



# The BibleKEY Correspondence Course

## LESSON 1 - THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

*“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine . . . They shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).*

*“Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30).*

*“Try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world ” (1 John. 4:1).*

*“Their word will eat as doth a canker” (2 Timothy 2:17).*

*“ALL nations deceived” (Revelation 18:23).*

THE above verses, quoted from the Word of God, stand as a warning to all people that the majority of the religious world claiming to be “Christian” would depart from the Truth of God. We are cautioned also that we cannot leave our instruction concerning the will of God to a separate class called the “Clergy”: ministers, priests and pastors. The only safe and scriptural course is for us to apply ourselves *individually* to the examination and study of God’s Word, as the “noble” highly-commended believers at Berea examined the Scriptures to check Paul’s words -

*“They searched the Scriptures **daily** whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).*

During the present dispensation, the Bible makes no distinction between a priestly class and the common people. That ended when the Law ended. The responsibility of searching the Scriptures rests with each individual. A humble, prayerful, consistent study of the Bible itself is the best - the *only* - way to arrive at a firm conviction of its truth. We grow closer to God and Christ by this exercise; realizing as we read that the natural mind of man, without this Divine direction, is lawless and unruly.

In studying the Bible, we should always seek the assistance of God in prayer. It is important that we understand that it is God Who gives us wisdom in these things and can open our minds to see the beauties of His Word, if we seek it humbly. We will realize that the final Purpose of all things is to fill the earth with the glory of God, and that *we are the very highly privileged means He is using to accomplish that Purpose*, if we work with Him, and submit completely to Him.

*“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127: 11).*

But Paul assures us that:

*“Our labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

**BibleKEY** fact:

““ *The only safe and scriptural course is for us to apply ourselves individually to the examination and study of God’s Word ”*”

**BibleKEY** definition:

*"dispensation" - arrangement of world affairs and order*

**BibleKEY** fact:

““ *the final Purpose of all things is to fill the earth with the glory of God ”*”

## THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

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When we study the Bible, we should read it very carefully, keeping our minds centered on each word and phrase, and endeavoring to understand the relation of one verse to another. We must, in approaching the study of God's Word, *want* to know AND OBEY the truth. There must be a strong desire on our part to investigate its pages so as to become very familiar with its loving message of instruction to us concerning the Way of Life.

Once we have this living knowledge, we will realize we have a duty to spread this information far and wide to other people. When we understand the glorious message which God's Word conveys of eternal salvation and the blessing of all nations in the Age to Come, we will not rest until we have performed God's work in completely devoting our lives to advancing God's honor before all we meet.

To begin with, we must recognize and accept the Bible as the Divinely-inspired, *infallible* message of God to man. We must believe assuredly that -

*"God IS, and is a Rewarder of all who diligently seek Him"*  
(Hebrews 11:6).

Further evidence will strengthen our conviction of the truth of these propositions, as we advance into a study of the Bible as we see the internal evidence of its truth and divinity, and the sureness of its prophetic words. From what God *has* done, we will gain confidence that what He has yet to accomplish in the earth is man's only means of salvation from himself and his natural end.

By our investigation of this matter with an open mind, we will learn that this book, the Bible, does not speak like other books, but speaks with absolute authority, in such phrases as: "*Thus saith the Lord*" and "*It SHALL come to pass . . .*"

The Bible is a compilation of a number of books, written by many different men over a long period of time: approximately 1500 years. The times and circumstances of its being written - periods of prosperity, and captivity and servitude - combine, under God's guiding hand, to bring forth a united message from book to book: unfolding a consistent plan of salvation, and illustrating mankind's need of Divine mercy and salvation, unattainable by its own efforts.

### GENESIS TO DEUTERONOMY

The first five books (Genesis to Deuteronomy) were written by Moses, the great lawgiver of Israel. They are of first importance because they form the basis of all that follows. Herein we learn of the creation of the earth, and of its populating by animals and

#### **BibleKEY** fact:

“ To begin with, we must recognize and accept the Bible as the Divinely-inspired, infallible message of God to man. ”

#### **BibleKEY** definition:

"infallible" - *incapable of erring or failing; certain.*

"salvation" - *deliverance from the power or penalty of sin; redemption.*

#### **BibleKEY** fact:

“ The Bible is a compilation of a number of books, written by many different men over a long period of time: approximately 1500 years. ”

## THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

mankind. We learn of man's sad fall, and his punishment, and God's loving provision for his redemption; and again of man's failure at the time of Noah. We see the beginning of the Jewish race, in Abraham, and the appointing of them as a "Peculiar People" to God's service and use -

*"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a **peculiar people** unto Himself above all the nations that are upon the earth" (Deuteronomy 14:2).*

We find in these books of Moses the laws which God gave Israel to regulate their national existence, yet which throughout beautifully teach higher lessons of the coming of a Savior for all mankind, and which make constantly clear the exceeding sinfulness of sin in the eyes of God. The modern world, in its assumed "wisdom" generally questions the writings of Moses. But we will learn that *we cannot have Christ without Moses* -

*"If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).*

*"Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, he (Christ) expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).*

*"Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me (said Jesus), for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5 :46-47 ).*

If Moses is not true, then Christ is not true. They stand or fall together.

### JOSHUA TO ESTHER

The next 12 books (Joshua to Esther) show Israel's history for 1000 years. And they are much more than just history. They reveal God's attitude, His desires and principles of action in dealing with people and nations. We learn to love God and reverence Him for all He has done and is doing.

### JOB

The book of Job illustrates the way God chastens and corrects His true sons and daughters; He does not forsake them, but will purify and refine them as gold.

### PSALMS TO THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon are messages of Divinely-inspired wisdom, portraying acceptable conduct, character, and disposition.

### ISAIAH TO MALACHI

The prophetic books, 17 in number (Isaiah to Malachi), contain

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““ If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead (Luke 16:31). ””

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

#### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	Ezra	Daniel
Exodus	Nehemiah	Hosea
Leviticus	Esther	Joel
Numbers	Job	Amos
Deuteronomy	Psalms	Obadiah
Joshua	Proverbs	Jonah
Judges	Ecclesiastes	Micah
Ruth	Song of Solomon	Nahum
I Samuel	Isaiah	Habakkuk
II Samuel	Jeremiah	Zephaniah
I Kings	Lamentations	Haggai
II Kings	Ezekiel	Zechariah
I Chronicles		Malachi
II Chronicles		

# THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

the Divine message for Israel nationally, being warnings of coming judgment because of disobedience to God; but also joyfully revealing a day when Israel and the world shall rejoice in universal blessings and peace. The fulfillment of the prophecies on Israel in their *scattering* throughout the earth assures us of the *bright side* of these same messages, which tell us the day is very near when Christ will return to bless all nations, *in the earth*.

## MATTHEW TO JOHN

Turning the pages to the New Testament, we find first the 4 Gospel records of the life of Christ (Matthew to John), revealing the manifestation of God in His Son, showing us a Way, or manner, of Life, to develop the Divine character:

*“BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT, EVEN AS YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT” (Mt. 5:48).*

## ACTS

The book of Acts illustrates the practical application of Jesus’ command -

*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).*

We learn from this book what it really means to devote our lives in all that we do to serve God and His Truth - and not ourselves and our pleasures.

## ROMANS TO JUDE

The 21 epistles (Romans to Jude), which consist of letters to various ecclesias and individuals by the apostles of Jesus, expound the basic truths of the Gospel, the Divine purpose with mankind; and show us the way to a godly life, instructing and directing us in daily activities and associations in relation to each other and to God.

## REVELATION

The final book, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, gives a panoramic view of nearly 2,000 years of world history, from the days of the Apostles to the establishing of God’s Kingdom on the earth. It is shown in signs and symbols, whose meaning and application is learned from other parts of the Bible, and is designed to instruct God’s servants concerning world events, so they may discern the Signs of the Times.

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

#### NEW TESTAMENT

	II Corinthians	I Timothy
Matthew	Galatians	II Timothy
Mark	Ephesians	Titus
Luke	Philippians	Philemon
John	Colossians	Hebrews
The Acts	I Thessalo-	James
Romans	nians	I Peter
I Corinthians	II Thessalo-	II Peter
	nians	I John

#### BibleKEY fact:

“The final book, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, gives a panoramic view of nearly 2,000 years of world history”

# THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

## A CONSISTENT MESSAGE

The Bible is nothing less than a literary miracle! Although it is composed of 66 books, written over a period of many centuries, by different authors from kings to shepherds, it speaks one theme throughout, unfolding over the ages the eternal Purpose of God. Its very character and unity show it to be not possibly of human origin, and confirm the truth that -

*"All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3 :16).*

Many of the writers sealed their testimony for God with their blood being shed by their enemies. The only way to account for the Bible is to see - in its composition, and its preservation to our time through the centuries - a supreme guiding hand inspiring and controlling the statements of its authors, causing them to be in complete agreement in all their records. It is impossible to account for the Bible in any other way.

The Bible can be understood by the person who seeks God in humble faith without the need of theological or churchly training in colleges or seminaries. Such institutions only produce priests or ministers educated or trained to preach the particular doctrines of their sects; whose textbooks are the products of generations of traditions, rather than the Bible message.

We must not leave - we *dare* not leave - our understanding of Bible principles of salvation to such religious leaders. We must apply *ourselves* to its pages in prayerful, humble petition to God to open our understanding. Personal investigation in this manner will open our minds to the beauties of God's Word and Purpose.

Read the Bible daily and thoughtfully. Use the course of daily Bible readings suggested in the booklet, *The Bible Companion*. Stick to it faithfully, and you will read the Old Testament once each year, and the New Testament twice yearly.

If there is a book containing the revealed will of God and the plan of eternal blessing for man, **IT IS THE BIBLE**. It has no rivals. If it does not reveal a Way of life, there is none.

The Bible makes all who sincerely study it better, happier, and wiser.

*NEXT LESSON - The Bible: How It Came To Us*

"BOOK-MARK" Bible Companion

JAN.		FEB.		MAR.	
1	Gen. 1, 2	Exod. 5, 6	Lev. 5, 6		
2	3, 4	7, 8	7, 8		
3	5, 6	9, 10	9, 10		
4	7, 8	11, 12	11, 12		
5	9, 10	13, 14	13, 14		
6	11, 12	15, 16	15, 16		
7	13, 14	17, 18	17, 18		
8	15, 16	19, 20	19, 20		
9	17, 18	21, 22	21, 22		
10	19, 20	23, 24	23, 24		
11	21, 22	25, 26	25, 26		
12	23, 24	27, 28	27, 28		
13	25, 26	29, 30	29, 30		
14	27, 28	31			
15	29, 30				
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"The Christadelphian" Birmingham

APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
1	Num. 15	1	Deut. 18	1	Joshua 18
2	16	2	19	2	19
3	17	3	20	3	20, 21
4	18	4	21	4	21
5	19	5	22	5	22, 23
6	20, 21	6	23	6	23, 24
7	22, 23	7	24	7	24
8	24, 25	8	25	8	25
9	26	9	26	9	26
10	27	10	27	10	27
11	28	11	28	11	28
12	29, 30	12	29	12	29
13	31	13	30	13	30
14		14	31	14	31
15		15		15	
16		16		16	
17		17		17	
18		18		18	
19		19		19	
20		20		20	
21		21		21	
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23		23		23	
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26		26		26	
27		27		27	
28		28		28	
29		29		29	
30		30		30	
31		31		31	

FIRST PORTION

BIBLE COMPANION - BOOKMARK

MAY				JUNE			
1	Deut. 18	Eccles. 10	Acts 9	1	Joshua 18	Isaiah 24	Heb. 6, 7
2	19	11	10	2	19	25	8, 9
3	20	12	11, 12	3	20, 21	26, 27	10
4	21	1	13	4	22	28	11
5	22	2	14, 15	5	23, 24	29	12
6	23	3	16, 17	6	Judges 1	30	13
7	24	4	18, 19	7	2	31	James 1
8	25	5	20	8	4, 5	32	2
9	26	6	21, 22	9	6	33	3, 4
10	27	7	23, 24	10	7, 8	34	5
11	28	8	25, 26	11	9	35	1 Peter 1
12	29	Isaiah 1	27	12	10, 11	36	2
13	30	2	28	13	12, 13	37	3, 4, 5
14	31	3, 4	Colos. 1	14	14, 15	38	2 Peter 1, 2
15	32	5	2	15	16	39	3
16	33, 34	6	3, 4	16	17, 18	40	1 John 1, 2
17	Joshua 1	7	1 Thes. 1, 2	17	19	41	3, 4
18	2	8	3, 4	18	20	42	5
19	3, 4	9	5	19	21	43	2 & 3 John
20	5, 6	10	2 Thes. 1, 2	20	Ruth 1, 2	44	Jude
21	7	11	3	21	3	45	Rev. 1, 2
22	8	12	1 Tim. 1, 2, 3	22	1 Samuel 1	46, 47	3, 4
23	9	13	4, 5	23	2	48	5, 6
24	10	14	6	24	3	49	7, 8, 9
25	11	15	2 Tim. 1	25	4	50	10, 11
26	12	16	2	26	5, 6	51	12, 13
27	13	17, 18	3, 4	27	7, 8	52	14
28	14	19	Titus 1, 2, 3	28	9	53	15, 16
29	15	20, 21	Philemon	29	10	54	17, 18
30	16	22	Heb. 1, 2	30	11, 12	55	19, 20
31	17	23	3, 4, 5				

BIBLE COMPANION - BOOKLET FORMAT

# THE BIBLE: WHAT IT IS

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Name Mr/Mrs/Miss .....

Address ..... Postal Code .....

\* You may need an additional sheet for your answers if there is not enough space below. Your answers to the following questions will help you - and us - to determine how much you have discovered about your Bible. Please return this form in the envelope provided even if you are unable to answer all the questions. On receipt of it we will forward a further study, as well as some

## *QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW OF THIS LESSON*

1. What is the final and most important purpose in Creation, and in God's revelation in the Bible?
2. What frame of mind should we be in as we approach a study of the Bible?
3. What is our duty once we come to a knowledge of God's purpose?
4. In what way is the Bible different from books of the world?
5. (a) By whom were the first 5 books written?  
(b) State 3 things we learn from these books.
6. What New Testament evidence do we have for believing the words of Moses?
7. What do the books of Joshua to Esther illustrate?
8. What is the theme of the prophetic books?
9. Of what do the Gospel records speak?
10. What is shown in the book of Revelation?
11. What do we learn concerning the Bible from the fact that it *was* written over many years by different writers, yet telling a consistent and unchanging purpose?
12. Why can we not leave our religious instruction to church ministers or priests?