
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

By: Ron Halbroom

Introduction:

1. Study Bible as God’s Word (2 Tim 3:16-17)

- a. Only book in the world inspired of God
- b. Cannot profit or benefit unless know how to study & understand its message

WHAT IS THE PROFIT OR BENEFIT?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

2. Need strong commitment to learn & teach proper meaning of Scripture (2 Tim 2:15)

- a. Diligent study, devoted to learning & doing what pleases God
- b. Rightly divide, make proper application of the truth

WHY MIGHT WE BE ASHAMED? _____

WHAT WORD IN THIS VERSE IS OPPOSITE TO “ASHAMED?” _____

3. Much religious error, many souls lost because not understand Scripture (Matt. 22:29)

HOW COULD THE SADDUCEES ESCAPE THEIR ERROR? _____

IS IT POSSIBLE WE ARE IN ERROR? HOW COULD WE KNOW & HOW ESCAPE? _____

4. Illustrate importance of learning right way to study & understand Bible:

By letting Bible fall open & dropping his finger on a verse, a man might read the following verses:

- a. Matt. 27:5 WHAT EVENT HAPPENED? _____
- b. Lk. 10:37 WHAT INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN? _____
- c. Jn. 13:27 WHAT INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN? _____

IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY TO STUDY? _____ IS THERE A BETTER WAY? _____

I. Overall Theme of Bible—Christ our Savior

A. First Promise of Savior: Gen 3:15

WHAT WILL THE SEED OF WOMAN DO TO SATAN?

B. Savior to Come Through Seed of Abraham: Gen 12:3

WHOM WILL THE SEED OF ABRAHAM BLESS?

C. Purpose of Book of John, Purpose of Bible: John 20:31

WHAT WILL THE BIBLE CONVINC US TO BELIEVE, & WHY DOES IT MATTER?

D. Last Verse of Bible Focus on Jesus Christ As Source of Blessings: Rev. 22:20-21

TO WHOM DOES THIS FINAL PRAYER & BENEDICTION POINT AS THE SOURCE OF ALL HOPE?

II. Major Divisions of Books

A. Old Testament (39 Books)

1. Law & History: Genesis thru Esther
 - a. Law of Moses given in Ex. 20
 - b. History of God's people
2. Wisdom & Worship: Job thru Song of Solomon
 - a. Job: how to maintain faith in God during times of great suffering
 - b. Psalms: direct worship to the true God
 - c. Proverbs: practical wisdom for daily life, how to train children to be wise
 - d. Ecclesiastes: meaning of our lives on earth (Eccl. 12:13)
 - e. Song of Solomon: nature of true love necessary for stable, lasting marriage
3. Prophecy: Isaiah thru Malachi
 - a. Dual emphasis of prophets: sins of people, promise of Savior
 - b. Isa. 40:6-8
 - c. God promised to protect & preserve the Old Testament Scriptures throughout all time.

4. Lk. 24:44 Old Testament a closed canon of 39 books organized into three sections (canon means "rule, measuring rod," applied to Scripture as the standard or authoritative books truly from God)

WHAT ARE THE 3 SECTIONS?

WHY A CLOSED CANON, WHY NOT 38 OR 40 BOOKS?

B. New Testament (27 Books)

- 1. Life of Jesus Christ: Matthew through John
- 2. Spread of Gospel: Acts
- 3. Life of a Christian: Romans thru Revelation
- 4. 1 Pet. 1:24-25 God promised to protect & preserve the New Testament Scriptures throughout all time
- 5. Rev. 22:18-19 New Testament a closed canon of 27 books: the last book closed with a stern warning

WHY A CLOSED CANON, WHY NOT 26 OR 28 BOOKS?

III. Periods of Bible History

A. Patriarchal Age: "From Adam to Moses" (Rom. 5:14)

NAME SOME PATRIARCHS: _____

NAME SOME INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO ANY OF THE PATRIARCHS NOT GIVEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES:

B. Mosaic Age: Law of Moses Given 430 Years After Promise to Abraham (Gal 3:17)

WHAT BOOK & CHAPTER BEGIN THE LAW OF MOSES WITH 10 COMMANDMENTS?

NAME SOMETHING IN THE LAW OF MOSES NOT GIVEN TO THE PATRIARCHS:

C. Gospel (Christian) Age: Events of Acts 2 Till the End of the World (Matt. 28:18-20)

NAME SOMETHING IN THE GOSPEL NOT FOUND IN PATRIARCHAL & MOSAIC AGES:

HOW DO WE KNOW THE GOSPEL AGE IS THE LAST AGE?

IV. Two Covenants

A. Old Covenant

- 1. Law of Moses given 400 years after promise of Savior to come thru Abraham (Gen. 12:3)
- 2. Given by God at Mt. Sinai when Jews came out of Egypt (Ex. 20:1-2)

TO WHAT PEOPLE IS THE LAW OF MOSES ADDRESSED IN EX. 20:1-2?

- 3. New & different covenant promised (Jer. 31:31-34)

HOW DOES VERSE 32 INDICATE THE NEW COVENANT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

HOW DOES VERSE 34 INDICATE THE NEW COVENANT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

B. New Covenant

- 1. New Covenant is gospel of Christ
- 2. The New Covenant is very much superior to the Old (Heb 8:6)

WHAT TERMS IN HEB. 8:6 STRESS THE SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT?

3. First covenant weak, provide no perfect sacrifice for sin; second covenant filled this need (Heb. 8:7)

4. Gospel of Christ fulfilled prophecy of a new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12, vs. 13)

IF THE FIRST COVENANT BE DECLARED "OLD," WHAT IS ITS DESTINY?

V. Recognize the Context

A. Main Point of Each Book

1. Genesis means beginning (creation, mankind, sin, promise of Savior, family of Abraham, etc.)

HOW MANY CHAPTERS TELL THE STORY OF ABRAHAM & HIS DESCENDANTS?

WHY IS SO MUCH EMPHASIS GIVEN TO THIS THEME?

B. Main Point of Chapter

1. Genesis 1: Creation of all things in six days

WHAT VERSES INTRODUCE THE THEME OF THE CHAPTER? _____

2. _____ Introduction of the theme

C. Main Point of Paragraph

FILL IN THE VERSE NUMBERS FORMING EACH OF THE SEVEN PARAGRAPHS:

1. _____ First day: Day, light & Night, darkness

2. _____ Second day: Sky, water above & below

3. _____ Third day: Dry land, earth, sea, & plant life

4. _____ Fourth day: Planets: sun, moon, stars

5. _____ Fifth day: Fish & birds

6. _____ Sixth day: Land animals & man

7. _____ Seventh day: God rested

RECORD WHAT GOD DID ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS, NOTICE THE CORRELATION

DAY 1

DAY 4

DAY 2

DAY 5

DAY 3

DAY 6

D. Main Point of Verse

1. Gen 1:1 WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT? _____

2. Gen. 1:31 WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT? _____

E. Word Study

1. How is word "day" used in Gen. 1: literal 24 hour day or long ages (millions, billions of years)?

WHAT ARE THE TWO DIVISIONS OF EACH DAY IN GEN. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31?

IF "DAY" IN GEN. 1 IS A LITERAL 24 HOUR DAY, HOW LONG IS EACH DIVISION?

IF "DAY" MEANS LONG AGES, HOW LONG IS EACH DIVISION OF EACH AGE, AND WHAT EFFECT WOULD THIS HAVE ON LIFE?

VI. Include ALL Related Information

A. Disciples' Hope in Jesus as the Savior Dashed by His Death

1. Focused on prophecies of his reign in glory, overlooked prophecies of his death (Luke 24:25-27)

THE KEY WORD "ALL" IS USED IN REFERENCE TO WHAT THINGS HERE?

(1) ALL _____

(2) ALL _____

(3) ALL _____

B. The Doctrine of Salvation by "Faith Only" Based on Mistake of Partial Information

1. Faith is a condition of pardon but not faith only

- a. Jn. 3:16 WHAT CONDITION OF PARDON? _____
- b. Acts 2:38 WHAT CONDITION OF PARDON? _____
- c. Rom. 10:10 WHAT CONDITION OF PARDON? _____
- d. Mk. 16:16 WHAT CONDITION OF PARDON? _____
- e. Ja. 2:24 WHAT IS SAID ABOUT "FAITH ONLY?" _____

VII. Apply Principles of Bible Study

A. Study Col. 1:15-20

1. Jehovah's Witnesses error: vs. 15, Jesus not deity but created being ("the firstborn of every creature")
2. Theme of Colossians: The Preeminence of Christ
3. Theme affirmed and proven in Col. 1:15-20
4. "Firstborn" means preeminent or first in rank, not order of birth or creation
 - a. Firstborn child in ancient time received greatest inheritance, a station of first rank
 - b. Firstborn came to be used of anyone preeminent or first in rank, as Israel in Ex. 4:22 ("Israel is my son, even my firstborn;" Jacob or Israel chosen first in rank above Esau who was born before Jacob)
5. If Christ was created, proper grammar to say, "by him were all OTHER things created" (not create self)
 - a. Jehovah's Witness New World Translation inserts word "other" before "things" 4 times in Col. 1:16-17
6. Paul gives 3 evidences for preeminence of Christ

WHAT THREE EVIDENCES DOES PAUL GIVE FOR THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST?

- a. Vs. 16 _____
- b. Vs. 17 _____
- c. Vs. 18 _____

B. Study John 3:1-21

1. Denominational doctrine uses Jn. 3:16 to prove salvation by faith alone without baptism
2. Theme of John: Deity of Christ (Jn. 1:1)
3. John 3:1-21 Lesson by Jesus on the new birth
 - a. Vv. 1-8 New birth necessary to enter Kingdom

HOW DID NICODEMUS EXPRESS FAITH IN CHRIST?

HOW DID NICODEMUS EXPRESS TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING JESUS?

HOW DID JESUS EXPLAIN THE NEW BIRTH IN VERSES 5-8?

b. Vv. 9-21 Faith in Christ necessary to new birth

HOW DID NICODEMUS EXPRESS TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING JESUS?

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY IS NICODEMUS' REAL PROBLEM (VV. 10-13)?

WHAT EXAMPLE DID JESUS USE FROM HISTORY & HOW DID HE APPLY IT TO NICODEMUS AND HIMSELF (VV. 14-17)?

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS HIS REAL STRUGGLE WAS BETWEEN WHAT TWO FORCES, & WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THIS (VV. 18-21)?

C. Study Word "Faith" in Romans

- 1. Denominations use "faith" in Romans to prove salvation by faith alone without baptism
- 2. Theme of Romans: Salvation by Faith in Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17)

WHAT IS SAID ABOUT FAITH IN VERSE 16?

WHAT IS SAID ABOUT FAITH IN THE 1ST PART OF VERSE 17?

WHAT IS SAID ABOUT FAITH IN THE 2ND PART OF VERSE 17?

- 3. Two possible meanings to *faith*:
 - a. *Mental agreement*, moment of decision
 - b. *Comprehensive faith*: agree, trust, & obey
- 4. Study the first and last times "faith" is used in Romans (1:5; 16:26)

WHY DOES PAUL SAY HE WAS MADE AN APOSTLE IN 1:5?

PAUL PRAISES GOD FOR REVEALING THE GOSPEL IN 16:25-27: WHY DOES HE SAY GOD REVEALED IT TO ALL MEN?

- 5. "Faith" used in Romans in comprehensive sense

HOW IS FAITH CONNECTED TO ACTION OR OBEDIENCE IN 10:9-10?

HOW IS FAITH CONNECTED TO ACTION OR OBEDIENCE IN 6:3-4, 16-18

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us study the Bible as God's Word, understand it by rules of ordinary communication
- 2. Must learn, understand, & obey to be blessed