

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD INTRO LESSON

The Bible has been translated into more than 700 languages – the most translated book in human history.

It is also the most printed and most distributed book in the world.

I. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD!

2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV 1900)

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The word *inspiration* means God-breathed.

2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV)

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is not a man's book about God. It is God's revelation of Himself.

Evidence supports that the Bible is historically true and has a supernatural origin:

1. Archeology:
 - a. For years many skeptics questioned whether the people or places mentioned in the Bible really existed.
 - b. Archeological discoveries have silenced those critics. (City of David, Walls of Jericho, and the Dead Sea Scrolls)
2. Science:
 - a. The Bible declared that the Earth was a sphere long before science. (Read Isaiah 40:22)
 - b. The Bible declared that the Earth was suspended on nothing. (Read Job 26:7)
3. Divine Agreement:
 - a. The Bible was written by 40 different people and was over 1500 years in the writing.
 - b. These writers were often from different places and sometimes spoke different languages. Many of them never met each other.
 - c. Yet somehow, they managed to write a book that changed the world.
4. Fulfilled Prophecy:
 - a. There are 400 fulfilled Old Testament prophecies in the life of Jesus. (Isaiah 7:14; Malachi 5:2, Zechariah 13:6)
 - b. The dissolution and reunification of Israel were foretold. (Isaiah 11:12)
5. Indestructibility: The Bible is the most scrutinized and attacked book in the world, and yet it is still the most printed, circulated, and translated book of all times.
6. Personal Witness: God's Word speaks to us and finds us where we are.

II. THE BIBLE ANSWERS THE FOUR BIG QUESTIONS OF LIFE:

1. Where did I come from? Origin
2. Why am I here? Meaning
3. How do I know what is right and wrong? Morality
4. What happens when I die? Destiny

God's word is the source of true life:

John 6:63 (KJV 1900)

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

III. EVERYONE IS PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE WORD OF GOD!

If the Bible is inspired by God, then that means it has authority over our lives and in all matters of truth.

The Word of God will be our judge in the last day!

John 12:48 (NKJV)

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Every person will stand before God and be judged out of the “books” of the Bible.
(Read Revelation 20:12)

Every person is accountable to the U.S. tax code, even if they don't know it. Likewise, we are all accountable to the Word of God.

IV. WE SHOULD STUDY AND RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF GOD!

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

If there is a right way to interpret or handle the Scriptures, then it stands to reason that there is a wrong way. We need to understand how the Bible is structured so that we can properly interpret it.

Two main divisions of the Bible:

1. Old Testament – 39 Books
2. New Testament – 27 Books

The Bible is one story with many subplots! The master theme of the Bible is Redemption.

V. THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THE NEW TESTAMENT RESTS:

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 But when the *fullness of the time* had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Jesus coming to Earth is the highest revelation of God. He is God in the flesh. Yet, this event required preparation. God used the Old Testament to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus.

Imagine Jesus' coming as the opening night of a Broadway musical. Before the show can begin, there must first be much preparation.

1. A script must be written = The Law and the Prophets were the script.
2. A stage must be built = Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple were the stage.
3. Dress rehearsals must be performed = The Passover & animal sacrifices were the dress rehearsals.

VI. THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS A TUTOR OR TEACHER TO BRING US TO CHRIST:**Galatians 3:24–25 (NKJV)**

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

The Old Testament was a layered revelation of God. God began with Abraham and slowly revealed Himself to mankind. It was never intended to be the full revelation of God, but a teacher that would bring us to Christ.

The Old Testament was a diagnosis. The New Testament was the cure.