

THE BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE

- The Old Testament.....
- Introduction – Lesson 1 (Same for both Old and New Testaments).....
- Overview of the Old Testament – Lesson 2.....
- Creation and Fall – Lesson 3.....
- Flood Over All – Lesson 4
- Patriarchs Travel – Lesson 5.....
- Bondage in Egypt – Lesson 6.....
- The Wandering Jew – Lesson 7
- Conquering the Land – Lesson 8.....
- Judges Enslave – Lesson 9.....
- Three Kings Reigned – Lesson 10.....
- ' Til All Split in Two – Lesson 11
- Into Captivity, Return and Redeem – lesson 12
- The New Testament.....
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- Alphabetical, Chronological Life of Christ (ABC's) – Lesson 13 (continued).....
- The Footsteps of Jesus – Lesson 14
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- Missions Era (Acts 13-28 and Paul's Epistles) – Lesson 15 (continued)
- The Future – Book of Revelation – Lesson 16.....

3. Sort, search, and compare. The Holy Spirit promises to teach and guide by comparing Scripture with Scripture

- John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

4. Time and hard work required - 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

5. Study becomes easier as pieces fall into place. What seems right at first may turn out to be wrong later. The whole puzzle will not be solved in this lifetime, because *now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known – 1Co 13:12.*

Paul told Timothy that it was profitable to study and to teach the Scriptures. *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Paul indicated that the Scriptures need to be rightly divided like a puzzle.

What framework should be used to study the scriptures? Here are some good questions to ask.

"I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew);
Their names are **What** and **Why** and **When**
And **How** and **Where** and **Who**." (From The Elephant's Child by Rudyard Kipling)

Search the Scriptures:

See Joh 5:39 and Acts 17:11 above and also - *Pr 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. Jer 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

What does it mean to **search**?

(Webster) To look into or over carefully or thoroughly in an effort to find or discover something:

- a. To examine in seeking something
- b. To look through or explore by inspecting possible places of concealment or investigating suspicious circumstances
- c. To read thoroughly

Spurgeon's Morning and Evening Readings for June 9th (any year) provide insight into searching:

*The Greek word here rendered search signifies a strict, close, diligent, curious search, such as men make when they are **seeking gold**, or hunters when they are in earnest **after game**. We must not rest content with having given a superficial reading to a chapter or two, but with the candle of the Spirit we must deliberately seek out the hidden meaning of the word. Holy Scripture requires searching-much of it can only be learned by careful study. There is milk for babes, but also meat for strong men. ...*

No man who merely skims the book of God can profit thereby; we must dig and mine until we obtain the hid treasure. The door of the word only opens to the key of diligence. The Scriptures claim searching. They are the writings of God, bearing the divine stamp and imprimatur- who shall dare to treat them with levity? He who despises them despises the God who wrote them. God forbid that any of us should leave our Bibles to become swift witnesses against us in the great day of account.

The word of God will repay searching. God does not bid us sift a mountain of chaff with here and there a grain of wheat in it, but the Bible is winnowed corn-we have but to open the granary door and find it.

Scripture grows upon the student. It is full of surprises. Under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, to the searching eye it glows with splendour of revelation, like a vast temple paved with wrought gold, and roofed with rubies, emeralds, and all manner of gems. No merchandise like the merchandise of Scripture truth.

Lastly, the Scriptures reveal Jesus: "They are they which testify of me." No more powerful motive can be urged upon Bible readers than this: he who finds Jesus finds life, heaven, all things. Happy is he who, searching his Bible, discovers his Saviour.

Modern technology gives us many ways to **search** the Scriptures. It is easy to search for words, phrases, and patterns. We have a great responsibility having this great ability.

How are we to **compare** Scripture? Set them side by side in order to show similarities and differences.

We should take counsel.

Pr 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Pr 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

What does it mean to take counsel regarding the study of Scripture? We can get advice, opinion, or instruction from other people, writings, sermons, media, etc. We can use commentaries, dictionaries, cross-references, maps, books, songs, and video. **Be careful to always test** "counsel" against Scripture like those in Berea.

(Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.)

Prepare for the task.

Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Prepare means to make ready by satisfying all necessary conditions. We prepare ground for seed by tillage; we prepare medicines by pulverization, mixture, &c.; we prepare for college by previous instruction; people are prepared for professions by suitable study; holiness of heart is necessary to prepare for the enjoyment of happiness with holy beings. (Webster)

Teach: Teaching is a great way to learn while imparting knowledge to someone else. We are commanded to do it. We must prepare the heart.

Neh 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

2Ti 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

Heb 5:12 *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Webster defines the word, teach, as:

1. To impart the knowledge of; to give intelligence concerning
2. To guide and direct, as an instructor. (**Mr. 9:31** *He taught his disciples.*)
3. To show; to admonish.

Synonyms: To instruct; inform; tell; guide; counsel; admonish.

Make use of free tools.

E-Sword - e-sword.net TheWord – theWord.net Bible Analyzer -bibleanalyzer.com	WordSearch - wordsearchbible.com/basic Bible Gateway - biblegateway.com/
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Many good “apps” for phones and tablets are available on the internet. You can always have the Bible with you and even hear audio reading of the Scriptures (**Rom 10.17** *faith cometh by hearing*).