

# How to Read the Bible

Bible Study

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# Introduction

The Bible is a unique book



Do you get to read the Bible?



How often do you read the Bible?



Do you understand what you read?



Do you understand the following books:

The Book of Isaiah

The Book of Daniel

The Book of Zechariah

The Book of Revelation



Of course majority of the Bible readers  
don't understand these books!



Many people, many in this room included, sense that there is something in the Bible for us. We want to know, and we deserve to know what the Bible has for us. But most of us do not know how to read the Bible, much more understand it.



We find it confusing, hard to understand and can't make sense of its meaning. In the process, we do not benefit from reading it.



A lot of frustrated people have given up reading the Bible. Instead, have entrusted the reading and the interpretation to churches and ministers who also do not fully understand the scriptures.

And out of obligation, these ministers try to “offer” hope and inspiration by providing explanations which are purely based on their own perception and personal interpretation.



Some would read the accounts as...

- Genesis as a science treatise on origin
- Exodus and conquest of Palestine as history
- Book of Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs as philosophy
- Gospel accounts as biography
- Letters to the church as commentary
- Book of Revelation as mystery



No wonder there is so much controversy about the Bible, and Christianity is in a baffled and confused state right now. Each church has its own interpretation of the Bible. It is really amazing to contemplate that the most widely read book is also the most misunderstood book of all times.



So, how should one approach the Bible?



# Inspired Writing

# 1<sup>st</sup> Principle

## The Bible is God's work



The very first principle of understanding the Bible, is to know what the Bible truly is. To start, the Bible is a work of God. To the professing Christians, it is a Holy Book - it is the Word of the Living God in print.



What is the Bible to you? Is the Bible just the work of men. Men have been writing books, journals, codes, rules, laws, thesis, treatises, declarations, constitutions, covenants, novels, comics, etc. Is the Bible a human creation?



Let us consider other religious writings such as:

Religions	Most Sacred Text(s)
Judaism	The Midrash and The Talmud
Buddhism	Tipitaka
Hinduism	The Vedas and The Upanishads
Islam	The Quran and The Hadiths
Jainism	The Agamas
Shintoism	Kojiki
Sikhism	Guru Granth Sahib
Taoism	Dao De Jing
Zoroastrianism	The Avesta
The Latter Day Saints	Book of Mormons



Therefore, what makes the Bible unique from these other religious writings? How can we know that the Bible is the work of God and not of man?



To understand the Bible we need to know it's author.  
The author of the Bible is God.



1. The Bible claims that all Scripture is God-breathed.



## 2 Timothy 3

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

15 and how from infancy you have known the **Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



# 2 Timothy 3

16 All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



This means that God claims authorship of the Bible. God is the source of all the Scriptures. It also means it is God's mind in print. God caused and directed the writings of the Scriptures. God is the editor-in-chief and publisher of the Bible.



# Psalms 147:19

He has **revealed** his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.



Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:37 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13 claims his words and writings to be from God. He considers himself as an instrument whom God used to communicate God's word to man.



# 1 Corinthians 14:37

If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the **Lord's command**.



# 1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the **word of God**, which you heard from us, you accepted it **not as a human word**, but as it **actually** is, the **word of God**, which is indeed at work in you who believe.



## 2. The Bible claims the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible testifies that the men who wrote the Scriptures were “carried along by the Holy Spirit.”



# 2 Peter 1

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.



# 2 Peter 1

17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.



# 2 Peter 1

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.



# 2 Peter 1

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.

21 For **prophecy never had its origin** in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.**



Thus, the Spirit became the author of the work, and the human writers are the instruments who wrote the contents of the Bible. Therefore, the Scripture has an infallible spiritual truth and a discernible human touch.



Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians in  
1 Corinthians 2:13 said exactly the same thing...

“ the **Spirit**, expressing **spiritual truths** in **spiritual words.**”

We will go over a few Scriptures to emphasize this  
point of co-authorship:



# Romans 9:1-2

1 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the **Holy Spirit**—  
2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

Paul acknowledges the Holy Spirit's authorship.



# Mark 12:36

David himself, **speaking by the Holy Spirit**, declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord:  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies  
under your feet.””

The spirit is said to be the author of what David wrote in Psalms 110.



# Acts 1:16

and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the **Holy Spirit spoke** long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.

The scripture is again ascribed to the Holy Spirit.



3. The Bible claims to be God's Spoken Words.



# Hebrews 1

1 In the past **God spoke** to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.



God is speaking to us through the pages of the Bible. The prophets recorded God's word in the thirty nine [39] books of the Old Testament and the revelation of Jesus Christ in the twenty seven [27] books of the New Testament.



The Bible mentions...

“Thus, said the Lord” 3,800 times

“Said the Lord” in 41 of the 66 books

The testament writers claimed with clear-headed authority that God had actually communicated His message to them, personally.



Did God write any  
part of the Bible?

It is a big claim to say that God was personally involved in the writing of the Bible. Most people would say that God did not write any part of the Bible. At the most, He only dictated it to be written.



The right answer is YES, God wrote the most important part of the Bible!



# Exodus 31:18

When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone **inscribed by the finger of God.**



# Deuteronomy 9:10

The LORD gave me two stone tablets **inscribed by the finger of God**. On them were all the commandments the LORD proclaimed to you on the mountain out of the fire, on the day of the assembly.



God personally wrote with His finger the 10 Commandments on two (2) tablets of stones. And, these two (2) stones were kept visible to the Hebrew people as a witness of the covenant God made with them at Mt. Sinai.



# Hebrews 9:4

Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the **tables of the covenant.**



Anyone who sincerely seeks to understand the Bible will be able to understand it. This is a promise Jesus made to those who are sincerely seeking for the truth.



# Luke 11

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.



# Luke 11

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!”



The context of this promise is about understanding and seeking spiritual gifts. If you truly seek truth and understanding you will find it. God will lead you to His church and to His truth.



How should we  
regard the Bible?

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle

The Bible is eternal



The Holy Bible is eternal. Jesus said Heaven and earth will all pass away but the words of God will stand forever throughout eternity. The testimony written in this book - we call the Holy Bible - will survive eternity.



# Isaiah 40:8

“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God **stands forever.**”



# Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but  
My words **will not pass away.**”



# Psalm 119:152

“Long ago I learned from your statutes  
that you establish them to **last**  
**forever.**”



God's testimony contained in this book is eternal. It is for all ages and even in the ages that are yet to come. The inspired writings of this book will be preached, taught and quoted during the Millennium and even beyond into the glorious eternal state. This book will be extant and scriptures quoted even during the time of the New Heaven and New Earth – in the New Jerusalem.



# Psalm 111

- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- 8 They are **established for ever and ever**,  
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.



# Psalm 119:89

**“Your word, LORD, is eternal;** it stands firm in the heavens.”



# Psalm 119:111

“Your statutes are my **heritage forever**, they are the **joy of my heart.**”



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle

## The Bible is a spiritual book



We have to believe that the Holy Bible is a spiritual book imparting spiritual wisdom and truth.



# 1 Corinthians 2

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 No, we declare **God's wisdom**, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.



# 1 Corinthians 2

8 **None of the rulers of this age understood it,** for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him—



# 1 Corinthians 2

10 these are the things God has **revealed to us by his Spirit**. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the **Spirit of God**.



# 1 Corinthians 2

12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we **may understand** what God has freely given us.

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, **explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.**



# 1 Corinthians 2

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.



# 1 Corinthians 2

15 The **person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things**, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

16 for, “Who has known the **mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?**” But we have the **mind of Christ.**



How are we to read  
the Bible?

# 4<sup>th</sup> Principle

The Bible is the story of a Family

This book is the inspired word of God written for the children of God. There are two (2) verses that sum up the essence of the entire Bible; they are:

1. Genesis 1:26 - "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness."
2. Revelation 21:7 - "I will be his God and he will be my son."



These two (2) verses encapsulate the real meaning of our existence. We are told that God created mankind in His image and likeness for the purpose of becoming His spiritual children. These two (2) verses summarize the core essence of God's glorious plan for mankind - the bringing of many sons to glory.



# The Bible Story

The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is a story of a family. It is a story of one family. It is the story of God and His glorious plan of building a divine family.



It is a wondrous story of God bringing many sons and daughters unto glory. The Bible is the story about one family - the Family of God!



Yes, God is building a family. This is the reason for the creation and the object of His purpose and will. The purpose of the whole creation is the bringing forth of sons.



# Ephesians 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ  
Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from **God our Father** and  
the **Lord Jesus Christ**.



# Ephesians 1

3 Praise be to the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For **he chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 **he predestined us for adoption to sonship** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—



# Ephesians 1

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

8 **that he lavished on us.** With all wisdom and understanding,



# Ephesians 1

9 **he made known** to us the **mystery** of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

10 to **be put into effect** when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.



# Ephesians 1

11 **In him we were also chosen**, having been predestined according to the **plan of him** who works out everything in conformity with the **purpose of his will**,

12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.



# Ephesians 1

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were **marked in him with a seal**, the promised **Holy Spirit**,



# Ephesians 1

14 who is a **deposit guaranteeing** our **inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.



# Ephesians 1

17 I keep asking that the **God of our Lord Jesus Christ**, the **glorious Father**, may **give you the Spirit** of wisdom and revelation, so **that you may know him better**.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which **he has called you**, the riches of **his glorious inheritance** in his holy people,



# Ephesians 1

19 and **his incomparably great power** for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.



# Ephesians 1

22 And **God placed all things** under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



The children of glory are to become heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ – belonging to God's very own divine family. Jesus Christ came preaching a very specific message – the message of the Kingdom of God.



# Mark 1

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

15 “The time has come,” he said. “**The kingdom of God has come near.** Repent and believe the good news!”



What is this Kingdom of God? Just like the human kingdom, this soon coming Kingdom of God is a Kingdom composed of God-like beings – with God as the Father and Jesus Christ as the Elder Brother and the resurrected saints as the children of God.



# Romans 8

14 For those who are led **by the Spirit of God** are the **children of God**.

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, **“Abba, Father.”**



# Romans 8

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God's children**.

17 Now if we are children, then we are **heirs**—  
**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also **share in his glory**.



# 2 Peter 1

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who through the righteousness of our God  
and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as  
precious as ours:

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through  
the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.



# 2 Peter 1

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very **great and precious promises**, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



## 5th Principle

The Bible is a book written by the  
Father for His children

The Bible is God's narrative of how He created man and His plan of making them His children. The Bible narrates His grace and patience as He endeavors to bring His creation into the Kingdom.



1. How He created the world making it habitable for mankind
2. How He fashioned and brought forth the first human-Adam and Eve
3. How He dealt with the first humans
4. How man fall into sin
5. How He dealt with sin as man's iniquity escalated
6. How He dealt with Noah in wanting to save the human race



7. How He cherished the faithfulness of Abraham to whom He made a promise
8. How He kept the promise with the descendants of Abraham
9. How He chose Israel to be a model people to show His power and grace unto the world
10. How He rescued Israel from the bondage of sin and slavery
11. How He made a covenant with them to be their God
12. How He gave them the law, statutes and judgments



13. How He lived among them in tents
14. How He worked and led Israel
15. How He chastised Israel when they fell short of His standards
16. How He restored Israel to show His mercy to the world
17. How He sent His Son to save the world
18. How Jesus died for the sins of the world
19. How He opened the door of salvation for all
20. How He made a new covenant with the gentiles



21. How He justifies sinners
22. How He sanctifies them by the Holy Spirit
23. How He will return for His creation
24. How He will raise the saints back to life
25. How He will give them eternal life and a glorious body
26. How He will bring all into the Father's Kingdom
27. What He expects from His people
28. What we need to make it into the Kingdom



The simple yet inspiring messages inscribed inside your Bible is “How God will bring His children unto glory through Christ”.



The One Family

Christ came. He suffered. He died for this one family.  
He came to rescue His potential brothers and His  
sisters.



# Hebrews 2

9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.



# Hebrews 2

10 In bringing many **sons and daughters** to **glory**, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.



# Hebrews 2

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the **same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

12 He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”



# Hebrews 2

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”



# Hebrews 2

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.



Marked a Son

Even today, God gives His spirit to His children.



# Galatians 4

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,  
5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive **adoption to sonship**.



# Galatians 4

6 Because you are his sons, God sent the **Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, the **Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."**

7 So you are no longer a slave, but **God's child**; and since you are his child, God has made you also **an heir**.



The Holy Spirit is a mark of sonship making us sons of God. It is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance in the Kingdom of God.



Summation

How should you read the Bible? The Bible is the story of a family. It is the story of the family of God. From Genesis to Revelation it is the story about the Kingdom of God.



# Isaiah 46:10

“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”



God is faithful. God is building a family – a Kingdom composed of children of God. Let us do well to enter into the Kingdom of God.



# Revelation 21

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



# Revelation 21

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**



# Revelation 21

4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new! Then he said, "Write this down, for **these words are trustworthy and true.**"



# Revelation 21

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and

I will be their **God** and they will be my **children.**



Through the amazing grace of God, when we've been there ten thousand years we shall always remember these two verses:

Genesis 1:26 "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness."

Revelation 21:7 "I will be his God and he will be my son."



# How should you read the Bible and to understand it?

## 5 Principles in reading the Bible

1. The Bible is God's work
2. The Bible is eternal
3. The Bible is spiritual
4. The Bible is about the family of God
5. The Bible is written by the Heavenly Father for His children



How should you read the Bible? The Bible is a spiritual book for the children of God. It contains the very mind of God. The Bible is written for you to understand so that you may be saved and be part of the Kingdom of God.



The Bible is easy to read, easy to understand. The Bible is the story of God building a spiritual family with the ultimate hope of you being part of that divine family!



When you start to read the Holy Bible in  
this manner, you will eventually  
understand it.



Remember what Jesus said: ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be open to you. When you desire spiritual gifts God will grant you the Holy Spirit so you may understand His words through the scripture.



If you have been asking, seeking and knocking  
today the door has been opened to you...

May all you be blessed with spiritual understanding...

