

How To Interpret Scripture

Lesson - 1 — The Uniqueness of the Bible

TEXT “ONLINE” to 40544

Memory Verse

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”.

- The word "Bible" comes from a Greek term “Biblia” meaning books.

Of Plato’s original manuscripts, there are seven, Herodotus eight, and Homer’s Iliad slightly more with 263 surviving copies. There are over 24,600, extant, New Testament manuscripts from the first four centuries after Christ.

The Bible was the first book known to be translated, the first book in the West published on the printing press, and the first book to be so widely distributed in so many languages that 95 percent of the earth’s population today can read the Bible in their own tongue.

The Living Word of God

John 6:63 (NKJV) *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) *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.* All Scripture,” of course, means all Scripture, even the Scripture that we might not like, that might step on our toes, and that, to use contemporary parlance, might not be “politically correct.”

1 John 1:1–3 (NKJV) *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

John 15:26–27 (NKJV) *“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

John 14:6 (NKJV) *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

John 17:17 (NKJV) *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Deuteronomy 32:45–47 *Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ and he said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”*

Who Wrote the Bible, and Where?

Composed of 66 books, and written over 1,500 years on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe) by over forty authors.

Exodus 2:10 (NKJV) *And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”*

2 Samuel 23:1–3 (NKJV) *Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.*

Amos 7:14 (NKJV) *Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: “I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheep breeder And a tender of sycamore fruit.*

Jeremiah 1:4–6 (NKJV) *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”*

Philippians 3:3–6 (NKJV) *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

2 Samuel 20:23–24 (NKJV) *And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; ²⁴ Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;*

Matthew 9:9 (NKJV) *As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.*

Matthew 4:18–22 (NKJV) *And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*

Luke 1:1–4 (NKJV) *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*

“God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do His work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from Heaven.”—E. G. White, *SM*, book 1, p. 26.

The Bible as Prophecy

Amos 3:7 (NKJV) *Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*

- There are at least sixty-five direct, Messianic predictions of the Messiah in the Old Testament, many more if we add typology as well.

Genesis 49:10 (NKJV) *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*

Psalms 22:16–18 (NKJV) *For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*

Daniel 9:24 *“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

Zechariah 9:9 *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Revelation 22:8–10 (NKJV) *Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.*

The Bible as History

Romans 8:11 (NKJV) *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

1 Corinthians 15:3–5 (NKJV) *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NKJV) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. The historical fact that Christ bodily rose from the dead and lives today is the guarantee that they too will be raised as He was raised. All the righteous “will be made alive in Christ” (1 Cor. 15:22, NRSV).*

The Transforming Power of the Word

Read 2 Kings 22:3–20

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*