

The Purpose of the Bible

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson two



Objective: To understand how the Bible came to be and why God gave it to us.



No prophecy recorded in the Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself, for the prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:21

From beginning to end, the Bible is mainly about Jesus Christ. In support of this theme, the Bible has four main purposes: (1) to present Jesus Christ as the Savior and Redeemer of the world; (2) to provide for us the historical context in which Jesus came; (3) to lead the unbeliever into faith in Jesus; and (4) to show believers how God wants us to live.

The Bible was written by God. It is a special kind of revelation that is now complete. It is no longer being written and added to. God used some 40 different men to write the Bible. There were all kinds: kings, fishermen, priests, shepherds, generals, and even a fig picker.

The Old Testament was officially compiled in about the year AD 100, although it had already been used for several centuries. The books were included based on the reliability of their human authors and their reputation as prophets or scribes. They were written in Hebrew.

The New Testament books were selected and compiled in about AD 692, although they had already been used for centuries too. They were selected on three criteria: if an apostle or close associate of an apostle wrote it; if it had spiritual content that ministered grace to believers; and if it agreed with the other inspired books and if Church leaders unanimously agreed that it was inspired. The New Testament was written in Greek.



Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. True or false? The Bible is a handbook on how to live a good moral life.
2. True or false? The Bible narrows its story line after the first few chapters of Genesis to focus on Abraham and his descendants.
3. True or false? According to the Bible, Jesus Christ was sent to bless only Abraham and his descendants.
4. Which of the following best describes the Bible?
 - a. a history of civilization
 - b. a science textbook
 - c. a philosophy book
 - d. a history of redemption
5. In Luke 24:25-27, Jesus told his disciples that the main character in all of Scripture was who?
 - a. Himself
 - b. Moses
 - c. Adam
 - d. David

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”
—Luke 24: 27
6. In the Gospels, the biographies of Jesus, which event is written about more than all others?
 - a. His birth
 - b. His first 30 years
 - c. His public ministry
 - d. His last week, including the cross and resurrection
7. What kinds of men wrote the books of the Bible?

8. What records do we have of the Bible today?
 - a. the original manuscripts
 - b. very accurate copies carefully preserved
 - c. copies that are similar to the originals, but not fully accurate
 - d. copies that have been changed many times over the centuries
9. When personal revelation (God’s word to an individual) contradicts special revelation (the Bible), which is right?
 - a. special revelation
 - b. personal revelation
 - c. It depends on the situation.
 - d. We cannot really know.

10. How can we really know if the Bible is truly the Word of God?

- a. We cannot.
- b. We have to do a lot of research.
- c. Everyone who reads it will know right away.
- d. If we have the will to obey and to do what it says, it will change our life, and we will know it is the Word of God.



Remember in the message when we talked about revelation? What is the difference between general revelation and the kind of inspiration called “special revelation”? How does God reveal His truth to us today?



Praise God for this Bible Study. Pray that God would teach you many things and how to apply His eternal truth to your life. Ask God to bring many to Himself who do not know Him as the One and only true God through this study, and ask Him who you should invite to be a part of this study.



Going Deeper

1. In Luke 24: 25-27; 44, 45, what was the truth Jesus shared with the apostles that opened their understanding of the Scriptures? How could that truth open your understanding of the Bible? (See also John 5: 39, 40) _____

2. How can you relate this to the observation that, when we reach chapter 12 of the book of Genesis, the rest of the Bible is all about Abraham and his progeny, through whom all the nations of the world were to be blessed? _____

3. How did Jesus challenge us to prove that His teaching is the teaching of God? (John 7:17) How should that influence the way you prove that not only His teaching but the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God? _____

4. In addition to looking for Christ all the way through the Bible, what else should we look for as we read the Bible? (Consider or discuss John 17:17) _____

5. Knowing what we know about how long paper lasts, what had to happen so that we could have the Bible today? _____

6. Give and explain four purposes of the Bible. _____

7. In the four Gospels, explain how we know what was the most important week in the life of Jesus Christ and why? _____
