

SEEKERS

Bible Study Course

Lesson One

What is this book called the Bible? It is a collection of books written by 40 different men over a period of 1600 years (from about 1500 B.C. to 100 A.D). These men did not write down their own wisdom or knowledge for others to learn. They were inspired by God to write the words they wrote.

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

Another verse tells us that:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

Although these words were written down by men, the author of the message is God. The Bible reveals the truths that mankind needs to know. Because of the importance of the Bible's contents, God gave us warnings to make sure that we do not change the meaning of His revelation to suit ourselves. Part of God's law which Moses delivered to Israel stated:

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Deuteronomy 4:2).

It is important to know exactly what the Bible teaches; otherwise, we will not be able to know the will of God or be able to please Him. God will reward only those who have loved Him and done His will.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord’, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Which God?

In today's world there are many god's; the question comes to mind, 'Which god are you talking about?' The apostle Paul faced this question 2000 years ago when he came to the city of Athens. The city was "*given over to idols*" (Acts 17:16). Paul was preaching about Jesus (who is the subject of lesson two in this series). But since this teaching was strange to their ears, the people asked Paul to explain further.

“Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One who you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you; God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts.17: 22-25).

The God of the Bible is not a local deity dreamed up by humans, or one “god” among many; He is the God of the universe, the One who made all that you see on the earth and in the heavens. In fact, the very first verse of the very first book of the Bible- Genesis-declares this truth.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

The same first chapter of Genesis reveals to us that God is plural. Not only do we read about the Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2), but we also read, “*Let us make man in Our image*” (Genesis 1:26). In fact, there are three who share the essence of Deity; **the Father, the Word** (Jesus in the New Testament), and **the Holy Spirit**. These three are one. “*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One!*” (Deuteronomy 6:4).



The Bible also tells us that God is blood outwardly (our spirit residing 4:24)

not like man. We are flesh and within), but “*God is Spirit*” (John

Since we, **the creation**, are on a difference level from God, **our Creator**, we may never fully understand His nature while we live in these physical bodies, but we can know His character and His will - because these things He has revealed to us in the Bible..

What is the Bible?

The Bible is divided into two parts. The **OLD TESTAMENT** and the **NEW TESTAMENT** are the two main divisions. There are **39** Old Testament books and **27** New Testament books, making a total of **66** in all.

The **Old Testament** books were written from about 1500 B.C to 400 B.C. and there are four main groups. The first group consists of **five books** written by Moses, called the Law. **Genesis**, the first of these, describes the creation of this world and provides a summary of important events during the first 2000 years of man’s existence, including a worldwide flood, which destroyed all but eight people.

After the flood, man again rebelled against God; so He chose one man, Abraham, for a special purpose. His descendants (who came to be known as the nation of Israel) became God’s special people. God gave His holy law to them through Moses, and they had the privilege of being the nation through whom Jesus would be born into this world.

Jesus is the One who came to pay the price for our sins, so that we might have the opportunity to be forgiven of them.

As the book of Genesis closes, God’s people are living in the land of Egypt. In **Exodus** we find that the Israelites have been made slaves; God sends Moses to free them. He then gives them His law and the way He wants them to worship (**Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**).

The following **twelve** Old Testament books (**Joshua through Esther**) *record the history of the nation of Israel* during the next one thousand years. **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon** are described as “wisdom” literature. They are poetic in nature, consisting of songs, drama, and proverbs. The final **seventeen books** are written by the prophets who lived and taught during that thousands-year period of history.