

Class # 3
“The Bible: God’s Word, Part 1”

Have the students read the scriptures out loud one by one and discuss the implications, observations and reactions from each one.

(I) WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

- A. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Tim. 3:16)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- B. "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever." (I Pet. 1:24)

1 Peter 1:24 (NIV)

²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

- C. "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation, for prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (II Pet. 1: 20-21)

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- D. Read Psalm 19. Some things we can learn about God by looking at nature. However, other things (salvation, the fall, etc.) we can learn only as God "reveals" them through His Word.

(II) THE BIBLE ANSWERS LIFE'S BASIC QUESTIONS

- A. Where did I come from? (Origins)
B. Who am I? (Identity)

- C. Why am I here? (Purpose)
- D. What happens when I die? (Destiny)

(III) WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE

- A. Witness of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Read John 14:26.

John 14:26 (NIV) ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- 2. Internal Witness

- B. Witness/Testimony of Jesus

- 1. "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets, I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matt. 5:17)

- C. Witness of the prophets/fulfilled prophecy.

- D. Witness of the Apostles

- 1. Would you die for a lie? Here is a listing of how the original Apostles died still claiming that they had witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.
 - a. Peter - Crucified upside down
 - b. Andrew - Crucified
 - c. Matthew - The Sword
 - d. John - Natural, but put in burning oil for his faith and banished to the island of Patmos.
 - e. James, son of Alphaeus - Crucified
 - f. Philip - Crucified
 - g. Simon - Crucified
 - h. Thaddaeus - Killed by arrows
 - i. James, brother of Jesus - Stoned to death
 - j. Thomas - Spear thrust
 - k. Bartholomew - Crucified
 - l. James, son of Zebedee - The sword

- 2. The Apostles were witnesses of the resurrection:

Luke 24:48 (NIV) ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

John 15:27 (NIV) ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 10:41 (NIV) ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 13:31 (NIV) ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV) ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Acts 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

Acts 4:33 (NIV)

³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

I John 1:2

E. The witness and history of archaeology.

(IV) SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

- A. Written over a period of 1600 years.
- B. Over 40 authors (written by kings, prisoners, shepherds, doctors, Rabbi, tax collector, military, generals, fisherman, politician.)
- C. Written in different places.
- D. Written in three languages: Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic.
- E. The Bible deals with every major issue in life and speaks of many controversial issues; yet always without contradiction!
- F. The Bible contains history, law, medical information, poetry, songs, biographies, correspondence.
- G. No book has been published more than the Bible. The Bible is translated into well over 3,000 languages.
- H. No book has ever survived through more persecution and criticism than the Bible.
- I. The Bible has been the inspiration for more music, art, stories, plays, than any book in history.
- J. The Bible is the accurate historical document of its time.

- K. The Bible is the accurate archeological book of its time.
- L. The Bible is a book of prophecy. Three hundred concerning Christs' first coming, and 300 concerning His second coming, and hundreds concerning history.
1. The Bible says that it may be discarded if the prophecies it contains fail: Deut. 18:20-22; 13:1-4; Matt. 7:15-20.

Deuteronomy 18:20-21 (NIV)

- ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."
- ²¹ You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?"

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (NIV)

- ¹ If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder,
- ² and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them,"
- ³ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- ⁴ It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

Matthew 7:15-20 (NIV)

- ¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
- ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
- ¹⁷ Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
- ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.
- ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

- M. The Bible has changed the lives of millions even though criticized by hundreds.

(V) BASIC REVIEW OF THE BIBLE

- (A) What is the Bible?

(1) The Bible is God's Word revealed to us.

(a) Heb.1:1-2

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

(2) The Bible has many writers but only one author.

(b) II Timothy 3:16

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

(B) Why has God given us His Word?

(1) II Tim. 3:17

2 Timothy 3:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(C) The Bible is broken into two major sections.

(1) Old Testament

(a) 39 Books

(2) New Testament

(b) 27 Books

(3) 66 Total Books

(D) The Bible has one single unifying theme.

(1) Jesus Christ

(E) The Old Testament is an account of a nation. (Israel)

(F) The New Testament is an account of a Man. (Jesus Christ)

(G) The Nation was founded and nurtured of God to bring the Man into the world.

