

1. Introducing the Bible

Aim: To present the Bible as God's authoritative, inerrant, and effective Word.

Introduction: We live in a society which once was founded on biblical truth. Though many have heard of the Bible, and may even own one, sadly, they do not know what it says because they have never taken the time to read it for themselves. They presume it's out-of-date or irrelevant. But the Bible is very relevant; it is timeless. Indeed, it is the Book of all books that tells us who the true God is and what life's about.

In this series, "From Creation to Christ" we will study the Bible from Creation to the Cross and to the Coming of Jesus. Our study will be chronological and panoramic (dealing only with the "big" stories).

We trust that we will grow in understanding the message of the Bible, grow in confidence in its authority, and gain respect for its uniqueness as God's written and powerful Word.

A. The focus of the Bible

What is the main focus of the Bible? (John 1:1; John 5:39; John 17:3; John 20:31; 2 Tim 3:15)

The main focus is God Himself. The Bible is the revelation of God – Father, Son and Spirit. It is about the God who can be known. In it, we read of how us sinners can be made right with God and come to know God through God's grace and through faith in God's Son Jesus.

B. The Content of the Bible

The Bible is a big book, made up of 66 books and written by about 40 human authors. But how should we see it? (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21)

The Bible is one book – God's Book – written by one author, the Holy Spirit. It is one "big" story, with every part connected to the overall story – God's story. We declare the Bible to be "God's Word".

The Bible has a lot of history in it. How should we view its historical content?

It is human history as seen from God's perspective; it is His Story (His-Story). In this story we behold God's dealings with people, His glory and character, and His plans and purposes for us in Christ.

The Bible has many different types of writings in it – history, law, poetry, wisdom, teaching, prophecy, etc? What should our response be to what we read? (2 Kings 22:10-11, 18-19; Rev 2:7)

We are to humbly listen to what we read, and respond to it - allowing it to impact what we believe and do.

Consider the statement that Martin Luther made to his non-Christian friend Erasmus (who knew the Bible very well) "The difference between you and me Erasmus, is that I sit under Scripture letting it judge me, but you sit above Scripture judging it". [Discuss]

C. The Foundation of the Bible

Consider who God is. What is the basis of the Bible? (Isa 40:8; Matt 24:35; John 17:17)

The Bible is based on the fact that the eternal and true God has chosen to communicate with us so that we might know Him. God's Word, like God Himself, is eternal and true.

The Bible is founded on "the beginning story" (Gen 1:1; John 1:1). Why?

The Bible starts at the beginning of the human race; at the beginning of the Creation of the heavens and the earth. This is so that we can understand why we were made and what happened to humans in their relationship with God, and what God has done to restore things in Christ. Our "beginning story" is very important in laying the background and purpose for the Gospel of Christ.

Jesus quoted from the foundations (Matt 19:4-6). So did Paul (Rom 5:12-14). What does this imply?

The foundations of the Bible are to be received and believed. They are not some fable or fairy story. They are critical to understanding life and what God has done for us in Christ.

D. The Benefit of the Bible

What are the benefits in setting aside time read and study the Bible (personally & at Home Group)?

The Bible enables us to spiritually prosper (Psa 1:1-3), to be spiritually enlightened (Psa 19:7-11), to be a light to our path (Psa 119:105); to set us free from sin (John 8:31-32), to lead us to salvation in Christ (2 Tim 3:15), and to change and transform us (John 17:17; Heb 4:12). It is the most important book of all.

What is the connection between the Bible and Life? (Deut 32:47; John 5:24; Phil 2:15-16)

The Bible is the Word of Life. Through it we come to know God and to know life and to live life to the full.

Conclusion: The Bible is the most quoted, the most published, the most translated, and the most influential book in the history of mankind. But above all, it is God's message to us. He had it written for us. Therefore, more than any other thing, we should want to read it and know it. Amen!

Summary: The Bible is most important because it is God's message of truth to every individual.