



Truth For These Times



2. THE SCRIPTURES

Use with Chart "Jesus Believed All of the Old Testament" At end of lesson.

The way God has revealed His will to mankind is through the Holy Scriptures, or as we say, the Bible. It is true that the evidence of God can be seen as we look into the wonderful world of nature, and as we behold the stars in the heavens, but His will for our lives is found in the Bible only. Take away the Bible and our contact with God is lost. It has been affectionately termed, God's love-letter to man, and so it is, for here we see God's plan revealed for the salvation of lost humanity. How did the Bible come to us? Did God write it? The answers to these questions are clearly given.

2 Timothy 3:16 **ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

Notice that all Scripture comes from God. It does not say that God did the actual writing, rather, God inspired certain men. He gave revelations of truth, and man wrote it down in a way understood by his fellowman. God did not use these holy men as we use a typewriter, instead, He told them what to write and they recorded it in their own words. This is why we see different styles of writing in the Bible, but even so, the truths presented are always the same. The Bible is in complete harmony from Genesis through to Revelation.

See how the Bible is profitable for doctrine (teaching of truths), for reproof when we are wrong, for correction if we are in error and instruction that we may know the correct path to follow in life.

2 Peter 1:21 ²¹ **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

Man did not choose to write the Bible – God chose holy men to write it for Him. The Bible has been written by approximately 40 men, over a period of thousands of years, yet there is in fact only one Author – the Holy Spirit. He is the source of inspiration.

Luke 24:44,45 ⁴⁴ **And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** ⁴⁵ **Then opened he their understanding, that they might**

Jesus had confidence in the Scriptures, and here we see Him explaining the truths concerning the promised Messiah. Notice how Jesus divided the Old Testament Scriptures into three sections.

The Law of Moses – often called the Pentateuch, it is the first five books of the Bible.

The Prophets – this is the rest of the Old Testament, excluding the Psalms.

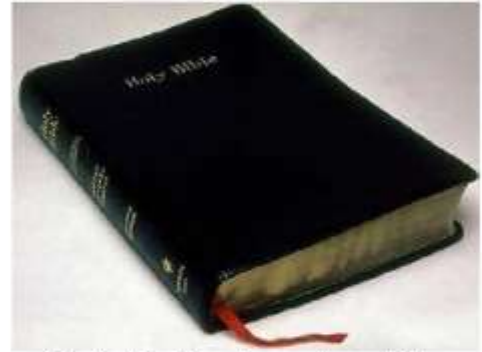
The Psalms – which were used in a similar way as we sing hymns today.

John 20:30,31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in THIS BOOK; BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Now we come to the inspiration of the New Testament. The Old is the New concealed, and the New is the Old revealed. The Old Testament said Jesus was coming, the New tells us of His coming to this planet and that He is coming again. We cannot separate the Old Testament from the New.

Psalm 119:11 ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.



God's Word is a lamp unto our feet.

When God's word is deeply embedded in our lives it gives us the knowledge and power to overcome sin through Jesus.

Psalm 119:105 ¹⁰⁵ Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

If we are on a bush track on a dark night with no torch, we are in danger of falling and getting lost. The torch, however, shows the way clearly. We are in a world of spiritual darkness, but the Bible is our light to show us the way to eternal life, that we might not fall and be lost. The Scriptures give us patience, comfort and hope.

Acts 17:11

¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.



Paul commended the Bereans for searching the Bible every day.

Paul commended the Bereans because of their study of the Scriptures on a daily basis. As the truths are read in an attitude of prayer, wonderful spiritual revelations flash into the mind. The only way to study the Bible is in an attitude of prayer. This is why it is good to say a short prayer before reading the Bible that God will enlighten the mind.

Isaiah 28:10

¹⁰ For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little:

How should we interpret the Bible? Here we are told to compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is not written in subject form. For example, the second coming of Christ is mentioned in many different books of the Bible. If we want to know what the Bible teaches on this subject, the texts are brought together so we can see the complete picture. To appreciate an artist's work we must see the whole picture, not just a small part of it. So the Bible becomes its own interpreter. It is not man's interpretation – it is what the Bible says about itself. Many have made the mistake of building a teaching around one or two texts and have come to wrong conclusions.

Acts 8:30,31

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The full story of the Ethiopian eunuch's deeper understanding is found in Acts 8:26-39. Philip understood the words of Isaiah, which the Ethiopian did not. God therefore used a man who understood the truth, to explain it to one who did not. So God uses men and women today to reveal wonderful things in His word to those who do not yet understand, then they themselves become teachers to others. They become Jesus' sheep – they hear His voice and follow Him.



John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

When we search the Scriptures, we find the greatest treasure of all – Jesus – the way to eternal life.

Matthew 11:25 ²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

It is not our intellectual greatness that helps us to understand the things of God. In fact many of the world's intellects scoff at the Bible. Spiritual things are understood only by those who are spiritual. Our understanding does not come from mental ability, but from revelation of the Spirit of God. As we are prepared to receive so it is given.

1 Corinthians 2:13,14 ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

If we are on the Lord's side, we will understand great things out of His word.

Matthew 7:21 ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.



We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand the Bible.

What shall we do with the Bible? It is God's will for us, so we must willingly obey otherwise we will never inherit the kingdom of God.

John 7:17 ¹⁷ If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

Many today are confused – they don't know what to believe, but we will not be in darkness if we are prepared to do God's will. This is the condition, and if we meet this requirement we will clearly understand the difference between truth and error. It will be like the voice of God saying, "This is the way – walk in it".

2 Timothy 3:17 ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

When we pray, read and study the word of God we come closer and closer to Christ. The words He speaks are spirit and life and we become more and more like Him. God works in us to bring us to completeness in Christ. How wonderful to know God changes our hearts through the Word and writes His law on our hearts.

My friend, the greatest joy in your life can be in reading the letter God has sent you – the Bible. Read it in the morning, and read it in the evening. It is not necessary to read a lot in each sitting, but rather, read a small section, then meditate on what you have read and try to understand it and apply it to your life. This will give you the right attitude for prayer, and will give your prayer life new meaning. If you are a new Christian it may be easier to read the New Testament before the Old, or alternate between the two.

God has done so much for us in giving us the Bible, but He also gave us His Son to die on Calvary. Today He is asking for your life, that He might save it for eternity. Friend, read His Word and you will know how to live a life of victory through Christ.



Daily Bible study is important for spiritual development.

Review Sheet – How to Read and Understand the Bible

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Who is responsible for the writing of the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16
2. How were holy men inspired to write the Bible? 2 Peter 1:21
3. Into what three sections did Jesus divide the Old Testament? Luke 24:44,45
4. Why was the Gospel of John written? John 20:30,31
5. To what is the Bible likened to show us the way through a world of spiritual darkness? Psalm 119:105
6. What good example did the Bereans give us in their habits of Bible reading? Acts 17:11
7. How does the Bible indicate that God's word is its own interpreter? Isaiah 28:1
8. God uses men who have an understanding of Bible truth to reveal it to others. Acts 8:30,31
TRUE ___ FALSE ___.
9. Is intellectual greatness needed to understand Bible truths? Matthew 11:25
YES ___ NO ___.
10. How does 1 Corinthians 2:13,14 show how Bible truths are understood?
11. What should be the Christian's attitude toward the Bible if he wants to understand its truths? John 7:17
12. What will be the result of a continued study of the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:17

Is it your plan to read some of God's word (the Bible) each day? ____.

3 ANGELS



REV. 14:6-12

THREE ANGELS FELLOWSHIP
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Jesus Believed All of the Old Testament



But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead'.

Luke 16:31

Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Luke 24:44,45.

Jesus Believed In...

Ten Commandments	Matt 5:17,18; Luke 10:26	⌘
Creation	Mark 10:6	
Marriage	Mark 10:6	9
Angels	Matt 13:39; 18:10; 22:30	
Satan	Luke 10:18; 11:18; Matt 4:10	
The Flood	Matt 24:38,39	
Destruction of Sodom	Matt 10:15; 11:23,24; Luke 17:29	
The Exodus Story	Luke 20:37; John 3:14; John 7:22	
Jonah & The Fish	Matt 12:39,40	

Old Testament Characters Jesus Mentions By Name...

Abel	Matt 23:35
Noah	Matt 24:38,39
Abraham, Isaac & Jacob	Matt 22:32
Moses	Mark 7:10; 12:26; John 3:14
David	Matt 12:3; 22:43,45; Mark 2:25
Solomon	Matt 6:29; 12:42
Elijah	Matt 11:14; Luke 4:26
Elisha	Luke 4:27
Isaiah	Matt 13:13; 15:7
Jonah	Matt 12:39,40; 16:14; Luke 11:30
Daniel	Matt 24:15