

The Bible 20/20 Launch (1-5-20)

Introduction: We are going to devote our year to exploring the Bible cover to cover

The Apostle John's invitation . . .

1 John 1:1-4 (ESV)

(1) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— (2) the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— (3) that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Notes: The Word (Logos) of Life is from the beginning (Foundational):

- (vs 1) We have - Heard, Seen, Looked upon (Behold), Touched
- (vs 2) Life became Tangible or Real - it's not just a life, it's The Life - Life Eternal
- (vs 3) Now we can have Fellowship (Koinonia) with God and each other
- (vs 4) Leads to complete Joy

My personal experience . . .

1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)

(9) In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Year of the Bible - cool confirmation this week!

Fox News article this week declaring this: “The Year of the Bible” (Pope Francis, Ravi Zacharias, Francis Chan):

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/2020-bible-year-christian>

Nick Hall - evangelist & founder of “Pulse” and “Year of the Bible”

"Everything about our faith is built on Scripture but so many of our lives aren't," he said. "We live our lives based off of good ideas or good talks, even going to church isn't enough. If you go to church and all you do is listen to podcasts, you're missing out. You need daily bread. God wants to speak to you."

Why Spend a Year in the Bible? (You should actually spend a lifetime in the Bible, but let's start somewhere!)

The Uniqueness of the Bible

The Bible - 66 books – 39 O.T. & 27 N.T., written by 40 authors, in 3 languages, from 3 continents, over 1,600 years, with 1 central theme: The redemption of mankind by a loving God who would send a Savior!

Harmony - 40 authors over 1600 years, many who never met each other (1 cohesive story!)

Prophecy - God knows the beginning from the end!

Example: Prophecies about Jesus . . . (occur in the OT hundreds of years before Jesus)

- There are over 300 prophecies regarding His first coming to earth. (statistically impossible!)
- To give you an idea of one man fulfilling just 8 prophecies... not the 300 Jesus did

(Micah 5:2) born in Bethlehem

(Zechariah 9:9) enter Jerusalem on a donkey (King would come riding on a donkey)

(Zechariah 11:12) betrayed for 30 pieces silver

(Zechariah 11:13) money purchases the Potter's Field

(Zechariah 13:6) shows wounds

(Isaiah 53:7) doesn't speak in defense

(Isaiah 53:9) dies with wicked, buried with rich

(Psalm 22:16) hands and feet pierced- 700 years before crucifixion was used!

In his book "Science Speaks", Peter Stoner, (Professor Emeritus of Science at 1 Westmont College),

estimates that one man fulfilling these 8 prophecies is 10 to the 17th power...

To try and visualize 10 to the 17th power:

Cover the entire state of Texas, 266k sq. miles, 2- feet deep in silver dollars, mark one of them and place it among the rest. Blindfold a man, tell him to find the specially marked silver dollar. The odds of him doing so are 10 to the 17th power! Absolutely impossible!

Jesus' claims of the Bible:

1) He used titles for the Bible that showed its authenticity:

- "The Word of God" (Mark 7:13; John 10:35)
- "Scripture" (Luke 4:21; John 5:39, 10:35)
- "The Commandment of God" (Mark 7:8)

2) He accepted the persons and events mentioned in the Old Testament as historical:

- Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:37-39) “Days of Noah”
 - Lot, Lot’s wife, and Sodom & Gomorrah (Luke 17:18-32)
 - Jonah (Matthew 12:38-41) “As Jonah, 3 days, great fish”
- 3) He saw His own words as scripture and therefore to be believed (John 12:48-49)
 - 4) He held people responsible for what was written in the scriptures (Matthew 12:3)
 - 5) He used scripture as conclusive evidence in answering His critics:
 - John 10:35, quoting Psalm 82:6
 - Matthew 22:32, quoting Exodus 3:6, 15
 - Matthew 22:42-44, quoting Psalm 110:1
 - 6) He used the authority of scripture to refute Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

Bottom Line: The Bible is Great Treasure!

Psalms 119:162 (NKJV)

I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.

Psalms 1:2-3 (ESV)

(2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (LB)

(16) The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. (17) It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.

Let’s treat it like the treasure it is! Don’t just read the book, but get to know personally the God of the Bible.

Practical Tips for this Year:

1) Your Daily Reading

- We will post the **Reading Plan** weekly: **Sunday** afternoon website, early am **Monday** Instagram & email
- **Reading vs Listening** - both have benefits, consider your ability to focus & retain (YouVersion App)

- When choosing translation: Source Material, Method used, Who did the project
- 3 basic types of translation:
 - Word for Word (examples: ESV, NASB, KJV & NKJV)
 - Thought for Thought (examples: NIV, NLT)
 - Paraphrase - consider this supplemental not a replacement (example: Message, Passion)

2) Bible Videos - from the Bible Project (great overview before you read). 2 videos this week, 8 minutes each.

3) Sermons - will preach most sermons this year from our reading

- Primarily focused on the cohesive story and how it all points to Jesus
- State of Church update - early Feb this year, so we can build some momentum in this first

4) Fellowship - let's engage with this in Community

Life Groups - Conversation based on reading, sermons, questions

Questions - Submit questions through the website

Conclusion: Whatever you do this year, don't approach this as a task to be completed. This is an opportunity to spend time with God. There is no substitute for prayerful time with God in His Word.