

INTRODUCTION

THE STUDY OF GENESIS THROUGH REVELATION

As you begin your adventure of studying through the Bible, be prepared for the joy and awe you will experience when you see the completed picture of God's working with mankind. Have you ever put together a large puzzle with hundreds of pieces? You gathered similar colors and designs and put those pieces together. Slowly, those similar clustered pieces were joined together and little by little you finished the puzzle. Remember the feeling of satisfaction you experienced as you were able to see the completed picture? Your study through the Bible will be the same. As you read the questions and answer them, the Bible will slowly begin to unfold. The study will not only reveal the progression of history but as various verses are clustered together, subjects of the Bible will also be explored. These clustered subjects fit together in the overall picture, and little by little they are joined until the majestic picture of the Bible is revealed. Imagine how you will feel as you gaze on the completed picture.

OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE

In order to understand the Bible **LITERALLY**, it is necessary to know the three groups of people who are addressed in the Bible: the Gentiles, the Jews, and the Church, the Body of Christ. Read: 1 Corinthians 10:32.

- Genesis 1-11: God deals with **GENTILES**, people who are not Jews.
- Genesis 12 through mid-Acts, the nation of **ISRAEL**, the Jews.
- Mid-Acts through Philemon, the **CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST**.
- Hebrews through Revelation, **ISRAEL**.

Look at the chart in the back of the book. Locate these groups of people. Look at the bottom of the chart and locate the books of the Bible. Which books tell about the Gentiles? Israel? The Church, Christ's Body?

HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO US

The Bible in its original writings is **VERBALLY INSPIRED** by God and is complete in matters of faith and practice. Second Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." The Greek word for inspired is "theopneustos" which means "God breathed." The Scriptures came into being by the breath of God. Second Peter 1:21 says, "For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

WRITERS OF THE BIBLE

God used godly men to write the Bible. These men had different vocations such as David, who was a shepherd/king; Luke, a doctor; Paul a Jewish leader/tentmaker, Peter; a fisherman; Moses, an Egyptian ruler/shepherd; and Hosea, a farmer.

LANGUAGES USED TO WRITE THE BIBLE

The three languages that were used to write the Bible were Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Hebrew and Aramaic were the languages of trade and commerce and were used to write the Old Testament. The New Testament was written in Greek. The original writings had no chapters and verses. Chapters and verses were ascribed to Archbishop Stephen Langston of Canterbury in 1227 A.D. and Cardinal Hugo de St. Caro in 1248 A.D.

THE BIBLE IS THE INERRANT WORD OF GOD

The Bible is characterized by total internal agreement or harmony. It took 40 men a period of 1,600 years to produce the 66 books of the Bible. The original writings of these inspired authors are the inerrant Word of God. The majority of these men never knew each other. They lived during different time periods and in different locations. Each book is a complete account and yet it is only a part of an ongoing history. Remarkably, all of the 40 writers AGREE.

THE BIBLE SAYS IT IS THE WORD OF GOD

By using terms such as "thus saith the Lord," or "the Lord spoke," or "the Word of the Lord came to," or the commandments of the Lord the Bible writers declared some 3,800 times that the Bible is the Word of God. Jesus Christ confirmed that the Law and the Prophets were scripture and could not be broken (John 10:34-35).

THE BIBLE IS NOT A SCIENCE OR HISTORY BOOK, BUT WHEN IT DEALS WITH THESE SUBJECTS, IT IS 100% ACCURATE.

PROPHECY PROVES THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE

Prophecy is something that God says will happen and it is fulfilled 100% of the time. The Bible gives well over 1,000 prophecies about cities, nations, earth, man, angels, and over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. There are prophecies that tell of Christ's miraculous ministry, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension, His coming Kingdom, and other aspects of His ministry. Many of these prophecies have already been fulfilled but others remain yet to be fulfilled. As surely as God has accomplished the majority of these prophecies, the rest also will be fulfilled.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

The Bible is to be taken literally. As you read the Bible, it is important to ask yourself the questions:

WHO is being spoken of?

WHAT is being said?

WHEN is it being said?

WHERE was it said?

WHY was it said?

WHAT IS THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD?

The inductive Bible study method is a method where you, without human guidance, can study through the Bible. As you look up the verses in the Bible, those Bible facts will answer the questions. Slowly, as bits and pieces of Bible facts are gathered, you will discover Bible concepts in God's progressive working with mankind from Genesis through Revelation. Gradually, you will be able to articulate that Bible knowledge. The Bible recognizes this method of study as the "line upon line, precept upon precept" method.

BE PREPARED TO BE CHANGED

As you answer the WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? and WHY? questions, you will begin to have an understanding of the Bible literally from Genesis through Revelation. The Bible will bring you face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ and as you behold His glory, **YOU WILL BE CHANGED**. Second Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory." Are you ready to be more like the Lord Jesus?