

ANGLER.CHURCH

HOPE OF NEW JERSEY

CREW LIFE STUDIES

REAL TRUTH FOR A REAL WORLD

LESSON 1

THE BIBLE

A SOLID FOUNDATION
FOR LIFE

SCRIPTURE

PEOPLE

PRACTICAL LIVING

LASTING CHANGE



1. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

THE BIBLE IS HOLY



2 Timothy 3:15

Paul refers to the Scriptures as the "Holy Scriptures."

The word *holy* carries the idea of being set apart or consecrated unto God. When Scripture is called holy, it distinguishes these writings from ordinary writings. They are set apart because they belong to God and communicate His Word.

1 Peter 1:16 • Isaiah 45:5

God is the source and standard of holiness.

First Peter 1:16 declares, *"Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

Isaiah 45:5 establishes the uniqueness of God:

"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me."

Because God is holy, that which belongs to Him is also set apart unto Him. This is the foundation for understanding why the Bible is called *Holy Scripture*.

SPIRITUAL DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN HOLY



GANDHI



POPE BENEDICT XVI



JOSEPH SMITH

Throughout history there have been many influential religious and spiritual leaders. These men represent very different religious traditions and beliefs, but the purpose of the illustration is not to study those religions. The distinction is between spiritual influence and Scriptural authority.

A person may be considered religious or spiritual, write books, influence millions of people, or establish a religious movement. None of those things make that person's writings the inspired Word of God.

INFLUENCE DOES NOT EQUAL INSPIRATION. SPIRITUAL DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY EQUAL SCRIPTURAL.

The authority of the Bible does not rest upon its popularity or upon the influence of the men who wrote it. Its authority rests upon its relationship to God.

THE INSPIRATION OF GOD



The word translated "inspiration of God" comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*, meaning "God-breathed." The emphasis is not merely that God inspired or motivated the biblical writers in the way an artist might be inspired. Scripture has its ultimate source in God.

THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN BY MEN, BUT ITS MESSAGE ORIGINATED WITH GOD.

Approximately 40 different human writers contributed to the books of the Bible. They came from different backgrounds, occupations, cultures, locations, and periods of history.

The writings of Scripture developed across many centuries, yet together they communicate the unfolding revelation of God. The Old Testament Scriptures were written and collected over centuries. The New Testament writings were completed during the first century AD.

THE BIBLE & THE PRINTING PRESS



c. 1455

GUTENBERG BIBLE

First major book printed in Europe using movable metal type.

BILLIONS

BIBLES PRODUCED

The Bible remains the best-selling book of all time, with estimates in the billions.

1.1+ BILLION

COMPLETE BIBLES

Distributed by United Bible Societies members between 1946 and 2025.

The Bible's extraordinary distribution does not **create** its authority. Its authority comes from God. But its preservation, translation, printing, and worldwide distribution demonstrate the extraordinary place Scripture has occupied throughout history.

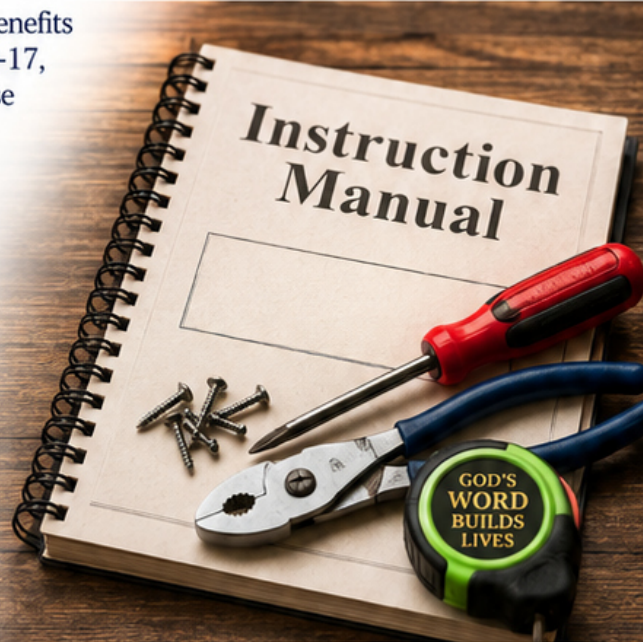
2. BENEFITS OF STUDYING SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Studying the Bible provides many benefits for the believer. In 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Paul describes the value and purpose of Scripture in the life of a believer.

The Bible gives us:

- 1 Wisdom
- 2 Salvation
- 3 Doctrine
- 4 Reproof
- 5 Correction
- 6 Instruction
- 7 Righteousness



EQUIPPED FOR A REAL WORLD

Just as an instruction manual provides guidance for using a tool correctly, the Bible equips us for life. It gives us wisdom, shows us the way of salvation, teaches sound doctrine, reproofs us when we are wrong, corrects us, instructs us in righteousness, and prepares us to live for God's glory.

3. THE BIBLE PROVES ITSELF TO BE TRUE

Isaiah 7:14 • Matthew 1:18-23

One of the most powerful evidences that the Bible is the true Word of God is its ability to predict the future and then see those predictions fulfilled. Isaiah 7:14 contains a remarkable prophecy concerning the virgin birth of the Messiah. Hundreds of years later, Matthew 1:18-23 records the fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Jesus Christ.

A PROPHECY FULFILLED

The prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 was given centuries before the birth of Christ. It specifically stated that a virgin would conceive and bear a son. Matthew 1:18-23 records the historical fulfillment of this prophecy in the life of Mary and the birth of Jesus.

The precise fulfillment of this prophecy is just one example of many that demonstrate the Bible's divine origin. The ability to predict the future and have those predictions come to pass is a powerful evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

**PROPHECY FULFILLED
CONFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE
IS TRUE.**

"THE SIGN"

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14



MARY

JESUS

4. HISTORICAL PROOF OF THE BIBLE

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL CHAPTER 8

Daniel 8:1-8; 19-22

Daniel 8 records a prophetic vision in which a ram and a goat represent world empires. Unlike many biblical prophecies, this chapter specifically identifies the kingdoms involved. The vision accurately foretells the rise of Greece, the conquest of the Persian Empire (Media-Persia), the reign of Alexander the Great, and the division of his empire into four kingdoms. This prophecy was written centuries before these events took place, demonstrating the supernatural accuracy and divine inspiration of Scripture.

Alexander the Great
356–323 BC



PROPHECY CONFIRMED BY HISTORY

The detailed fulfillment of Daniel 8 through the rise of Greece and the life of Alexander the Great is a powerful historical validation of the Bible. The specific identification of the empires and the remarkable accuracy of the events demonstrate that the Bible is not merely human wisdom, but the divinely inspired Word of God.

THE VISION IN DANIEL 8

Daniel 8:1-8 describes a ram with two horns (Media and Persia) being attacked and defeated by a goat from the west (Greece). The goat has a great horn between its eyes, which is broken, and four notable horns arise in its place.

- **Daniel 8:20** – The ram represents the kings of Media and Persia.
- **Daniel 8:21** – The goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the great horn is the first king.
- **Daniel 8:22** – The four horns represent four kingdoms that will arise from the Greek empire.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Alexander the Great became king of Macedonia in 336 BC and quickly conquered the Persian Empire, fulfilling the prophecy of the goat defeating the ram. He established one of the largest empires in history, but died in 323 BC at the age of 32. After his death, his empire was divided among four major Hellenistic kingdoms, exactly as Daniel 8 had predicted.

THE SEQUENCE CONFIRMS THE PROPHECY

THE RAM	→	MEDIA & PERSIA
THE GOAT	→	GREECE
THE GREAT HORN	→	ALEXANDER THE GREAT
THE BROKEN HORN	→	END OF HIS RULE
THE FOUR HORNS	→	KINGDOMS AFTER HIM

This prophecy was written centuries before these events, demonstrating the supernatural nature of Scripture.

JOSEPHUS THE HISTORIAN

Flavius Josephus (c. AD 37–100) was a first-century Jewish historian who recorded valuable information about Jewish history and the world of the New Testament. Although Josephus lived more than three centuries after Alexander the Great, he preserved an important account of Alexander's visit to Jerusalem.

In *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI, Chapter 8, Josephus writes:

“And when the Book of Daniel was showed him wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended.”

Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XI.8

Josephus continues by stating that Alexander invited the Jewish people to ask what favors they desired. The high priest requested that they be allowed to continue living according to the laws of their forefathers, and Alexander granted their request.

WHY IT MATTERS

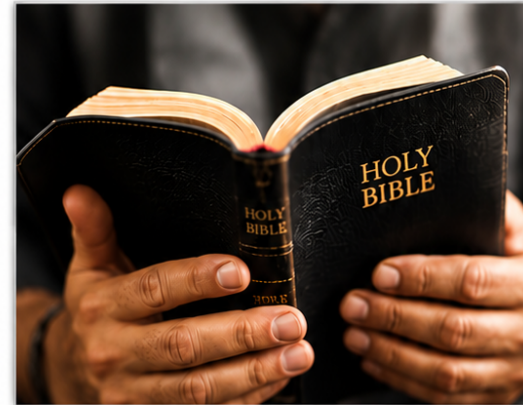
- Provides an independent historical account of Alexander's awareness of Daniel's prophecy.
- Confirms the accuracy of Daniel 8 through historical events.
- Demonstrates that even a pagan ruler recognized the divine nature of the prophecy.
- Strengthens the reliability and historical credibility of the Bible.



LESSON 1

THE BIBLE

THE WORLD'S BEST BOOK



CONCEPTS:

1. The Authority of the Bible
2. The Benefits of Studying the Bible
3. The Bible Proves Itself to Be True
4. Historical Proof of the Bible

THE BIBLE IS HOLY

1 Peter 1:16
Isaiah 45:5



Gandhi



Pope
Benedict



Joseph
Smith

SPIRITUAL, BUT NOT HOLY MEN

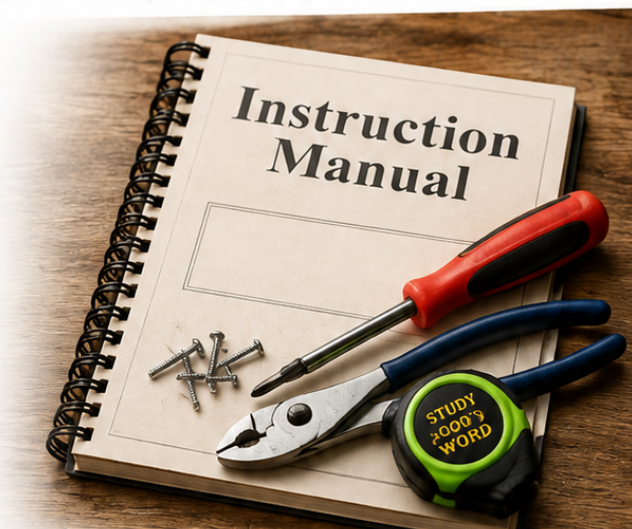
THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

2 Timothy 3:16

2. BENEFITS OF STUDYING SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. Wisdom
2. Salvation
3. Doctrine
4. Reproof
5. Correction
6. Instruction
7. Righteousness



3. THE BIBLE PROVES ITSELF TO BE TRUE

Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 1:18-23

**"THE
SIGN"**



MARY



JESUS

4. HISTORICAL PROOF OF THE BIBLE

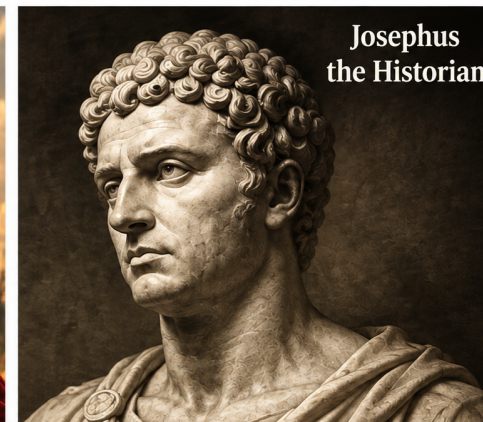
THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL CHAPTER 8

Daniel 8:1-8; 19-22



Alexander the Great
356–323 BC

Alexander the Great is considered one of the most successful commanders of all time.



**Josephus
the Historian**

Josephus has been credited by many as recording some of the earliest history of Jesus Christ outside of the Bible.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS — BOOK XI, CH. 8

"And when the Book of Daniel was showed him wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended."

The next day, Alexander invited the Jewish people to ask what favors they desired. The high priest asked that they be allowed to continue living according to the laws of their forefathers, and Alexander granted their request.

This is by far one of the greatest historical proofs of the Bible.