

# OUR INSTRUCTION MANUAL

## THE BIBLE

### LESSON #1 (3-13-05)

#### A. OVERVIEW

1. The Bible consists of 66 books, 39 in O.T., and 27 in the N.T. It is sometimes called the “**Canon of Scripture**,” “canon” meaning a rod, specifically, a rod with graduated marks used for measuring things. This word refers to the list of individual books that were eventually judged as authoritative and included as part of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
2. The O.T. was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The N.T. was originally written in Greek.
3. The meaning of “**Testament**” from both the Hebrew and the Greek languages is a settlement, treaty, or covenant. Of these three English words, COVENANT best captures the meaning of the word.
  - a) The word “covenant” meant an arrangement made by one party that another involved party could accept or reject but could not alter.
  - b) The O.T. and N.T. focus on two great covenants God made with man.
  - c) The O.T. Mosaic Covenant records God’s arrangement made with the people of Israel through Moses and was sealed on Mount Sinai, *Ex. 19:3-6; 24:3-8*. God promised to bless His special people, and they were to worship Him alone as their one and only God and to accept His law as their rule for life
  - d) The NT is a New Covenant describing a New Covenant or arrangement between God and man based on His grace made available by means of our Lord Jesus Christ’s work on the cross, *Luke 22:14-20*.

### LESSON #2 (3-20-05)

- 4 THE OLD TESTAMENT: Divided into the following in our English Bibles:
  - 1) THE LAW, also known as the Pentateuch and the Torah
    - a. The Pentateuch consists of the first five books of the OT: Genesis, Exodus Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy
    - b. The term "Pentateuch" comes from the Greek term PENTEUCHOS meaning a five-volumed book after the Jewish designation, "five-fifths of the law."
    - c. The Jews called it "Torah," meaning instruction that is often rendered in English by the word "Law", *Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Acts 7:53; 1 Cor 9:8*.
    - d. Although each book is a unit, together they form a larger unit with the continuity kept intact.
  - 2) HISTORY - *Joshua, Judges, \*I & \*II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*
  - 3) POETRY - *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon*
  - 4) PROPHETS - *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, \*Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*.
    - a) The arrangement of the books does not reflect the chronological order of events recorded in them. The content of the English and Hebrew Old Testaments is identical although the arrangement of the books differ. Of course, the Hebrew Bible has no New Testament.
    - b) The O.T. was penned by thirty-five authors over a period of approximately 1,050 years and was completed by 400 B.C.
    - c) Throughout the O.T., there extends a line of prophecies concerning the coming Messiah/Savior. The fulfillment of these prophecies are found in the N.T. in the person of Jesus Christ. There are over 456 O.T. prophecies referring to the Messiah, J.C.
5. THE NEW TESTAMENT
  - 1) The NT was penned by nine human authors over approximately 50 years.
  - 2) The “**autograph**” refers to the original document written by the biblical author. There are no autographs still in existence today. The older handwritten copies of the Bible texts are called “**manuscripts**”. We have over 5,600 Greek manuscripts of the N.T., most are only partial ones, and they comprise significantly more than any other writing from antiquity. Until the middle of the 15th century A. D. and the invention of the printing press, all the copying was done by hand.
  - 3) The N.T. is divided into 4 parts:
    - a) The Four gospels describing the life and ministry of J.C.
    - b) The book of \*Acts or history of the 1<sup>st</sup> century church

- c) The 21 letters or epistles, *Romans, \*I & \*II Corinthians, \*Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, \*Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, and Jude*. Paul wrote 13 of them.
- 4) Revelation gives us eschatology, recording the events of the Tribulation, the triumphant return of Jesus Christ and His bride, the Millennium, and the eternal state.

### CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF WRITING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

EPISTLE	DATE	EPISTLE	DATE
<b>JAMES</b>	<b>A.D. 45-50</b>	<b>* MATTHEW</b>	<b>A.D. 60's</b>
<b>* GALATIANS</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>I TIMOTHY</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>I &amp; II THESSALONIANS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>I PETER</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>MARK</b>	<b>50's</b>	<b>* TITUS</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>* I CORINTHIANS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>II TIMOTHY</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>* II CORINTHIANS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>II PETER</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>ROMANS</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>HEBREWS</b>	<b>64-68</b>
<b>LUKE</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>JUDE</b>	<b>70-80</b>
<b>COL. EPH. PHIL.</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>JOHN</b>	<b>85-90</b>
<b>PHILEMON</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>I, II, &amp; III JOHN</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>* ACTS</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>REVELATION</b>	<b>90's</b>

### **LESSON #3 (4-24-05)**

#### **6. THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE**

There are many scientific principles mentioned in the Bible that were doubted for centuries by the scientific community until scientific research found them to be absolutely true. For example, the Bible records the following scientific facts:

### **SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE** 4/24/05

**1. THE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING** <sup>KJG</sup> **Isaiah 40:22** - *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:* Scientists are beginning to understand that the **universe is expanding**, or stretching out. At least seven times in Scripture we are clearly told that God stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

**2. THE EARTH IS ROUND** <sup>NAS</sup> **Job 26:10** - *He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.* The Bible informs us here that the earth is round. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat, it was the Scriptures that inspired Christopher Columbus to sail around the world. He wrote: "It was the Lord who put it into my mind. I could feel His hand upon me . . . there is no question the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures . . ." (From his diary, in reference to his discovery of "the New World").

**3. THE STARS ARE INNUMERABLE** <sup>NAS</sup> **Genesis 15:5** - *<sup>5</sup> And He took him [Abra;m] outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

**4. THE EARTH HANGS ON NOTHING** <sup>NAS</sup> **Job 26:7** - *He stretches out the north over empty space, And hangs the earth on nothing.* Less than 200 years ago, through the advent of massive telescopes, science learned about the great empty space in the north. The Bible claimed that the earth freely floated in space. Science then thought that the earth sat on a large animal.

**5. THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD** <sup>NAS</sup> Leviticus 17:11 - *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood . . . The Scriptures declare that blood is the source of life. Up until 120 years ago, sick people were "bled", and many died because of the practice. We now know that blood is the source of life. If you lose your blood, you will lose your life.* <sup>5. NAS</sup>

**6. AIR CURRENTS CONSTANTLY CIRCLE THE EARTH** Ecclesiastes 1:6 - *Blowing toward the south, Then turning toward the north, The wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns.*

**7. RAIN COMES FROM THE PROCESS OF EVAPORATION** <sup>NKJ</sup> Ecclesiastes 1:7 - *All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.* The Mississippi River dumps over six million gallons of water per second into the Gulf of Mexico. Where does all that water go? That's just one of thousands of rivers. The answer lies in the hydrologic cycle, something that was not fully accepted until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, 2500 years after the Bible said that God takes the waters of the sea, and pours them upon the face of the earth.

**8. STAR CLUSTERS AND CONSTELLATIONS NAMED.** <sup>NAS</sup> Job 38:31 - *Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, Or loose the cords of Orion?*

**9. THE ORDERLY MOVEMENT OF CONSTELLATIONS THROUGH THE SKY.**

<sup>NAS</sup> Job 38:32 - *Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, And guide the Bear with her satellites?*

<sup>KJG</sup> Job 38:32 - *Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?*

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**10. STARS ARE SO NUMEROUS THAT THEY CANNOT BE COUNTED**

Jeremiah 33:22 (written 2500 years ago): "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured."

**11. THE BIBLE SAID THAT WHEN DEALING WITH DISEASE, HANDS SHOULD BE WASHED UNDER RUNNING WATER.** Leviticus 15:13 (written 3000 years ago): *And when he that has an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean.* Up until 100 years ago, doctors washed their hands in a basin of still water and this resulted in the death of multitudes.

**12. SCIENCE EXPRESSES THE UNIVERSE IN FIVE TERMS: TIME, SPACE, MATTER, POWER AND MOTION.**

Genesis 1:1,3 (written 3,450 years ago): *In the beginning* (time) *God created* (power) *the Heaven* (space) *and the earth*(matter) . . . *And the Spirit of God moved* (motion) *upon the face of the waters.*

**13. THE AFTERMATH OF THE ATOMIC BOMB** <sup>NIV</sup> Zechariah 14:12 This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will dissolve while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

<sup>NAS</sup> 2 Peter 3:10 - *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

**14. EXISTENCE OF OCEAN CURRENTS** Psalms 8:8 - *And the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas.*

What does the Bible mean by "*paths of the seas*"? The sea is just a huge mass of water, how then could it have "paths?" Man discovered the existence of ocean currents in the 1850's, but the Bible declared the science of oceanography 2,800 years ago. Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered to be the father of oceanography. He was bedridden during a serious illness and asked his son to read a portion of the Bible to him. While listening, he noticed the expression "paths of the sea." Upon his recovery, Maury took God at His word and went looking for these paths. His book on oceanography is still considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities.

## LESSON #4 (5-1-05) Communion and "New Testament Of My Blood" Defined

### LESSON #5 (6-5-05)

**15. THERE ARE MOUNTAINS ON THE OCEAN FLOOR.** Jonah 2:6 (written 2,800 years ago): *"I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet have you brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God."*

When Jonah was in the depths of the ocean, he spoke of going down to the "*bottoms of the mountains.*" Only in recent years has man discovered that there are mountains on the ocean floor. The greatest ocean depth has been sounded in the Challenger Deep of the Mariana's Trench, a distance of 35,798 feet below sea level. Mount Everest is 29,035 feet high.

**16. THE SUN IS MOVING THROUGH SPACE** Psalm 19:4-6: *"In them has He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race. His [the sun's] going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."*

Bible critics have scoffed at these verses, saying that they teach that the sun revolves around the earth. Science told them that the sun was stationary. Then they discovered that the sun is in fact moving through space at approximately 600,000 miles per hour. It is traveling through the heavens and has a "circuit" just as the Bible says. It is estimated that its circuit is so large, it would take 200 million years to complete one orbit.

**17. FIRST LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS** Genesis 2:1 (after creation): *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."*

The Hebrew word used here is the past definite tense for the verb "finished," indicating an action completed in the past, never again to occur. The creation was "finished" once and for all. That is what the First Law of Thermodynamics says. It states that neither matter nor energy can be either created or destroyed. There is no "creation" ongoing today. It is "finished" exactly as the Bible states.

**18. CIRCUMCISION TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE EIGHTH DAY** Genesis 17:12: *"And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed."* Why was circumcision to be carried out on the eighth day? Medical science has discovered that the eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%.

**19. PROPER AMOUNT OF WATER ON THE EARTH** Isaiah 40:12 (written 2,800 years ago): *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand . . ." We are told that God has measured the waters and set a proper amount of water on the earth. Modern science has proved that the quantity of water on earth is just enough for our needs. If the sea became three meters deeper, the water would absorb all the carbon dioxide and nitrogen, and no creature could live any longer.*

**20. SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS** Hebrews 1:10,11 (written 2000 years ago): *" . . . And, You, Lord, in the beginning have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hands: They shall perish; but you remain; and they all shall wax old as does a garment."* The Bible tells us that the earth is wearing out. This is what the Second Law of Thermodynamics states. This wasn't discovered by science until comparatively recent times.

**21. THE ENTIRE CREATION IS MADE OF INVISIBLE ELEMENTS CALLED "ATOMS."** HEBREWS 11:3 (written 2000 years ago): *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."* The Bible claims that all creation is made of invisible material. Science then was ignorant of the subject. We now know that the entire creation is made of invisible elements called "atoms."

A word about the Bible and science. Some allege that if you can't prove something scientifically that it is false. That is a false concept. There is a difference between Scientific Proof and Legal-historical Proof.

SCIENTIFIC PROOF is based on showing that something is a fact by repeating the event in the presence of the person questioning the fact. There must be a controlled environment where observations can be made, data drawn, and hypotheses empirically verified. So only things that are repeatable can be proven by the scientific method. (Example - ivory soap floats)

So can the universal flood be scientifically proven? Can the resurrection of Christ be scientifically proven? Can Washington crossing the Delaware be scientifically proven? Can the attack on Pearl Harbor be scientifically proven? Well can they be repeated? No. So they cannot be scientifically proven. So does that mean that they didn't occur? No.

They can be proven by the Legal-Historical Method which is based on showing that something is fact beyond a reasonable doubt. A verdict is reached on the basis of the weight of the evidence. It depends on three types of testimony:

Three Types of Testimony:

- (1) Oral
- (2) Written
- (3) Overt - exhibits or evidence

**Noah's Ark** Noah's Ark presents overwhelming evidence demanding the verdict that God's salving grace is perfect.

**Genesis 6:14-15** The design of the Ark was directly revealed to Noah from the Omniscient One who knew more about naval design than any human expert, Gen. 6:14-16. Only God is qualified to design a plan sufficient to save from the judgment He Himself is about to bring forth.

450 ft. long,

75 ft. wide

45 ft. high

pitch - kfr (Meaning covering or atonement)

Dr. Henry M. Morris, co-author of The Genesis Flood got his PHD in hydro dynamics. He did the computations and analysis of the ark and said that it was an exceedingly stable design. It could be tipped up to 60 degrees and the center of gravity would still restore it upright.

Read GEN. 6:15

Its volume was so great that it could hold 500 boxcars! They have concluded that if all animals are considered, the average size would be about the size of a sheep. Calculating two of each kind of animal, the total volume needed would be about 200 box cars. This left over half of the volume of the ark for food, water, etc.

There is no record of any ship being built of this size until 1864! Aprox. 4,364 yrs. later.

Eight people were saved only because they were in the divinely-designed Ark that would not capsize in turbulent water. The entire gene pool of man and land animals was preserved only because the Ark volume was large enough to hold them. How could Noah or anyone else speculate on a future discontinuity in the history of the universe accurately enough to design any other way of escape? The one way of salvation had to cope with geological upheaval, turbulent flood waters on a global scale, survival of a gene pool adequate to populate the next world, and correspond in design to the ultimate saving work of Christ. Limited human knowledge is utterly incapable of creating a way of salvation from such a complex of factors none of which had yet been experienced.

## **LESSON #6 (6-12-05) STUDY INSERT**

### **TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE**

1. Communication is not easy.
2. We study the scriptures in order to understand the meaning but we have to go through words and grammar to get to the meaning.
3. The translators all essentially work with the same words and grammar and the translators are usually highly qualified So why are the translations of the Bible so different?

This study will deal primarily with modern translations. The KJV was completed in 1611 and was the best Bible of its day, but hundreds of manuscripts have been discovered since that time, and archeological discoveries have given us more information to improve translations.

Also, the English language has changed quite a bit over the past 400 years. Example:

*KJG* **1 Thessalonians 4:5** - *Not in the lust of **concupiscence**, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

*NAS* **1 Thessalonians 4:5** - *not in **lustful passion**, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*

*KJG* **James 1:21** - *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and **superfluity** of naughtiness,*

*NAS* **James 1:21** - *Therefore putting aside all filthiness **and all that remains of wickedness,***

Archaic words in KJV - supped, swaddling clothes, paps, peradventure, thither, bade, beseech, brigandine, gainsayer,

#### **A. Audience**

1. The first question a translator may ask is, "To whom am I writing?" Who is my audience? Adults or children?
2. Certainly your choice of words would be different for children than for adults. Words that are more simple and easy to understand would be chosen for children.

Example: In the NASV - **1 John 2:2** uses the word “propitiation”. However, the NIV uses the word “atoning sacrifice” and the NLT simplifies it further by saying “He is our sacrifice.” Grk. HILASMOS (ἱλασμος), appeasement, satisfaction, propitiation

3. Another consideration is whether the audience is Christian or non-Christian.

Example: <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 11:16** - ***And if the first piece of dough [A,I,J] be holy, the lump [believing Jews in OT] is also; and if the root [J.C.] be holy, the branches [bel. Jews in C.A.] are too.*** If you were a believer and understood the OT, you could put some of the pieces together in this verse.

<sup>NLT</sup> **Romans 11:16** - ***And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their children will also be holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.*** They tried to interpret the metaphor to help but what if they get it wrong? “Roots” should be sing.

- B. The next question, What is to be translated, WORDS or MEANING.

1. Most people say they want a literal translation, meaning “a word-for-word translation”.
2. First of all, it is impossible to translate any foreign language word-for-word into English. The first meaning in Webster’s dictionary for the word “literal” has to do with meaning, not form. Literal means, “in accordance with, involving or being the primary or strict meaning of the word or words, not figurative or metaphorical”. So literal does not mean a word-for-word equivalence.
3. Actually when a person says he wants a literal translation, what he wants is a translation that conveys what the author meant. This is called “authorial intent”.
4. There are two ways to translate; you can either translate words or you can translate meaning. The NASV is an example of translating words, or what is technically called “**Formal Equivalence**”. If the Greek has a participle, the English has a participle, if the Greek has a conjunction, the English has a conjunction. If the Greek uses ten words the English tries to use ten words.
5. The other way, translating by meaning, is called “**Dynamic Equivalence**” or sometimes, it is called “functional equivalence”. This method doesn’t care whether the Greek uses a participle or not or whether it takes ten or twenty words to translate. It chooses whatever words the English requires in order to convey the same meaning.
6. Both systems have challenges. First, let’s look at the Formal Equivalence method: All translation involves interpretation, even when the FE method is used.

Example: **John 2:4** in the Greek, word-for-word: “Jesus said, ‘***Woman, what to me and to you?***’”

<sup>NAS</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what do I have to do with you?***

<sup>NRS</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?***

<sup>NIV</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Dear woman, why do you involve me?***

<sup>RSV</sup> **John 2:4** - ***O woman, what have you to do with me?***

<sup>NLT</sup> **John 2:4** - ***How does that concern you and me?***

<sup>NKJV</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me?***

<sup>KJV</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what have I to do with thee?***

<sup>NJB</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what do you want from me?***

<sup>RBTT</sup> **John 2:4** - ***Woman, what is this (being out of wine) to you and to me?***

- a. The KJV translates **Rom. 12:16** more word-for-word, “***Mind not high things***” which sounds like we are not to think about important or significant issues. It obscures the fact that Paul was telling the Roman church not to be proud, and most modern translations agree.
- b. Another problem is that most Greek words have more than one meaning. Example:

<sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 16:1** - ***I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; “servant” is DIAKONON (διακονον) deacons(3), minister(7), servant(10), servants(9)***

<sup>KJV, NKJV, NIV</sup> also use “servant”

<sup>RSV</sup> **Romans 16:1** - ***I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess;*** <sup>NLT</sup> ***Our sister Phoebe, a deacon in the church;*** <sup>NJB</sup> ***Phoebe, a deaconess of the church.***

- C. Problems with Dynamic Equivalence:

- a. Because they generally do not view the structure of the language as having much connection with the meaning, they often exercise considerable freedom in translating.
- b. This means that they do not distinguish between dependent and independent clauses which is critical in exegesis. A dependent clause is one that cannot stand on its own, it is not a complete sentence. Ex. After the game, An independent clause has a subject and a verb and is usually where the main thought is expressed and secondary thoughts are usually found in dependent clauses.
- c. The translations that lean more towards the formal equivalence method seem to be less interpretive than those that employ the dynamic equivalence method.

#### D. Ambiguity

1. What about words or phrases that are ambiguous in the Greek? The KJV, NASV, RSV, and the ESV just leave it alone if they can reproduce in English the same ambiguity.
2. However the NIV and the NLT does not leave the ambiguity but will make up the reader's mind whenever they feel it is necessary.

Example: **II Cor. 5:14** - **For the love of Christ controls us.** Does this mean my love for Christ or Christ's love for me? The NIV says, *For Christ's love compels us.* The NLT says, *Whatever we do it is because Christ's love controls us.*

#### E. Going from IMPLICIT to EXPLICIT.

Some things that are perhaps implicit in the Greek are made explicit in the English. Sometimes this is necessary because the Greek does not always require a direct object.

Example: **I Peter 1:8** – *Though you have not seen Him, you love **Him**.*

#### F. Sensitivity and Euphemisms

There are passages in Scripture where the Greek is painfully explicit, but because of our culture we cannot say it. Ex. Song of Solomon, Phil. 3:8 For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as **refuse** NASV, **rubbish** NIV, **garbage** NLT, **dung** KJV

#### G. Theological Bias

The RSV (the National Council of Churches owned it) translated Isaiah 7:14 – “For behold a **young woman** shall conceive and bear a child. . . not virgin

**RSV Romans 9:5** - *to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ. God who is over all be blessed for ever. Amen.* Jesus not God?

**NIV Romans 9:5** - *Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.* Jesus is God.

#### H. Gender

Can the English words for “man” and “brother” be used generically of men and women?

**NAS Matthew 5:9** - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called **sons** of God.*

**KJV Matthew 5:9** - *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the **children** of God.* **HUIOS** (υιος) - attendants(m)(3), foal(1), man(m)(1), son(85), Son(221), sons(67).

**NAS Matthew 18:15** - *And if your **brother** sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your **brother**.* **ADELPHOS** (αδελφος) brethren(170), brethren\*(13), brother(111), brother's(8), brothers(40).

**NRS Matthew 18:15** - *If another **member of the church** sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the **member** listens to you, you have regained that one.* First of all there was no “church” at this stage of Jesus’ ministry. Second of all, what if a person goes to your church but is not a member? What if they are a member of a different church?

**KJV Psalm 1:1** - *Blessed is the **man** that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,*

**NRS Psalm 1:1** - *Happy are **those** who do not follow the advice of the wicked, **vyai** (ish*



NAS **Hebrews 2:17** - Therefore, He had to be made like His **brethren** in all things,

TIV **Hebrews 2:17** - For this reason he had to be made like his brothers **and sisters in every way**

#### H. Practical concerns

1. **Matt. 6:9** - Our Father which art in heaven, **hallowed** be thy name. No one uses this word today and most doesn't know what it means but it is such a traditional verse, some would not buy the Bible if it were changed to another word.
2. The same thing goes with **Matt. 19:19** – **love your neighbor as yourself**. Who is your neighbor?

#### LESSON #7 (6-26-05)

##### THE CENTER OF THE BIBLE

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 119

There are 1,188 chapters in the Bible.

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

So Psalms 118 is the center of the Bible.

What is the center verse in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 118:8

And what does this verse have to say?

**Psalms 118:8 - It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.**

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

##### THE BIBLE – THE BOOK OF BOOKS

1. If the Bible is the verbal revelation of the Living God, then we cannot be our own ultimate authority. It is either the ultimate standard of truth for every area of life, or it is a fraud.
2. The Bible is unique. There is no other book on earth that can claim its values. Moreover, it is the only book that claims to have the answers to the basic questions of life; it tells humanity who its Creator is, why it was created, and what its ultimate destiny is to be. It is the only book that shows the purpose for humanity's existence and its awesome potential. It is the only book which gives a formula that will lead to eternal life and immortality in the Family of God, if it is followed. The Bible is the only book on the face of the earth that claims to be the Word of the Creator God. The Bible is not just a collection of stories, myths, and legends; it is the inspired Word of God, and the most important book ever written to humanity. Moreover, it has the answers to life's greatest questions about the purpose of human existence—past, present, and future.
3. The book of God asserts this fact for itself many times over. The question some raise is whether it was written by a man or revealed by God and recorded by man. The structure and message of the book demand a divine author. Man could not set out to write a book of this size. He would not have the ideas of it, nor would man be able to produce the detail and precision of it. It presents God as the God. It presents God as having a plan. It presents God only as deserving glory. It presents God as the absolute authority. Unregenerate man could not subdue his own pride to produce such a God, nor could he exalt his talents to a level capable of producing such a book.

##### THE LONGEVITY OF THE BIBLE

Throughout history there has been a concerted effort by forces of evil to destroy the Word of God. Both the Living Word and the written Word still abide. They remain alive and powerful forever.

**Isa. 40:8. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever**

**Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**

**Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

##### WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

**Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged 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.**



**2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1** - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Psalms 19:7** - The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

**Psalms 138:2** - . . . for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

**Romans 15:4** - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

**2 Peter 1:18-19** - And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. <sup>19</sup> We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place . . .

**Isaiah 55:11** - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

## **LESSON #8 (7-10-05)**

### **REVELATION:**

God has revealed Himself through His creation, Rom. 1:18-23, Psa. 19:1-4

He has also revealed Himself through the Bible, the Word of God.

### **INSPIRATION:**

God so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that without waiving their human intelligence, their individuality, their literary style, their personal feelings, or any other human factor, God's complete and coherent message to mankind was recorded with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture, the very words bearing the authority of divine authorship." That is the Biblical principle of verbal plenary inspiration.

### **PROPHECY AND ITS FULFILLMENT:**

Prophecy, along with its fulfillment, is proof that the Bible is of divine origin. Man can think and project what might happen in the future based on knowledge, history and common sense, but man cannot accurately predict specific occurrences and have those occurrences come to pass. No other so-called Holy book contains specific prophecies that have been proven to be %100 accurate. Why? Because there is no other God but the God of the Bible.

## **A PROFILE OF BIBLE PROPHECY**

### **DANIEL CHAPTER 2: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM, Dan. 2**

*There was a great statue, Dan. 2:31;*

*The golden head was Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, Dan. 2:38;*

*The silver breast and arms was Darius the Mede, Dan. 5:30-31;*

*The belly and thighs were bronze, Greece, Dan. 8:21-22*

*The legs of iron and feet of partly iron and partly clay, Roman Empire, Dan. 9:26*

### **DANIEL CHAPTER 7: DANIEL'S DREAM, Dan. 7** [4 beasts coming out of the sea.

Rev. 13:1, A beast coming out of the sea].

#### **THE WINGED LION: BABYLON, Dan. 7:1-4**

The Babylonian army was strong and swift. *It's wings were plucked* [Neb. Insanity].

*It was lifted up and made to stand on two feet like a man* [His restoration to sanity].

#### **THE BEAR: MEDO-PERSIA, Dan. 7:5**

The Persians, like a bear, depended on brute strength.

*3 ribs in its mouth* [The triple alliance of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt who would be defeated by Cyrus the Great, Isa. 41:17].

*The bear was raised up on one side,* [Persia came into dominance after Media].

#### **THE LEOPARD: GREECE, Dan 7:6**

*It had 4 wings* [very swift]

**And 4 heads** [the 4 generals that replaced Alexander the Great].

### **THE DREADFUL BEAST: ROMAN EMPIRE, Dan. 7:7-8**

**It had large iron teeth** [2 legs and 2 sets of teeth, top and bottom, Roman Empire].

**It had 10 horns** [Revived Roman Empire compared to 10 toes, Dan. 2:41, & 10 horns, Rev. 13:1].

**It had a little horn** [Anti-Christ]. **The little horn pulled out 3 original horns by the roots.**

### **DANIEL CHAPTER 8 - DANIEL HAS ANOTHER DREAM, Dan. 8:1-27**

**THE RAM had 2 horns**, Dan. 8:3 [Medes and Persians, \*Dan. 8:20]

**One horn was larger than the other** [Persia had the real military might under Cyrus the great].

**A GOAT** [Greece]

**Attacked the ram** [Persia], Dan. 8:7.

**It had a large horn**, [The first king, Alexander the Great, Dan. 8:5, \*Dan. 8:21].

**The large horn was broken**, [Alexander the Great died, \*Dan. 8:22]

**And 4 horns took its place**, Dan. 8:7-8 [The 4 nations/generals who took his place, \*Dan. 8:22]

### **LESSON #9 (7-17-05)**

**LOGARITHMS** explain what we know from direct observation, future and past to the base 10 in seconds, limited by :

How long we are on the earth, by size, and by time.

**CONJECTURE:** Interpretation from omens

Inference from presumptive or defective evidence

Conclusion from surmising or guessing

We can deduce, but we cannot know for certain apart from the Bible! Only God's Word and it alone tells us the facts that

God wants us to know. Its prophecy that has already been fulfilled was 100% accurate in detail in every case. Prophecy is foreign to every other book written by man. And God covers the whole realm of human history. No other book does.

**Lev.25:1, Jer.25, 29:10, II Chron.36:20, Isa.44:29, Ezra 1, Isa.45:1**

### **LESSON #10 (7-24-05)**

**PROPHECY AND ITS FULFILLMENT:** *Continued . . .*

The Bible is %100 accurate. Why? Because there is no other God but the God of the Bible. Examples:

**Lev. 25:1-5** - Israel is commanded to observe sabbatical years.

**Jer. 25:7-13** - The command was ignored; God threatened them with 70 years of captivity under the Babylonians.

**Jer. 29:10-13** - God promised them that after 70 years of captivity, He would bring them back to their land.

**Isa. 44:21-45:7** - God would raise up Cyrus the Great of Persia to conquer the Babylonians who would release them.

**Ezra 1:1-8** - Cyrus' decree allowing the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.

**II Chron. 36:20-23** - A summary of these prophecies and their fulfillment.

**Dan. 2:31-35** - Daniel revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream foretelling the history of the nations of the world.

**Dan. 9:24-27** - Seventy Weeks prophecy.

**HISTORY OF STRAYING AWAY FROM THE WORD:** Most of the following history was taken from Justification By

Faith Alone & Its Historical Challenges, by Ron Merryman.

1) Christ told the eleven disciples that they were to be His witnesses throughout the world, **Acts 1:8, Matt. 28:13-20**.

2) Ten days after Christ's ascension, the Church Age began in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when 3,000 Jews were saved, **Acts 2:41**.

3) Despite Christ's command, the apostles continued to stay in Jerusalem witnessing to Jews only, **Acts 5:42, 6:7, 8:1**.

4) It wasn't until after the Lord commanded Peter to go to the house of Cornelius, a gentile, that it dawned on Peter that Gentiles were to be saved also, **Acts 10:34**. When Peter gave them the gospel, other Jews were there to witness it and they realized that the gospel was for Gentiles also **Acts 11:1-2**. Ten to eleven years had passed since Christ's command, until they finally got the point.

5) Once the Gentiles were accepted as viable candidates for salvation, another hurdle emerged. Many believed that the new Gentile converts should be circumcised and live under Jewish law in order to maintain their salvation. The apostle Paul addressed this issue in Galatians, chapter two.

### **LESSON #11 (7-31-05)**

6) In the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, another attack was launched. The church leaders tried to defend and define Christianity on a philosophical rather than a biblical basis. Water baptism and the elements of the Lord's Supper were given the

added meaning that they had a magical and mysterious capability to take away sin. The church soon developed into a saving institution and sole mediator of rituals that save.

a. WATER BAPTISM

1. Justin Martyr subscribed to baptismal regeneration. He was sincere but doctrinally weak. He was martyred ca. 165 A.D.
2. Irenaeus boldly asserted in 185 A.D., "Baptism is the new birth and regeneration".
3. The apostle Paul said, ***Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel, 1 Cor. 1:17.***
4. In 200 A.D., Tertullian opened Pandora's Penitential Box by claiming that water baptism washed away only the sins prior to baptism. Post-baptismal sins required self-imposed penitential exercises and good works for satisfaction.
5. The seeds for the Roman Catholic Church's doctrine of penance were planted.
6. Many would put off baptism until just before dying and then got baptized to make sure their sins were forgiven.
7. In 381 AD, the Nicene Creed, originally written in 325 AD, was amended to include a statement totally foreign to the original, "we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins."

**LESSON #12 (8-7-05)** *(Only one class note point)* False Doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration refuted by correct translation of Acts 2:37's instructions to be water baptized BECAUSE OF the remission of sins through faith in Jesus Christ. This is what "repent" means, to change one's mind about Christ and to believe in Him; Mk.16:16 is not in the original.

8. In 381 AD, the Constantinopolitan Creed also included the baptism for remission of sins phrase.

**LESSON #13 (8-14-05)**

9. In 400 AD, Augustine, the famous Bishop of Hippo, clearly enunciated the doctrine that all infants not baptized would go to hell.

b. THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. The Lord's Supper was being distorted during this same time period that water baptism was. By 200 AD, the simple memorial to Christ became a sacrificial meal where believers offered the sacrifice of praise, "sacraments", and prayer with no mention of His atoning efficacy.
  2. By 400 AD, The Roman Church saw the Eucharist as a sacrifice that had atoning value. It became institutionalized in the Middle or Dark Ages and became known as the "Mass".
  3. In 1215 AD, the Fourth Lateran Council under the Pontificate of Pope Innocent III declared "Transubstantiation" to be the official doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 7) Mystification of water baptism and the Lord's Supper is not based on good biblical exegesis but rather, is based on scattered references from writings of certain post-apostolic church fathers and interpreted by medieval theologians. These writings and the assumed traditions that they reflected are just as authoritatively used in the Roman Catholic Church as are the Scriptures in evangelical, fundamental churches.
- 8) The seeds of error had taken root and grown in post-apostolic times.
- a. "Sacramentalism", the belief that "sacraments" were intended for and necessary for one's salvation, was widely accepted. At first, there were only two, baptism and the Lord's Supper, and they were not called "sacraments" until the time of Tertullian, ca. 200 AD.
  - b. "Sacerdotalism" from "sacerdos," Latin for "priest", is the belief that priests are endowed with powers and privileges unique to their craft. Because many of the post-apostolic fathers failed to rightly divide the Scriptures, they saw themselves as successors to and a continuum of the Levitical priesthood.
- 9) The N.T. never set up a hierarchal system of bishops and priests.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,**
- Revelation 1:6 - . . . and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,**
- 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**
- 10) The Roman Catholic church was well established, dug in, deeply entrenched, by 600 AD.
- a. The rapid numerical growth of the church in Rome led to great influence for her Bishop.
  - b. The exaltation of apostolic tradition was associated with Peter who supposedly set up a church in Rome and resided there for 25 years as its Bishop (This is false).
  - c. **Matt. 16:18-19** has been used for the supposed exegetical foundation for the papacy since its inception ca. 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century. The claim of a Roman bishop to universal dominion because of the primacy of Peter was first made in the fifth century by Innocent I.
  - d. No one factor created the Papacy, but rather, a series of ideas, interpretations, understandings and actual historical events over several hundred years eventuated in the elevation of the Bishop of Rome to the position of

Supreme Pontiff in the West. Medieval scholastic theology was transformed into authoritative dogma that became binding on all of the faithful universally.

- e. Salvation became institutionalized! It became the exclusive domain of the Church! No longer was it the Gospel that saved; it was the Church and her sacraments that saved.

#### LESSON #14 (8-21-05)

- f. In the early part of the sixteenth century, the Reformation began when believers started hearing the Bible taught in their own languages and began to realize that salvation was by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

#### LESSON #15 (8-28-05)

- g. Most of the leaders of the Reformation came out of the Catholic Church, so they retained some of the heresies that they had learned there such as infant baptism.
- h. The Catholic Church accused the reformers of false teaching and alleged that “the doctrines of grace were nothing more than heresy that gave people a license to sin”. In an effort to refute that allegation, some reformers started teaching the false doctrine known as “Lordship Salvation”. This doctrine states that a person must not only believe in Jesus Christ to be saved, but he must also make Him Lord of his life. This is nothing less than salvation by works, but it did give the reformers an excuse when the Catholic Church pointed at people who professed to believe in Christ yet lived like antinomians. They would simply say that such people had not made Christ the Lord of their lives, and therefore, they were not saved to begin with.
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#### The Pseudepigrapha

This category of spurious writings was developed by the cautious Patristics to keep any and all forgeries of the Scriptures out of the Canon. At that time, “ancient” scrolls were being “discovered” and were claimed to have Old Testament authors. Various cults wanted Old Testament substantiation for their beliefs. For example, they might say, “You are not saved simply by faith in Christ; in addition, you must DO various things.” When challenged with “Where do you find that?” they would produce a book called “The Penitence of Jannes and Jambres” as a proof text.

Where had they gotten the idea? They had lifted it right out of **2 Timothy 3:8**. All we know about Jannes and Jambres is that they opposed Moses at the court of Pharaoh, and that they are called magicians in **Exodus 7:11 and 8:7**. But look what these forgers had done! They had embellished the known facts to make a fantastic tale of penitence. Supposedly, Jannes and Jambres had felt sorry for what they had done; they renounced their sins and had become ascetics. This, then, was one type of book which tried to infiltrate the Canon.

Another such book was “The Magic Book of Moses.” Its erroneous claim to fame was the fact that Moses actually spoke in tongues. In reality, the book was sponsored by a group of people who were promoting the tongues movement; so they “uncovered” this scroll and attempted to peddle it as Scripture. The Patristics branded these books “PSEUDEPIGRAPHA.” They said, in effect, “This is a phony forgery!” I realize that this is redundant in our language, but it wasn’t in theirs. I like the strength of their language in condemning those faked writings. “Pseudo” means “false”; “pigrapha” means “forgery” (grapha — to write). And with those words, everything that was not canonical was once and for all rejected. This third category was absolutely necessary so that all those books written by unknown persons between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D. might be classified under the pseudepigrapha and not be included in the Canon.

**The Apocrypha.** Some of you may have Bibles that have the Apocrypha inserted between Malachi and Matthew. Does it belong in our Bibles? It does not! The Apocrypha are books which were written after the Canon was closed around 425 B.C. Although they were asserted to be canonical, these books were rejected as being spurious and fraudulent and definitely NOT a part of the Word of God! As a matter of fact, the principles of Canonicity were reviewed when the Apocrypha was

introduced. The word “apocrypha” means “hidden” or “secret,” but, due to their doubtful authenticity, the word has come to mean “spurious,” “fraudulent” or “forged.” Their proposed addition to the Canon was nothing short of an attempt on the part of the devil himself to infiltrate God’s Truth.

The Apocrypha includes fourteen books which are found in the Septuagint and the Vulgate but never in the Hebrew Canon! They were originally written in the Greek language, except for Ecclesiasticus, First Maccabees, part of Baruch, Judith and Tobit. These latter were written in Aramaic. While they are not canonical, they do fill us in historically on the four hundred silent years between the Old and the New Testaments.

## THE REJECTION OF THE APOCRYPHA

1. THE APOCRYPHA WAS NEVER IN THE HEBREW CANON. Every card-indexing catalogue of the Canon of Scripture in the ancient world listed only the twenty-four Jewish books of the Old Testament (thirty-nine as we have them today), but it excluded the Apocrypha in toto.
2. NEITHER JESUS CHRIST NOR ANY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS EVER QUOTED FROM THE APOCRYPHA. Never even once!
3. JOSEPHUS EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED THEM FROM HIS LIST OF SACRED SCRIPTURE IN HIS BOOK. He explained that these books were excluded from the Canon because they were spurious!
4. NO MENTION OF THE APOCRYPHA WAS MADE IN ANY CATALOGUE OF CANONICAL BOOKS IN THE FIRST FOUR CENTURIES A.D. It was not until the fifth century that a well-known organization slipped them into the catalogue!
5. THESE APOCRYPHAL BOOKS WERE NEVER ASSERTED TO BE DIVINELY INSPIRED, OR TO POSSESS DIVINE AUTHORITY IN THEIR CONTENTS!
6. NO PROPHETS WERE CONNECTED WITH THESE WRITINGS! Each Old Testament book was written by a man who was a prophet, either by office or by gift, or both.
7. THESE BOOKS CONTAINED MANY HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ERRORS. They so distorted and contradicted Old Testament narratives that in order to accept the Apocrypha one had to reject the Old Testament.
8. THE APOCRYPHA TEACHES DOCTRINES AND UPHOLDS PRACTICES WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE! Documentation regarding the false doctrine found in the Apocrypha is as follows:

- a. Prayers and Offerings for the Dead. In 2 Maccabees 12:41-46, not only are prayers, offered for the dead, but monetary offerings are brought on their behalf and even recommended! I am quoting from the Douay version (the authorized Catholic Bible) of the Old Testament, which is a revised version of the Latin Vulgate:

*It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sin (v. 46).*

This is contrary to all Scripture (John 3:18, 36)! You simply cannot buy the unsaved dead out of their unsaved status, nor can you improve their condition by prayer!

- b. Suicide Justified. 2 Maccabees 14:41-46 deals with a revolt against the Syrians, led by the Maccabean brothers. Here we find an attempted suicide that was not successful until the third try. The sacred Scriptures would relate such an incident without praise and without the implication that it should be admired or imitated. The Bible teaches that to take one’s own life is to superimpose human volition over divine volition (Psa. 31:15); but the Apocrypha justifies this suicide and calls it a noble death.
- c. Atonement and Salvation by Almsgiving. At least two of the books in the Apocrypha state that sins may be atoned for and salvation may be obtained by giving large donations. Interesting, isn’t it? Especially in view of 1 John 1:9 and such passages as Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:5! Ecclesiasticus 3:33 (must be distinguished from Ecclesiastes) speaks of atonement by almsgiving. Tobit 4:11 states that salvation can be purchased:

*For alms deliver from all sin, and from death and will not suffer the soul to go into darkness.*

- d. Cruelty to Slaves Justified. In Ecclesiasticus 33:25-29, we read that the best way to treat a slave is to pile the work on him, and that, if need be, cruelty to slaves is fully justified. How does that compare to God’s admonition in Deuteronomy 23:15,16?

*Thou shalt not deliver unto his master the servant [slave] which is escaped . . . unto thee. He shall dwell with thee . . . thou shalt not oppress him.*



- e. The Doctrine of Emanations. This is a cosmological concept characteristic of Neo-platonism and Gnosticism. It explains the world as an “outflowing” from One Absolute source but never uses the word “God.” This is frequently encountered in Indian metaphysics. In contrast to “creation,” “emanation” is entirely impersonal and metaphorical.

Nowhere in the Word of God is there any teaching on emanation; but you find it in the Apocrypha, in the Wisdom of Solomon 7:25, where we read that “ . . . she [wisdom] is a vapour of the power of God, and a certain pure emanation of the glory of . . . God.”

What we have here is a rehash of Neo-platonism. Platonic philosophy presented the idea of a material universe and the Demiurge as its creator but explained the physical world as possessing only relative reality. Plato also taught that knowledge is partly a matter of recollections of a previous life with all souls preexisting.

- f. The preexistence of souls is also mentioned in the next chapter, 8:19, 20. This is the teaching of the doctrine of TRADUCIANISM which claims that the soul, as well as the body is produced in procreation by the parents. Now we know that ultimately only God can give soul-life.

- g. Other Fallacies and Blasphemies in the Apocrypha. Just in case you aren’t convinced that the Apocrypha has no place in the Scriptures, let’s note a few additional things. If you want to take the time, you can dig them out of the Apocrypha for yourself.

The Apocrypha advocates hatred of the Samaritans. So, if you follow the teachings of the Apocrypha, you must hate the Samaritans before you can be saved. Since there are no Samaritans left today- for us to hate, where does that put us as far as salvation is concerned? In Proverbs 6, lying is second on the list of the seven “worst” sins; in the Apocrypha, lying is sanctioned. The Bible strictly prohibits anything connected with witchcraft (Dent. 18:10-12), but magical incantations are encouraged in the Apocrypha. Assassination, in violation of the laws of divine establishment (Matt. 19:18), is also suggested. In the Apocrypha, seven angels are said to have the power of intercession. In view of Romans 8:34, 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 7:25, this is outright blasphemy!

Now, where do you find all these things — including Purgatory — mentioned? Only in the Apocrypha! Is it any wonder, then, that the Apocrypha was rejected?

## LESSON #16 (9-4-05)

### UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

- 1) “The Bible can mean anything you want it to mean. Any verse can mean one thing to you, and it could mean something entirely different to me. Everyone has his own interpretation.”
- 2) Does this sound familiar? This is the thinking of the average person when it comes to the Bible, and if this was the truth, why would anyone pay any attention to the Bible? Why should anyone study it or base his decisions on it since he cannot know for certain what it means?
- 3) This type of thinking is fostered by Satan and his demons to neutralize the Bible and is one of the most powerful weapons in his arsenal.
- 4) Do people disagree about what the Bible says? Yes. Are some scriptures more difficult to understand than others? Yes. Does that mean that we cannot understand the meaning God has revealed to us in His Word? NO!
- 5) Another attempt to neutralize the Bible is the idea that everything in it is figurative. A few examples: Jesus wasn’t really born of a virgin. Moses didn’t really part the Red Sea. Christ didn’t really walk on water; it just appeared that He did. Jesus will not literally come back to the earth riding a white horse because this is a figure of Him coming back in a spiritual sense. He will not literally set up a kingdom on earth and reign over it from the city of Jerusalem.
- 6) Scripture should always be taken literally unless the Bible demonstrates it to be otherwise. The Bible does use similes, “Life is like a circus”, metaphors, “The world is a stage.”, anthropomorphisms, “the hand of God”, and anthropopathisms, “Esau I hated”.

## LESSON #17 (9-11-05)

- 7) **2 Peter 1:20-21 - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.** This means that there is only one interpretation of any passage of Scripture, and that is the Bible’s own interpretation.
- Romans 15:4 - For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**
- 2 Timothy 3:14 - 17 - But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

- 8) Why do people come up with so many excuses for not believing that the Bible is the Word of God when most of them have never even taken the time to read it? Why do so many people think the Bible is God's Word but don't think anyone can know for sure what it means? Among many answers to these questions, there is one that certainly applies. People who do not accept an absolute standard or who think that absolute standards cannot be understood, are negative because they do not want to be held accountable to any absolute standard. Neat way of dodging accountability! Or is it?
- 9) God holds us accountable for learning His Word and for using what we learn no matter how many excuses we come up with to avoid accountability. With this in mind, it is important to know how to study the Bible.
- HERMENEUTICS is the study of the methodological principles of interpretation. It is the science of interpretation. The Word of God must be approached from three perspectives.

## LESSON #18 (9-18-05)

In Bible study, more than anything else in life, we get exactly what we put into it. Sloppy study will never quench our thirst. But the more tireless and aggressive our study, the more we will be rewarded. There are three fundamental prerequisites for understanding the Bible:

- (1) You must be a believer in Jesus Christ. Unbelievers cannot understand spiritual phenomena, 1 Cor. 2:14.
  - (2) You must rely on the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 2:12-13. Human intelligence and education are no substitutes for the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit through the Grace System of Perception.
  - (3) You must approach Bible study with a spirit of faith, Heb. 11:6, James 1:21-26. When the Scripture is at odds with your ideas or desires, you must recognize the authority of the Bible. It is God's Word that must be your guide, not your experiences. The Bible changes us, we do not change it.
- 10) To insure accuracy, a person should take a three-prong approach when studying the Bible. Some call this the **ICE** method of study.
1. **ISAGOGICS**, the Historical Approach, comes from the Greek EIS, "into" and AGO, "to lead". In English, an isogoge is an introduction, an introductory study, especially, that part of theology that is introductory to exegesis. It is the study of the historical and cultural background of Biblical passages.  
The Bible must be interpreted in the time in which it was written.
    - a. Example: It is necessary to understand who the names "Israel" and "Judah" identify. The ten tribes that occupied the northern area of Palestine were called Israel. Most times, the name "Israel" referred to the nation as a whole or the twelve tribes. Other times, it referred only to the ten northern tribes after the tribes separated when Solomon died.
    - b. Placing Scripture in the right dispensation could also be considered a part of isagogical study. Failure to understand dispensations will cause confusion, frustration, and misinterpretation. God has divided time into segments that His Word calls dispensations. An understanding of these divisions of time is the key that unlocks Biblical truth. Without this reference system, it is impossible for any Christian to understand how various portions of the Bible apply to life. All scripture was written for every believer, but not all scripture was written to every believer.  
**Ephesians 3:2 - If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God [the Church Age] which is given me to you-ward [for your benefit]. . .**  
Why don't we sacrifice animals today as part of our worship to God? Why don't we stone people to death who are guilty of adultery? Why do we worship on Sunday instead of Saturday? The answers come from understanding that there are different commands for different ages, the Age of the Jews versus the Church Age.
  2. **CATAGORIES** is the Doctrinal Approach. To fully understand the Biblical teaching on any subject, we must take into consideration all that the Bible has to say on that subject. So we must compare Scripture with Scripture to insure accuracy.
  3. **EXEGESIS** is the Grammatical Approach. This word comes from two Greek words, EK, meaning "out" and HEGEOMAI, meaning "to lead out or to go before." So, to exegete is to lead or bring out of a passage what is there. By analyzing the grammar, syntax, and etymology of the words of each verse within its context, one can determine the exact meaning of that verse in its relationship to the context as a whole.

## LESSON #19 (10-2-05)

### ATTACKS ON THE BIBLE

Oct. 2, 2005

Why did God write the Bible? To reveal Himself and His purpose for us: what He wants us to think and do.

- a. Most people don't give a hoot about God, and they are not interested in what He wants.
- b. That is why they attack the Bible



**Attack #1 - IT WAS WRITTEN BY FALLIBLE MEN.**

The assumption is that it cannot be relied on or trusted because perfect God was not its true author.

The Bible is divinely inspired, **2 Timothy 3:16** - *All scripture is given by inspiration of God* [God-breathed, THEOPNEUSTOS (Θεοπνευστος)], *and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

**Luke 1:70** - *He* [God] *spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old.* . .

**Attack #2 - IT CONTRADICTS ITSELF.**

*This simply is not true. Any possible contradictions are dismissed with proper hermeneutical study.*

*Example: \*Israel refers to all the 12 tribes / Israel refers to the 10 Northern tribes only.*

**\*Eccl. 3:18-21 / Phil. 1:21-24**      **\*Eph. 2:8-9 / James 2:14 & 17**

**Psa.12:6** - *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

**Psa.119:144** - *Thy testimonies are righteous forever.* **Titus 1:9** - *[Pastors must] hold fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*

**Attack #3 - IT IS FULL OF ERRORS.**

*There were no errors in the original manuscripts of the Bible and the margin of error that exists in most Bible translations today are negligible.* **Psalm 19:7-8** - *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* <sup>8</sup> *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the*

*commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* **John 17:17** - *Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy Word is truth.* [See the printout "Scientific Facts In The Bible"] **Hebrews 6:18** - *...it is impossible for God to lie...*

**Psalm 111:7-8** - *The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure.* <sup>8</sup> *They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness.*

**Attack #4 - IT IS NO LONGER RELEVANT.**

*The Bible address the deepest needs and issues of every person of every generation of mankind.*

**Hebrews 4:12** - *For the word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* **Romans 15:4** - *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* **1 Peter 1:25** *But the word of the Lord abides forever.* **1 Corinthians 10:11** - *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.* . . **Isaiah 40:8** - *The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.*

**Attack #5 - YOU CAN'T TAKE IT LITERALLY**

*People who say this usually don't believe in absolutes; to them everything is relative. Example: **Colossians 3:18** - *Wives, submit to your husbands.* . . "Surely this cannot be taken literally in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the post-modern era. What about women's rights, the feminist movement, etc.? Surely you don't believe that Jesus Christ literally rose from the dead or that He will literally come back to earth from heaven?."*

*This thinking is described in **2 Peter 3:3-4** - *Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,* <sup>4</sup> *and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."**

**Matthew 5:18** - *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.*

**Attack #6 - NO ONE CAN KNOW FOR SURE WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS** (It can have any interpretation.)

*The Bible has only ONE correct interpretation. When using proper hermeneutical procedures called the ICE method of study, the correct interpretation of scripture can be assured.* **2 Peter 1:20-21** - *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,* <sup>21</sup> *for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* **1 John 5:13** - *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY KNOW that you have eternal life.*

**1 Corinthians 10:11** - *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.*

*The problem is not with the Bible but with the one who rejects the Bible.* **Proverbs 1:7** - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**Proverbs 4:13** - *Take hold of instruction* [B.D.]; *do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.* [They ignore this command.]

Each book of the Bible has its own distinctive character and message. In analyzing scripture, we must determine why it was written and to whom it was written.

- 1) Let's take a look at the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They catalog events from the birth to the death of Jesus Christ, and declare Him to be the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah.
- 2) Sometimes, the first three are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels. They are similar in style yet are distinct from John in style. They have parallel narratives of recorded facts and statements made. The English word "Synoptic" comes from two Greek words, SUN, together, and OPIS, view. They are viewed together with regards to their style.
- 3) Even though the gospels are similar, each was written to a different audience and for a different purpose.  
Matthew was written primarily for Jews, presenting Christ as King. Events are presented in chronological order.  
Mark was written for Romans, presenting Christ as a Servant of the Father.  
Luke was written for Greeks, presenting Christ as the Son of man in logical order.  
John was written for the world, presenting Christ as the Son of God.  
Acts is a transitional book that covers the first century of the Church. It begins with the ascension of Jesus Christ and records the Day of Pentecost that kicked off the Church Age.  
Epistles are letters. Peter, James, John, the writer of Hebrews, Jude, and Paul were the authors.  
Revelation is eschatological in nature.

**MATTHEW:** The divine author is God the Holy Spirit. The human author was Levi, later called Matthew, the tax collector for the Romans, a very low-on-the-totem-pole person. We know from the content that the book of Matthew was written before the fall of Jerusalem, 70 AD. Matthew often referred to Jesus as the Son of David so that the Jews would recognize Him as their Messiah. The Sermon on the Mount, the Olivet Discourse, "the Lord's Prayer" (the true Lord's Prayer is found in John 17), the Beatitudes and the Golden Rule, Matt. 7:12 are found in Matthew. Matthew quoted from the O.T. more than any other Gospel, 128 times.

**MARK:** The human author was John Mark who we also say in Acts 12:12. Barnabas was the cousin of Mark, Col. 4:10. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary trip. This book was written for Gentile believers, primarily the Romans. Christ's genealogy is not given in this book because its Gentile and Roman readers were not interested in that. Emphasis is put on what Christ did rather than on what He said. He was too young to have been an eyewitness to the events in this book.. Some say it is very likely that John Mark was the scribe of the Apostle Peter, and the events described in Mark were related to John Mark by the Apostle Peter. It took Peter's knowledge and John Mark's translating it into a written style that would have been appreciated by Roman readers. The last twelve verses in Mark 16:9-20 about poisonous snakes, etc., are not found in the older, more reliable manuscripts.

**LUKE:** The physician, Luke, not only wrote this book but also the book of Acts. He is probably the only Gentile author in the entire New Testament. He was a close friend to the Apostle Paul, and he accompanied him on his missionary journeys. He was not an eyewitness to the life of Christ, but he closely consulted with those who were. Much attention is given to the birth of Christ, and Luke presents Christ as the Son of Man who offers compassion and salvation to the whole world. The story of the good Samaritan is given in this Gospel as well as a few details about the childhoods of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

**JOHN:** was an apostle who also wrote the epistles of I John, II John, III John, and also the book of Revelation. He was the brother of James who was also a disciple of Jesus and was an early martyr of the Church. They were the sons of Zebedee, a fisherman of some substance, who hired a crew and at least one sizeable boat for deep water fishing. John was one of the "sons of Thunder," Mark 3:17. John is the most theological of the four gospels and said that Christ is, "the Word of God", "the Lamb of God", "the Son of God", "the King of Israel", "the Savior of the world", and the "I Am". The Gospel of John contains no parables, only seven miracles, five of which are not mentioned elsewhere, and many personal interviews. John emphasizes the physical actuality of Jesus in order to refute the denial of Jesus' true human nature by those known as Gnostics.

**ACTS:** The Gospel of Luke was written about the life of Jesus on earth up to the cross. Acts 1:1-2 indicates that Acts is the continuation of a previous book. It starts with what appears to be Luke's continuation of Christ's life in His

resurrection body. It discusses the life of the early church during the Pre-canon period of about thirty years when the Church grew from its inception composed mostly of Jewish believers to include gentiles also. This was a unique, transitional time when the Church became distinct from Judaism. The first twelve chapters feature Peter, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas, and James. From chapter 13 to the end, the dominate person is Paul.

**ROMANS:** was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in Corinth to the Christians in Rome, circa 58 AD. The book is the story of the Adjustment to the Justice of God based on faith. The book of Romans was written for the purpose of getting one's full attention and concentration. It teaches us how to become grace-oriented. It explains to us that it is God's justice that provides the mechanics of all blessings of grace and discipline toward mankind. The important doctrines Romans focuses on are "The Grace of God" and "The Essence of God". **Romans**, along with the book of **Proverbs** are books teaching common sense. Natural revelation, the universality of sin, justification, election, faith, spiritual gifts, and respect for authority and government are also addressed.

## LESSON #21 (10-16-05)

**I CORINTHIANS:** Corinth was the "Las Vegas" of the ancient world, the ultimate party town. Lots of travelers passed through it. It was also the center of the Isthmus Games which were similar to the Olympics. The population was primarily Greek and heavily influenced by the teachings of Plato who taught that the body was basically evil and once we pass on, we lose that evil body. So, the concept of a resurrected body was denied by many Christians in Corinth who had the tendency to want to pick and choose which doctrines to believe. Finally, in Corinth, all the best was found in the Greek temples dedicated to the so-called Greek Gods. The best meat, the best drink, and the best sex were in the temples full of priests, and priestesses. This background is necessary to understand what Paul was saying to the Church that he founded in Corinth, and through this Epistle, to all of us, too.

**II CORINTHIANS:** *The Apostle Paul in the book of I Corinthians was very harsh on the Corinthians. In 57 AD, at this writing, the Corinthians had taken in doctrine and had grown. However, they were surprised to find that they were still suffering. The basic theme of II Corinthians is suffering for blessing. It starts out with the Corinthians upset with Paul. He said in I Corinthians that he would return to be face-to-face with them. He came that way and passed them by. They were hurt. They felt slighted. A lot of them said Paul was fickle and did not love them anymore. Chapters eight and nine use more sarcasm than any other places in the Bible.*

**GALATIANS:** The Galatians were the first cousins to the Irish and the French Galls. After the Apostle Paul evangelized the people, the saved, yet legalistic Jews followed him to Galatia. They said that one must believe in Christ, but then he must also work to be saved and to be spiritual. One must also follow the Mosaic Law and be circumcised. They were critiquing Paul and he is very angry when writing this. He is very harsh and sarcastic. In Greek writing, it becomes elliptical, missing verbs and other correct grammar making the writing forceful. So, when translated, the English is not always smooth, but it is very elegant and powerful in the Greek. This book emphasizes justification by faith, which is explained, defended, and applied. The fruit of the Spirit is also given in this book.

**EPHESIANS:** The Church of Ephesus was located in what we know now as western Turkey. **Ephesians** is one of the "Prison Epistles" that also includes Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. They were written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome. But this epistle deals more with doctrinal and theological issues than specific problems in the church such as **I and II Corinthians**. The fact that there are no personal names mentioned supports the idea that It was written to circulate among the churches. This book emphasizes God's eternal purpose in establishing the Church. It covers predestination, spiritual gifts, and the role of husbands and wives.

**PHILIPPIANS:** Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul circa 62 A.D. Philippi was a Roman colony of military men who were given money and these lands when they retired. Many lived in the area of Philippi and most likely had great influence in this church. These men would have been very familiar with discipline and would have had the maturity needed to consistently take in doctrine on a daily basis. Therefore, Paul writes to a mature audience on how to advance in the spiritual life. As opposed to the harsh letters to the Corinthians, Paul writes this as a loving letter to the Philippians

which is probably his most personal letter. It is "thank you" for the support that they had given him on more than one occasion. The Doctrine of Kenosis is found in this epistle along with verses on prayer.

**COLOSSIANS:** This Epistle written by Paul is actually two in one. The first book is to the Colossians and the second book is to the Laodiceans. The Epistle to the Laodiceans starts in Chapter 4, verse 15, and the Apostle John addressed them in Revelation Chapter 3, verses 14-22. The Colossians had accepted a hodge-podge of false doctrines including Jewish legalism, Greek philosophic speculation, and Oriental mysticism. This epistle emphasizes the supremacy and all-sufficiency of Christ.

**I THESSALONIANS:** Paul wrote this on his second missionary journey to the South of Greece when Timothy brought him the news that the Church in Thessalonica was very confused on a number of doctrinal issues. Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia in Greece. It was a famous, wealthy city, and had a great seaport. This epistle is Eschatological in nature with many prophetic references to future things like the Second Advent and the Rapture. This is the only Pauline epistle without any Old Testament citations indicating that this church was probably a pure 'Gentile' church. The epistle is filled with doctrine and it encouraged new converts and answered the question as to what happens to Christians who die before the Rapture.

**II THESSALONIANS:** I and II Thessalonians are both Eschatological, about future matters. On the third missionary journey, Paul wrote Galatians, I and II Corinthians and Romans. These epistles are generally characterized by the doctrine of Soteriology which covers salvation. During the first Roman imprisonment, Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The subject was Christology or the study of Christ. Then during his second imprisonment, he wrote I and II Timothy and Titus. The subject was Ecclesiology which is the doctrine of the Church. There were legalists who were carrying forged letters that said they were from Paul and others. These were attempts to mislead the Thessalonians. The letters told them that they were living in the Tribulation. Because of the adversities they were going through at the time, they believed the deception. Paul wrote this epistle to set them straight on his third missionary journey from Corinth in 51 AD. It concludes with how to advance to the maximum level of spiritual maturity, the Supergrace status.

**I TIMOTHY:** In Acts Chapter 16, we learn that Timothy was the son of an unbelieving Greek and a Jewess. He was a student of Paul and joined him on his second missionary journey. Paul left him in Berea and Philippi which indicates Paul trusted him. Timothy was now the pastor at Ephesus, was apparently a very good student, and was a very good teacher when the congregation was receptive. When, at Corinth, Timothy's personality was too weak and they booted him. The Apostle Paul wrote I Timothy circa 66 A.D. Paul had about 6 months to live and Timothy was to be the next great leader of the Church. Paul needed to wake him up! So he wrote I and II Timothy and Titus during his second imprisonment. I Timothy is considered the first of the three Pastoral Epistles, - I Timothy, then Titus, and then II Timothy. I Timothy is the one about applying metabolized doctrine to a situation. It is very practical in nature and covers the subjects of women, wine, and song!

**II TIMOTHY:** This was the last Epistle written by Paul in the spring, circa 68 A.D. In Macedonia, Paul wrote two epistles I Timothy 66 A.D. and to Titus in Crete in 67 A.D. Then he entered the Balkans and wintered at Neapolis where he was seized and sent to Rome for his second imprisonment. Here, he wrote this epistle. Paul knew he was to die as Nero was to go to behead him. These are the final words of a man who knows he will die. Timothy means 'he who honors God'. In I Timothy, Timothy was in reversionism, and Paul skinned him alive! Timothy had a lot of doctrine in his soul and took it well. And, now we find he fully recovered and is a great Supergrace believer. His recovery was part of the dying grace of the Lord for Paul. Timothy will take the torch from Paul and carry it, teaching correct doctrine to the next generation.

**TITUS:** Titus was a gentile who received the gospel from the apostle Paul. Paul wrote this letter to encourage him. Titus was Paul's trouble shooter, and he cleared up the mess in Corinth after Timothy left. Qualifications for leaders in the church are given as well as a very important verse on salvation, Titus 3:5.

**PHILEMON:** Philemon and Colossians go together. Philemon was a mature believer in Colosse. Onesimus was his slave in Colosse who stole money and ran away to Rome. Onesimus blew the money, then remembered Philemon talking about Paul in jail in Rome. He started visiting Paul on a daily basis, taking in doctrine, and became a mature believer. Paul sent him back with Tychicus, Colossians 4:7, and these two great epistles of Paul. The book revolves around the social issue of slavery which is neither condemned nor approved by the Bible. It is up to the individual.

**HEBREWS:** This epistle was written by an unknown writer proving the principal that it is the Word, not the human author, that is important. The writer had a strong classical Greek background. **Hebrews** was written in a mixture of Classical Greek and Koine Greek. The mixture is called Patristic Greek and was relatively unknown when the King James Version was translated, so it was not accurately translated. With the discovery of the papyri and the Dead Sea Scrolls, much has been learned about Patristic Greek.. There are 29 direct quotations from the O.T. and 53 allusions to various other passages. This epistle emphasizes the superiority of Christ. A favorite passage is **Heb. 4:12**.

**JAMES:** James was the half-brother of the humanity of Jesus Christ; so was **Jude, Matthew 13:55**. He did not become a believer in the Lord Jesus until after the Resurrection. He became the pastor-teacher of the Church in Jerusalem, but it became steeped in legalism. James did not write to a particular church but to the twelve tribes that were scattered abroad. This book addresses the practical aspects of Christian conduct. **James** has less formal theology and is more pragmatic in nature. Faith, works, and the use of the tongue are addressed in this epistle.

**I PETER:** This epistle was also addressed to sojourners of the dispersion. These people were experiencing persecution, so suffering is the topic dealt with. The true grace of God in the life of the believer is emphasized.

**II PETER:** This letter was written just before Peter was martyred in 67 A.D. Peter focused on the truth of Christianity as opposed to the heresies of false teachers. The transfiguration was mentioned as well as the certainty of Christ coming again.

**I JOHN:** The early elders of the church attributed this book to the Apostle John. The vocabulary and writing style do match that of the Gospel of John. The book was written circa 95 A.D. In this epistle, John is taking us from oral traditions of what he and others witnessed and is moving us to a written deposition . . . that is to a finished canon of Scripture in 96 AD. **I John** refuted the lies of Gnosticism that asserted a non-literal interpretation of Scripture. It is filled with contrasts, light and darkness, love of God and love of the world, and children of God and children of the devil.

**II JOHN:** This is a unique letter in that John wrote it directly to the great woman in Laodicea he called Kuria, meaning great lady. Some say this letter was written to a lady named Nympha. It is a short, but important, epistle. The book was written circa 95 A.D. John was living in Ephesus at the time. Walking in Christ's commandments is the theme.

**III JOHN:** The Apostle John was the Pastor-teacher of an unknown church, most likely Pergamas, in the Roman province of Asia. While away, he taught doctrine to the church through letters. But the head administrator of the local church, Diotrephes, started tearing them up. So, this Epistle was written circa 95 A.D. by John from Ephesus to his good friend Gaius. This church does not currently have a Pastor-teacher, so the Apostle John is filling that role. Other pastors came through, but Diotrephes rejected them all and rejected the authority of John. Diotrephes is full of arrogance. He does not want a Pastor-teacher locally nor does he want to accept the authority of John as an Apostle. John will send Demetrius to teach them doctrine . . . and if that does not work, he will come himself!

**JUDE:** He was the half brother of the Lord Jesus. This letter was written to defend the faith against false teaching. Again, Gnosticism was a problem. They cultivated their "spiritual" lives and allowed their flesh to do anything it liked. Jude exhorted his readers to contend earnestly for the faith.

## **REVELATION: THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

John wrote this epistle during his imprisonment on the island of Patmos circa 96 A.D. This is really a history book. It declares the history of the world from 96 A.D. to the end of time. It was NOT written to satisfy morbid curiosity, but to delineate the role of the Church, Royal Family of God, in the field of historical impact. **Revelation** also reveals the disastrous nature of history prior to the Second Advent of Christ. The Church Age is the dispensation of no prophecy. The next prophetic event is the Rapture of the Church which will end the Church Age. No man knows when the Rapture, ex-anastasis, will occur. The Book of **Revelation** is like Union Station. Many of the prophecies of the Old Testament are explained. John lived to be very old and may have exceeded 100 years. He was the last of the Apostles to die. When he put the period on the last Amen, the canon of scripture was complete.