

Profiting From Your Bible

(1TI 4:15) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

- I. This series assumes Scripture to be God's inspired revelation in written form. **2TI 3:16-17.**
 - A. This also assumes that Scripture is preserved. **PSA 12:6-7.**
 - B. This also assumes that Scripture is pure. **PRO 30:5.**

- II. Profiting from Scripture depends upon:
 - A. having the true Scripture. **2CO 2:17.**
 - B. believing it is the true Scripture. **1TH 2:13.**
 - C. having necessary spiritual qualifications. **JOH 8:42-44; 1CO 2:14.**
 - D. having necessary personal qualifications. **PRO 9:10 c/w PRO 8:13; 2TH 2:10.**
 - E. reading/studying it. **2TI 2:15.**
 - F. following its rules for study.
 - G. submitting to it. **PSA 111:10; 19:7-11.**
 - H. retaining it in memory. **JAM 1:25.**
 - I. distinguishing its words from lies. **JER 7:8; PSA 119:128.**

- III. Here is a brief treatment of why the KJV Bible is God's preserved word in the English language.
 - A. The inspired Scripture was predominantly first written in Hebrew (O.T.) and Greek (N.T.).
 - B. The inspiration was not limited to the original manuscripts or languages.
 - 1. If God is omnipotent, He can certainly preserve His word in copies or translations.
 - 2. Examples of copying being employed in the preservation and transmission of scriptures are seen in **DEU 17:18-19; PRO 25:1.**
 - 3. The Greek N.T. contains many quotations from the Hebrew O.T. That's translation. God's power to make His word known in other languages is plainly seen in **ACT 2:4-6.**
 - 4. By these means, many nations could receive God's word in their own language to accomplish the apostles' assignment to evangelize them. **MAT 28:19-20.**
 - C. There are basically two families of manuscripts from which English Bibles have come.
 - 1. One family of manuscripts largely came out of a philosophical academy in Alexandria, Egypt and is associated with the Roman Catholic Church which virulently opposed those churches who preserved scriptures which opposed the Alexandrian manuscripts.
 - a. "It is almost 300 years since James, Archbishop of Genoa, is said to have translated the Bible into Italian. More than 200 years ago, in the days of Charles V, the French king, was it put forth faithfully in French, the sooner to shake out of the deceived people's hands, the false heretical translations of a sect called Waldenses." (Preface to the Jesuit-Rheims Bible of 1582)
 - b. Egypt was a place of bondage for God's people, not liberty. **EXO 1:13-14.**
 - c. This family of manuscripts is the basis of (or has influenced) virtually all modern English Bibles since 1850.
 - 2. The other family of manuscripts (particularly N.T. manuscripts) largely sprang from Syria where the Apostle Paul had been commissioned to evangelize the Gentiles. **ACT 13:1-2; 14:26-28.**
 - a. Paul especially advanced the principle of liberty that comes from being led of the true God declared in the true Scripture. **ROM 8:14-15; 2CO 3:17.**
 - b. This family of manuscripts was the basis of KJV Bible.
 - 3. If the only criterion for identifying the true Bible was the distinction between

identifying with bondage or with liberty, choose liberty.

- D. The KJV excels all other English Bibles.
1. It upholds and glorifies Jesus Christ more than any other English Bible. Other versions provably diminish His nature, virgin birth, deity, sinlessness, work, and victory over death.
 2. It bears the fruits that God's true word should produce in men who believe it: repentance from sin, submission to Christ and victory over the darkness of this world. **ACT 26:18; 1TH 2:13-14.**
 3. It bears the fruits of God's wisdom among peoples who exalt it: justice, righteousness, technological advancement and prosperity. **PRO 8:12-21.**
 4. It is internally consistent whereas other English Bibles have obvious internal contradictions and errors. God's word is pure. **PSA 12:6-7; JOH 10:35.**
 5. It is very readable, written primarily in single-syllable words and research has shown that it is more readable than other English Bibles.
 6. It lends itself to easy memorization. God wants His words to be remembered. **PSA 119:11; 1CO 15:1-2.**

IV. Here is a simple overview of the Bible.

- A. It consists of 66 books and epistles (letters) in two major divisions: the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books and letters). All of it is inspired. **2TI 3:16.**
1. The O.T. consists of the *Law* (Pentateuch/Books of Moses [**GEN to DEU**] plus the historical books [**JOS to EST**]), the *Writings/Psalms* (**JOB to SON**), and the *Prophets* (**ISA to MAL**).
 - a. The Hebrew Canon of Scripture did not include the Apocrypha.
 - b. Jesus Christ only recognized the Law, Prophets and Psalms as Scripture which testified of Himself. **LUK 24:44-45 c/w JOH 5:39.**
 2. The N.T. consists of the four gospels which are the record of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ (**MAT to JOH**), the **Acts of the Apostles** of Jesus Christ, the epistles/letters of the apostles (**ROM to JUDE**) and the **Book of Revelation**.
 3. The O.T. is Christ *veiled*; the N.T. is Christ *revealed*.
 4. The N.T. is the clearer, superior revelation from God; the O.T. must be interpreted according to the explanations given of it in the N.T. **2PE 1:19-21; 1JO 4:6.**
- B. The O.T. was the peculiar blessing of the nation of Israel (**PSA 147:19-20; ROM 3:1-2**) whereas the N.T. marked the going forth of God's word to all nations. **ROM 16:25-26.**
- C. The central Person of the entire Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. The O.T. anticipated His coming and testified of Him. **ISA 7:14; JOH 5:39.**
 2. The N.T. declares His arrival, saving work and victory in fulfillment of prophecy and that He has been made King and Judge over all. **1CO 15:3-4; ACT 10:39-43.**
- D. The major events of the O.T. are:
1. The record of creation and the entrance of sin. **GEN 1-3.**
 2. The worldwide flood in Noah's day because of great sin. **GEN 6-9.**
 3. The calling out of Abraham whose descendants would end up in Egyptian bondage. **GEN 12 to EXO 1.**
 4. The exodus of Abraham's descendants from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. **EXO 1 to DEU 34.**
 5. The giving of the Law / the Ten Commandments. **EXO 20.**
 6. The Jewish conquest of the land of Canaan and their establishment as a nation there. This is the record of the Book of Joshua.
 7. The establishing of a messianic royal lineage in Israel, beginning with King David.

- This is the record of the Books of **1SAM, 2SAM; 1CH.**
8. The overthrow and captivity of Israel because of sin. This is recorded in the historical books of **2KI** and **2CH.**
 9. The return and restoration of Israel to their land to await the coming of Messiah. This is the record of the Books of **Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.**
- E. The major figures of the O.T. are:
1. Adam, the first man. He was created perfect but sinned and brought sin, death and the curse into the creation (**GEN 1-3**) and serves as a type/picture of the next Perfect Man Who should come and Who would not fail: Jesus Christ. **1CO 15:45; ROM 5:19.**
 2. Noah, the lone preacher of righteousness whose family was spared from a worldwide flood brought on by sin (**GEN 6-9; 2PE 2:5**) and so also forms a picture of Jesus Christ Whose entire spiritual family will be saved from universal judgment. **1PE 3:18-22 c/w LUK 17:26-27.**
 3. Abraham, whom God suddenly called out of his idolatrous land and family, to whom God made great promises of eternal significance, and with whom God made an everlasting covenant. **GEN 12-25.**
 - a. Abraham was the ancestral father of the Jewish people.
 - b. Abraham was a model of great faith in God's word and his faith was a token or evidence of righteousness. **ROM 4:1-5.**
 - c. Abraham was given the sign of circumcision for himself and all his male descendants *after* he had been declared to be righteous. **ROM 4:9-13.**
 - d. God's promises to Abraham were only to Abraham and Christ. **GAL 3:16.**
 4. Moses, the deliverer who brought God's people out of bondage and gave them God's law (**EXO**), who also forms a picture of Christ Who delivered His people out of the bondage of sin and gave them His law, the N.T. **HEB 3:1-6.**
 5. Joshua, who brought God's people into their *earthly* inheritance and rest, which Moses could not do.
 - a. *Joshua* is spelled *Jesus* in the N.T. **ACT 7:45; HEB 4:8.**
 - b. This all serves as a beautiful picture of the overall message of the Bible: Jesus alone brought God's people into their *heavenly* inheritance and rest, not Moses or his law. **ROM 3:20-22; HEB 9:12.**
 6. David, a prophet and the first king of a royal dynasty in Israel which would culminate in Jesus Christ, David's descendant and the Eternal King. **ACT 13:21-23; LUK 1:30-33.**
- F. The major events of the N.T. are:
1. The conception of Jesus Christ in the virgin Mary's womb which was God becoming a man who was the Son of God. **MAT 1:23; LUK 1:35.**
 2. The ministry of John the Baptist who prepared Israel for Christ's public ministry and who baptized Jesus Christ. **MAR 1:1-11.**
 3. The blameless life and public ministry of Jesus Christ which was rejected by His own people and which culminated in His crucifixion death. **ACT 13:27-29.**
 4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ after being buried for three days and nights. **ACT 13:30; MAT 12:38-40.**
 5. The ascension of Jesus Christ to take the eternal throne. **EPH 1:19-23; REV 3:21.**
 6. The coming of the promised Holy Spirit to indwell and empower the church which Jesus Christ established on earth. **JOH 14:15-17, 26 c/w ACT 2:1-6.**
 7. The building of Christ's church in fulfillment of promises of a Divine Kingdom. **DAN 2:44 c/w MAT 16:18-19.**

8. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus from being the chief enemy of Christ to become the chief apostle of Jesus Christ with a special ministry to the Gentiles. **ACT 9:1-6, 15.**
9. The conversion of the first uncircumcised Gentile believer, which was the breaking down of a barrier that had separated Jews and Gentiles. **ACT 10; EPH 2:11-18.**
- G. The major figures of the N.T. are:
 1. Jesus Christ, the virgin-born son of God Who fulfilled all of the requirements of God's holy Law for righteousness by living a sinless life, dying for sinners, and rising from the grave in victorious conquest over death and the grave. **ROM 10:4; 4:23-25.**
 2. John the Baptist, who announced Christ's arrival and baptized him. John's ministry marked the sunset of the O.T. economy. **LUK 16:16.**
 3. The Twelve Apostles whom Christ called out to be the ministers of His New Testament and foundations of His church. **LUK 22:14, 29-30; EPH 2:20.**
 4. The Apostle Paul, the once sworn enemy of Christ and His church who was called out for a special ministry to the Gentiles. **1CO 15:9-10; 1TI 1:12-15.**
- H. The N.T. is not only a clearer, superior revelation from God, it has *legally replaced* the O.T.
 1. testament: A formal declaration, usually in writing, of a person's wishes as to the disposal of his property after his death; a will.
 2. It is always the Last Will and Testament of a deceased person through which heirs receive their inheritance.
 3. Jesus Christ made a New Testament just before He died which abolished the Old Testament. **LUK 22:20; HEB 9:15-17; 2CO 3:13.**
 4. Therefore the heirs of God do not receive their inheritance according to the terms of the O.T. but rather of the N.T.
- I. Another way to describe the two testaments is that the O.T. is the Mosaic Covenant and the N.T. is the Messianic Covenant.
 1. The *message* of the Mosaic Covenant is “do and live” righteousness. **ROM 10:5.**
 2. The *message* of the Messianic Covenant is “done and given” righteousness. **ROM 5:19; GAL 2:20-21.**
 3. Remembering this distinction resolves many issues concerning salvation.
- J. The foregoing points show a continuity, correspondence and consistency between the two testaments of the Bible.
- K. In summary, the Bible is:
 1. the account of God's, plan, power and performance of His will through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is God and man.
 2. the account of the victory of God, the Supreme Good over Satan, the supreme evil.
 3. the account of humanity's bondage to Satan, sin and death being remedied by the sinless, victorious work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 4. the account of Jesus Christ's exaltation to the throne of God to reign over all things.
 5. the announcement of His certain return to judge all things. **ACT 17:31.**