

Lesson 1: The Bible

Memory Verse: "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." 2 Timothy 3:16

I. How Do We Know That the Bible is God's Word?

A. Bible Prophecies Have Been Fulfilled

1. Isaiah 42:9 "Behold, the _____ things are come to _____, and _____ things do I _____: before they spring forth I _____ you of them." **Note:** God says He tells us things that will happen before they happen!

Nineveh

2. What did Jonah tell the people of Nineveh? Jonah 3:4

"And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet _____ days, and Nineveh shall be _____."

3. How did the people react to this message? Jonah 3:5-9

The people _____ God

They proclaimed a _____

They put on _____

Even the king arose from his _____ and put on _____

He told the people to cry _____ unto God and to _____ from their _____ way and from the _____ in their hands

He said, "Who can tell if _____ will _____ and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we _____ not?"

4. Why was Nineveh not destroyed at this time? Jonah 3:10 "And God _____ their works, that they _____ from their _____ way; and God _____ of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and He did it _____."

Note: Jonah preached to the inhabitants of Nineveh about 860 B.C. and they repented from their hearts, so God didn't destroy them then. But later they went back to their wickedness and were eventually destroyed several hundred years later.

5. What did Nahum prophecy concerning Nineveh? Nahum 2:10,13

"She is _____, and void, and _____: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much _____ is in all loins, and the _____ of them all gather blackness." "Behold, I am _____ thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will _____ her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall _____ thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the _____ of thy messengers shall _____ more be heard."

Lesson 1: The Bible

Note: When Nahum made this prophecy in 713 B.C. Nineveh was at the top of its power. Nineveh had the biggest army and the strongest walls. But in 612 B. C. the countries under the Assyrian rule revolted and Babylon became the next ruling power. Assyria was defeated and Nineveh was made a heap of ruins. In the 7th century A.D. the city was totally gone and Rome and Persia fought a war where it used to be.

Babylon

6. What did Jeremiah prophesy about Babylon? Jeremiah 51:37 "And Babylon shall become _____, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an _____."

7. What did Isaiah declare would happen to Babylon? Isa. 13:19-22

It shall be as when God overthrew _____ and _____.

It shall never be _____.

The Arabian shall not pitch his _____ there.

The _____ will not make their fold there.

The _____ shall lie there.

The houses will be full of _____ creatures.

The _____ will live there.

The dragons (jackals) will be in their pleasant _____.

Note: When these prophecies were made, Babylon was very strong and conquering all other nations. But the man who discovered the ruins of Babylon wrote that it was a "naked and hideous waste" and that the owls and jackals were there.

Egypt

8. What was to become of Egypt? Ezekiel 29:14,15

It would be the _____ of kingdoms.

It would not _____ itself above the nations.

It shall no more _____ over the _____.

Note: Egypt was conquered by the Babylonians and has been under Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, the Mohammedans, the French, the British -- even today it is not an important power.

Tyre

9. What was Ezekiel's prophecy about Tyre? Ezekiel 26:3-7

Many _____ will come against it.

The _____ will be _____.

The _____ will be broken down.

The dust will be _____ away.

It will be as bare as a _____.

Lesson 1: The Bible

It will be a place for spreading of _____.

N_____ would come against it.

Note: It says that Tyre would be scraped clean like a bare rock and fishermen would spread their nets there. The city was actually destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar a short time after this prophecy was made. But the ruins were left there for hundreds of years.

In 332 B.C. Alexander the Great came to conquer the city and found it had been rebuilt on an island about a half mile out in the sea. He was determined to capture this city, so he scraped all of the pieces of the old city which had been destroyed into the sea to make a road to the island where the new city stood. Today fishermen spread their nets on the bare rocks that are left. The prophecy was fulfilled exactly!

Jerusalem

10. What did Jesus predict would happen to Jerusalem? Matthew 24:2

"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall _____ be left here _____ stone upon another, that shall not be _____ down."

Note: It says "There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." When the Romans burned the temple, approximately 40 years later, the gold melted and flowed down into the cracks between the stones. The Roman soldiers, in their greed for the gold, tore the stones out to get the gold. They fulfilled the prophecy exactly!

B. The Bible Agrees with Itself.

Note: The Bible was written by about 40 different writers who were kings, farmers, lawyers, generals, fishermen, ministers, and priests. There was even a tax collector and a doctor. But although the Bible was written by many very different people, some rich and some poor, yet the Bible is in perfect harmony, because God is the real Author.

11. 2 Peter 1:21 tells us this. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the _____ of man: but _____ men of God _____ as they were _____ by the _____."

C. Many people have found power in the Bible to become completely changed persons.

Lesson 1: The Bible

II. How Did We Get the Bible?

12. It was given by _____ of God. 2 Timothy 3:16

A. How much is from God? _____ 2 Timothy 3:16

B. Did the Bible writers write their own ideas? 2 Peter 1:21 YES NO

Note: "God has communicated with men by His Spirit, and divine light has been imparted to the world by revelations to His chosen servants. 'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.' 2 Peter 1:21. GC v.1

"During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation. **Those who had been taught of God, communicated their knowledge to others**, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written word began in the time of Moses. Inspired revelations were then embodied in an inspired book. This work continued during the long period of sixteen hundred years – from Moses, the historian of creation and the law, to John, the recorder of the most sublime truths of the gospel. GC v.2

"The Bible points to God as its author; yet it was written by human hands; and in the varied style of its different books it presents the characteristics of the several writers. The truths revealed are all 'given by inspiration of God' (2 Timothy 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and **those to whom the truth was thus revealed have themselves embodied the thought in human language.** GC v.3

"The Ten Commandments were spoken by God Himself, and were written by His own hand. They are of divine, and not of human composition. But the Bible, with its God-given truths expressed in the language of men, presents **a union of the divine and the human.** Such a union existed in the nature of Christ, who was the Son of God and the Son of man. Thus it is true of the Bible, as it was of Christ, that 'the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.' John 1:14. GC v.4

"Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. **Different forms of expression are employed by different writers;** often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, **there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony.** GC vi.1

As presented through different individuals, **the truth is brought out in its varied aspects.** One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; another seizes upon a different phase; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind – a different aspect of the truth in each, but **a perfect harmony through all.** And the truths thus revealed **unite to form a perfect whole**, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life. GC vi.2

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 this 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, nonetheless, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human

Lesson 1: The Bible

language, yet it is the testimony of God; and **the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.** GC vi.3

"In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an **authoritative, infallible** revelation of His will. They are the **standard** of character, the **revealer** of doctrines, and the **test** of experience." GC vii.1

13. How is the Bible preserved? Psalm 12:6-7 "The _____ of the Lord are _____ words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt _____ them, O Lord, thou shalt _____ them from this generation for ever." It is _____ that preserves His Word through all generations.

14. What is God's purpose in giving the Bible? Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____ unto my _____." He gave the Bible to be a _____ to show us the way to live.

15. How sure is the word of prophecy? 2 Peter 1:16-19
It is not a cunningly devised _____.
Peter saw the _____ of Jesus.
He heard the _____ from heaven.
But the word of prophecy is more _____ than this!

16. Is the Bible a matter of individual interpretation? 2 Peter 1:20 "Knowing this first, that _____ prophecy of the scripture is of any _____ interpretation."

17. What does the Bible claim to be? John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy _____: thy word is _____."

18. What is necessary to be able to understand the Bible? John 7:16,17
We must have a willingness to do God's _____.

19. How should we study the Bible? Isaiah 28:10
_____ must be upon _____
_____ upon _____
Here a _____, and there a _____

Note: "Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given. ... The Spirit of truth is the only effectual teacher of divine truth." AG 199.5

Lesson 1: The Bible

20. Who will guide us as we study? John 16:13

The _____ of _____ will guide you into all truth.

Note: "The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the **importance** of those things easy to be understood, or **prevent us from wresting truths** difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to **prepare the heart** so to comprehend God's word that we shall be **charmed with its beauty**, admonished by its warnings, or **animated and strengthened by its promises**. We should make the psalmist's petition our own:

' _____ Thou mine eyes, that I may behold _____ things out of Thy _____.' Psalm 119:18.

Temptations often appear **irresistible** because, through **neglect** of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one **cannot readily remember God's promises** and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are **willing to be taught** in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will **bring to their remembrance** the very truths which are needed.

Thus 'when the _____ shall come in like a _____, the _____ of the Lord shall _____ up a standard _____ him.' Isaiah 59:19."
GC 599.3

"The fact that God has revealed His will to men through His word, has not rendered needless the **continued presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit**. On the contrary, the Spirit was promised by our Saviour, to open the word to His servants, **to illuminate and apply its teachings**. And since it was the Spirit of God that inspired the Bible, **it is impossible that the teaching of the Spirit should ever be contrary to that of the word**. GC *vii.2*

"The Spirit was not given – nor can it ever be bestowed – to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that **the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested**. Says the apostle John, 'Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.' 1 John 4:1. And Isaiah declares, 'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.' Isaiah 8:20. GC *vii.3*

"Great reproach has been cast upon the work of the Holy Spirit by the errors of a class that, claiming its enlightenment, **profess to have no further need of guidance from the word of God**. They are governed by **impressions** which they regard as the voice of God in the soul. **But the spirit that controls them is not the Spirit of God**. This following of impressions, to the **neglect** of the Scriptures, can lead only to **confusion**, to **deception** and **ruin**. It serves only to further the designs of the evil one. Since the ministry of the Holy Spirit is of **vital importance** to the church of Christ, it is one of the devices of Satan, through the errors of extremists and fanatics, to cast **contempt** upon the work of the Spirit and cause the people of God to **neglect** this source of strength which our Lord Himself has provided. GC *vii.4*

"In harmony with the word of God, **His Spirit was to continue its work throughout the period of the gospel dispensation**. During the ages while the Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testament were being given, **the Holy Spirit did not cease to communicate light to individual minds**, apart from the revelations to be embodied in the Sacred Canon. The Bible itself relates how, through the Holy Spirit, men received **warning, reproof, counsel, and instruction**, in matters in no way relating to the giving of the Scriptures. And mention is made of prophets in different ages, of whose utterances nothing

Lesson 1: The Bible

is recorded. In like manner, after the close of the canon of the Scripture, **the Holy Spirit was still to continue its work, to enlighten, warn, and comfort the children of God.** GC *viii.1*

"Jesus promised His disciples, 'The Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.' 'When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: ... and He will show you things to come.' John 14:26; 16:13. Scripture plainly teaches that these promises, so far from being limited to apostolic days, **extend to the church of Christ in all ages.** The Saviour assures His followers, 'I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' Matthew 28:20. And Paul declares that the gifts and manifestations of the Spirit were set in the church 'for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.' Ephesians 4:12, 13." GC *viii 2*