

The Bible

STUDY NOTES

The Bible

The Bible, God's word, is unlike any other book. It reveals everything there is to know about the creator of the universe, and His plan to restore it. It can be challenging and it can be beautiful. This set of notes is meant to give you a basic understanding of what the Bible is all about: What it is, where it came from, and why it's here.

The Power of the Bible

When you start to really read the Bible, you'll realize that it's no ordinary book. [Hebrews 4:12](#) says that it is *living* and *powerful*, able to reveal the thoughts and intents of our hearts. [Psalm 19](#) says God's word is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, righteousness, more to be desired than gold, and sweet than honey. It continues to say its effect on us is to convert our soul, make the simple wise, cause us to rejoice, enlightens our eyes, endures forever, warns of things we should and should not do, and promises a great reward if we keep it. That reward is most exciting of all. [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#) says that reward is ultimately salvation! What other book can offer that?

It's Divine Origin

Though written by various human authors over a large period of time, the Bible claims to be divine throughout every page. As a result, the Bible is not just a collection of ideas about God that people wrote — they are the words of God Himself. As [2 Timothy 3](#) says, *all scripture* is included in this claim of divinity. This means both the Old and New Testaments are relevant and important today.

Key Verses:

“Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 PETER 1:19-21

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

In fact, sometimes the authors didn’t entirely understand the things they wrote, further emphasizing its divine origin. For example, [Acts 1:16](#) talks about how the betrayal of Jesus by Judas was a fulfillment of what David said would happen in the Psalms. However, David could not have know these details himself, hundreds of years beforehand.

Key Verses:

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.”

1 PETER 1:10-12

“the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”

ACTS 1:16

Old Testament

There are several instances in the Old Testament that prove how it, like the New Testament, is inspired by God. It should not be forgotten about or left to the side just because it may sometimes feel more difficult and strange to read.

Key Verses:

“Now these are the last words of David... The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.”

2 SAMUEL 23:1-2

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you...”

JEREMIAH 1:4-9

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who has visited and redeemed his people... as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.”

LUKE 1:67-70

New Testament

The New Testament also fits in with 2 Timothy's claim of “all scripture”.

Key Verses:

“Our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters... which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”

2 PETER 3:15-16

“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

GALATIANS 1:11-12

Our Sole Authority

The Bible is the ONLY authority we can look to when it comes to God and His purpose. There are no other pastors, leaders, or books that can teach us anything new about God.

Key Verses:

“To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.”

ISAIAH 8:20

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

ACTS 17:11

The Bible is Consistent

One of the most fascinating aspects of the Bible is its consistency. Though written over a period of 1600 years, by 40 different authors (from fishermen to kings), and in many literary forms (symbolism, narrative history, poetry, wisdom literature, prophetic literature, letters, etc) it maintains an entirely consistent message throughout — God’s plan to restore the earth to the way it once was before sin.

- The scattering, survival, and then return of Israel to their promised land (Ezekiel 11:17)
- Sheba and Dean (the gulf states) becoming allied with Israel while a threat from the north (Russia) becomes more and more powerful (Ezekiel 38)
- A rise in immortality and humanism
- And much more!

The Theme of the Bible

God’s purpose with humans and the earth is the core theme that runs throughout the Bible. When he first made humans and put them in the garden, things were looking good! But then they sinned, and since then the world has spiralled down into a place of wickedness, where most people reject God. But God didn’t create the world in vain. His vision was an earth inhabited by humans, who reflected his own glory and purpose. His plan is to replace the current kingdom of men with the Kingdom of God. He began that work with His son Jesus, and continues to work in the world today so that when the time comes on which he has decided, His Kingdom will fill the entire earth.

Key Verses:

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited.”

ISAIAH 45:18

“But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.”

NUMBERS 14:21

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

DANIEL 2:35, 44-45

Summary

- The Bible is Inspired by God. This includes both the Old and New Testament
- Though written by 40+ writers over 1600 years, the bible is completely consistent
- Bible Prophecy proves it is inspired by God
- The Bible has the power to change our life
- The Bible is the only authority which we can use to find out about God and his purpose
- The theme of the Bible is the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God

Questions?

Got questions about the Bible? We want to help you answer them. Send us an email at questions@bibleunlocked.com