:1)
- The First Century Jews Did Not Consider The APOCRYPHAL BOOKS To Be Canonical. And neither did Jesus. He accepted the canon of the Jews as being the complete Old Testament. He never affirmed or cited the Apocryphal books and neither do any of the other writers of the New Testament.
- <u>SOME MAY WONDER ABOUT JUDE'S REFERENCE TO THE BOOK OF ENOCH.</u>
  (Jude. 14) But the Book of Enoch is **NOT** part of the Roman Catholic Apocrypha. It was simply a well-known piece of Jewish literature at that time period, which Jude cited for the purpose of giving an illustration, much like PAUL did when he quoted pagan poets on Mars Hill in (Acts 17.)
- FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE WONDERING, "Why don't PROTESTANTS accept the Apocrypha?" the ultimate answer is that Jesus never affirmed it as being part of Scripture. And neither did the apostles.

### THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON!

- MANY OF THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS DID NOT REGARD THE

  APOCRYPHAL BOOKS AS BEING CANONICAL EITHER. They considered them
  to be helpful for the edification of the church, but they did not see them
  as AUTHORITATIVE. Even the fifth-century scholar JEROME (who translated
  the Latin Vulgate which became the standard Roman Catholic version of
  the Middle Ages) acknowledged that the Apocraphyl books were NOT to be
  regarded as either authoritative or canonical.
- So we accept the canonicity of the Old Testament on the basis of OUR LORD'S AUTHORITATIVE AFFIRMATION OF IT. And we REJECT the canonicity of the Apocryphal books based on the absence of HIS affirmation of those intertestamental writings.

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON!

- THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON. Our Lord not only affirmed the Jewish canon of the Old Testament, He also promised that He would give additional revelation to His church through His authorized representatives—namely, the apostles.
- JESUS made this point explicit on the night before his death, Jesus said to His disciples: (John. 14:25–26) "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."
- That last line is especially significant for the doctrine of canonicity. JESUS
   PROMISED the apostles that the HOLY SPIRIT WOULD HELP them remember all the things that He had said to them.
- THAT IS AN AMAZING PROMISE, the fulfillment of which is found in the four gospel accounts—where the things that our Lord did and said are perfectly recorded for us.

### THE **NEW** TESTAMENT CANON!

- Two chapters later, in the same context, the Lord promised the apostles that He would give them additional revelation through the Holy Spirit:
- (Jn. 16:12–15) "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."
- WHERE IS THAT ADDITIONAL REVELATION FOUND? It is found in the N. T. Epistles, wherein the Spirit of Christ guided the apostles to provide the church with inspired truth.
- THE NEW TESTAMENT, THEN, WAS PRE-AUTHENTICATED BY CHRIST HIMSELF, as He authorized the apostles to be His witnesses in the world (Matt. 28:1819; Acts 1:8). We embrace and submit to the New Testament writings because they were penned by Christ's authorized representatives, being inspired by the Holy Spirit in the same way as the Old Testament prophets (2 Pet. 3:19–21).

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON!

- With that in mind we could go book-by-book through the New Testament, and we will find that it meets this criteria.
- THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW & JOHN, were both written by apostles.
- THE GOSPEL OF MARK, is a record of the memoirs of the Apostle Peter, written by Mark under Peter's apostolic authority.
- THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, (and the book of ACTS) were both the product of a careful investigation and eyewitness testimony (Luke 1:2), research that would have included APOSTOLIC sources.
- As the companion of the Apostle **Paul**, **LUKE** wrote under Paul's apostolic oversight. (For instance, Paul affirmed (**Luke 10:7**) as being part of the Scripture in (1 Tim. 5:18.)

- THE PAULINE EPISTLES (Romans—Philemon) were all written by the Apostle Paul.
- THE AUTHORSHIP OF HEBREWS is unknown, but many in church history believed it to have been also written by Paul. If not penned by Paul himself, it was clearly written by someone closely associated with Paul's ministry—and therefore, by extension, under his apostolic authority.
- THE GENERAL EPISTLES (the letters of James, Peter, and John) were written by apostles. Peter also acknowledged Paul's writings as being Scripture in (2 Pet. 3:15–16).
- THE EPISTLE OF JUDE was written by the half-brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55; Mark. 6:3) who operated under the apostolic oversight of his brother James (Jude 1).
- THE BOOK OF REVELATION was written by the Apostle JOHN.

- EVERY BOOK of the New Testament was written under *APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY*—either by an apostle or someone closely linked to their apostolic ministry. Thus, we submit to these books because they come from Christ's authorized representatives. In submitting to them, we are submitting to the Lord Himself.
- THE REASON THE CANON IS CLOSED is because there are no longer any apostles in the church today and have not been since the end of the first century, when the foundation age of the church ended (Eph. 2:20).
- <u>SO ... WHY THESE 66 BOOKS?</u> Because <u>GOD INSPIRED THEM!</u> They are His divine revelation. And Christ confirmed that fact. He *AFFIRMED* the Old Testament canon, and He *AUTHORIZED* the New Testament canon (Heb. 1:1–2).

#### UNDERSTANDING THE GENRES OF THE BIBLE!

• AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GENRES: of Scripture is vital to the Bible student. If the wrong genre is assumed for a passage, it can easily be misunderstood or misconstrued, leading to an incomplete and fallacious understanding of what God desires to communicate. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), and He wants us to "correctly" [handle] the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Also, God wants us to know His plan for the world and for us as individuals. How fulfilling it is to come to "grasp how wide and long and high and deep" (Eph. 3:18) is the love of God for us!

- THE BIBLE IS A WORK OF LITERATURE. Literature comes in different genres, or categories based on style, and each is read and appreciated differently from another. For example, to confuse a work of science fiction with a medical textbook would cause many problems—they must be understood differently. And both science fiction and a medical text must be understood differently from poetry. Therefore, accurate exegesis and interpretation takes into consideration the purpose and style of a given book or passage of Scripture. In addition, some verses are meant figuratively, and proper discernment of these is enhanced by an understanding of genre. An inability to identify genre can lead to serious misunderstanding of Scripture. The main genres found in the Bible are these:
- 1. **LAW**
- 2. HISTORY
- 3. WISDOM
- 4. POETRY

- 5. NARRATIVE,
- 6. EPISTLES,
- 7. PROPHECY
- 8. APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE.
- The summary below shows the differences between each genre and how each should be interpreted:
- <u>LAW:</u> This includes the books of <u>Leviticus</u> and <u>Deuteronomy</u>. The purpose of law is to express God's sovereign will concerning government, priestly duties, social responsibilities, etc. Knowledge of <u>Hebrew</u> manners and customs of the time, as well as a knowledge of the covenants, will complement a reading of this material.

# Understanding The Genres of The Bible!

**HISTORY**: Stories and epics from the Bible are included in this genre. Almost every book in the Bible contains some history, but

Genesis, Exodus, Numbers,

Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel,

1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles,

**Ezra, Nehemiah, and Acts** are predominately history. Knowledge of secular history is crucial, as it dovetails perfectly with biblical history and makes interpretation much more robust

• <u>WISDOM</u>: This is the genre of *aphorisms* that teach the meaning of life and how to live. Some of the language used in wisdom literature is metaphorical and poetic, and this should be taken into account during analysis. Included are the books of

Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes.

- POETRY: These include books of rhythmic prose, parallelism, and metaphor, such as Song of Solomon, Lamentations and Psalms.
- We know that many of the psalms were written by David, himself a musician, or David's worship leader, ASAPH.
   Because poetry does not translate easily, we lose some of the musical "flow" in English. Nevertheless, we find a similar use of idiom, comparison and refrain in this genre as we find in modern music.

• **NARRATIVE:** This genre includes the Gospels, which are biographical narratives about Jesus, and the books of:

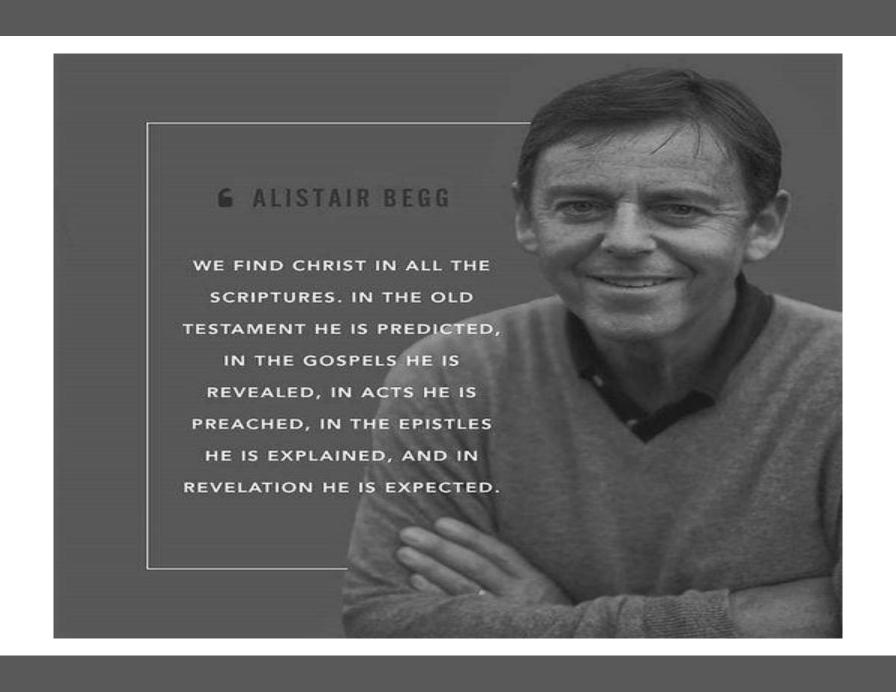
### RUTH, ESTHER, and JONAH.

- A reader may find bits of other genres within the Gospels, such as
- PARABLE A usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or religious principle. (Luke. 8:1-15)
- <u>DISCOURSE</u>- Units of connected texts that are longer than paragraphs. The book of **RUTH** is a perfect example of a well-crafted short story, amazing in its succinctness and structure. (Matthew 24).

- **EPISTLES:** An epistle is a letter, usually in a formal style. There are **21** letters in the New Testament from the apostles to various churches or individuals. These letters have a style very similar to modern letters, with an opening, a greeting, a body, and a closing.
- The content of the Epistles involves clarification of **prior teaching**, **rebuke**, **explanation**, **correction of false teaching** and a **deeper dive into the teachings of Jesus**. The reader would do well to understand the cultural, historical and social situation of the original recipients in order to get the most out of an analysis of these books.

- PROPHECY AND APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: The Prophetic writings are the Old Testament books of Isaiah through Malachi, and the New Testament book of Revelation. They include predictions of future events, warnings of coming judgment, and an overview of God's plan for Israel.
- Apocalyptic literature is a specific form of prophecy, largely involving symbols and imagery and predicting disaster and destruction. We find this type of language in
- 1. DANIEL (THE BEASTS OF CHAPTER 7),
- 2. EZEKIEL (THE SCROLL OF CHAPTER 3),
- 3. ZECHARIAH (THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND OF CHAPTER 4)
- 4. **REVELATION** (THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF CHAPTER 6).

- THE PROPHETIC AND APOCALYPTIC books are the ones most often subjected to faulty eisegesis -(the interpretation of a text "as of the Bible" by reading into it one's own ideas.) and personal interpretation based on emotion or preconceived bias.
- (Amos. 3:7) tells us, "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." Therefore, we know that the truth has been told, and it can be known via careful exegesis-(exposition, explanation; an explanation or critical interpretation of a text), a familiarity with the rest of the Bible, and prayerful consideration. Some things will not be made clear to us except in the fullness of time, so it is best not to assume to know everything when it comes to prophetic literature.



### JESUS IS REPRESENTED IN EACH OF THE BIBLE'S 66 BOOKS

- In <u>GENESIS</u>, I was the Word of God, creating the heavens and the earth.

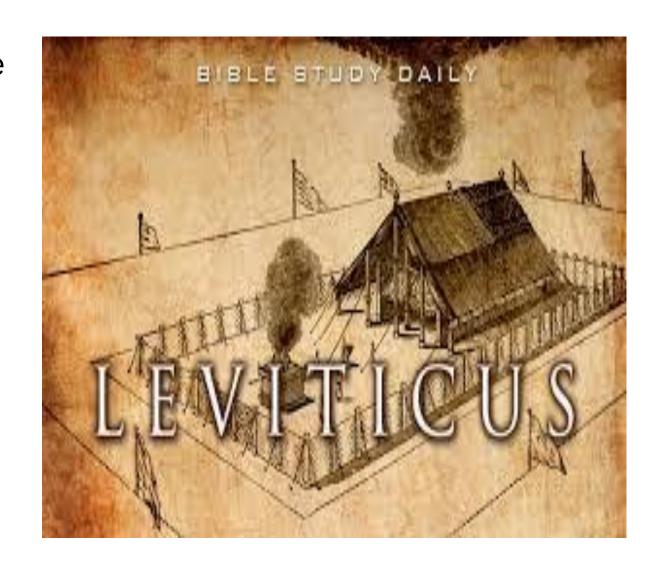
  I was the Messiah who would be born of the seed of a woman (Gen 3:15, Luke 1:34-35)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham,
  Isaac & Jacob (Gen 12:3, 17:19, 28:14, Luke
  3:23-34)
- Messiah would be a king in the line of Judah (Gen 49:10, John 1:49)
- Typified in the person of Melchizedek (Gen 14:18)
- The life of Isaac the sacrificed son (Gen 22)
- The life of Joseph the rejected brother (Gen
  37)



- In *EXODUS*, I was the Passover Lamb, whose blood was sprinkled on the doorposts of your heart so that you could escape the bonds of slavery. Typified in the life of Moses the deliverer
- The Passover Lamb (Ex 12, John 1:29,36)
- The Manna from Heaven (Ex 16, John 6)
- The Rock struck at Horeb (Ex 17, 1 Cor 10:4)
- The Tabernacle (Brazen Altar, Lampstand, Table of Showbread, Ark of the covenant etc.) (Gen 25-30)



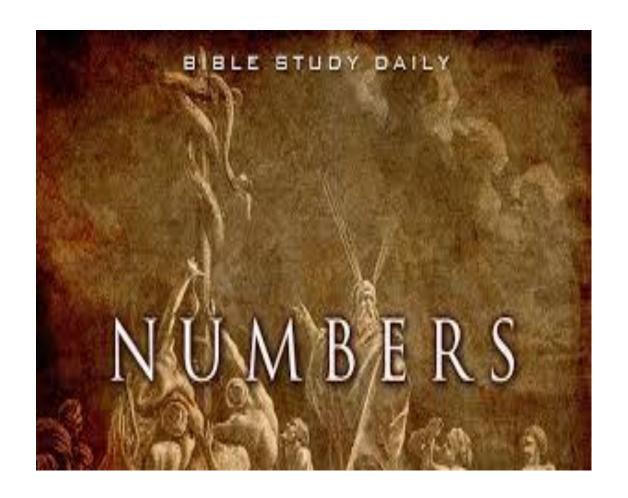
- In <u>LEVITICUS</u>, I was the temple, the holy place where you met with God. The High Priest typified in the sacrifices and offerings (Lev 1-7)
- In the Jewish festivals (Passover, Atonement, (Lev 16, 23)
- In the Scapegoat (Lev. 16:7-9)
- In the person and duties of the High Priest (Lev. 16)



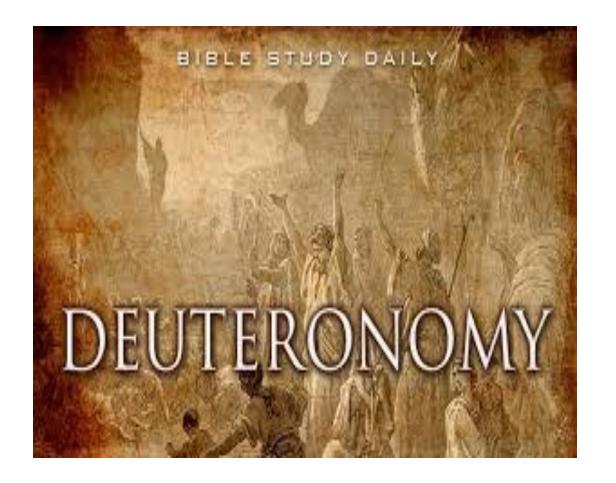
• In <u>NUMBERS</u>, I was your everpresent guide, your pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.

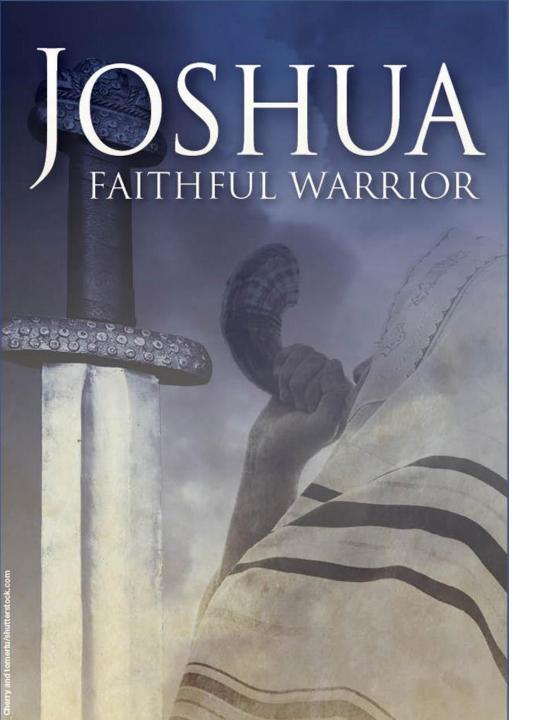
The Messiah would be a King (Num. 24:17)

- Typified in the bronze serpent (Num. 21:8-9)
- The Water from the Rock (Num. 20)



- In <u>DEUTERONOMY</u>, I was the prophet coming who is greater than Moses. Messiah will be a prophet (Deut. 18:15-19, John. 6:14)
- Messiah would be worshipped by angels (Deut. 32:43, Luke 2:13-14)
- Typified in the cities of refuge (Deut.4:41)





- In <u>JOSHUA</u>, I was the conquering, faithful warrior leading you into the Promised Land.
- The Captain of Our Salvation
   Typified in the person of Joshua (our leader into the promised land)
- In the Commander of the Army (Josh 5:13-15)

•



- In <u>JUDGES</u>, I was the broken Savior rising up to rescue you.
- The Judge And Lawgiver
   *Typified* in the Judges
   (for He is the true Judge
   of the living and the
   dead)



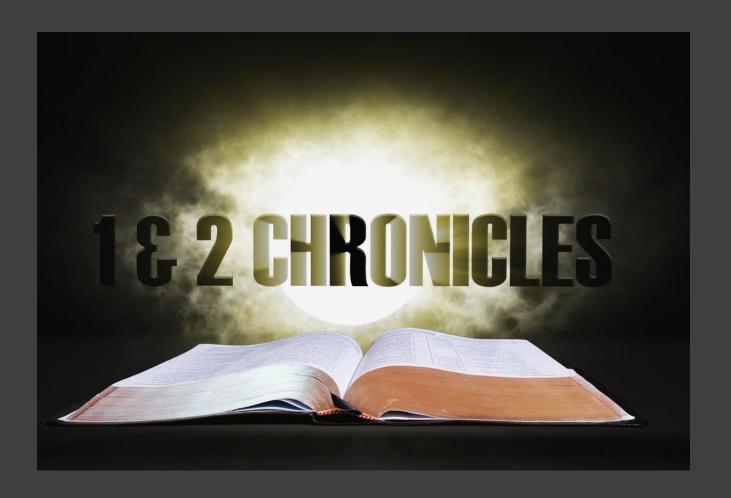
- In <u>RUTH</u>, I was your kinsman-redeemer.
  Messiah would be a descendant of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth. 4:12-17)
- Typified in the life of Boaz The Kinsman Redeemer (Ruth. 2:1)



- In <u>1&2 SAMUEL</u>, I was the pure-hearted shepherd king, who rushed out to face your giants all alone. The Prophet of The Lord Messiah exalted by God with power (1 Sam 2:10, Matt 28:18)
- Messiah would be a descendant of David (2 Sam 7:12-16, Matt 1:1)
- Messiah would be the 'Rock'
   (2 Sam 23:2-3, 1 Cor 10:4)
- *Typified* in the life of David The King in Exile (1 Sam 22)
- The life of Jonathon the faithful friend (1 Sam 18:1-4)

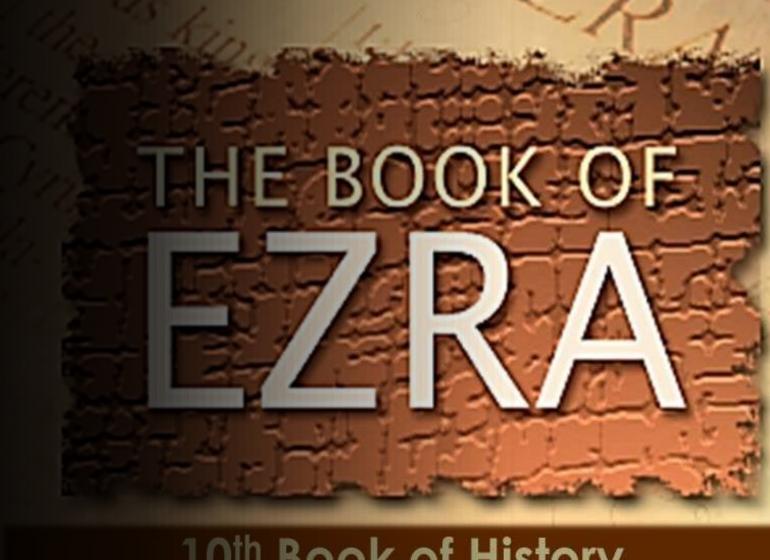


- In <u>1&2 KINGS</u>, I was the righteous ruler.
- The Reigning King *Typified* in the life of Solomon (the Millennial Reign)
- In the life and miracles of the prophet Elisha (multiplying bread 2 Kings 4:42, healing leper 2 Kings 5)

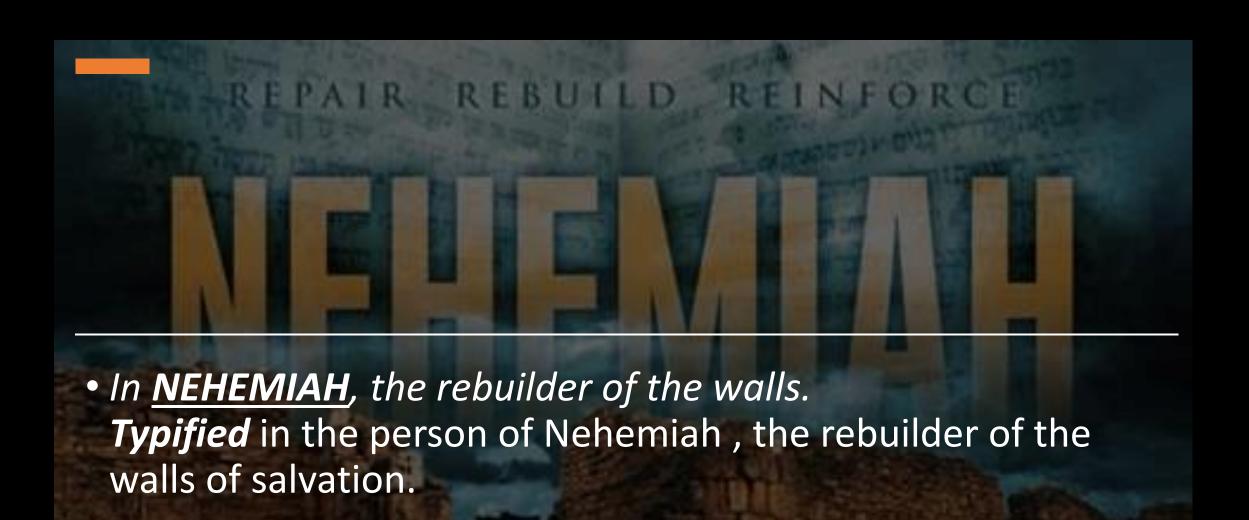


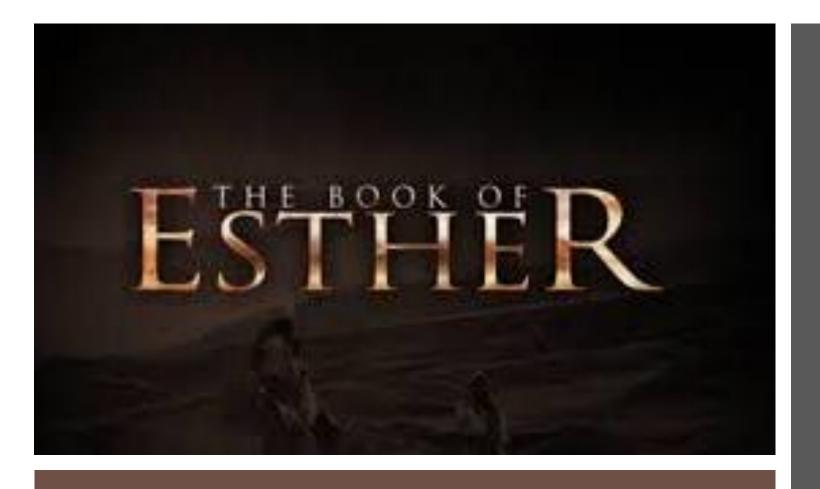
- In <u>1&2 CHRONICLES</u>, I was the restorer of the kingdom.
- The Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah (1 Chron 5:2, Luke 3:23-32)
- *Typified* in Solomon's Glorious Temple
- In the Wisdom of Solomon (2 Chron 9:22)

• In *EZRA*, the faithful scribe. The Faithful Scribe *Typified* in person of Zerubbabel, the rebuilder of the temple (Ezra 4)

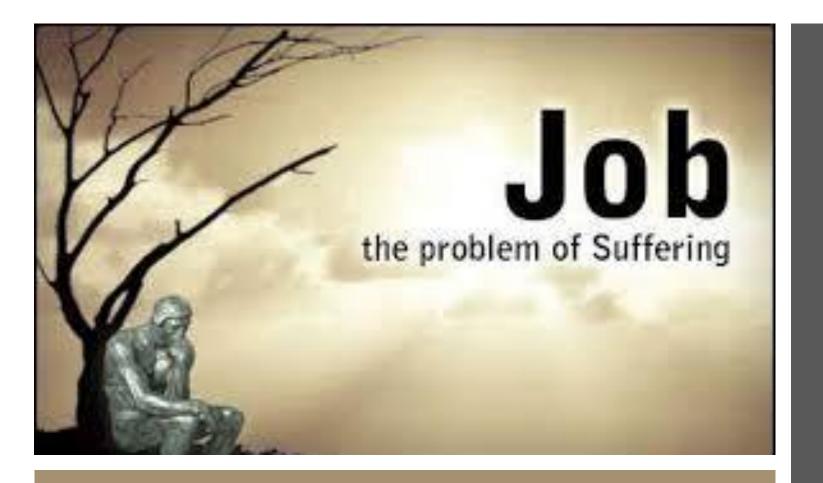


10<sup>th</sup> Book of History
"Help" or "The Lord Has Helped"





- In ESTHER, I was your advocate, risking my life to restore you to royalty.
- *Typified* in the person of Mordecai



• In JOB, I was your living Redeemer.
The Dayspring From on High
Typified in the sufferings of Job and the blessings that would follow

• In the <u>PSALMS</u>, I was the one who hears your cries. The Lord Who Is Our Shepherd Messiah would be the Son of God (Ps 2:7, 12, Matt 17:5)

Messiah would be resurrected (Ps 16:8-10, Acts 13:30-37)

 Messiah would be despised & crucified (Ps 22:6-8, 14, Luke 23:21-23, Matt 27:35)

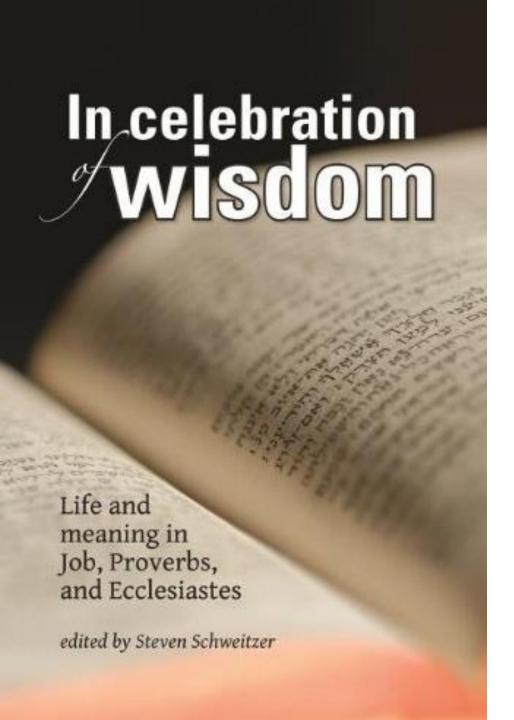
Messiah would be hated without cause (Ps 69:4, Luke 23:13-22)

• Messiah would be Lord, seated at the right hand of God (Ps 110:1,5, 1 Pet 3:21-22)

• Messiah would be in the line of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4, Heb 6:17-20)

- Messiah would be the 'stone' rejected by the Jews (Ps 118:22, Matt 21:42-43)
- Key Messianic Psalms: Chapters 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 69, 89, 109, 110, 118





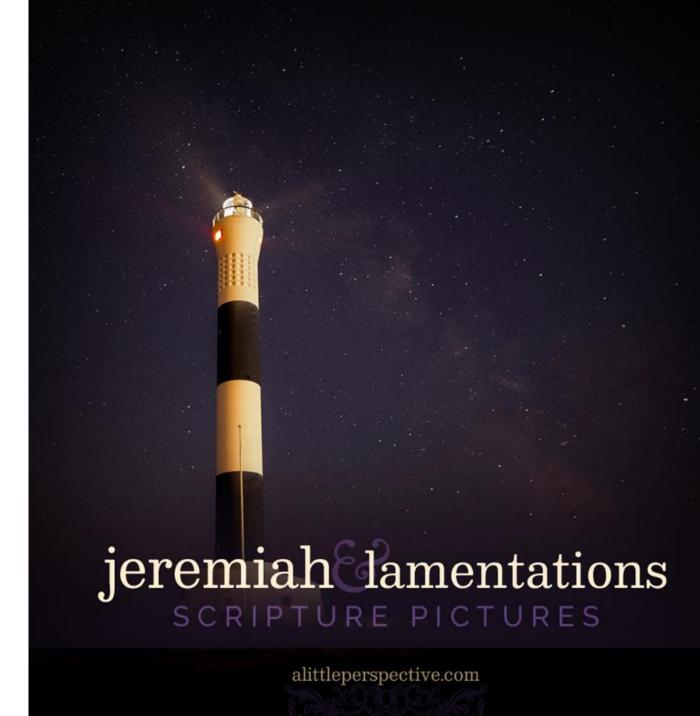
- In *PROVERBS*, I am wisdom personified.
- In *ECCLESIASTES*, I am the meaning that lets you escape the madness.
- Messiah would be from everlasting (Prov 8:22-23, John 17:5)
- Messiah would be the Son of God (Prov 30:4, Matt 3:16-17) *Typified* in the Wisdom of God (Prov 8:22-31)



• In the <u>SONG OF SOLOMON</u>, I am your lover and your bridegroom. *Typified* in the Bridegroom's love for, and marriage to, the bride

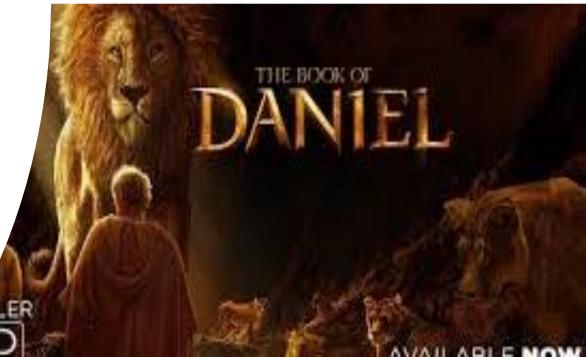
- In <u>ISAIAH</u>, I was the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wounded for your transgressions and bruised for your iniquities.
- Messiah would be born of a virgin (Is 7:14, Luke 1:34-35)
- Messiah would be Immanuel "God with us" (Is 7:14, Matt 1:21-23)
- Messiah would be God and Man (Is 9:6, John 10:30)
- Messiah would have the 7-fold Spirit upon Him (Is 11:1-2, Matt 3:16-17)
- Messiah would heal the blind, lame, deaf (Is 35:5-6, Mark 10:51-52)
- Messiah would be proceeded by a forerunner (Is 40:3, Luke 1:17)
- Messiah would be a light to the gentiles (Is 42:6, John 8:12)
- Messiah would be despised by the Jewish nation (Is 49:7, John 10:20, Matt 27:23)
- Messiah would be whipped and beaten (Is 50:6, Matt 26:67, 27:26)
- Messiah would die as a guilt offering for sin (Is 53:10, John 18:11)
- Messiah would be resurrected and live forever (Is 53:10, Mark 16:16)

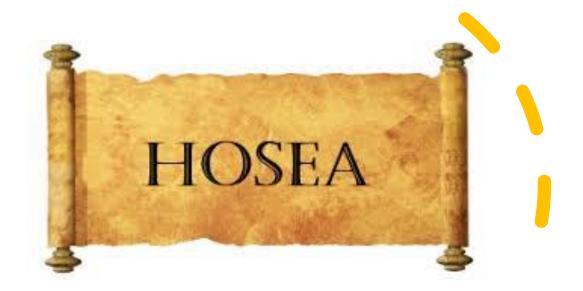
- In <u>JEREMIAH</u>, I am the Spirit that writes God's laws on your hearts.
- In <u>LAMENTATIONS</u>, I was the weeping prophet.
- Messiah would be God (Jer. 23:6, Jn. 13:13)
- Messiah would be a righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5)
- Messiah would be our righteousness (Jer. 23:6, 1 Cor. 1:30)



- In **EZEKIEL**, I was the river of life bringing healing to the nations.
- Messiah would be a descendant of David (Ez. 34:23-24, Matt. 1:1)
- In **DANIEL**, I was the fourth man in the fire.
- The Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven
- Messiah would be 'a son of man' given an everlasting kingdom (Dan. 7:13-14, Lk. 1:31-34)
- Messiah would come 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan. 9:25, Jn. 12:12-23)
- Messiah would be killed (Dan. 9:26, Matt. 27:35)
- Revealed as the 'stone' (and His kingdom) that smashes the kingdoms of the world (Dan. 2:34,44)
- Typified in the 4th man in the fiery furnace one like 'the son of gods' (Dan. 3:25)







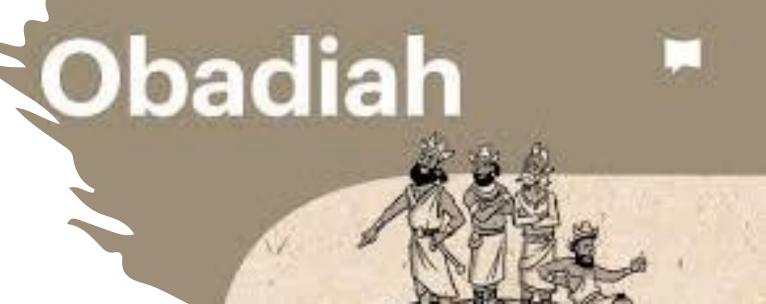


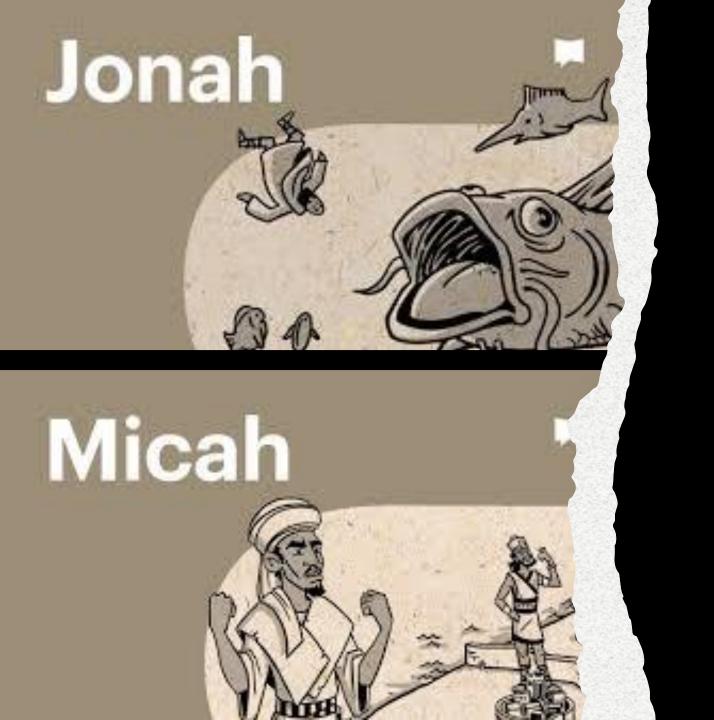
- In <u>HOSEA</u>, I was the ever-faithful husband pursuing my unfaithful bride. The Bridegroom Typified in Hosea's faithfulness to his adulterous wife (Hos. 3)
- In **JOEL**, I was the restorer of all that the locusts have eaten.
- Messiah will offer salvation to all mankind (Joel. 2:32, Rom. 10:12-13)
- Messiah would baptize people with the Holy Spirit (Joel. 2:28-32)

- In <u>AMOS</u>, I was your burden bearer.
- God would darken the day at noon during Messiah's death (Amos. 8:9, Matt. 27:45-46)

- In <u>OBADIAH</u>, I am the judge of all the earth.
- The Mighty Savior

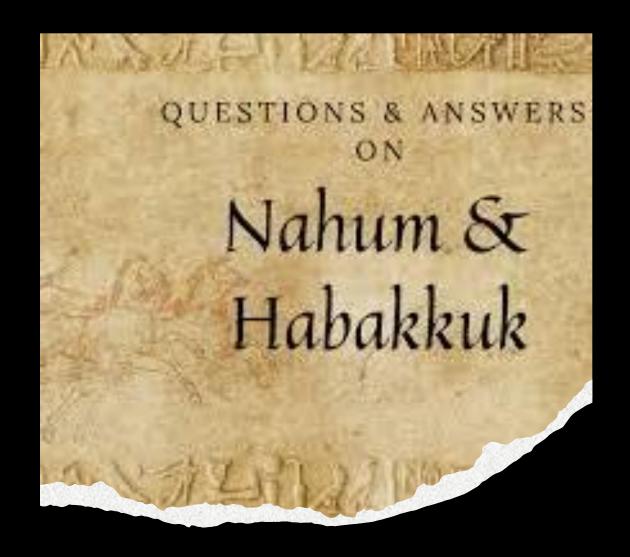






- In *JONAH*, I was the prophet cast out into the storm so that you could be brought in.
- The Forgiving God Typified in Jonah being 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish (Jon. 1:17, Matt. 12:40)
  - In *MICAH*, I was the everlasting ruler born to us in Bethlehem.
- The Messenger With Beautiful Feet Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2, Matt. 2:1-2)

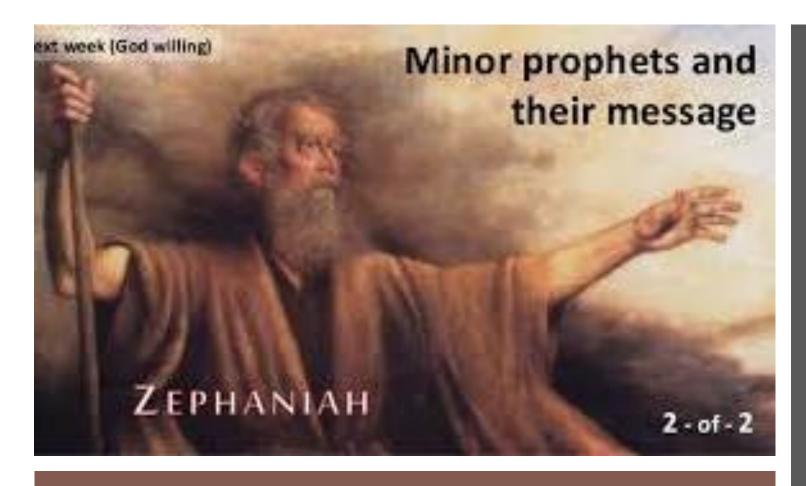
- In *Nahum*, I was the Avenger of God's elect.
- In <u>Habakkuk</u>, I was your reason to rejoice even when our fields are empty.
- The Great Evangelist, Crying For Revival.
- Messiah would come from Teman at His return, full of glory (Hab. 3:3)
- Typified in the life of Habakkuk (his intercession and prayer for his people)





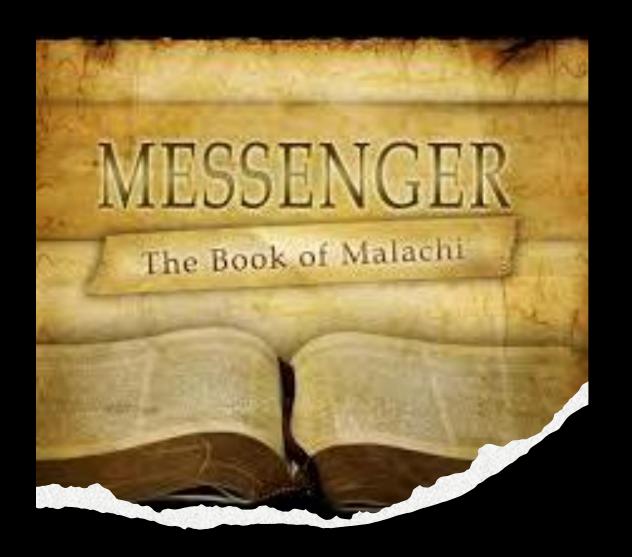
- In <u>ZEPHANIAH</u>, I am the great Reformer. The Restorer of the Remnant.
   In <u>HAGGAI</u>, I was the cleansing fountain.
- Messiah would visit the 2nd temple (Hag. 2:6-9, Lk. 2:27-32)

•



- In <u>ZECHARIAH</u>, I was the pierced Son whom every eye on earth will one day behold.
- The Pierced Son Messiah would be Priest and King (Zech. 6:12-13, Heb 8:1)
- Messiah would be ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9, Matt. 21:6-9)
- Messiah would be God
   (Zech. 11:12-13, Jn. 12:45)
- Messiah would be pierced (Zech. 12:10, Jn. 19:34-37)

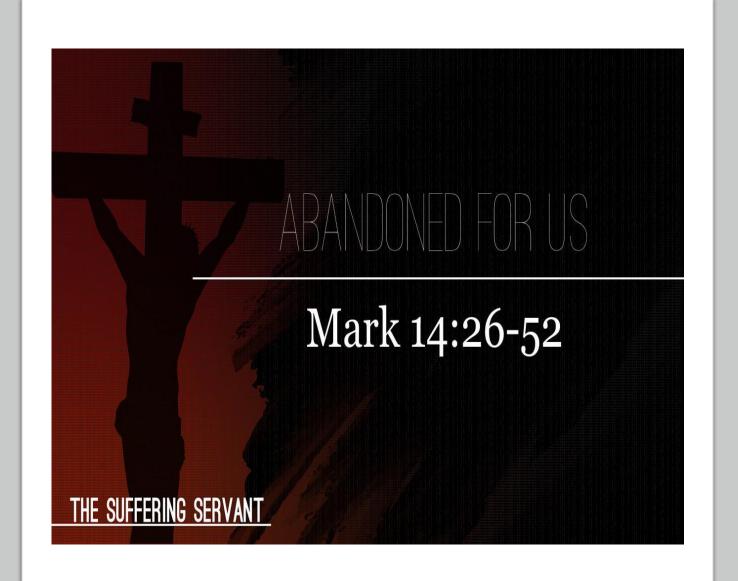
- And in *MALACHI*, I am the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in my wings.
- Messiah would appear at the temple (Mal. 3:1, Mk. 11:15-16)
- Messiah's forerunner would come in the spirit of Elijah (Mal. 4:5, Matt. 3:1-2)



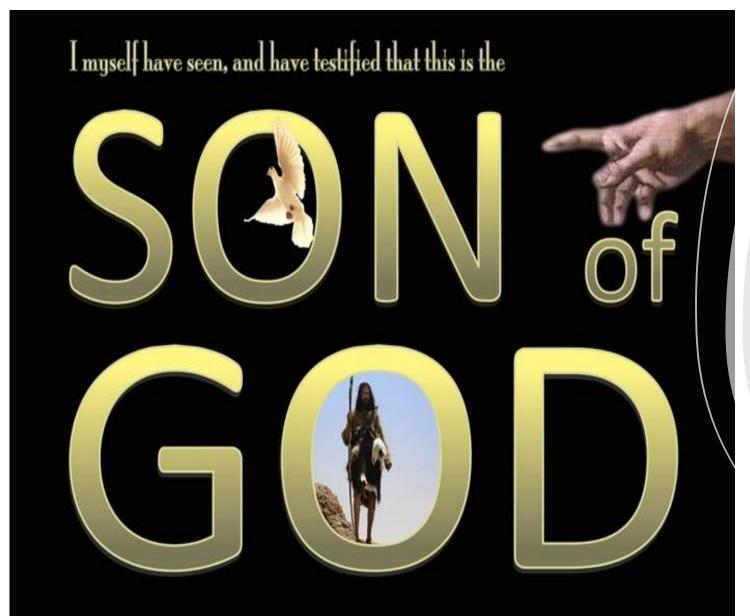


- In **MATTHEW**, he's the KING of the Jews.
- The Messiah, The Son of David (Matt. 1:1)
- This genealogy traces the throne of David through Joseph making Jesus the legal heir. (Matt. 1:16)
- The King of the Jews (Matt. 2:2)
- The Son of God (Matt.2:15).
- The Bridegroom (Matt. 9:15)

- In *MARK*, he's the Suffering Servant.
- The "Suffering Servant" of (Isa. 53)
- The Miracle Worker, The Holy One of God (Mk. 1:24)
- The Servant.(Mk. 10:45)
- The King of Israel.(Mk. 15:32)

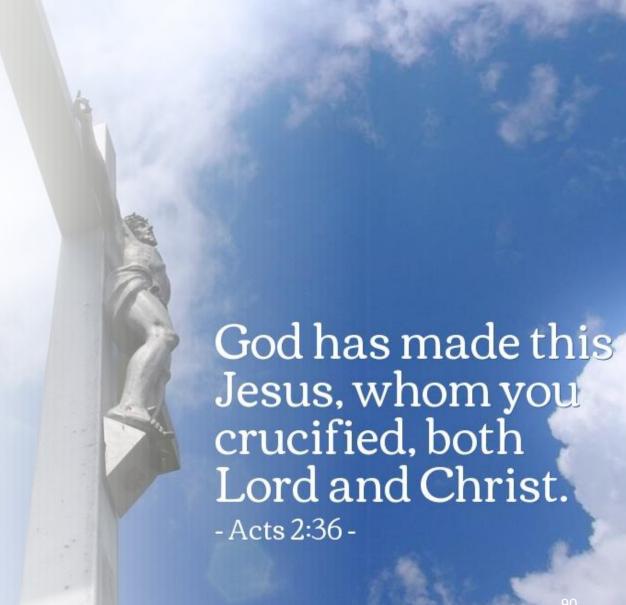






- In <u>JOHN</u>: He is The Son of God, The Only Begotten Son: (Jn. 1:14,18)
- The Lamb of God. (Jn. 1:29,36)
- The Bread of life. (Jn. 6:35)
- The Light of the World. (Jn. 8:1)
- The I AM! (Jn. 8:58)
- The Door of the Sheep. (Jn. 10:7,9)
- The Good Shepherd. (Jn. 10:11)
- The Resurrection and life. (Jn. 11:25)
- The Way, the Truth, the Life. (Jn. 14:6)
- The True Vine. (Jn. 15:1)

- In ACTS, he is Christ the risen Lord, proclaiming salvation to the nations.
- The Ascended Lord, The Prince of Life (Acts. 3:15)
- The Judge of the living and the dead (Acts. 10:42)
- The Just One (Acts. 7:52)
- The Hope of Israel (Acts. 28:20)



- In *ROMANS*, he's the Justifier.
- The Rock of Offense (Rom. 9:33)
- The Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)
- The Lord of the dead and the living (Rom. 14:9)
- The Root of Jesse (Rom. 15:12)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 KJV

- In <u>1&2 CORINTHIANS</u>, the Spirit at work in the churches.
- The First-fruits (1 Cor. 15:23)
- The Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Ekrist.

Icorinthians 3,11



- In <u>GALATIANS</u>, he is the righteousness imputed to us by faith.
- The One Who Sets Us Free The Lord Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1:3)

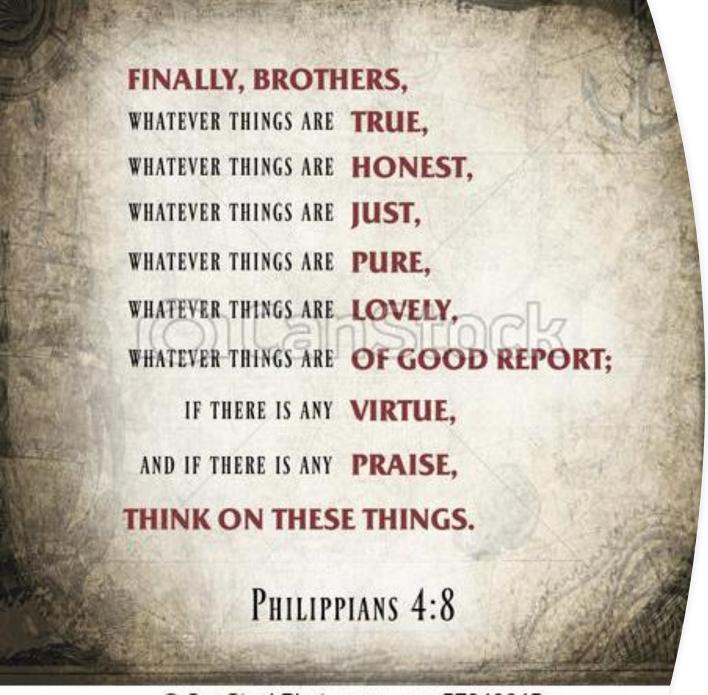


## For by YOCC you have been saved through FAITH and that not of yourselves; it is the Sift of God NOT of WORKS

that no one would boast.

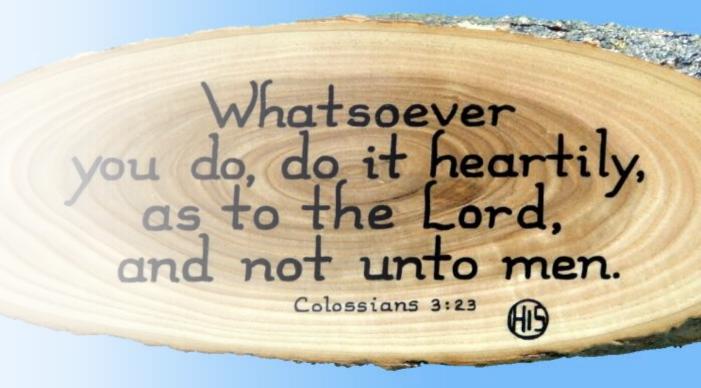
EPHESIANS 2:8-9

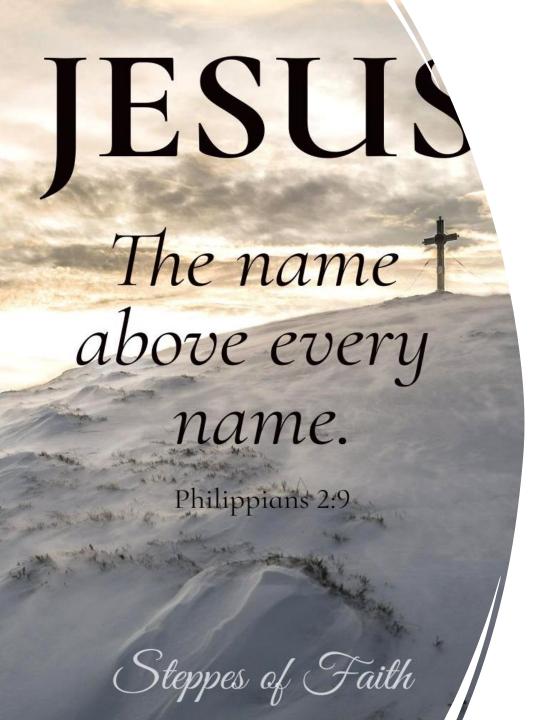
- In **EPHESIANS**, our righteous armor.
- The Christ of Riches, The Head over All Things. (Eph. 1:22)
- The Cornerstone: (Eph. 2:20)



- In <u>PHILIPPIANS</u>, the God who meets our every need.
- The Name above all names (Phil. 2:9)

- In <u>COLOSSIANS</u>, Jesus is the firstborn of all creation.
- The Fullness of The Godhead,
   The Image of the Invisible God
   (Col. 1:15)
- The Head of the body (Col. 1:18)
- The Beginning (Col. 1:18)
- The Firstborn from the dead
   (Col. 1:18)
- The Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)



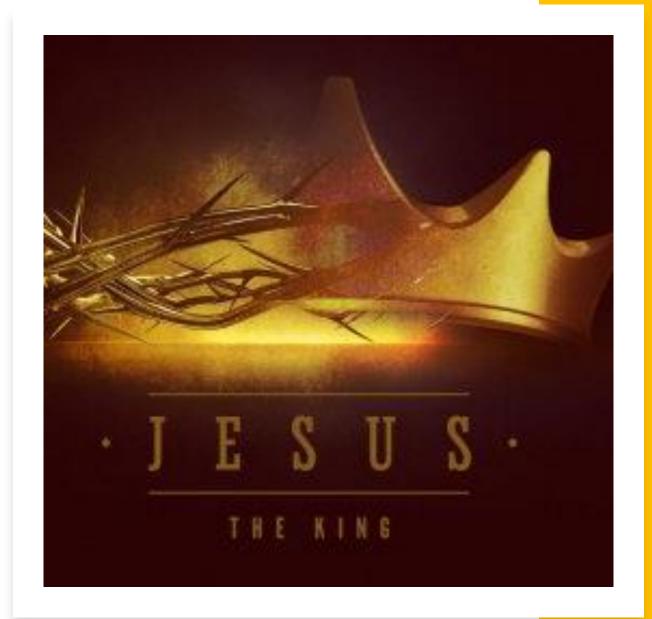


JESUS is all through the 39 books of the O.T. You will definitely see Him in the remaining 27 books of the N.T.

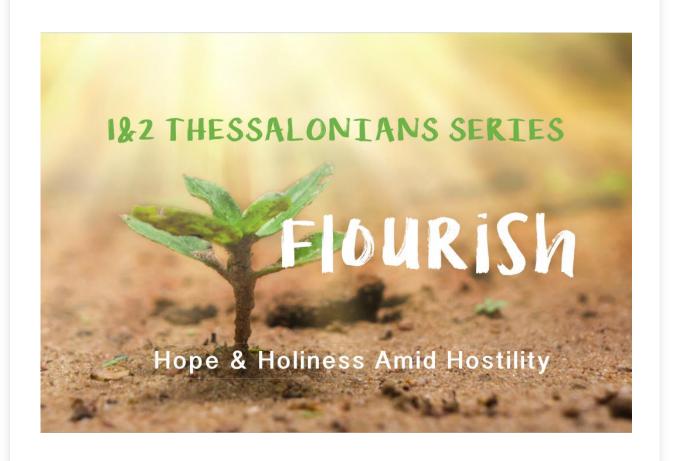
## WHO IS *JESUS* IN THE N.T. <u>REVIEW</u>.

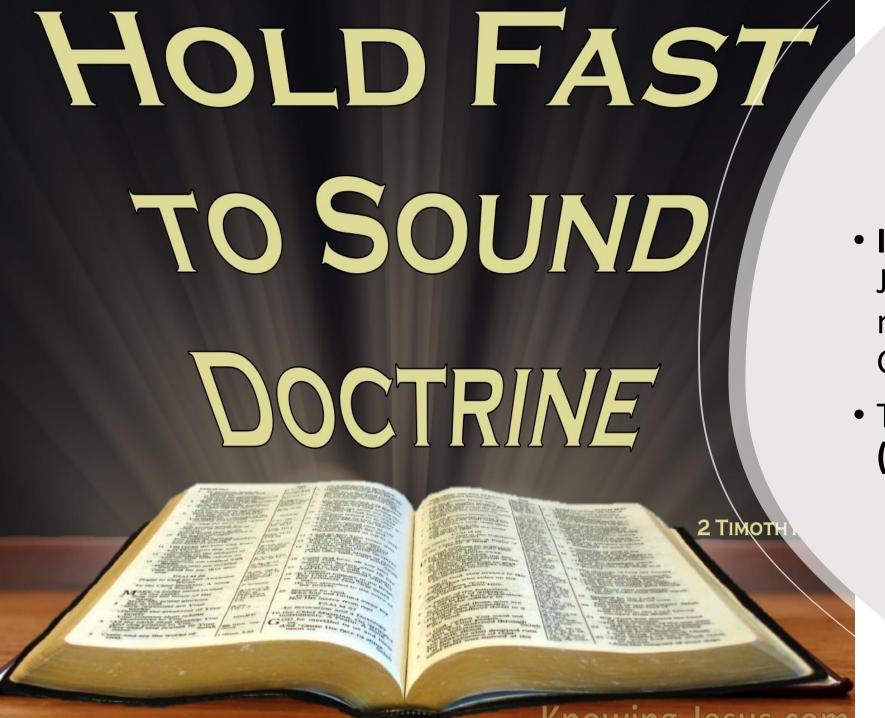
- **IN MATT.** Jesus is the King.
- **IN MK.** Jesus is the suffering servant.
- **IN LK**. Jesus is the son of man.
- <u>IN JN</u>. Jesus is the Son of God.
- IN ACTS. Jesus is the Christ, the Risen Lord, The Head of the Church.
- **IN ROM**. Jesus is the Justifier.
- In 1&2 COR. Jesus is the Spirit at work in the Church. The Last Adam.
- **IN GAL**. Jesus is the righteousness imputed to us by faith.

- In <u>EPH</u>. Jesus is our righteous armor.
- In <u>PHIL</u>. Jesus is the God who meets our every need.
- In <u>COL</u>. Jesus is the firstborn of all creation.



- In <u>1&2 THESSALONIANS</u>,
  Jesus is the Soon Coming
  King. He's descending
  from heaving with a shout,
  coming to meet us
  together in the clouds.
- The Lord of Peace.(2 Thes. 3:16)





- In <u>1&2 TIMOTHY</u>, Jesus is the one mediator between God and man.
- The King of Ages.(1 Tim. 1:17)

"To the pure all things are

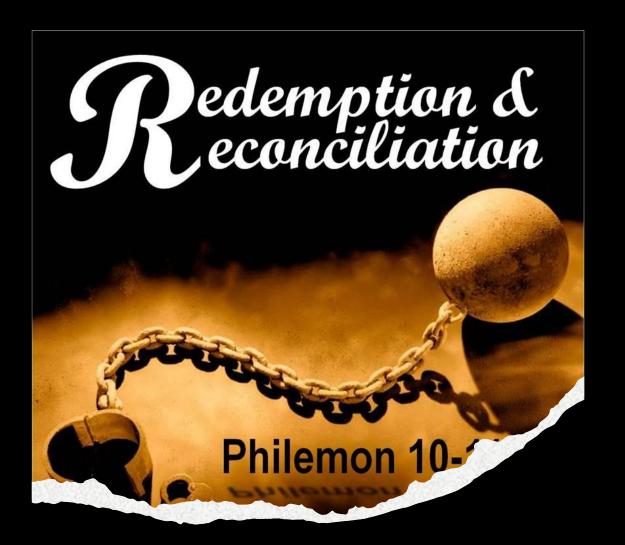
## PORE

but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind

and conscience are defiled."

(Titus 1:15)

- In <u>TITUS</u>, Jesus is our faithful Pastor.
- The Blessed Hope.(Titus. 2:13)



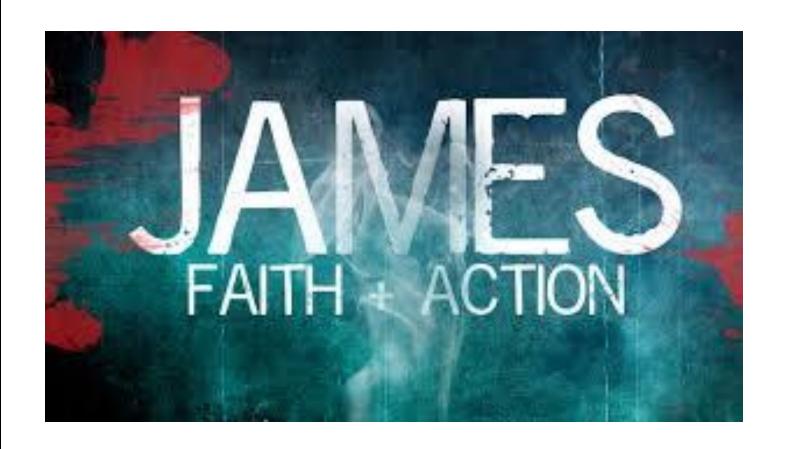
- In <u>PHILEMON</u>, Jesus is our Redeemer, restoring us to service.
- The Friend, Closer Than a Brother, The Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 3)

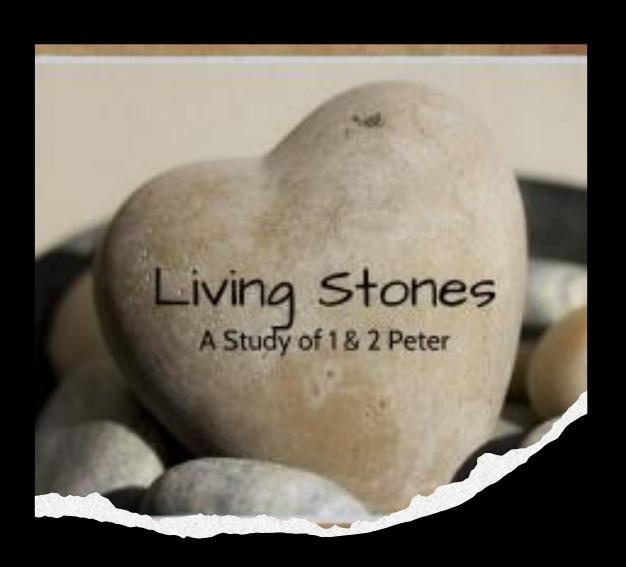


- In *HEBREWS*, Jesus is our great High Priest. (Heb. 2:17)
- The Blood That Washes Away My Sin.
- The Heir of All Things.(Heb. 1:2)
- The Author and Finisher of our Faith. (Heb. 12:2)



- In <u>JAMES</u>, Jesus is the life at work in our faith.
- The Great Physician,
   The Lord of Glory
   (James 2:1)
- The Judge at the door (James 5:9)



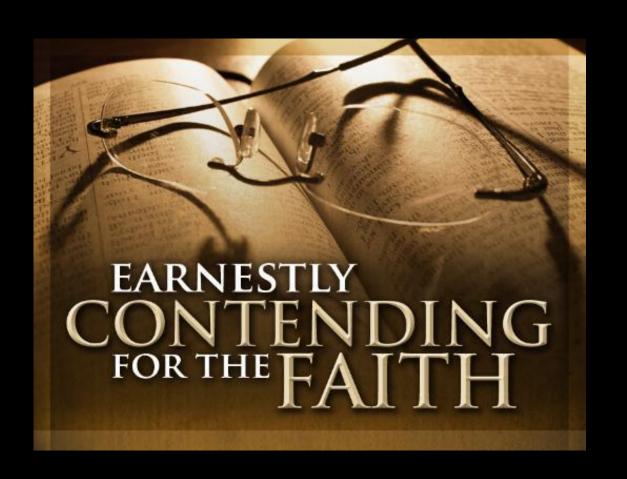


- In <u>1&2 PETER</u>, Jesus is our living cornerstone.
- The Living Stone. (1 Pet. 2:4)
- The Chief Shepherd.(1 Pet. 5:4)

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2: 3-4

- In <u>1, 2, AND 3 JOHN</u>, Jesus is our advocate, pleading His righteousness in our place.
- The Eternal Life (1 John 1:2)
- The Righteous (1 John 2:1)



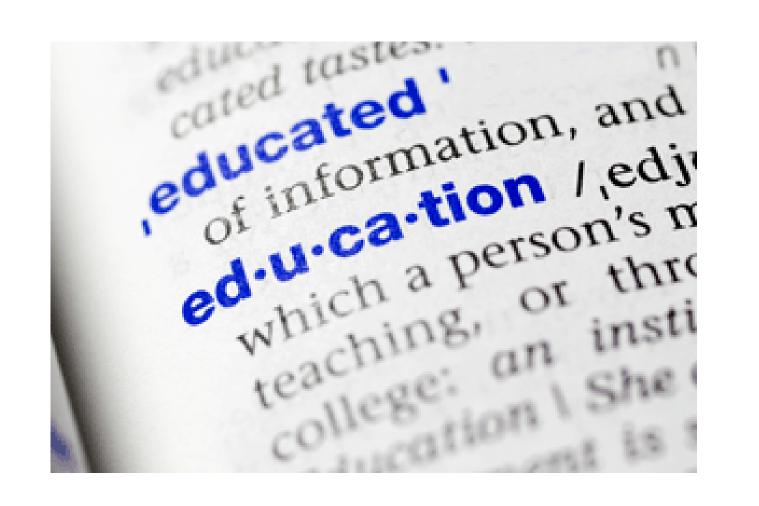
- In **JUDE**, Jesus is God our Savior, the one who keeps us from stumbling and presents us blameless in his presence with great joy.
- The Only Wise God our Savior. (Jude 25)

- In <u>REVELATION</u>, Jesus is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.
- The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last: (Rev. 1:17, 22:13)
- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah. (Rev 5:5)
- The Word of God. (Rev. 19:13).
- The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
   (Rev. 19:16)
- The Bright Morning Star. (Rev. 22:16)



## FOUR GREAT TERMS

YOU <u>NEED</u> TO KNOW!



- **1.HOMILETICS**: **means the art of preaching**. Homiletics comprises the study of the composition and delivery of a sermon or other religious discourse. It includes all forms of preaching: sermons, homilies (short sermons) and catechetical **(oral)** instruction.
- 2. <u>EXPOSITION</u>: is to preach the Bible in such a way that the message and aim of your sermon are *controlled by the message and aim of the biblical text being preached*. You're letting the Bible do the preaching.
- 3. EXEGESIS: is the interpretation of a text by way of a thorough analysis of its content in order to clarify its meaning. Our main task in EXEGESIS is to discover the original, intended meaning of a given text through careful, systematic study to ascertain what its first readers would have understood it to mean. exegesis is the act of drawing the meaning out of a Biblical text.
- 4. <u>HERMENEUTICS</u>: deals with the *philosophy* and *science* of interpreting the Biblical text using theories, methods, principles, exegesis, as indicated by its **etymology** (word-study). It therefore incorporates all of the tools and techniques that make up the process of biblical interpretation. Hermeneutics not only integrates exegesis (the study of the Bible to understand a passage in its ancient context), but also employs models for applying a biblical passage to a *modern context*.

## HOW DO WE NTERPRET THE BIBLE?

- HOW SHOULD WE INTERPRET THE BIBLE?" If we say that the only source of truth is the Bible, and there is no further revelation except the Bible, then the compelling thing becomes—how do we get the RIGHT MESSAGE out of this book?
- Given that we're dealing with an ancient book, in some cases, a very ancient book going all the way back to the time of *MOSES*, many centuries ago, and even in the case of the N. T., a couple thousand years ago, we are dealing with the fact that:
- It's a: different TIME, it's a different PEOPLE, it's a different CULTURE,
- It's a different GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING. It's different SOCIOLOGICALLY, it's different PHYSICALLY, GEOGRAPHICALLY.
- It's different in terms of LANGUAGE and so we have to close all those gaps to interpret Scripture accurately because whatever the Bible meant when it was originally given is exactly what it means now. So, we have to RECREATE that scene

- Sometimes you hear people say, "We need to bring the Bible into modern times." That's exactly the wrong thing to do, you need to take the modern reader into ancient times. You need to reconstruct the setting in order that you can get the interpretation at the time it was written.
- The word that we use to describe interpretation of the Bible is <u>HERMENEUTICS</u>.
   It is from a Greek word, *hermeneuo* which means to "interpret or to translate, to give the meaning." It is giving the sense of what something says. It would be used of anything that needed to be interpreted.
- For example, when we communicate with one another and often say, "What exactly do you mean by that?" That's a very common expression to something you don't understand. Or "What do you think that person meant? Or What do you think this writer means?" What was the message here because it's sometimes not obvious on the surface. Sometimes it is if the writer says the sky is blue, we don't need to study that a long time. But there are a lot more things that aren't nearly that simple.
- SO, HERMENEUTICS, IS THE SCIENCE OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION. I want you to
  identify it as a science because it is a science. That is, it operates under FIXED
  RULES. That's very important to establish. It is the crucial science behind all accurate
  doctrine, all sound doctrine that is faithful to the Word of God. Where you have a
  deviation from sound doctrine, inevitably you have a failure to stay by the science of
  hermeneutics. Or, you have a flat-out denial of the veracity and authenticity of the
  text itself.

- So, what do we mean by the word <u>EXEGETE</u>? "IT MEANS TO DRAW OUT."
- <u>EISEGESIS</u> is reading "INTO" the text, putting into the text your own ideas. Exegesis is drawing out from the text. When we talk about exegesis in seminary, that means the students are learning how to LET THE TEXT SPEAK FOR ITSELF rather than reading into it. Pentecostals—says Gordon Fee—tend to exegete their experience.
- Unfortunately, many Christians often play Bible roulette, you know, they spin the Bible, and flip it open somewhere and whatever it says, that's the Lord's verse for them for that moment. And everyone knows the classic illustration of that, flipping through the Bible somebody came across (Matt. 27:5) "Judas went out an hanged himself," that won't work. Flip to another page, (Lk. 10:37), "Jesus said, 'Go thou and do likewise."" That's not going to work. Flip to another passage, (Jn. 13:27), "And what you do, do quickly." All of that is in the Bible, it just doesn't go together in CONTEXT. God's message is NOT for you to go and commit suicide.

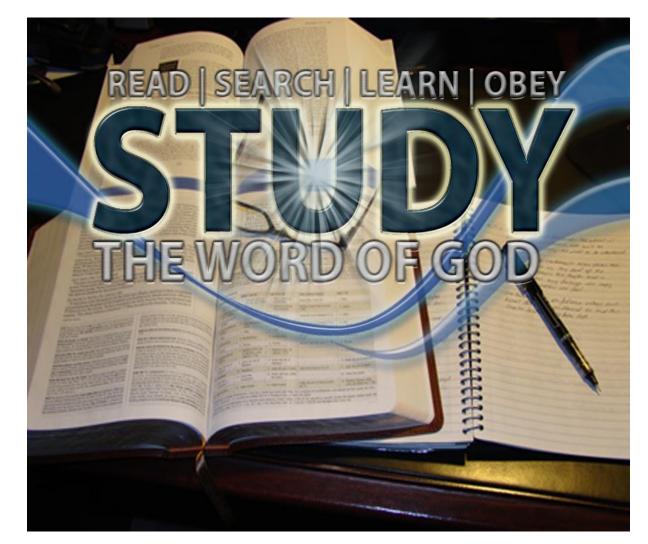
- What good does it do to agree that the Bible is God's Word, God's revelation if you
  misinterpret it? You miss the truth. You miss the authorial intent. Interpreting
  Scripture, the right way is critical for understanding the Bible.
- This is so serious that I would compare it to a physician. You don't want somebody who is untrained in surgery to operate on you do you? And there's a sense in which we want to be careful who operates on the Word of God. Who cuts into the Word of God to discern its meaning should be prepared. **Eternity hinges on the outcome.**
- All that matters is what the verse means period...*not what it means to you*. We can get to what the truth of the verse means in your life, but not until we know what it *actually means*. Every jot, every tittle, every small element of Scripture carries only the intended meaning of the author and the task of the interpreter is determine what that meaning is.

- Many Christians will unfortunately, pluck a verse out of its context. Many years ago, there was a joke going around about fundamentalists having all kinds of issues with people's hair. And some preacher supposedly preached that women shouldn't put their hair on the top of their head because the hair of the woman is the glory of a woman, so you don't pile it up on the top of your head, you take it down. And he used the text from the Olivet Discourse in which Jesus said, "Top not come down."
- In reality, (Lk. 17:31) actually says, "Let those on the housetop not come down," it's that kind of extreme interpretation where you just employ the words in a verse with any kind of meaning that you choose to give to the people as application.
- The importance of careful biblical interpretation couldn't be overstated.
   Misinterpreting the Bible, is essentially no better than NOT BELIEVING it.
- What good does it do to agree that the Bible is God's Word, God's revelation
  if you misinterpret it? You miss the truth. You miss the AUTHORIAL
  INTENT. Interpreting Scripture is absolutely critical.

- There is, by the way, a whole stream of church ministry and pastors and associations and fellowships that kind of pride themselves on non-seminary trained men. These men have no seminary training and, in many cases, haven't gained the tools to accurately handle the Word of God.
- Some of them will then read the good books and find the good commentators and lean on someone else's efforts. And that's fine, as a matter of fact, this is what most Christian lay people do. However, you must realize that you too are responsible for rightly handling the Word of God and you need to know where those good resources are.
- But the ones who develop those resources, who prepare, those who write the commentators, who are the teachers of the church, need to make sure that they have acquired the necessary skills to do effectively and accurately the science of interpretation. **TRUTH MUST BE RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD**.

## THE MANDATE FOR HERMENEUTICS

- Notice (2 Tim. 2:15) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (KJV)
- Here it is again in the (NASB)- "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."
- The Word must be handled with diligence and care and precision and accuracy, and those who fail to do that WILL BE ASHAMED.



## THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE ERRORS TO AVOID IN BIBLE INTERPRETATION.

## 1. REFRAIN FROM MAKING A POINT AT THE PRICE OF PROPER INTERPRETATION.

In other words, you might have a point to make, so you proof text it with a verse taken out of context. It's very easy to do that. It's very tempting to do that for a pastor or a teacher to sneak a foreign meaning into a text to get a desired response. This if you remember is called *ISOGESIS*(?) reading your point into the text and manipulating it to fix it as opposed to *EXEGESIS*, letting the text yield its own truth.

### 2. AVOID SUPERFICIAL STUDY.

Good accurate Bible study, is **HARD WORK!** It can't be done by flipping quickly through the Bible, or by flipping around in a concordance and trying to piece things together. You must not confuse **INSPIRATION** with **ILLUMINATION**.

- We have an **INSPIRED** text; and so, we need to be **ILLUMINED** by the **HOLY SPIRIT** for proper interpretation.
- Notice (1 Cor. 2:10-14) "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

- We need to be taught by the SPIRIT. The Spirit knows the things of God and He teaches us. The function of the Spirit is not to communicate NEW truth, and this is where the Charismatics get off track. THE FUNCTION OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT TO TEACH OR TO REVEAL NEW TRUTH, IT IS TO BRING ILLUMINATION TO THE BIBLE. And instead of them (Charismatics) chasing revelations and looking for new truth, if the Holy Spirit was really moving in them, in the way they think He is, they would be the purest and the noblest and the highest and the best of interpreters of Scripture. Sadly, They are not.
- How could you have a HOLY SPIRIT MOVEMENT and the Holy Spirit NOT DO His primary work which is the work of illuminating the Word of God for the people of God? You have to believe that the work of the Holy Spirit illuminating the believer who studies the Word faithfully is to yield the truth. So, on the one hand, you must have diligence in the study, and On the other hand, a confidence and trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit. And I promise you this, wherever the soundest doctrine is, wherever the purist and truest understanding of Scripture is, THERE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS.

#### 3. DON'T SPIRITUALIZE OR ALLEGORIZE A TEXT.

It's when you use Scripture like some kind of story and make it mean whatever you want. Here's an example that **John MacARTHUR** used when a man and his wife came seeking marital counseling.

So, "Why did you get married?" "Oh," said the husband, "it was the sermon our pastor preached in our church."

"Really, what sermon was it?"

"Well, he preached on the walls of Jericho."

Walls of Jericho, what does that have to do with marriage?

"Well," he said, "that God's people claimed the city, marched around it seven times and the walls fell down." He said, "If a young man believed God had given him a certain young girl, he could claim her, march around her seven times, the walls of her heart would fall down. So that's what I did and we got married." To which our pastor said, "That can't be true, you're kidding me, right?"

"No, no, that's true. And there were many other couples who got married because of the same sermon."

Can you imagine people circling girls? Would that not scare you ladies? Talk about stalking, about the third time around you've got to get out of there. Some people think marriages are made in heaven and some are, but that's a marriage made in an ALLEGORY.

## THERE ARE FIVE PRINCIPLES, SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES THAT ALL BIBLE INTERPRETERS HAVE ALWAYS WORKED WITH

- 1. <u>THE LITERAL PRINCIPLE</u>. What does that mean? You interpret the Scripture according to normal language, real people, real history.
- If somebody comes up to you and says, "Man I love turkey hunten." You say, "Oh, what's the secret meaning of that?" There is no secret meaning, They simply love Turkey hunten. Why would you do that with the Bible? If the Bible says something that's matter of fact, why would you assume there's some secret hidden meaning? There isn't. So, this is real people, real history, normal language...its real meaning.
- The words of Scripture are words that are to be understood in ordinary ways
  in the course of any daily use of normal language. WHATEVER THE MOST
  OBVIOUS MEANING, THE SIMPLEST MEANING, THE CLEAREST MEANING, THE
  MOST NORMAL MEANING—THAT'S THE MEANING!

- Well, what about <u>FIGURATIVE</u> language?" We use figurative language all the time. For example: "You know, I feel like I've been hit by a truck." You don't mean you were literally hit by a truck. We understand *METAPHORIC* language, we understand *ANALOGIES*, we speak in analogies all the time, why? Because that's normal language.
- FIGURES OF SPEECH are normal language. SYMBOLISM is normal language, but there are NO ALLEGORIES IN THE BIBLE.
- What does the term ALLEGORY mean? "a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one."
- For ex: Nathaniel Hawthorne's, The Scarlet Letter. In Hawthorne's novel, set in the 1600s but published in 1850, Hester Prynne is forced to undergo public humiliation, including wearing the scarlet letter "A" (standing for "adulteress") after she becomes pregnant out of wedlock. The scarlet letter is itself an allegorical representation of sin, and how society punishes it. The novel can be read as a criticism of the hypocrisy of a Puritanical society.

- THERE ARE NO **ALLEGORIES** IN THE BIBLE, it is **NORMAL** language, it means exactly what it appears to mean. There is no **deeper**, **hidden**, **secret**, or **spiritualized** meaning. Yes, they're **PROPHETIC** passages where there are **ANALOGIES**, there are **ILLUSTRATIONS**. For example, **ZECHARIAH**, **DANIEL**, **EZEKIEL**, **ISAIAH**, in the book of **REVELATION** you see images...those **images** are conveying a **reality** in a **SYMBOLIC** way.
- As a matter of fact, we use those kinds of things all the time, so did **JESUS** in **PARABLES**, right? **Parables** were **fictional stories conveying actual truth**.
- So, we must **NEVER** abandon **LITERAL INTERPRETATION** in favor of some mystical, hidden allegorical interpretation which discards accuracy, coherence, intelligence and reason.
- So, I start out with the LITERAL PRINCIPLE, I go to a text, I say, "Okay, it means exactly what it appears to mean. If there's a figure of speech, then the figure of speech will become clear as to what it illustrates, at what it refers to.

- 2. THE HISTORICAL PRINCIPLE. What are the characteristics of the city? What were the *cultural* conditions? What were the *politics*? What were the social pressures? What were the tensions, problems, or crises? What were the *customs* of the people? Where can I find information on all of this? These answers are found in Bible Dictionaries, Bible Handbooks, Commentaries, Books On History, Books On Bible Customs, Books On **EVERYTHING** you can get your hands on to **RECONSTRUCT THE TIMES**. You want to feel you've been dropped into the world of the BIBLE, because of the historical context!
- 3. THE GRAMMATICAL PRINCIPLE. This is to take a look at the language and the **syntax** and **lexicography** of a passage...the words, the way they're arranged, the prepositions, the pronouns, the antecedents. And you can do that in your English Bible. What do the words mean (Etymology)? What is the antecedent of this? What is the preposition telling me? To what does this pronoun refer? To WHOM does it refer? SO, IT'S A **GRAMMATICAL THING.**

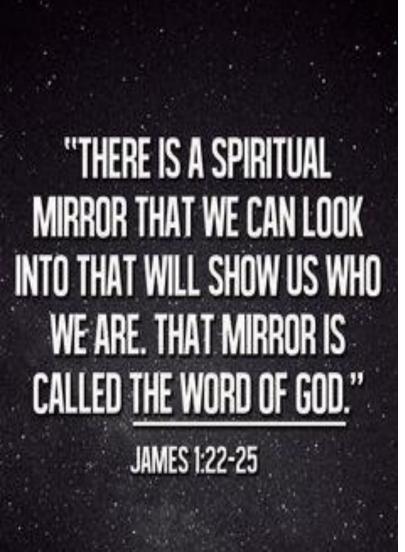
- Remember that ETYMOLOGY, and SYNTAX are similar, but different.
- **ETYMOLOGY**= Tracing a word's **history** from its original location and usage.
- <u>SYNTAX</u> = is how the words are constructed and connected to each other, this is part of the science. So, you have to get into the grammar. This is where knowing the ORIGINAL LANGUAGE is really critical. If you don't know *Greek* and *Hebrew*, you can...and you can get books that will give you the English translation. You can access the **Greek** from the **English**. You can access even the **Hebrew** from the **English** and find those original meanings.
- A good *Bible handbook* will help you tremendously with all of this material. There are other books like that that are available in the bookstore. Instead of just buying the end product of somebody else's study, get in on the front end of it, get these kind of books and go at it for yourself.
- As you study the grammar, look for the MAIN VERBS because verbs always carry
  the action and that's what you're looking for. And if you can find a main verb
  supported by a lot of PARTICIPLES, you know the participle always modifies the
  main verb and you can work your outline around the main verb and the
  participles. So, you're digging down on VERBS, NOUNS, PHRASES, MODIFIERS,
  ADVERBS, ADJECTIVES, all of that is in the course of doing GRAMMATICAL STUDY.

- 4. THE SYNTHESIS PRINCIPLE. The Reformers used the expression Scriptural Scriptorium Interpreteur. What does that mean? SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE. If you want to be able to do this, it is a skill you can buy probably for about twenty bucks. Get the book entitled "TREASURY OF SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE." This awesome book allows you to look up every verse and find every other verse in the Bible that refers to the same idea and the same truth. It's not a concordance. It's not the same word, it's the same idea. IT'S THE SCRIPTURE INTERPRETING THE SCRIPTURE.
- So, after you've done the *grammatical work* in the text, you compare it with other related texts and that's how you come to a **FULL UNDERSTANDING**. One writer says, "The Bible appears like a symphony orchestra with the Holy Spirit as its Toscanini, each instrumentalist has been brought willingly, spontaneously creatively to play his notes just as the great conductor desired, though none of them could ever hear the music as a whole. The point of each part only becomes fully clear when seen in relation to all the rest." That's a brilliant statement. The Bible is a symphony and when you study one theme, you're just putting all the instruments together and then it becomes a symphonic presentation of that one truth.

- 5. <u>THE PRACTICAL PRINCIPLE</u>. The final thing you want to ask is what are the implications of this? Understand, I'm not talking about APPLICATION, I'm talking about IMPLICATION. There's a difference.
- I want you to be processing in your mind the *implications* of this text, (What is God Saying,) It's the Holy Spirit's work to make the *application* both personally, and corporately. I could say, "Go home and do this, or that." I could give you specific application, but it might not apply to all of you. I would rather give an implication that hits all of you. For example, I might say something like:
- "Here are three things that will give you assurance of your salvation." That's
  the implication of this message. You understood that, and everybody should
  understand that. That was the practical principle.
- As to specifically making application of that new understanding of your assurance, that's going to be worked out, or fleshed out **AS THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTS YOUR THINKING, YOUR EXPERIENCE, AND YOUR LIFE..**

# LEARNING HOW TO WELLCOME THE WORD

• (James. 1:21-24) "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was."



- When JAMES says we are to "RECEIVE" the Word of God, he doesn't mean just to grasp or to take. You can't just reach out and snatch the word of God. Too many people try to study the Word of God like they are studying a math or history book. They get a Bible and a concordance and determine to master the Bible. Sadly, they may get the WORDS, but they'll never get the MESSAGE. They may learn about the KINGS OF ISRAEL, but they'll never know the KING OF KINGS.
- But JAMES chose to use the word for receive which means "TO WELCOME,"-- to receive as though you would receive someone into your home.
- If you want to understand the Bible, you must learn how to welcome the Word. You will never by your intellect and determination go into the Bible and get truth out; but if you'll open your heart and mind to welcoming the word, you will receive it.

## FOUR PRACTICES FOR WELCOMING THE WORD

#### I. YOU NEED A REPENTANT HEART.

First, there is a *MORAL QUALIFICATION* to understand the Word of God. You must lay aside what the Bible calls "super fluity of naughtiness." This is certainly NOT a term we use on a regular basis, but it literally means "that wickedness which remains or is left over."

When you were saved, you repented of your sins and received Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. But there was a lot you didn't know about Jesus and a lot you didn't know about yourself. Like *Lazarus* whom Jesus raised from the dead. He came out of the grave, but still had his grave clothes on. Jesus said, "Loose him and let him go." (Jn. 11:44). In other words, take off that which remains.

Remember also (Jn. 13:10) "Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." In other words; you are POSITIONALLY clean, but PROGRESSIONALLY, your feet are still attached to this world.

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• You may be surprised to know that the word "FILTHINESS" here means "EARWAX." God is saying if you want to hear, you must clean out your ears. When you study the Bible, make a full confession of sin and ask God to search your heart.

#### II. YOU NEED A RECEPTIVE HEART.

- And then verse **twenty-one** tells us to "receive with meekness the engrafted word." Notice that word MEEKNESS. It means "to have a compliant spirit," a spirit ready to obey. If you are meek, you are "TEACHABLE, TRAINABLE, and CONTROLLABLE." God wants to break you and take you under His Control.
- Do you know why some folks don't really understand the Word of God? Because when God's Word says something, they parade it past the jury of their mind. The Word of God says ABC, and they say, "Let me see...ABC.... Does that sound right? I believe A...but I'm not so sure about B. Yea...C is all right. Well, let me see...what about that B?" And they try to figure it out. **THEY'RE NOT TEACHABLE**.

• In (Jn. 7:17) Jesus promises, "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." It is your will that must be surrendered, not primarily your mind. You must receive and welcome the Word with a receptive spirit.

#### III. YOU NEED A RESPONSIVE SPIRIT.

- Once your heart is clean and your will is surrendered; THEN you must begin to obey what God tells you. In verse **twenty-two** instructs us to be "doers of the Word, and not hearers only." Do you know what's wrong with some folks? Listening to sermons! They have a notebook full of sermons, and they feel so good about all their knowledge. But they have no intention of obeying what they hear. They become hearers of the Word without becoming doers.
- So many people attend church but *rarely apply* what they hear. Did you know that if you hear truth and don't act on it, Jesus calls you a FOOL? Notice (Matt. 7:26) "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand." Again, WHY SHOULD GOD GIVE YOU ANY MORE TRUTH, WHEN YOU WON'T OBEY WHAT HE'S ALREADY GIVEN YOU? You must have a responsive heart!

#### IV. YOU NEED A REFLECTIVE SPIRIT.

You must read the Bible with a reflective spirit---allowing the Bible to **READ YOU!** Notice again (James. 1:23-25) "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."

- **JAMES** gives us a great example of what he's talking about. He says a person who merely hears the Word is like a man who wakes up in the morning his beard is grown out; his hair is tussled; he's got bags under his eyes; and he's still got soup on his mustache from last night. He looks in the mirror for a moment and agrees that he needs to put his face in shape. But after a fleeting glance, he goes his way and goes off to work looking like that. He's just like he was **NO CHANGE. HE SAW IT AND FORGOT IT.**
- If you want to understand the Word of God, you must *READ IT*, **BRING YOUR** *MIND TO IT*,; **BRING YOUR** *HEART TO IT*; **BRING YOUR** *WILL TO IT*, and then **WATCH GOD WORK IN YOUR**