

The Bible - The Word of God 9-23-09

The Bible is the true story of God and His love for us. A person can know God personally through His Word.

GOD'S WORD DECLARES HIM TO BE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

GOD'S WORD EXPRESSES HIS DESIRE FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAVED

God made Adam and Eve with the ability to communicate and have a personal relationship with Him. Unfortunately, the devil convinced Adam and Eve to question the word of God and mistrust His motives, bringing sin into the mankind (Read Genesis 3). Immediately the Lord began a rescue plan which has extended for thousands of years. The Bible reveals the following timeline with approximate dates:

1. **The Fall of Adam and Eve - 4,000 B.C.+**
2. **Cain kills his brother Able, even after God warned Cain.**
3. **Mankind is completely wicked so God destroyed the earth but saved Noah and his family.**
4. **Again, mankind turns away from God, so He confused their language at the Tower of Babel to preserve His salvation plan.**
5. **Abraham is chosen by God to begin a special nation as part of the redemption plan -2,100 B.C.**
6. **Jacob and his sons are sent by God to Egypt to escape a famine – 1,900 B.C.**
7. **Moses is used by God to rescue the Israelites from slavery – 1,500 B.C.**
8. **God rescues the Israelites several times by raising up Judges until the Prophet Samuel in 1,100 B.C.**
9. **Starting from King Saul and King David, God uses kings to lead the Israelites until the exile to Babylon in 600 B.C.**
10. **God brings the Israelites back to rebuild the temple and the prophet Malachi is the last writing prophet in 400 B.C.**
11. **The Jews (Israelites) await the coming Messiah until Jesus Our Savior joins humanity. But most of them did not recognize Jesus to be the Savior.**

GOD'S WORD LEADS US TO JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

John 5:39-40 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Commentary: There are many ways that we can be distracted from understanding God's Word. We can be deceived by the devil to think that we are saved because we go to church services, or sing in the choir or serve the poor or have the Bible memorized. They are all good, but if you do not have the Spirit of Jesus in you, you are not a Christian.

Question: Why did the Jewish (Israelite) leadership and most of the Jews not perceive that Jesus was the awaited Savior? What ways can a person in today's culture miss the gospel message?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD'S WORD? (ILL: Cell Phone Reception)
Matthew 13:13-14 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

Commentary: God knew that some people would not be open to listen to Him.

Question: Do you want to listen to God's Word and learn from Him?

ARE YOU CAPABLE OF LISTENING? (ILL: Radio Receiver)
1 Corinthians 2:13-14 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Commentary: Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to see or perceive the kingdom of God, he must be born again (John 3:3). New life is given when the Divine Life of Jesus enters us at conversion. We receive the Holy Spirit at the same time. We are born into the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Question: Have you been born again? Why is it important?

Question: Do you have the Spirit of Jesus living in you. How do you know? Find the answer in Romans 8:9-16.

GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE IS TRUSTWORTHY

2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Commentary: How you can rely upon a book that was completed 1,900 years ago? For illustrative purposes, let's ask the question, was George Washington the first president of the United States? The answer is "yes." But, how do you know? Because you read it in a book. Did the ancient writer Homer from 900 B.C. exist? We would say "yes." Why? Because of books. The Bible has much greater evidence than Homer when looking at ancient documents. This is one reason we can rely on His Word passed on to us in the Scriptures, known as the Bible.

Commentary: The Bible was written by 40 different authors over a period of 1,500 years without error of content.

Question: How do you think the human author and God worked together to write the Bible? See above verse.

John 6:67-68 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Commentary: Some of the Bible is hard to digest and can cause a person to either not know what is said or question how it could be true. As you continue in devotional reading and study, the Lord will answer these questions over time.

Question: Do you trust, wholeheartedly, the teachings of the Bible? Why?

GOD HAS AN ANSWER FOR ALL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Commentary: There are questions about God and our life that we cannot understand. We must trust Him and His Word as a child trusts.

Question: Do you recognize how this verse will help you with life's difficult questions and circumstances? How?

GOD'S WORD IS OUR PROTECTION (ILL: The Point Man sees the danger)

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Commentary: When we humble ourselves and learn from Him we receive wisdom and power to avoid the traps of the devil.

Question: How can the Word of God be our protection? Answer is also seen in Psalm 119:11 and Matthew 4:4
