



1. Studying the Bible

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If you want the truth, two **BIG** questions need to be answered...

1. Who is this Creator God and what's He all about?
2. And how does this affect ME, now and for my future?

THAT is what you will find in your study of the Bible.

Which Bible to use?

ONLY a Word-For-Word (Formal Equivalent/Literal/Form Based) translation deserves to be called **GOD'S WORD**, the Bible.

Word-For-Word - the best you can get.

+ God's WORD - the most accurate translations of the original. A must for a deeper study of God & His plans for us.

- Reading level is more advanced, but worth it.

Interlinear

NASB - New American Standard Bible

ESV - English Standard Version

RSV - Revised Standard Version

KJV - King James Version

NKJV - New King James Version

WEB - World English Bible

See chart 001 'About the Bible - Translations' for more details

A book unlike any other book on earth -

- Not a History Book - but contains solid history
- Not a Text Book - but is full of wisdom & truth
- Not a Book of Poems - but has beautiful verse
- Not a Book of Law - but teaches the highest morals

It is all these things and so much more.

You cannot read the Bible like any other book. It shouldn't be read as you would read a novel or how you would read a history textbook. The Bible was designed to be read as a living book with laws, principles, truths and examples that are to be applied to your life today. Your aim in all your Bible reading is to get to know the true and living God, and have confidence in following Him.

The Bible presents its heroes with their flaws. Though it emphasizes the faith and spiritual triumphs of many men and women, it also gives a balanced look at their lives to show they also had struggles and weaknesses. Only one individual is shown to be perfect—Jesus Christ, who was God in the flesh. When we read the Bible, we should pay close attention to the mistakes and weaknesses of its characters—because the Bible intends us to learn lessons so we don't make the same mistakes (1 Cor 10:6).

The Bible is filled with history, but it is not primarily a work of history. It does not attempt to present a comprehensive survey of Israel's history. Instead, you could say the Bible presents history on a need-to-know basis. In other words, history is included as the context to understand what and why God did what He did. The Bible admits that it simply ignores much of history—for the reason that if everything that happened were recorded "even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). What is important is that the history recorded in the Bible, time and time again, has been proven to be accurate and reliable.

Inductive Bible Study Method - 5 Steps

One of the best ways to study the Bible is through "inductive" study. This method makes observations on a passage of Scripture and then draws conclusions based on those observations. The following steps follow the inductive method's process of observation, interpretation, and application.

1

Pray

Always start with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand this passage & apply it to your heart.



2

Read the Passage & Picture the Scene

- Who is writing & who was it written to originally
- Why was it written & what is being said
- Cross reference with other verses in the Bible



3

Interpret the Passage

- Always read verses in context (before & after verses)
- What did the text mean back then to the audience
- Use scripture to interpret scripture & be consistent
- What does it say or show about God - His attributes, long-term plans, promises, love, judgements, etc.



4

What is the Spiritual Message of the Passage

- Is there something negative not to do
- Is there something positive for us to do
- How does it relate to Jesus' crucifixion (main theme)
- How does it relate to the church & me today



5

Take it to Heart & let it Change Your Life

- Accept that God is God & we are His creation
- What is God showing me in this passage today
- Pray & Praise God for who He is
- Trust & obey His leading
- Rejoice in His promises, love & care
- Share this message of hope & freedom as the Lord gives you opportunity today

