

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD INTRO LESSON

I. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD!

2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV 1900)

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The word *inspiration* means God-breathed.

2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV)

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

The Bible is not man's book about God. It is God's revelation of Himself.

Evidence supports that the Bible is historically true and has a supernatural origin:

- a. Archeology: (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- b. Science (Isaiah 40:22 – Circle of the Earth & Job 26:7 – Hangs the Earth on nothing)
- c. Divine Agreement:
 - i. 40 writers
 - ii. Over 1500 years in the writing
- d. Fulfilled Prophecy:
 - i. 400 fulfilled Old Testament prophecies in the life of Jesus (Isa 7:14, Micah 5:2, Zech. 13:6)
 - ii. Isaiah 11:12 – Dissolution and reuniting of Israel
- e. Indestructability: Most scrutinized and attacked book in the world and yet it is still the most printed, circulated, and translated book in the world.
- f. Personal Witness

II. WE ARE PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE WORD OF GOD!

If the Bible is God's revelation of Himself, then that means it has authority over our lives.

The Word of God will be our judge in the last day!

John 12:48 (NKJV)

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Every person will stand before God and be judge out of the “books” of the Bible. (See Rev. 20)

Just as every person is accountable to the U.S. tax code, even if they don't know it, we are all accountable to the Word of God.

III. WE SHOULD STUDY AND RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF GOD!

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

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

If there is a right way to interpret and handle scripture, it stands to reason that there is a wrong way. We need to understand how the Bible is structured so that we can properly interpret it.

Two main divisions of the Bible:

- a. Old Testament – 39 Books
- b. New Testament – 27 Books

The Bible is one story with many subplots! The master theme of the Bible is Redemption.

The Old Testament is the foundation upon which the New Testament rests.

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 But when the *fullness of the time* had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Jesus coming to earth is the highest revelation of God. He is God in the flesh. Yet, this event required preparation. God used the OT to prepare the earth for the coming of Jesus.

Imagine Jesus' coming as the opening night of a Broadway musical. Before the show can begin, there must first be preparation.

- a. Script must be written = Law & the Prophets
- b. Stage must be built = Judaism, Israel, Jerusalem & the Temple
- c. Rehearsals must be performed = Passover & animal sacrifices

The Old Testament is a school master to bring us to Christ (The NT)

Galatians 3:24–25 (NKJV)

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

The OT is layered revelation. It is God slowly and methodically revealing Himself to mankind, and particularly the descendants of Abraham. It was never intended to be the full revelation, but a teacher that would bring us to Christ.