

# HOW TO STUDY & UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE



# Review of the Book

- As we talk about reading through the Bible, lets take a quick review of how it's constructed.

# Bible Claims: Inspiration

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living,

- II Timothy 3:16 (Good News)

# Bible Claims: Inspiration

.. Above all else, however, remember that none of us can explain by ourselves a prophecy in the Scriptures. For no prophetic message ever came just from the human will, but people were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God..

- II Peter 1:20-21 (Good News)

# How is the Old Testament Organized

## Jewish Division - 24 Books

- 1. Law** (Genesis to Deuteronomy) = 5 books
- 2. Prophets** (Former and Latter) = 8 books
- 3. The Writing** (Poetry, History) = 11 books

# Old Testament Organization

## Modern Division - 39 Books

- 1. Pentateuch** (Genesis to Deuteronomy) = 5 books
- 2. History** (Joshua to Esther) = 12 books
- 3. Poetry** (Job to Song of Solomon) = 5 books
- 4. Major** (Isaiah to Daniel) = 5 books
- 5. Minor** (Hosea to Malachi) = 12 books

# Old Testament Story

...only **one** story

- Beginning of the world
- Condition of mankind
- Formation of Jewish nation
- Promise of a savior

# New Testament Story

...only **one** story

- Life of Jesus
- His death, burial and resurrection
- Establishment of Christianity

# New Testament Division = 27 Books

- 1. The Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) = 4 books
- 2. History** (Acts) = 1 book
- 3. Pauline Epistles**  
(Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon) = 13 books
- 4. General Epistles**  
(Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude) = 8 books
- 5. Prophecy** (Revelation) = 1 book

# New Testament Translations

- Old Testament – Hebrew
- **Greek translation of Hebrew  
Old Testament called Septuagint**

# New Testament Translations

- First known **English** translation - 700AD
- First complete English Bible  
John Wycliffe, 1382
- First complete English **printed** Bible  
William Tyndale, 1526
- **King James** English translation - 1611

# How To Study The Bible

Study the Bible with:

- **Purpose - Why am I reading?**
- **Perspective – How does this apply?**
- **Patience – I may have to reread.**

# The First Three Things To Look For

- **Comprehension:** What does the text say?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** How does it change me?

# Answer these five basic questions:

- Who wrote this Book?
- To whom was it written?
- When was it written?
- In what style was it written? and
- What is the main theme of the book?

# Comprehension Ask

- What is the book or verse saying?
- Take notes that you'll refer back to.
- Do I need to stop and look up words?.
- Be patient. Read and reread the text, looking for new things.

# Study the Bible with Process

**Answer the following questions:**

- What attributes of God am I seeing in the text?
- What are the transition words showing shifts in thinking? (if / but / because)

# Study the Bible with Process

- What questions do I have? (Note them)
- Is there a verse I want to read in another translation to bring clarity?
- **When we study with Process, we identify how God thinks.**

# What does Interpretation say

- Give yourself permission to fail.
- Give yourself the opportunity to think critically on your own.
- Keep yourself from deferring to the experts. It doesn't have to be perfect!

# Spend some time:

- Paraphrasing the text (Take a passage and rewrite it in your own words)
- Summarizing the text
- Writing down and looking up cross-references that come to mind

# Application says

- Are there any imperatives (obligations) in the text? Make note of these obvious takeaways.
- What attributes of God are communicated in the text?
- What might I do in light of knowing this is how God is?

# Application cont.

- How does this change me?
- Examine my PAST. How can this attribute affect my Prayers, Actions, Speech, and Thinking?
- Think about my circles of influence and how they might be affected if I implement this attribute.

# TIPS

- Pray before coming to the text.
- Pray during time in the Word when something is confusing or boring to you.
- Pray after asking the Lord to help you retain the Word.
- Pray using the language of the text you've been reading.

# Why read the Word.

- I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps. 119:11
- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Ps. 119:105