

# **God's Unique Book:**

## **The Bible**

### **Lesson 1**

Unique is defined as: "one and only; single; sole; different from all others; having no like or equal." This definition is particularly appropriate to the Bible for indeed it is unique; one of a kind; different from all others; having no like or equal. And who makes that claim regarding this book? Well, as we shall see God Himself does, through the Bible itself, testified to by the authors of the Bible themselves. Here is a book:

- Written over a 1,500 year span of time.
- Written over 40 generations.
- Written by more than 40 authors from various walks of life including: kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, military generals, government officials, and religious leaders to name a few. For example, Moses was a political leader trained in the universities of Egypt; Peter was a fisherman; Amos a herdsman; Joshua a military general; Nehemiah a cupbearer; Daniel a prime minister; Luke a doctor; David and Solomon were kings; Matthew a tax collector; and Paul a rabbi.

This book was written in different places: Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah in a dungeon, Daniel on a hillside and in a palace, Paul in prison and from various cities in the near and middle east, Luke while traveling, John in exile on the isle of Patmos, while others wrote during the rigors of a military campaign. Some of the books of the Bible were written before the time of Jesus of Nazareth, others after his time on earth, some like David wrote during times of war, others such as Solomon during times of peace. Some books, such as the book of Philippians, reflect great joy by the author even

in the midst of adversity, while other books such as Jeremiah and Lamentations are written from the depths of sorrow and despair.

The Bible is written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. It has been translated, retranslated, and paraphrased more than any other book in history. Its subject matter includes hundreds of controversial topics; yet the Bible speaks with harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation. The major themes of the Bible are:

1. The character and attributes of God, the Father.
2. The character and attributes of God's only begotten Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Christ.
3. The character and attributes of God, the Holy Spirit
4. The fallen and sinful nature of man.
5. The redemption of God's elect through the finished work of Jesus Christ alone.
6. The character and attributes of Satan.
7. The final judgment of God upon Satan and mankind whereby good triumphs over evil; the elect of God, by the grace and mercy of God alone, are saved from the wrath of God; and the "Paradise Lost" of Genesis becomes the "Paradise Regained" of Revelation.

The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book in history. The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Some have observed on the one hand, that the Old Testament foreshadows the New, while on the other hand, the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament. In other words the New Testament is concealed within the Old, while the Old Testament is revealed within the New. Finally, the Old Testament predicts the coming of a person, a promised Messiah or Savior, while the New Testament presents that person. The person presented is the Lord Jesus Christ, who in his birth, life, death, and resurrection fully validates both the Old and New Testaments.

Regardless of what you believe, join us as we study the Bible and investigate for yourself the validity of these claims.



D. Application: from your own life or from the lives of others, cite examples that serve as illustrations of the principles contained in “B” and “C” above.

3. From John 1:1.

A. When did the Word of God originate?

B. With whom is the Word of God equated?

C. In light of “A” and “B” above, how should we view the Word of God?

4. Skeptics have often criticized the Bible by saying that it was written by mere men. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 119:89 and 2 Samuel 23:1-2.

A. Using the above passages as your reference, are the authors of Scripture “writing on their own?” Cite Scripture verses to support your answer.

B. Who is the originator of what is being written?

C. What is the means by which Scripture is communicated to man?  
Again, cite verses of Scripture to support your answer.

D. From the Bible itself, history or your own life, do you have any illustrations of God communicating with man by means of his written word through the Holy Spirit? Please explain.

5. From the following passages, what benefits come from reading, understanding and applying the Word of God?

A. Deuteronomy 8:3

B. Psalm 1:2-3

C. Psalm 119:9

D. Psalm 119:11

E. Psalm 119:24

F. Psalm 119:98-105

G. Psalm 119:130

H. Psalm 119:138

6. The invisible qualities of God's eternal power and divine nature have been made plain to man throughout history in many ways including through the glory of his creation, which is a general revelation of God, (read Genesis 1: 1; Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 33:6, 9; and Romans 1:20), as well as through his written word the Bible, which is a specific revelation of God. In addition, in these last days He has spoken to us through His only begotten son, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2). The written word (the Bible) is sometimes referred to in the Scripture as "truth" or "teaching," at other times it is referred to as "the

law” or “the prophets,” while Jesus Christ is often referred to as the “Living Word.”

In light of the above, what are the stated truths, principles, and promises of God the Father and his son, Jesus Christ, which are to be found in the following passages of Scripture?

A. John 8:31-36

B. John 8:25-30 and John 12:44-50

(1) Who sent Jesus and taught him what to speak?

(2) What are the consequences for those who receive Jesus and his word and for those who do not?

C. John 14:23-24

D. John 17:17

E. From these passages, what promises are we given? What responsibilities do we have?

7. Read Matthew 5:17-18 and Mark 13:31.

A. What does Jesus say about “the Law” or “the Prophets,” that is, the Word of God, as it relates to himself?

B. What does Jesus mean?

C. What inferences and implications do these passages have for us?



8. Thus far in this lesson we have examined various aspects and dimensions of the Word of God. Often, however, our attitude, experience, thoughts, perceptions, feelings, and actions are contrary to the truths of Scripture, creating within us stress, tension, and anxiety. To better understand the nature of this conflict, use a dictionary to define the following terms.

A. Suppose

B. Presuppose

C. Pre-suppositional

D. Why is it important that our pre-suppositional beliefs, sometimes called worldview, be in conformity with Scripture?

9. Read Galatians 6:7-8.

A. What are the consequences we reap when our pre-suppositional (worldview) beliefs, thoughts and actions, are not in conformity with Scripture?

- B. From your knowledge of the Bible, describe some examples, either positive or negative, that are examples of this principle. What results did people reap in these examples?

10. Read 1 John 1:8-9.

- A. What should we do when our attitude, experience, thoughts, perceptions, feelings, and/or actions are contrary to Scripture?

B. Why?

C. God is depicted in this passage as being \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) Therefore, as we confess our sins, what does God promise to do?

(2) What is the benefit and blessing that accrues to us?

(3) From your knowledge of the Bible, or from your own life, do you have an illustration of this principle that would be instructive to others? If so, please explain.