

Bible Overview



- Study 1.** What is the Bible about? Is it all we really need?
- Study 2.** Creation to new creation
- Study 3.** Father Abraham
- Study 4.** Redemption
- Study 5.** Promised land
- Study 6.** Kings to exile
- Study 7.** The Latter prophets
- Study 8.** The writings (1)
- Study 9.** The writings (2)
- Study 10.** The Gospels
- Study 11.** Acts and the church
- Study 12.** The church in Revelation

What is the Bible about? Is it all we really need?

Home Study1



Day 1

Read Colossians 2:1-10 and 2 Peter 1:2-4.

What do these verses tell us we have in Jesus?

Day 2

Read Luke 24:13-27 and 24:44-47.

What do these verses tell us about the subject of the Bible?

Day 3

Read Acts 26:11-23.

Which verses tell us the message Paul was given.

Where is the message found?

Day 4

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

What two things can the Bible do for us?

Day 5

Psalm 19:7-14.

What does the Bible do for the Christian?

Day 6

Read Romans 4:1-25.

Was Abraham (and all the Old Testament saints) saved in a different way to us?

What verses back up your answer?

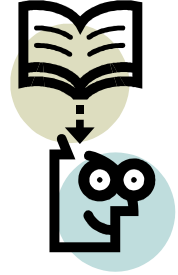
Day 7

Read Hebrews 11:23-12:2.

What is the main lesson we can learn from the Old Testament Christians?

What is the Bible about? Is it all we really need?

Group Study 1



There are two important doctrines we need to remember to help us understand the whole of Scripture. Firstly the **authority of the Bible** – everything the Bible commands we must do because it is God’s word. Secondly the **clarity of the Bible** – all of the Bible can be understood by all who read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it. The Bible makes the simple wise.

It follows that the best way to understand the Bible is to listen to what the Bible has to say about itself. Listen to these two great quotes:

‘Have I got to interpret the Bible facts for you? I want to tell you it is a great relief to me that I don’t have to do that... Now it would be very grim thing if I had these 66 books of the Bible, all these thousands of pages, and God gave me the job of taking all this raw material and cooking it – so that I present to you an understanding of the Christian faith. That would be quite beyond my wisdom. It seems people are trying to do that but I am not trying to do that. No, the Bible writers have already cooked the material. That is, they have already prepared it so the finished product is here. The Bible is not asking us to interpret it. The Bible is an interpretation. My job is to tell you what the explanation is.’

Dick Lucas

‘If we want to understand the Bible we must fix our attention on nothing but the Bible. The very worst thing we can possibly do is try to force the Bible into ideas from outside the Bible. We must immerse ourselves in the whole of the Bible if we are to understand the parts of the Bible.’

Paul Blackham

How does the Bible see itself?

If we are to let the Bible interpret itself we must understand how it speaks about itself. Open the contents page. What do you see – 2 sections, 66 books or one book with one message?

The Old (prophets) and New (apostles) Testaments are referred to in the Bible itself as the **‘apostles and prophets** with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone’. (Ephesians 2:20 and 4:11, NIV).

We divide the Bible into history, poetry and prophetic books, or into old and new, but God doesn’t do that. In the Old Testament the prophets spoke God’s word. In the New Testament the apostles spoke God’s word (Apostles being ‘sent ones’ of Jesus Christ). Both are people sent on behalf of the King. Both are God’s word to help us live as Christians.

Pause for thought

The Old Testament as we know it runs from Genesis to Malachi and scholars divide it up into three groups: Historical books: Genesis – Esther, Mixed Poetry: Job – Song of Solomon and Prophetic books: Isaiah – Malachi. But the Old Testament as Jesus knew it was in a different order – the Law, the Prophets and the Writings or Psalms (see appendix).

‘Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the **Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms**’ (Luke 24:44 NIV) – the whole of the Old Testament.

The Bible consistently explains its own meaning and it is important we understand when that is happening. Only then can we understand the whole of the Scriptures.

The purpose of this course is to introduce us to the whole Bible so we might learn to listen to all God has to say to every part of our lives. And more than that, to find the sheer pleasure God promises to all who study his word properly.

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word (Psalms 119:16, NIV).

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law (Psalms 119:18, NIV).

- **What the Bible is about**
- **Why the Bible is about Jesus and how**
- **Who gives us all we need?**
- **The Bible tells us all we need to know**

What the Bible is about

Questions:

1. **Read Mathew 5:17 and Luke 24:25-27.** What do these verses teach us about the subject of the Bible?
2. What do these passages tell us about the Law (Moses) and the Prophets?
3. **Read Luke 24:44-47.** When Jesus opens their minds, what do they see when they read the law, the Prophets and the writings (Psalms)?
4. **Read Acts 26:22-23.** When Paul preached in the New Testament was he saying anything new? (Give reasons for your answer).
5. **Read 2 Timothy 3:15.** What does the Old Testament make us wise for?
6. **Read John 12:41 and Hebrews 2:12-13.** When the Lord is spoken about in the Old Testament, what should we call him?

How do you sum up the character of Jesus? Throughout the Bible he is given many names all of which tell us something of his character and work. 'Immanuel', 'Master', 'Good teacher', 'Son of Man', 'the Lamb', 'the Angel of the Lord', the Word of God', 'Son of David', 'the Lord', 'the Christ'. And on and on we could go. But we can also call him by the name we are most familiar with – Jesus. We are on safe ground as God inspired the New Testament writers to do just that.

Helpful quotes:

'There is no doubt that all Scripture points to Christ alone.'

'Take Christ out of the Scriptures and what more will you find in them?'

'All Scripture everywhere only deals with Christ.'

Martin Luther

What the Bible is all about Jesus

Why is the Bible all about Jesus?

In the Old Testament we find the phrase 'the Lord appeared' over and over again. Why? Because over and over again God makes himself known.

Further Questions:

7. **Read John 14:6-7 and Matthew 11:27.** How can God be known in the Old Testament? How can God be known today?
8. **Read John 1:18.** When the Lord appears in the Old Testament who is it?

How is the Bible all about Jesus?
Some amazing passages...

He is the Creator. Read John 1:1-3.

Abraham believed on him. Read John 8:56

He is the great 'I Am' who redeemed Israel. Read John 8:58

He brings the true inheritance of the land. Read Hebrews 9:15

He is the Son of David who brings a kingdom without end. Read Luke 1:32-33

He is the servant who explains the exile and brings its end. Read Acts 8:34-35 and John 12:41.

He is the same object of faith. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Who gives us all we need?

Further Questions:

9. Read Ephesians 1:3, Colossians 2:2-3, Colossians 2:10 and 2 Peter 1:2-3. What do we have in Christ?

Pause for thought

A non-Christian asks 'What does Jesus mean to you?' How can you answer in a simple sentence?

The Bible tells us all we need to know
That is all we need to know about Jesus.

Further Questions:

10. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 17:17, Luke 11:28, James 1:25 and 2 Peter 1:2-4. What does the Bible tell us it does for us?

11. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What should the Bible do for the church when it is taught by evangelists, pastors and teachers?

Pause for thought

A young Christian asks 'Why do we read the whole Bible?' How can you answer in a simple sentence?

Summary Questions:

What did this study teach me about Jesus?

What did this study teach me about the Bible?

What did this study teach me about myself?

Jesus



