

Firm Foundation Series Bitesize 2

Introduction to the Bible , pt. 2

A. Our one purpose here is to STUDY THE BIBLE.

God is the focus of our study.

God wants us to know Him, which is why He gave us the Bible. As we meet together, we will learn:

- Who He is
- What He does
- What He is like—His personality
- What God expects of us: His purpose and plan for us and this world.
- We learn what ought to be our chief goal in life and how to live a life that is blessed by God.
- We learn how to live a life that is at peace with God, at peace with ourselves and with one another.

B. We'll study the Bible chronologically.

The Bible is not just a book of doctrines or teachings about God, but is the story of history as seen from God's perspective.

The Bible is ONE BOOK and **The Bible was written with a definite beginning and a definite ending**, and in-between, there are many things that take place which, when taught and understood in their historical sequence, form **ONE cohesive, understandable STORY**.

Now if someone were to teach the contents of any other book, they would naturally start at the beginning, and that's what we're going to do in this FOUNDATION SERIES. We're going to start at the beginning of the OT. God's story begins with the very first verse in Genesis.

We are going to study the Bible chronologically which means the order in which events took place. Notice on the chronological map eternity past and the creation, Adam, & Eve, Noah, and the Tower of Babel and Table of Nations. Then we'll move on to God's call to Abraham, His covenant with Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Isaac, Esau and Jacob and his 12 sons as well as Israel's enslavement in Egypt, Moses and the Exodus, then the period of the Judges and the Kings. That is followed by the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah and the 70-yrs of Babylonian captivity, followed by 400 yrs of silence, the birth of the Jesus, Yeshua, the Messiah and his disciples as well as the creation of the Church and the writings of the Apostles.

C. We need to lay a firm foundation for understanding the Bible.

The most important part of any building is the foundation. If a strong, proper foundation is not laid at the very start of construction project, the walls could buckle, crack and crumble and the roof cave in when a heavy tornado or hurricane hits. Subsequent investigations reveal that the builder had not followed the proper building specifications and plans. The builder had disregarded the instructions which had been given to him. He built the building his own way because it was easier, quicker and cheaper.

Just as a builder can carelessly ignore construction standards and specifications, we can ignore God's plan for building a strong foundation in our lives. He refuses to take short cuts and he builds carefully and patiently. He never uses inferior materials or methods.

In the construction of any building, the foundations are the first part of the structure to be prepared. Many Christians have never had a proper foundation laid in their lives because all they ever hear are sermons on doctrine or isolated texts plucked from all over the Bible and they never see God's chronological and historical framework which He has set down in the Bible starting in Genesis.

The Bible addresses the subject of SIN:

Sin in the Bible means to "miss the mark"—I liken it to taking a bow and arrow and trying to hit the bullseye. That's your goal—hitting the bulls eye, hitting the mark. And for us, if we hit the "bullseye" every time, that would be what we call "perfection." But the fact is that no matter how well-intentioned we are, no matter how hard we try, we aim at the bulls eye, and we "miss the mark." In most cases, we don't even hit the target—our arrow goes off into the woods, or hits a tree, or falls to the ground without even making it to the target.

So sin is "missing the mark"—and that's what we all do everyday—we miss the mark. We miss the mark in relationships, in doing the right thing, in saying the right thing, and most of all, in our response to God. We do not respond to Him with total obedience or love or gratefulness. We miss the mark all day long!

D. A look at the Bible:

Now open your Bible. Let's take a look at the many things the Bible contains>

It has a

- Table of Contents,
- a. The Old Testament. The OT is an account of a nation, Israel.
- b. New Testament—The NT is an account of a Man (the Son of man).
- c. Chapters, verse numbers

Let me add here that if you don't already have a Bible, get yourself a modern English Bible like the NIV, or NKJV, or ESV among others. Or you can go to websites like biblegateway.com, or download the **YouVersion Bible app** for you smartphone, tablet, or laptop. Also, **the Olivetree Bible study** app which I use daily, is available to download for iPhones, Macs, Windows computers, Android phones & tablets, and Kindle Fire.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

- **God does not change.**
- There is absolute unity in the Bible from beginning to end, because God is its one author.

E. The Bible has been passed down to us intact and with extreme accuracy. I have more to say about that and how God showed me that the Bible was trustworthy and not full of

inaccuracies. If you want to know more about why the Bible is accurate and why it isn't full of errors or contradictions, go to the full lesson at our website or on YouTube. It's in Lesson 1, Introduction to the Bible.

The Bible is an accurate historical record.

Archaeological discoveries in recent years have revealed many pieces of ancient information that agree in minute detail with the Bible.

F. God does NOT change. He's the same God in the Old Testament or Torah as in the New Testament.

The Bible is God's personal message to each of us; it is the most important message we will ever be given.

The Bible is unique because it alone has God's message for our lives today.

The Bible alone tells us what God thinks of us and what He sees as our greatest need.

***Next Lesson 3 Bitesize: God Alone.** We'll look at the God of eternity. The God who created our galaxy which is one of many galaxies...We'll look at God who has no beginning and*