

Name _____

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH
LESSON #1 QUIZ
INTRODUCTION: THE BIBLE

In the right hand margin, after each of the following statements, write "true or "false" or "?" (if not sure):

1. The Bible was written by a group of men that got together at one point in time. _____
2. Part of the Bible is wise instruction from men and part is God's Word. _____
3. The entire Bible is inspired by God. _____
4. The Bible has been translated so many times that we have lost its meaning. _____
5. The four gospels are Matthew, Peter, Mark and John. _____
6. The book of Acts gives the history of the early church. _____
7. Jesus Christ is the central figure of Scripture. _____
8. The New Testament has no relation to the Old Testament. _____
9. Many of the books in the New Testament were letters to different churches and individuals. _____
10. The Bible has a few scientific mistakes. _____

Name _____

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH
LESSON #2 QUIZ
HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

In the right hand margin, after each of the following statements, write "true or "false" or "?" (if not sure):

1. The only people who can understand the Bible are those who have been trained to do so. _____
2. There is no real need to study the Bible because God can teach us through our experiences. _____
3. Probably the most important thing we can achieve from Bible study are facts that can be used in discussions or debates. _____
4. Memorizing portions of the Bible enables us to overcome Satan by using God's Word. _____
5. Every verse in the Bible is profitable for us today. _____
6. God uses pastors to teach us truths within the Bible. _____
7. There is only one correct interpretation of a given passage of Scripture. _____
8. Diligent Bible study is only for pastors. _____
9. A person who meditates on God's Word day and night will be blessed. _____
10. A concordance gives an interpretation of every verse in the Bible. _____

- Busenitz, Nathan. *Reasons We Believe: 50 Lines of Evidence That Confirm the Christian Faith*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.
 - Cameron, Kirk, and Ray Comfort. *The School of Biblical Evangelism: 101 Lessons: How to Share Your Faith Simply, Effectively, Biblically—the Way Jesus Did*. Gainesville, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2004.
1. According to the scriptural use of the word *inspired*, how is the Bible’s inspiration different from the inspiration of Shakespeare’s plays? (2 Peter 1:20-21)
 2. How does Jesus’ own view of the Old Testament Scriptures and of the prophetic powers of John the Baptist support the inspiration of the Bible?
 3. Jesus demonstrated that he believed the Old Testament was God’s Word. In what ways do you act on your belief that the Bible is God’s Word?
 4. The earliest existing manuscript of Caesar’s *Gallic War* was copied nine hundred years after Caesar’s time—five hundred years more than the gap between the earliest complete New Testament and its original texts. Why do historians accept the reliability of Caesar’s *Gallic War* while the average person questions the reliability of the Bible?¹
- **Some of the criteria for establishing a book as canon:**
 - 1) Was the book written by a prophet of God?
 - 2) Was the writer authenticated by miracles to confirm his message?
 - 3) Does the book tell the truth about God, with no falsehood or contradiction?
 - 4) Does the book evince a divine capacity to transform lives?
 - 5) Was the book accepted as God’s Word by the people to whom it was first delivered?²

Question: How is the Bible unique?

Answer: One way in which the Bible is unique from other religious books is that it is the most popular book in the world despite a considerable amount of opposition waged against it. It has long been named the bestselling and most distributed book of all time. The Gideons International has distributed over 2 billion copies of the Bible and New Testaments since 1899 (www.gideons.org/about, accessed 8/11/21). In addition, the United Bible Societies distributed 160 million complete Bibles from 2010 to 2014 and 428 million Scripture portions in 2014 alone (<https://ministry.americanbible.org/bible-distribution>, accessed 8/11/21).

The *Guinness Book of World Records* estimates that the Bible has been printed over 5 billion times (www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/best-selling-book-of-non-fiction, accessed 8/11/21).

The uniqueness of the Bible extends beyond its wide distribution, however. In many ways, the Bible is more than just another book.

The Bible is unique in authorship. Although the Holy Spirit is ultimately the author of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21), He used many human authors to compile the 66 books of the Bible. Around forty different human writers in the span of about 1,500 years were involved in the collection of Scripture. These writers came from different time periods, backgrounds, occupations, and geographical locations. The writers include kings, prophets, fishermen, shepherds,

¹ Paul E. Little, *Know Why You Believe* (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2008), 220-221.

² Got Questions Ministries, *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2014–2021).

servants, priests, and a physician. This broad authorship explains the variety of writing styles. There is also a plethora of genres in the Bible, including poetry, prose, narrative, prophecy, and letter-style writing. The different authors and writing styles make the Bible unique from other religious books, and it's stunning to realize that the entire canon of Scripture shares a common theme—God's salvation of mankind—and points to a central character—Jesus Christ.

The Bible is unique in content. Numerous religious texts teach good morals and righteous ways of life. Unlike other religious texts advocating good works to please an unreachable god, the Bible uniquely teaches that salvation is a gift from God that does not require human works (Ephesians 2:8–9). Whereas other religious books present a set of rules and regulations to follow, the Bible presents freedom in Christ (John 8:36). The Bible reveals that Jesus is God (John 1:1) and that He saves us through His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). No other sacred book claims that a religious leader rose from the dead (Matthew 28:5–7; Luke 24:5–6; John 20:20; 1 Corinthians 15:4–8). The God of Scripture is not a far-off, uncaring god but the Creator of all things who is intimately involved in the lives of His creation (Psalm 139:7–12; Acts 17:25–27). No other religious text gives the assurance of eternal life (John 3:16). No other religion's book is without error or flaw, but the Bible is inerrant and infallible (see 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

The Bible is also unique from other religious books in that it contains prophecy. In fact, by one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive (Payne, J. B., *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675). This means that, when written, over one fourth of the Bible—more than one in four verses—was prophetic. Hundreds of the Bible's detailed prophecies have come true in literal fashion. No other religious book contains prophecy to this extent.

The Bible is unique in its language of writing. Most books are written in one language. For instance, the Quran of Islam was written completely in Arabic, Hinduism's Vedas were composed entirely in Sanskrit, and the Book of Mormon was written entirely in English. In contrast, the Bible's authors used three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Bible is unique in its compilation. The Old Testament Scriptures were written as the prophets of God received God's word, with little to no reliance on oral history. The New Testament Scriptures were written by eyewitnesses to the events soon after the events took place, within the first century. The manuscript evidence for the New Testament is overwhelming. There are at least 5,300 Greek, 10,000 Latin, and 9,000 miscellaneous copies of the New Testament extant today. This is in stark contrast to other ancient works, such as Aristotle's *Poetics*, which only has five manuscripts preserved dating over a thousand years *after* the original was written. The Quran has very few early manuscripts, as the process of recording the Quran was controlled by Islamic leaders who burned any copies that contained variant readings. The Hindu Vedas were passed down orally over thousands of years before being written down.

The Bible is unique in its results. God uses His Word, the Bible, to bring about the results of His choosing (Isaiah 55:11). One of those results is changed lives. Countless people give testimony around the world of freedom from substance abuse, destructive lifestyles, lying, stealing, habitual anger, etc., due to their following biblical principles and their faith in Jesus Christ.

Unique among all religious texts, the Bible stands alone in presenting Jesus Christ, God's one-and-only Son, as the only way to salvation: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' " (John 14:6). Truly, there is no other book like the Bible.³

³ Got Questions Ministries, *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2014–2021).

Question: Does the inerrancy of the Bible only apply to the original manuscripts?

Answer: To be inerrant is to be free from error. Only the original autographs (the original manuscripts written by the apostles, prophets, etc.) are under the divine promise of inspiration and inerrancy. The books of the Bible, as they were originally written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21), were 100 percent inerrant, accurate, authoritative, and true. There is no biblical promise that copies of the original manuscripts would be equally inerrant or free from errors. As the Bible has been copied thousands of times over thousands of years, some copyist errors have likely occurred.

It is important to remember that the biblical manuscripts we have today are in 99 percent agreement with one another. Yes, there are some minor differences, but the vast majority of the biblical text is identical from one manuscript to another. Most of the differences are in punctuation, word endings, minor grammatical issues, word order, etc.—issues easily explainable as scribal mistakes or changes in spelling rules. No important theological issue is thrown into doubt by any supposed error or contradiction. Biblical manuscripts from the fifteenth century agree completely with manuscripts from the third century. We can have absolute confidence that the Bible we have today is almost exactly identical to what the apostles and prophets wrote 2,000-plus years ago.

We should not be quick to say, “Oh, that is just a scribal error.” The Bible’s “errors” can be explained in a logical and believable manner. Discrepancies that cannot be explained—or are very difficult to explain—could very well have an answer that we simply do not know at this point. Just because we cannot find a solution does not mean that a solution doesn’t exist. Believing there to be a scribal error must be the absolute last resort in clearing up any supposed Bible “error.”

It is possible that minor errors have crept into our modern manuscripts and translations of the Bible. Copyists and translators are human beings, and they make mistakes. The fact that the Bible we have today is incredibly accurate is a testimony to its inspiration and preservation by God.

Can we still trust the Bible? Absolutely! Modern Bible translations are God’s Word. The Bible today is just as authoritative as it was in the first century AD. We can completely trust the Bible as being God’s message to us. Yes, the biblical promises of inspiration and inerrancy only apply directly to the original manuscripts. But that does not impact our modern Bible’s accuracy and authority. God’s Word endures forever, despite the occasional failings and mistakes of copyists and translators.⁴

⁴ Got Questions Ministries, *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2014–2021).

TYPES OF DIVINE REVELATION

Type	Manifestation	Scripture	Significance
General Revelation	In Nature	Ps. 19:1-6	Reveals God exists. Reveals God's glory.
		Rom. 1:18-21	Reveals God is omnipotent. Reveals God will judge.
	In Providence	Matt. 5:45	Reveals God is benevolent to all people.
		Acts 14:15-17	Reveals God provides food for all people.
		Dan. 2:21	Reveals God raises up and removes rulers.
In Conscience	Rom. 2:14-15	Reveals God has placed His law within the hearts of all people.	
Special Revelation	In Christ	John 1:18	Reveals what the Father is like.
		John 5:36-37	Reveals the Father's compassion.
		John 6:36; 14:10	Reveals that the Father gives life to those who believe in the Son.
	In Scripture	2 Tim. 3:16, 17	Reveals all the doctrine, rebuke, correction, and guidance that the Christian needs for good living.
		2 Pet. 1:21	Reveals all that God has chosen to disclose through human authors directed by the Holy Spirit.

Question: How much of the Bible is prophecy?

Answer: Prophecy accounts for a major portion of the entire canon of Scripture. Numerous books in the Old Testament contain prophecy—some include short statements about the future, and others feature entire prophetic visions. In the New Testament, almost every book contains some prophecy, with Revelation being wholly devoted to a prophetic vision.

By one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive (Payne, J. B., *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675). This means that, when written, over one fourth of the Bible—more than one in four verses—was prophetic. Professor and theologian J. Barton Payne lists 1,817 prophecies in the Bible (ibid., p. 674). The consistent relation of prophecy in the Bible is staggering; on top of that is the amazing accuracy of those detailed prophecies.

At least one half of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled precisely as God had declared. Because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling these prophecies, we can be assured that He will fulfill the rest of the prophecies in Scripture without fault (see Numbers 23:19).

Prophecy in the Bible can be divided into two broad groups: fulfilled and not yet fulfilled. Some examples from these generalized groups include the following:

Fulfilled Prophecies: • The first coming of Christ (e.g., Deuteronomy 18:15–19; Numbers 24:17; Daniel 9:25–26; Micah 5:2).

- Jesus as the Savior of mankind (e.g., Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:4–5).
- Prophecies regarding individual people, such as the doom of Jezebel (2 Kings 9:10).
- Prophecies regarding Israel, such as in the case of Israel's exile to Babylon (2 Kings 20:18; Jeremiah 34:3).
- The destruction of the temple, which occurred in AD 70 (Matthew 24:1–2).
- Daniel's prophecies about the rise and fall of many kingdoms (Daniel 7:2–6).

Prophecies Still to Be Fulfilled: • The second coming of Christ (Zechariah 14:3–4; Matthew 24:44; Acts 1:10–11; Revelation 1:7).

- The rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).
- The tribulation (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15–22).
- The resurrections of the saved and the unsaved (Daniel 12:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23; Revelation 20:11–15).
- The millennial reign of Christ (Psalm 72:7–11; Zechariah 2:10–11; Revelation 20:4).
- The restoration of Israel (Jeremiah 31:31–37; Romans 11:26–27).
- The new heavens and new earth (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

Some prophecies have a double fulfillment, one nearer to the time of the prophet and one further in the future. We see this in Isaiah 7:14, for example. The birth of a child served as a sign for King Ahaz, but the prophecy also pointed forward to the virgin birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:22–23). Some interpret Jesus' explanation of the signs of the end times as having been fulfilled in some sense in AD 70 yet also signaling a future, more complete fulfillment during the end times tribulation.

Other prophecies have been fulfilled partially and are awaiting complete fulfillment. An example of this is found in Jesus' quotation of Isaiah 61:1–2, in which He declares the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. In the synagogue, Jesus read from the scroll: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed

free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18–19). He then proclaimed Himself as the fulfillment of that prophecy. But He had stopped reading in the middle of Isaiah 61:2. The reason is simple: the first part of that verse was fulfilled by Christ in His first advent, but the second half, concerning “the day of vengeance of our God,” was not. The Day of the Lord is still to be fulfilled in the future.

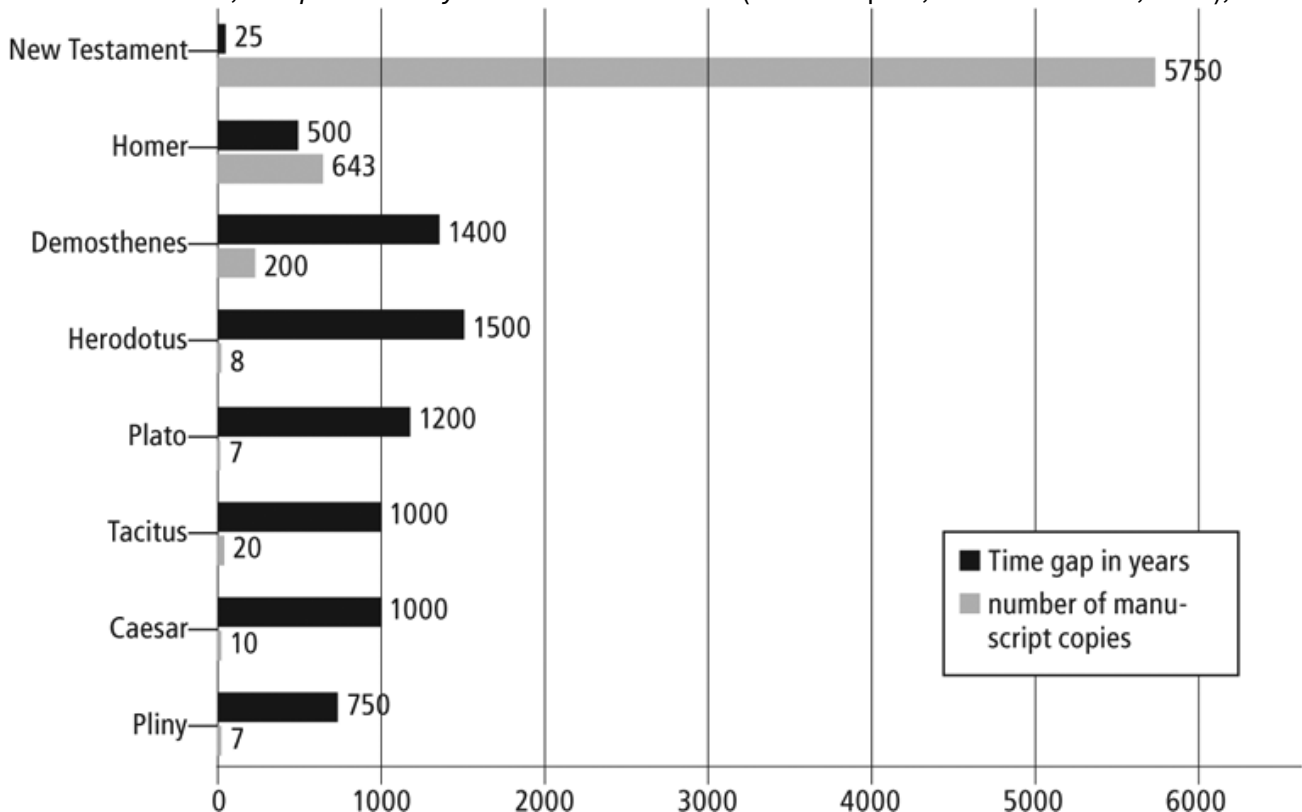
The amount of prophecy in the Bible is one of the things that make it unique among religious books. There is absolutely no emphasis on predictive prophecy in the Qu’ran or the Hindu Vedas, for example. In contrast, the Bible repeatedly points to fulfilled prophecy as direct proof that it is God who speaks (see Deuteronomy 18:22; 1 Kings 22:28; Jeremiah 28:9). Given God’s omniscience, it should come as no surprise that the Bible contains so many clear predictions or that those predictions are literally fulfilled: “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done” (Isaiah 46:9–10, ESV).⁵

More New Testament Manuscripts

There are over 5,700 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Most other books from the ancient world survive based on about 10 to 20 manuscripts. The most manuscripts for any book besides the Bible are for Homer’s *Iliad* with 643. Thus the New Testament has an overwhelming advantage in the number of manuscripts to support the integrity of the text it is transmitting.

Reliability of the New Testament Documents (Years between original author & # of copies)

Norman L. Geisler, *A Popular Survey of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014), 17–18



⁵ Got Questions Ministries, *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2014–2021).

The Testimony of the Fathers

In addition to all of this, if all Greek and ancient translations of the Bible were destroyed, almost the entire New Testament could be reconstructed from the quotations of the Church Fathers from the first few centuries! They cited the New Testament more than thirty-six thousand times! In fact they provide every verse of the New Testament except for eleven verses. This too can be said of no other book from the ancient world. (See figure 2.2 below.)

Figure 2.2

Early Citations of the New Testament

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3*	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement of Alexandria	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Grand Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

The New Testament has more manuscripts, earlier manuscripts, and more accurately copied manuscripts than any other book from the ancient world. In other words, if we cannot trust the transmission of its text, then we cannot trust any other book that has come to us from antiquity.

Earlier Writers

The New Testament writers were closer to the events than most other writers from the ancient world were to the events about which they wrote. Indeed, many of the New Testament writers were eyewitnesses or contemporaries of the eyewitnesses, and some of them wrote within twenty to twenty-five years of the events of which they spoke. Jesus died by AD 33, and both Paul and Luke wrote books by about AD 55-60.

Of the nine New Testament writers:

1. Matthew was an apostle and eyewitness of Christ (Matt. 10:3).⁶
2. Mark was an associate of the apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:13).
3. Luke was an associate of the apostle Paul (2 Tim. 4:11).
4. John was an apostle and eyewitness (John 21:24; 1 John 1:1-4).
5. Paul was an apostle and contemporary of Jesus (Acts 9; 1 Cor. 15:8).
6. James was the “brother” of Jesus and an eyewitness (1 Cor. 15:7).
7. Peter was an apostle and eyewitness (Matt. 10:2; 2 Peter 1:16-17).
8. Jude was the brother of James (Jude 1).
9. The writer of Hebrews was a contemporary of the twelve apostles (2:3; 13:23).⁶

⁶ For the evidence of authorship of the following books see the corresponding chapters on them below.

⁶ Norman L. Geisler, *A Popular Survey of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014), 20-21.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. PRAY

- Confess sin
- Pray for illumination of God's Word
- Pray for character and mind transformation by the Holy Spirit and God's Word
- Pray for conviction and application of God's Word
- Pray for uninterrupted time of study, meditation, and opportunity to walk and talk the truth
- Pray for guidance through the study

PART 1 - R.E.F.L.E.C.T. OFTEN IN PRAYER

#1 Remember the Glories of God - Romans 11:36 (NASB95)

- A. Desire to see the Glory of God (Exodus 33:18)
- B. Desire for others to see the Glory of God (Ephesians 1:18)
- C. Meditate Often on the glory of God's Character (2 Chronicles 6:14ff)
- D. Meditate on the glory of His Works and His Written Word (Psalm 19)

#2 Examine Your Motives and Manner - Psalm 51 (NASB95)

- A. Ways & Words (Matthew 6:5-7)
- B. Lack of Faith & Lusts (James 4:1-3, 1 Timothy 2:1-8)
- C. Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- D. Pray Earnestly (James 5:17)
- E. Ask (Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9)
- F. Look at the Lord's prayer/or the Disciple's Prayer for guidance (Matt. 6:9-13)
- G. Watch (Colossians 4:2)
- H. Wrong Manner & Motive (James 4:3)

#3 Face Life through Scriptures - Romans 15:4 (NASB95)

- A. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:4-2:10)
- B. Daniel (Daniel 2:12-23)
- C. Josiah (2 Kings 22:8-23:4)
- D. Right Thinking (Philippians 4:8)

- E. Right Actions (Philippians 4:9-12)
- F. Trusting (1 John 5:14)
- G. Understanding (Hebrews 4:15)
- H. Help (1 Corinthians 10:13)

#4 Love God - Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB95)

- A. Loving Truth (Psalm 119:97, 113, 163)
- B. Loving Sacrificially (Romans 5:1-8, Romans 8:38, Jude 1:20)
- C. Failure to Love God (Revelation 2:1-5)
- D. Test: Loving Others (1 John 3:17)
- E. Love toward the Body of Christ (Gal. 5:13, 2 Thes. 1:3, Hebrew 13:1, 1 Pet. 1:22, 1 Jo 3:16)

#5 Experience the Sovereignty of God - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NASB95)

- A. Martyrdom-Stephen (Acts 7:54-60)
- B. Trials -Paul (2 Corinthians 11:21-33)
- C. Loving Your Enemies - Jesus (Matthew 5:44-48)
- D. Against All Odds - Hezekiah & Assyria (2 Chron. 32:14-21)
- E. Faithfulness, regardless of the Cost - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego (Dan. 3:12-18)
- F. Christ in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-44)
- G. Silent Prayer - Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:11-2:4)

#6 Concern Yourself with the Kingdom - Matthew 6:33 (NASB95)

- A. Kingdoms' Work (Colossians 4:3, Ephesians 6:19)
- B. Kingdom's Workers (Romans 15:30, Acts 6:6, John 17:17)
- C. Kingdom's Enemies (Matthew 5:44, Acts 7:59-60, Luke 23:34,

#7 Take Every Opportunity - Psalm 145 (NASB95)

- A. Pray without Ceasing (1 Thes. 5:16-17)
- B. Persevere in Prayer (Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thes. 5:14)
- C. Hope in Christ (Jude 1:20)
- D. Remember your days are Short & Limited (James 4:14, Job 14:5)
- E. Remember the Cross (2 Cor. 2:14-17, 2 Cor. 5:21)

PART 2 – READ THE TEXT AT LEAST 2X Times (silently and aloud)

- A. Write down questions that pop into your mind while reading but don't answer them immediately

2. OBSERVE

- Identify the section you will study by choosing a Chapter, paragraph break, or natural thought division
- Read and Re-read while making lists of what you observe with the Bible cross-references
- WHO/WHAT/WHERE:** List what you observe about people, places, and things
- HOW:** Mark all verbs and any action in the passage
- WHEN:** Mark any time references (then, now, after, before, while, etc)
- WHY:** Look for a purpose statement or Conclusion (so that, therefore, for this reason)
- CONTRASTS:** Identify what is being contrasted (but, however, not...)
- COMPARISON/PARALLELISM:** Look for words, phrases, and ideas that are being repeated
- SYNONYMS/ANTONYMS:** Look for specific words being restated in the same or opposite manner
- 13 Great Themes of the Bible:** Write down what you learn about these great themes of the Bible
 1. Scripture/Bibliology
 2. God the Father / Theology
 3. God the Son / Christology
 4. God the Spirit / Pneumatology
 5. Creation (Material / Spiritual) | Cosmology
 6. Angels | Angelology
 7. Satan - Demons | Demonology
 8. Man / Anthropology
 9. Sin / Hamartiology
 10. Salvation / Soteriology
 11. Israel / Israelology
 12. Church / Ecclesiology
 13. End Times / Eschatology

PICK A PASSAGE AND WORK THROUGH THESE INSTRUCTIONS