

# HOW TO STUDY THE B BLE

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## PART ONE: THE BIBLE FROM 30,000 FEET

### A. THE BIBLE IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL, BEST-SELLING BOOK OF ALL TIME.

1. In the past 50 years, over 4 billion Bibles have been printed into 349 languages.
2. Over 100 million Bibles are sold or given away for free every year in the world.
3. According to the American Bible Society's 2015 State of the Bible research, 58% of Americans believe the Bible has had the most impact on human history.
4. The Bible is essential for understanding human \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN...

1. Over a 1,500-year span (over 40 generations)
2. By more than 40 authors, from every walk of life (including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, and scholars to name a few)
3. 3 different continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe
4. 3 languages: Hebrew (in the O.T.), Aramaic (parts of Ezra & Daniel.), and Greek (in the N.T.)
5. Some books of the Bible clearly state their author (e.g., Joshua 24:26 says that Joshua wrote the book bearing his name) while other books do not reveal who wrote them.
6. Its subject matter includes historical records, sermons, letters, a hymn book, love songs, geographical surveys, architectural specifications, travel diaries, population statistics, family trees, inventories, and numerous legal documents.

### C. TWO VIEWS OF THE BIBLE

1. SECULAR: The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ document.
2. CHRISTIAN: The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ - made document.

*All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV '84).*

### D. KEY WORDS

1. "\_\_\_\_\_" is from the Greek word *graphe*, which means "writing."
2. "BIBLE" is from the Greek word for "book."
3. "\_\_\_\_\_" is from the Greek words *Biblion* "book" and *latreia* "worship" and means "book worship."

### E. MORE ON THE BIBLE...

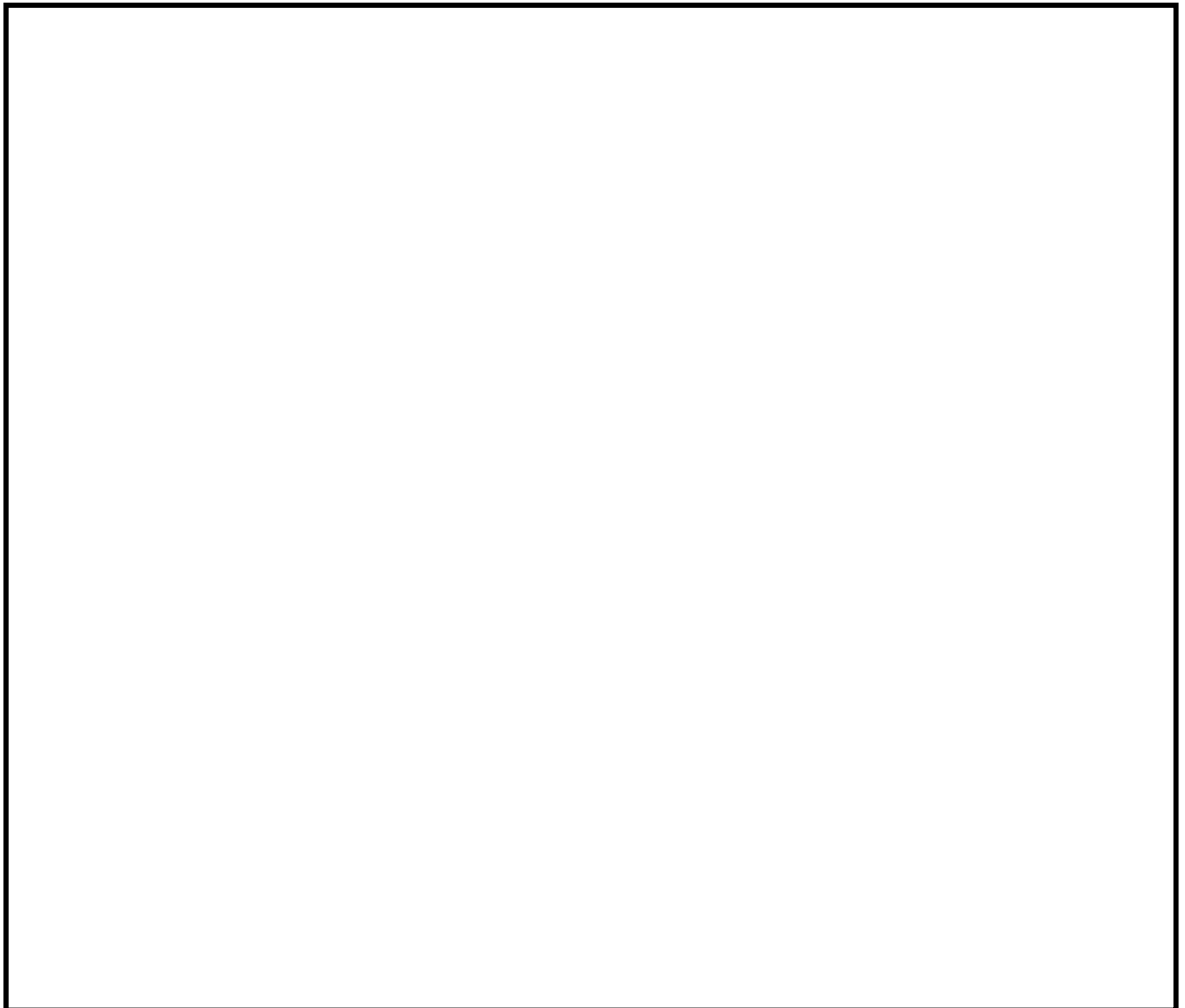
1. The Bible is more like a \_\_\_\_\_ than one \_\_\_\_\_.
  - There are 66 books in the Bible (39 in the Old and 27 in the New).
  - The Bible is organized by literary type - much like a library.
2. The Bible is divided into two sections: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Testaments.
  - The Old Testament is a series of promises that God makes.
  - The New Testament is the record of the fulfillment of those promises through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
3. Each book in the Bible is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ (denoted by the large number) and \_\_\_\_\_ (denoted by smaller numbers).

4. The Bible focuses on one person: \_\_\_\_\_

- *“...everything written about me [Jesus] in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must come true” (Luke 24:44 JBP).*
- *“He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone” (Acts 4:11 NASV).*

5. One, unified story of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

#### **F. THE 4 PARTS OF GOD’S STORY IN THE BIBLE (DRAW THE STORY)**



1. \_\_\_\_\_: God made everything (Genesis 1 & 2) and it was perfect.
  - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NIV).*
  - Since God created everything, this means (1) He owns everything and has the right to do with it as He wills and (2) He knows how everything is supposed to work so He knows what is best for us.
  - *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." (Gen. 1:26a)*
  - God made man in His image, which means (1) God created man with a mind, (2) emotions (we can connect with others) and (3) with a will (we have the ability to make our own decisions).
2. \_\_\_\_\_: Man chose to do his own thing (Genesis 3), which resulted in death.
  - *"...just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way **death came to all men**, because all sinned..." (Rom 5:12 NIV)*
  - Death entered into the relationships between humans and...
    - God – sin, disobedience, etc. (Colossians 1:21 & Habakkuk 1:13)
    - Other humans – violence, greed, misunderstandings, etc. (James 1:1)
    - Nature – earthquakes, tornadoes, drought, etc. (Romans 8:22)
    - Ourselves – guilt and shame (Genesis 3:10)
3. \_\_\_\_\_: God makes a way to reunite with us (Genesis 3 – Jude).
  - *"...he [Jesus] will crush your head [devil], and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15b).*
  - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8 NIV '84).*
  - The Old Testament promises that God will rescue humanity through Jesus Christ and the New Testament reassures us that God is still rescuing humanity through Jesus.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Satan, sin and death are defeated. God wins (Revelation).
  - *"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur...each person was judged according to what he had done...Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:10b, 13b, 14a)*
  - Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

## G. A FEW OF THE BIBLE'S MAJOR THEMES

1. **LOVE / RELATIONSHIP.** The core theme of Scripture is of a loving God who creates humanity out of His overflowing love and who pays the price to restore our relationship with Him. (John 3:16)
2. **HOLINESS.** Holy means to be “set apart” or different from what is common. It refers to being pure. God is perfectly holy. He calls us to be holy. (Leviticus 11:44-45 and 1 Peter 1:15-16).
3. **SIN.** Sin means to “miss the mark” of God’s standard. Sin is caused by a willful act of rebellion against God.
4. **IDOLATRY.** Idolatry is the core issue throughout the Bible. Idolatry simply means to worship someone or something instead of God.
5. **CLEAN AND UNCLEAN.** The Old Testament law book of Leviticus outlines Israel’s uncleanness (caused by their sin) and how, through animal sacrifice and rituals (including washing with water), they could be clean and return to close relationship with God. This theme reappears in the Old Testament Passover and the New Testament act of Baptism (immersion in water).
6. **LAW AND SACRIFICE.** The Old Testament Law was the means by which God’s people could return to God’s presence. The death of a perfect sacrifice (lamb and, eventually, Jesus) was central to the law and is referenced throughout the Old Testament. In the New Testament, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice.
7. **LIGHT AND DARKNESS.** God separates light and darkness in Creation (Genesis 1). Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would bring light to those who live in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus is the source of light and (John 1:4) and darkness hides from light because it is evil (John 3:19).
8. **SYMBOLIC NUMBERS.** Numbers are often symbolic and represent an idea. For example, the 3 may represents the Trinity of God; 4, the earth; 6 represents man; 7 represents perfection and completion; 12 represents God’s people such as the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles.

## PART TWO: THE S.O.A.P. METHOD

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)**

### A. REMEMBER THE S.O.A.P.

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the verses \_\_\_\_\_ times and in multiple translations.
2. What is the best Bible translation? It's the one you will \_\_\_\_\_.

**O** \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Art of Bible Reading is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What do you see about God / humanity?
3. Ask 5 W's: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_?

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Always ask two question:
  - 1) What will I \_\_\_\_\_? "I will \_\_\_\_\_?"
  - 2) Who will I \_\_\_\_\_? "I will tell \_\_\_\_\_?"

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Thank God for what He has shown you. Ask Him to help you obey.

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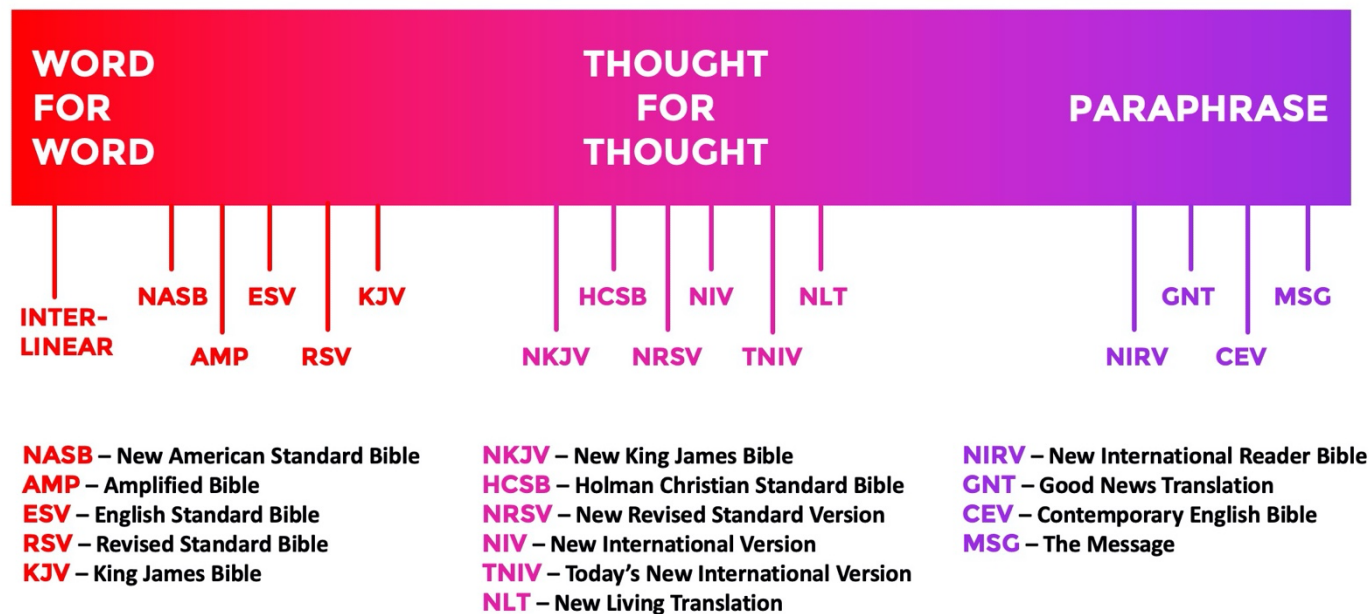
### C. ESSENTIALS FOR A GREAT BIBLE STUDY

1. Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ask, "When am I most alert?"
2. Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Ask, "Where can I be least distracted?"
3. Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Ask, "What will I read?"
5. Resource: See reading plan links on page 3 for reading plans.
4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
6. Ask, "Have I prayed?"



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### A. BIBLE TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



### B. BIBLE READING PLANS

- 1. The One Chapter A Day Reading Plan (15-minutes/day):** As the name implies, read one chapter of one book of the Bible every day. This plan is ideal if you are beginning the habit of daily Bible reading, since the relatively short readings help prevent burnout. If you miss a day just pick up the next day where you left off. Visit <http://clearcreekcoc.org/spend-time-with-god> for 4 different One Chapter A Day plans.
- 2. The One Year Bible Reading Plan (about 35-minutes/day):** Read 3-4 chapters every day beginning in Genesis. This plan is ideal for those who have 30+ minutes a day. I recommend the “Read Scripture” phone app. It provides the daily reading and user-friendly, bite-sized videos that explain key ideas and new sections of the Bible.
- 3. The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan (about 35-minutes/day):** This One Year Bible reading plan incorporates Old and New Testament Scriptures in each day's reading. I like this plan because I seem to always get something from my reading (i.e. if not from the Old Testament text, then from the New Testament). This plan is ideal for those with 30 minutes+ time every day. Download the plan at <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Discipleship-Journal-Bible-Reading-Plan-9781617479083.pdf>