

THE WORD OF GOD

Lesson Four

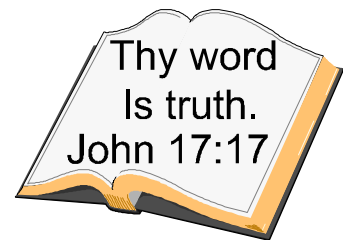
Memory Verse: *Matthew 4:4*

Lesson Verse: *Hebrews 4:12*

"For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

I. Introduction

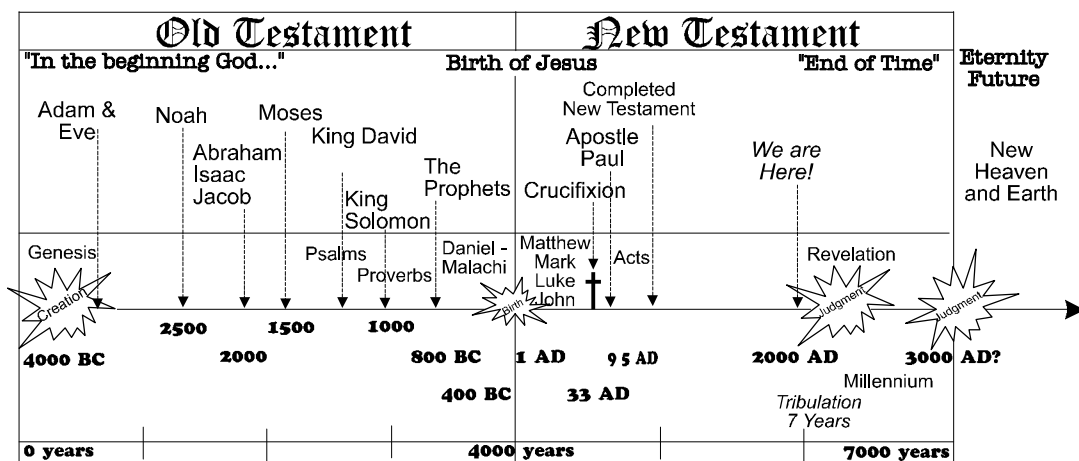
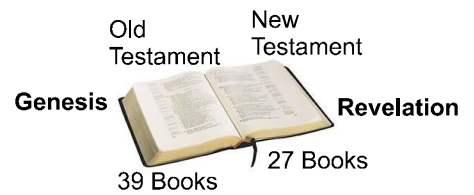
- A. What separates **Bible**-Christianity from all other types of Christianity is its claim to an absolute, written authority from God (*John 17:17*). Most "Christians" only *use* the Bible, but do not believe it completely. Having the word of God is essential because the basis by which a Christian is to govern his or her life is only found in the pages of the Holy Bible!
- B. The purpose of this lesson is to help the Christian to know what it is that they hold in their hands, and how they can trust it as *the very words of God* (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*)! We don't just "believe" the Bible is God's word, anybody can PROVE it just by checking out the accuracy of its prophecies.



II. Bible Facts

- A. The human authors wrote each portion of the Bible by the "_____ of God" (*2 Tim 3:16*). This means God "breathed" (spoke) His very words into the human authors of the Bible as they wrote it - they were not invented by human imagination. They came directly from God (*Mt 4:4*)!
- B. The Bible therefore came not by the _____ of man (*2 Peter 1:21*), and yet God chose to use over 40 human authors to pen the books of the Bible. So, no one just sat down and decided to write a book for the Bible. It was always directed, and controlled by God. Let's look at some of the "sub-authors" that God used to pen this Book of books:
1. *Deut 31:24-26* _____
 2. *Luke 20:42* _____
 3. *Proverbs 1:1* _____
 4. *Isaiah 1:1* _____
 5. *Romans 1:1,7* _____
 6. *1 Peter 1:1* _____
- C. According to Jesus Christ, _____ and _____ will pass away, but NOT God's word (*Matthew 24:35*).
- D. The Bible is superior to all philosophy because it was not given by man's _____ but by the teaching of the _____ (*1 Corinthians 2:13*).
- E. The Bible is **ONE** Book made up of **66** separate books. In the Council of Trent (1563), the Catholic church added 7 more books called the Apocrypha, but they are not inspired like the other 66, and cause great confusion.

- F. The Bible is now **completed**. It was finished in about 95 AD, when the apostle John completed the book of *Revelation*. No one can add anything to it through personal revelations, visions, or prophecies, and no one can take away from it (Rev 22:18,19) - anyone with any additional prophecies than contained in the Bible is of the devil!
- G. Overall, the Bible is divided into two main sections. The **first** section is called the _____ (2 Cor 3:14). The **second** section is called the _____ (2 Cor 3:6). A "testament" is a written *testimony* about God's will in the form of a covenant (agreement).
- H. The Bible is perfect, having no error because it is both *inspired*, and _____ by God (Ps 12:6,7). God wrote the Scriptures through men (that's *inspiration*, 2Tim 3:16), and then bound Himself to keep His word from error (that's *preservation*, Mt 24:35)! That means God's word is still here today - it has not been lost or corrupted, or else Jesus was a liar!



Outline of History - According to God in His Bible

III. What The Bible Is

- It is God's revelation of the origin and destiny of all things (Isa 46:9,10).
- It is God's *will* or *testament* to people of all ages, revealing the plan of God for mankind here and now, and in the next life.
- It is a record of how God dealt with man in the past, present and future.
- It contains the message of eternal salvation for all who believe in Christ, and eternal _____ for all who reject that Gospel (John 3:36).
- It is the most remarkable Book ever! Of its divine library of 66 books, there is history, biography, poetry, proverbial sayings (true sayings), hymns (songs), laws, parables (stories that teach truth), riddles, allegories (symbolic language), prophecies, records of birth, and death, mysteries, adventure, recipes, blessings, cursings, and all other forms of human expression!
- Psalm 119** deals particularly with the subject of the Scriptures in great detail as it explains their importance in the life of the believer.
 - The Bible refers to *itself* in Psalm 119 using eight different words:
 - The _____** - God's definition of right and wrong (vs 1)

- b. **The** _____ - a record of what God thinks (vs 2)
- c. **God's** _____ - a record of how God works (vs 3)
- d. _____ - Truths that apply to life - principles (vs 4)
- e. _____ - fixed truths of God (5)
- f. _____ - clear commands and instructions (6)
- g. _____ - God's conclusions about various subjects (vs 7)
- h. **The** _____ - the very words of God (vs 9)

2. Psalm 119 teaches that the Bible is eight things to every believer:

- a. It provides *spiritual cleansing* (Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:25,26). The word of God cleanses the life of the believer as we obey it!
- b. It is like having *wealth* and riches to the one who has it (119:14)!
- c. A *companion* and friend to the one who lives in it (119:24)!
- d. A *song* to sing (119:54) - it fills the heart with such joy!
- e. _____ (119:103) as _____.
- f. A _____ (119:105,130)
- g. A *heritage* - something passed on like an *heirloom* (119:111).
- h. *Great spoil* and treasure (119:162)

3. The Psalm also declares that the God charges the believer with eight responsibilities concerning the Scriptures:

- a. To *love* them (119:97,159) - How much do YOU love the Bible?
- b. *Prize* them (119:72,127) as you would infinite **treasure**!
- c. *Memorize* them (119:11) - learn God's words as He wrote them.
- d. _____ on them (119:15,23,48,78) - understand each word!
- e. *Study* them (119:12,18,26,27) - See 2 Tim 2:15!
- f. *Trust* them (119:42) Faith comes by hearing this Bible (Rom 10:17)
- g. *Obey* them (119:8) - See James 1:22! Live this Bible every day!
- h. *Declare* them (119:13) - tell others of God's word on life!

G. There are four things God wants us to learn from the Bible (2 Tim 3:16,17):

- 1. **Doctrine** - learn what is right and true
- 2. **Reproof** - learn what is not right in our life, and in the world
- 3. _____ - learn how to **get** right - most important
- 4. **Instruction** in righteousness - learn how to **stay** right
- 5. These four foundations prepare you so that "...the man of God (the mature Christian) may be _____, *thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"

IV. What The Bible Is Not - Make no mistake about it!

- A. It is NOT a charm or good luck piece.
- B. It is NOT a book of "heavenly utterances" in a supernatural language. It is God's revelation in the most simple human language possible.
- C. It is NOT a book of mysteries. It is self interpreting, explaining all the mysteries of life, so that no mysteries remain.
- D. It is NOT a book that says one thing and means another.

E. It is NOT a book that should be constantly criticized and attacked simply because you don't like what it says, or how it says it! It is God's words!

V. How We Got Our Bible - A Brief History Lesson

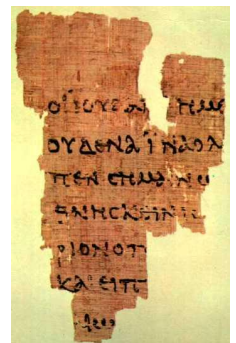
- A. The Bible is the written record of the very words that proceeded from the _____ of God (**Matthew 4:4**). They are referred to as the *Scriptures*, the *Law*, *God's Word*, and *the Book*. We get our word "*Bible*" from the Greek word 'Biblos', which simply means "the Book."
- B. The Old Testament was written mainly in the **HEBREW** language, from 2000 years before the Birth of Christ (BC) to about 350 years BC. The Hebrew (which is read from right to left) for **Genesis 1:1** looks like,

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

- C. The New Testament was written in **GREEK** from 35 AD to 95 AD (A.D. is a Latin abbreviation for, *Year of the Lord* starting from Christ's birth). The Greek for **John 3:16** looks like (you read Greek from left to right),

οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπολῆται ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον

- D. Aren't you glad we can read God's words in our own language?!
- E. Through 3,000 years, God has preserved over **5,200** Greek and Hebrew copies and portions of His word! These are what our Bible is translated from.
- F. From those copies, God combined His words into ONE Book at around 100 AD, and scattered it into all the major languages, with more and more people even today getting copies of the word of God in their language! The Bible is THE most published and read book in the world, of all time!



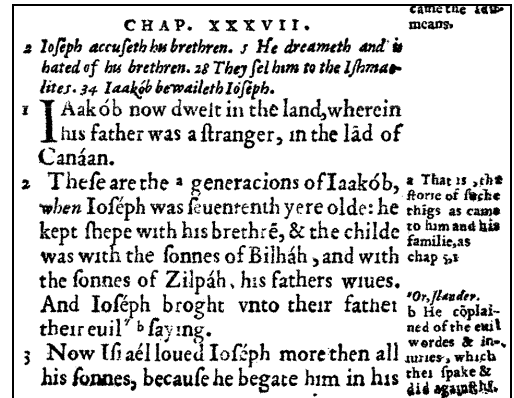
- G. The *English Bible* is the result of some 1,300 years of life-threatening work, starting back in 700 AD (only some of the publications are listed below).
 1. In 1382, a man named **John Wycliffe** (1330-1384) translated the first complete Bible into English. For this, he was *excommunicated*, and after death, his bones were *burned* by order of the pope! An example of his translation of John 3:16:

for god loved so the world! that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that eche man that bileueth in him perisch not: but have euerlastynge life.

2. The next was made by **William Tyndale** (1494-1536), who was only able to finish the New Testament and the first five books of the Old Testament by 1530. By order of the priesthood, Tyndale was *burned* at the stake for translating the Scriptures on Oct. 6, 1536!
3. In 1535, **Myles Coverdale** (1485-1568) completed the first printed Bible (all others were *hand copied*, or printed without moveable type).

4. In 1539 the **Great Bible** was published. It was called **Great** because of its large size. This Bible was placed into every church, and a chain placed on it so that it could not be removed, but freely read from.
5. In 1560, the **Geneva Bible** was produced by scholars in Geneva, Switzerland because in England, Catholic *Queen Mary* had ascended the throne and forbid access to the Bible, and its publication.
6. The Roman Catholic church came out with its **Rheims** New Testament in 1582, and **Douay** Old Testament in 1609. They were translated for the express purpose of backing up the dogma and teaching of the church instead of presenting the truths of Christ.
7. In 1604, **King James** the First, authorized 47 men to produce a complete translation of the Bible without Catholic influence in it. It was completed in 1611, and is referred to as the **King James Version (KJV)**, or **Authorized Version (AV)** of 1611, and still today is God's preserved word for the English speaking people. The King James Bible has gone through **seven editions**, the last one being in **1769**, correcting spelling errors, and making very minor changes so that it is completely accurate and faithful to the texts of the original languages from which it was translated.

H. Since 1611, there have been over 200 attempts to falsely “modernize” the Bible. These attempts include the **New International Version (NIV)**, the **New American Standard Version (NASV)**, the **Good News Bible**, and so on. But none are as accurate, or honest in their translation, or have the effect on people’s hearts as does the **AV 1611!**



Genesis 17 from Geneva Bible



Page from KJV 1611

VI. Proofs of Inspiration - How We Know the Bible was Given By God!

A. **Its Unity.** Over 40 authors wrote the 66 books of the Bible in different lands (*Job* in Mesopotamia, *Moses* in Jordan, *Paul* in Rome and Greece, *John* in Turkey, *Peter* in Babylon), and at different times, covering a period of over 2,100 years (from 2000 B.C. to 95 A.D.), and yet never contradicting each other! Try to duplicate that! No matter what you have been told, none of the writings were “sanctioned” by some church council, or commanded to be written by some church leader. They were all written by the direct inspirational hand of _____ (2 Tim 3:16), and preserved from any human error, in spite of the fact that myriads of religious efforts were made to destroy both the prophets and their message!

- B. Its Influence on the World.** No other book has so influenced the course of human events like the Bible - it has never been imposed upon a people. No matter what culture a person lives in, one thing has always been true - *Religion* has always been forced upon people on a collective basis, while Biblical Christianity has always been *chosen* on an individual basis. This one piece of "literature" has brought about the greatest nations, and greatest freedoms no sword or any other means could! Notice the effect the word of God had upon the people of first century A.D. (**Acts 17:6**), the people of the Reformation, the Renaissance, and compare those people's lives with the effects of the Dark Ages (when the Bible was banned from being read or believed), and the effects of Humanism, Stalinism, Marxism, and all other forms of tyrannical dictatorship (all banned the Bible)! Since the Bible's truths are individual in nature, no dictator, pope or prince can allow it to turn their subjects away from complete devotion to THEM, so they ban it! Don't let someone take away your access to God's written word!
- C. Its Supernatural Preservation.** As it has already been said, whole kingdoms and religions have sought in vain to destroy the influence of the Scriptures, and yet it still reigns victorious, and indestructible (**Matt 24:35**). It has, and always will out-last all religions and kingdoms of this world, simply because, it is God's pure word (**Ps 12:6,7**)!
- D. Fulfilled Prophecy.** One of the most important areas of proof that God wrote the Bible involves the fact that almost 3,300 verses of prophecy have been fulfilled *to the letter*. These prophecies were predictions made hundreds and even thousands of years before their fulfillment:
1. The prediction in **Micah 5:2** of the birthplace of _____ was made 750 years before the event - see **Matt 2:1-6**).
 2. Jesus would be born of a virgin, "**Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel**" (750 BC - **Isaiah 7:14**)
 3. Jesus would be rejected by His own people, "**He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him**" (750 BC - **Isaiah 53:3**).
 4. Jesus would heal people, "**The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped... The lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing**" (**Isaiah 35:5,6**).
 5. Jesus would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver "**Give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver**" (500 BC - **Zechariah 11:12,13**).
 6. Jesus would be whipped and spit upon, "**I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**" (750 BC - **Isaiah 50:6**).
 7. His hands and His feet would be pierced by nails, "**They pierced my hands and my feet.**" (**Ps 22:16**), "**and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**" (500 BC **Zech 12:10**). Normally criminals were stoned.
 8. Jesus would be in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights, "**For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**" (**Matthew 12:40**). The **Book of Jonah** was written 850 years before Christ.
 9. Jesus would rise from the grave, "**But God will redeem (resurrect) my soul from the power of the grave**" (written 1000 years BC - **Psalms 49:15**)

10. Not one detail has failed, and there are over 300 more yet to be fulfilled! **Deut 18:20-22** says God promises that everything His prophets speak will be fulfilled, and if not, then they were *false* prophets, and should die! No human authored book would dare to make so many predictions, so far in advance, and subject its authenticity to such chance - yet God did!

E. **Scientific Accuracy.** The Bible describes this universe quite scientifically:

1. The earth as a _____ (like a *sphere*, **Isaiah 40:18,22**),
2. Suspended in space (**Job 26:7**) hanging upon _____.
3. And it told us all this without the aid of an orbiting satellite! The Bible expressed this as FACT and not conjecture over 2,200 years before Columbus discovered it was right!
4. The Bible also explains the division of the languages into *confusion* at the Tower of _____ (**Genesis 11:1-9**).
5. It reveals that there are "paths," or currents in the seas (**Psalm 8:8**). Again, Columbus "discovered" that this was true when he sailed to the New World on one ocean *current*, and then back to Spain on another.
6. The Scriptures in **Psalm 102:24-27**, and **Hebrews 1:10-12** declare *the Second Law of Thermodynamics* (which states that everything wears out)! It also reveals the process by which all of life occurred on this planet (**Genesis 1 and 2**), and *much, much more!*
7. You can't beat the Bible, no matter how much education you obtain - it's always years ahead of science!

F. **Historical Accuracy.** Noah's flood (**Genesis 6-9**) is attested to by Babylonian tablets written in 650 B.C., as well as in 250 ancient world histories. Most of the places named in the Bible have been identified through archaeology, thus validating the historical accuracy of the Bible again and again! The same cannot be said however about other religious books.

G. **Claims of the Bible Itself.** Over 3,800 times the writers of the Bible claim God spoke what they wrote (i.e., "*thus saith the Lord*"), and that what we hold in our hands is the very words of God (**2Tim 3:15,16; 1Thes 2:13**)

The Bible is God's word - Read it; Believe it; Study it; Obey it; Preach it!

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