

# The Bible Made Simple



Teacher's Manual  
with USB

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# 1 The Word of God

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As this world is faced with enormous problems—marital, financial, emotional, and many others, we have to have something that will provide the help and the answers that we need. The question is, “Where do we find this help?” The best place we can look is in the Word of God. There is a deep desire and thirst within every one of us that can only be satisfied by Christ. John 4:14 says, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” The Bible gives us hope of life. It’s not life that will wither and die. It’s an unbelievable everlasting life. II Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” The only way we will discover these principles and this life the Lord desires us to have is by opening His Book and studying the Scriptures.

This Bible study is not about the teachings of a church or of a specific religion. It is a simple overview of the Word of God. In this first lesson, we are going to do a basic introduction to the Bible. In your own words, what does the Bible mean to you?

## In This Lesson

- ✓ The Journey of the Bible
- ✓ Facts about This Amazing Book
- ✓ Is the Bible True?
- ✓ The Bible in Our Lives

## The Journey of the Bible

### 1 | The Start of God's Communication

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- Do you know how God communicated before the Bible?
- The fascinating story of how we got the Bible in its present form actually started thousands of years ago.
- During the first 2500 years of man's history, there was no written Word.
- God spoke through a few specific men, which we will study in future lessons. He also used other ways of communication, such as nature, dreams, visions, angels, and symbols.
- He communicated in many ways, but the main way He spoke before the introduction of the Bible was through man's conscience.

### 2 | The Beginnings of the Written Word

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- The first person to see a written Covenant of God was Moses. On Mount Sinai, the Lord inscribed a portion of the Law on tablets of stone with His finger.
- Then Moses was told to put the tablets of stone inside a holy, sacred place called the Ark of the Covenant.
- In time, the scribes of Israel very carefully began to write on leather, clay tablets, wood, and other things. Eventually paper was used.
- Enforced reading of the Word was a strong way of preserving the Law as well (Deuteronomy 31:9-11). Every Israelite was required to hear someone read all of God's written laws every seven years.
- Through a lifetime, a Jew would have heard the Word read about ten or twelve times. This continual reading of the Bible put God's Word as a priority in their lives.
- Then, the Jewish scribes fulfilled an order to copy and preserve the Scriptures.
- They came up with a plan to make sure that every letter was copied exactly.
- The original Hebrew Scriptures were copied and translated for many generations.
- In the 1450s, the first Bible was printed. The accuracy of the printing press and lower costs for books has placed the Word of God in many people's hands.
- The King James Version was published in 1611.
- Other translations are available in English and other languages. It was a long road—from the first day God spoke to Adam until today.

## Facts about This Amazing Book

### 1 | God-Inspired

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Read II Peter 1:20-21.

- The Bible is God-inspired (I Corinthians 14:37; II Timothy 3:16).
- In the Bible, there were at least thirty-two writers covering 3600 years of man's history.
- These books were written in different ages, different countries, and by different men; yet when their writings became one book, there is not even one contradiction.
- The most intellectual men could not pull off the feats of knowledge contained in the Bible without the inspiration of God.
- The words "Thus saith the Lord" appear over three hundred times.
- The Bible is either God's Word to man—or it's not. There's no middle ground. The bottom line is the Bible is God-inspired.

### 2 | Most Popular Book Ever

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- The Bible is the best gift God ever gave to man.
- The American Bible Society has distributed over eight hundred sixty million Bibles since 1816.
- The Bible in its completeness is now available in over two hundred thirty languages, more than there are nations on earth.
- It has been published in more languages, more copies have been produced, and more people have read it than any other book in history.

### 3 | Unforgotten

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Read Matthew 24:35.

- Only half of 1 percent of all books published survive seven years. Eighty percent of all books published are forgotten in one year. The Bible is over two thousand years old and is today's best seller.
- It doesn't matter how old it is or how many people criticize it, His Word will never pass away.

## 4 | Arrangement

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- Turn to the table of contents in your Bible.
- The Bible isn't one book. It is a library of books compiled into one volume.
- The Bible is divided into two testaments—the old and the new.
- God's agreement with man about salvation before He came in the flesh as Jesus Christ is called the Old Testament.
- God's agreement with man about salvation after Christ came is called the New Testament.
- How many books are in the Bible?
- There is a total of sixty-six—thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament.
- Each testament is divided into sections. The Old Testament begins with the Law. This includes the first five books of the Bible written by Moses. These books have the story of Creation, the Flood, and how the Jewish people began.
- The next twelve books are the history of the Jewish people.
- Then, there are five poetry books.
- Next, there are the major prophets and the minor prophets. Minor does not mean they are any less important. It just means they are shorter.
- The first four books of the New Testament are the Gospels, or the life of Christ. These are the records of when Jesus walked on earth, taught His apostles, died on the cross, rose again, and many other details.
- Acts, the next book, is the actions of the apostles after Christ ascended.
- Romans through Jude were letters to the churches and writings of the apostles.
- Revelation, the last book, is prophecy of the end time.
- Which parts of the Bible are you most familiar with?

## Is the Bible True?

### 1 | Scientific Evidence

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- What kind of evidence do you need? How much evidence do you need? If you had the evidence, would you believe?
- There are many proofs within the Bible that show it is a divine book, but how can we really know that it is true?
- Because God is the Creator of the universe (Hebrews 11:3), everything the Bible says about science is true. Let's look at a few Scriptures.



Read Isaiah 40:22.

- During the 1400s, people of learning believed that the world was flat. It was about 2,100 years after the Bible was written that mankind learned the earth was round.
- Most of us learned in elementary school that Christopher Columbus sailed into the sea to discover the earth was round. It is believed that part of his justification to Queen Isabella of Spain was Isaiah 40:22 which had been written many years before.
- The Bible was two thousand years ahead of science.



Read Jeremiah 33:22.

- Learned men believed there were a certain number of stars in the sky that could be counted. It was not until the 1600s that they found out by using a telescope that they were innumerable. Yet, Jeremiah had it written many years before that the host of Heaven, which is the stars, cannot be numbered (Genesis 15:5).
- At one time, the scientists were convinced that the earth rested upon something. Job 26:7 discusses the fact that the earth has an invisible support. This was not accepted as a scientific fact until 1687, three thousand years after Job stated it.

## 2 | Medical Evidence

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Read Leviticus 17:11.

- Had only the doctors of the past known this, many lives, perhaps even that of George Washington, would have been spared a death caused by the practice of “bleeding.” George Washington died because he had a common cold. The doctors believed they could cure him by removing his blood from his body. We know today and the Bible had it written many years ago that blood is needed to sustain life.

## 3 | Historical Evidence

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- Do you like to study history?
- Many cities mentioned in the Bible have been located and identified.
- The Flood has been verified in every known civilization.
- The historical accounts in the Bible have been used by archeologists, geologists, and others to find valuable artifacts, minerals, and wealth.

## 4 | Dead Sea Scrolls Evidence

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- The Dead Sea Scrolls are a set of scrolls found by a few shepherd boys near the Dead Sea between the years of 1947 and 1956.
- The scrolls were more than 1900 years old. They provide remarkable proof that late copies and translations were identical to the Scriptures Christ read while on the earth.
- Due to this discovery, we have fragments and some complete texts of every Old Testament book except Esther, all dating from the time of Christ.

## 5 | Archaeological Evidence

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- Have you ever had an interest in archaeology?
- The confirmation of archaeology to the truthfulness of the Bible is one of the most amazing developments of modern times.
- There are thousands of archaeological finds that support the validity of the Bible.
- Entire Old Testament nations have been found and identified.
- The identities of major Bible characters, such as Abraham, have been uncovered through archaeology.
- In 1922, Ur of the Chaldees was discovered. Genesis 11 says this was the birthplace of Abraham.
- Confirming evidence has been found for the creation and fall of man, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel.
- Not one archaeological find has ever disproved the Bible.

## 6 | Prophetic Evidence

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- Because man cannot see the future by himself, prophecy is a very reasonable gauge of supernatural inspiration.
- Predicting the future is something that many men have desired since the beginning of time. Concerning prophecy, the Bible is supreme to any other book. A person could search in vain through pages of other “sacred writings” and not find even one single line of accurate prophecy. However, one-third of the entire Bible deals with prophecy.
- Our Bible has over 6,000 prophecies and many of those have already happened exactly as they were given.
- During the lifetime of Jesus, hundreds of prophecies were fulfilled.
- Five hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ, Old Testament writers predicted the time of His birth and that He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).



- Isaiah said He would be cast off by men (Isaiah 53:3) and brutally crucified (Isaiah 53).
- There are many prophecies relating to the betrayal, trial, death, suffering, and burial of Jesus and were fulfilled in one day's time.
- Christ predicted there would be wars. He talked about famines and earthquakes. He cautioned that there would be political turmoil. He warned that in the last days there would be an increase in deception, false Christs, and witchcraft.
- Sickening immorality and rebellion was predicted.
- A "Beast" (the antichrist) would one day dominate the world as we know it and require every person to take the mark of the Beast to buy or sell (Revelation 13).



Read Isaiah 31:5.

- Isaiah predicted that airplanes would be used to defend Israel thousands of years before the invention of an airplane.
- We have just touched the surface of all the Scriptures that show the Bible is true. We could spend many, many hours studying and researching them.
- Is there any doubt in your mind that the Bible is true?
- What parts of this evidence do you find most convincing or impressive?

## The Bible In Our Lives

### 1 | How Do We Get the Word of God Inside Us?



Read Acts 17:11.

- Reading the Bible can't just be a Sunday ritual. We have to read it every day.



Read II Timothy 2:15.

- Again, we can't just read it as ritual. We have to study it.



Read Psalm 119:2.

- We have to open our whole heart to it.



Read Psalm 119:15, 48.

- We have to think about it and reflect on it. We have to meditate on it.



Read James 1:22 and Matthew 7:21.

- Finally, once we have heard the Word of God, have hidden it in our hearts, and have meditated on it, we have to begin actually doing the things the Bible tells us to do.

## 2 | Why Is the Word of God So Important?

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Read Matthew 4:4.

- We need it for everyday life. It's impossible to live a Christian life with "bread alone."



Read Romans 10:17.

- It gives us faith.



Read Psalm 119:11.

- God hates sin. Most of the time, people don't even realize they are sinning. The Bible allows us to recognize it and therefore helps us to make the decision to not sin.



Read Psalm 119:98-99.

- It gives us wisdom and understanding.



Read Psalm 119:105, 133.

- It guides our steps. The Bible will lead us and help us make it from day to day.



Read Romans 5:12.

- It lets us know we've sinned and we need a savior.



Read John 3:16.

- It shows us God's love for the world.



Read John 3:5.

- It tells us God's plan for saving the world.

## 3 | What Is Next?

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- Taking a step back, why should we even care to read the Bible? What if I don't want to have faith? Who cares if He guides my steps? What if I don't want to get rid of the sin in my life?
- What happens next in the overall timeline of life may be of interest to you. We'll study this in more detail in upcoming lessons, but let us take a look at one part now.



Read II Peter 3:10.

- The Lord is coming back soon. This Scripture says that He will come as a thief in the night and there will be lots of destruction on earth. More than two thousand years ago, the prophet Joel and Peter prophesied it (Joel 2:25-32).



Read Acts 2:16-21.

- What do these Scriptures mean to you?
- God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh, now. He is giving us an opportunity to study His Word and find out what we need to do to escape eternal destruction.

- God has awesome things in store for the people that choose Him.
- We must study and search the Scriptures. For in them, through Jesus Christ, we will have life more abundantly (II Timothy 2:15; John 10:10).
- The Bible is a miracle and it's one of the greatest possessions we could ever hold in our hand.
- Next, we'll open the first few pages of this miracle book and study the beginning in Genesis.

Note: If your student(s) have already repented of their sins, been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and received the gift of the Holy Ghost, it is encouraged to consider teaching Lesson 10 regarding Covenant living before moving on to Lesson 2.