



# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Is the Bible full of contradictions?
- Is the Bible historically and scientifically accurate?
- How Do i know the Bible is the “only” word of God?
- Did the Bible copy from other religious literature?
- Why are there only sixty-six books - and why were so many other books left out?
- Why are there so many Bible translations - and which ones can I trust?
- Why the Bible is the most dangerous book on the planet
- Special tools to use during Bible Study





Lesson 1:

# Developing The Proper Worldview

Instructor: Timothy Flemming, Jr.





# WORLDVIEW

*(wɜrld'vyoo)*

noun: "a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world."



**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**

# ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

*(Source: Google)*

## **God as Creator:**

God is the ultimate source of everything and holds sovereignty over the world.

## **Humanity as Created in God's Image:**

Humans are inherently valuable and have a special relationship with God.

## **The Fall of Man:**

Due to sin, humanity is separated from God and experiences suffering and brokenness.

**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**



# ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

## **Redemption through Jesus Christ:**

Jesus' death and resurrection offer the only way for humans to be reconciled with God and receive salvation (forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God).

## **Moral Absolutes:**

The Bible is the moral compass for humanity, providing clear guidelines for ethical behavior based on God's commands.

## **Purpose in Life:**

A believer's life should be dedicated to serving God and living according to His will.



# ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

## **The Bible exclusively contains God's divine revelation:**

The divine revelation of God is only found in the Bible and no other religious text.

## **The cultural references in the Bible are Middle Eastern (Jewish):**

The Bible was primarily written by Jews, providing context for the social and political situations.

## **The Bible is infallible and inerrant:**

The Bible doesn't contain errors, contradictions and mistakes, and is the most accurate source of information there is.



# ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

## **God is good:**

There is no evilness in God's nature, and all of His actions are just.

## **God is consistent:**

God's nature doesn't evolve, and His standard of justice never changes.

## **God is loving:**

Everything God does for us is out of His love for us and is designed to benefit us.



# UNDERSTANDING THE BIG PICTURE

The Bible is not just a historical document; it is a narrative that reveals the overarching theme of God's love for humanity and His plan to redeem us through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

By grasping the central theme of the Bible, you will gain a clearer understanding of God's reasons for including specific information within its pages.

**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**



# SOLVING A JIGSAW PUZZLE

Studying the Bible is like solving a jigsaw puzzle. You have to know where each individual piece goes and how they connect with each other to get the correct understanding of Scripture.

**Question:** What do you need in order to solve a jigsaw puzzle?

**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**



# SOLVING A JIGSAW PUZZLE

**Answer:** An image of the big picture and all of the pieces to the puzzle.

The **big picture** is what the Bible refers to as “**the whole counsel of God**” (Acts 20:27). When we don’t have the whole (big) picture, we turn individual pieces into separate doctrines, which is heresy.

**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**



# THE THEME OF THE BIBLE (BIG PICTURE)

Adam: **Mankind**

Seth: **Appointed**

Enosh: **Mortal**

Kenan (Cainan): **Sorrow**

Mahalalel: **The Blessed God**

Jared: **Shall come down**

Enoch: **Teaching**

Methuselah: **His death shall bring**

Lamech: **The despairing**

Noah: **Comfort or Rest**

**“Mankind [is] appointed mortal sorrow, [but] the Blessed God shall come down teaching [and] His death shall bring the despairing rest.”**

**Lesson 1: Developing The Proper Worldview**



Lesson 2:

# Gathering The Right Tools

Instructor: Timothy Flemming, Jr.





# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Get a Study Bible

A Study Bible such as the **Life Application Study Bible** (the NLT is my preference) is a Bible that provides contextual information at the beginning of each book:

- Who wrote the book
- To whom was the book written
- When was the book written
- The central theme of that book

## Context Matters

The greatest example of this is found in the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Each book was written for a specific purpose and a specific audience.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Context Matters

**Matthew:** Written by Matthew to the Jews who were awaiting the Messiah and were already familiar with Old Testament prophecies. Hence, Matthew reveals focuses strongly on the lineage of Jesus, revealing that He's from the Davidic bloodline.

**Mark:** Written by Mark to the Greeks and Romans, which is why it depicts Jesus as an authoritative figure and contains more demonstrations of Jesus' power—exorcising demons and performing miracles.

**Luke:** Written by Luke to the Gentiles and contains more examples of Jesus' love and compassion for the oppressed and marginalized, depicting Him as a gentle and universal Savior equipped to solve the problems plaguing all of mankind.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Context Matters

**John:** Written by John to Jew and Gentile alike, emphasizing primarily the deity of Christ. John's goal was to focus on the divine nature of Jesus and present Him as the Son of God. In John's Gospel, we find more "I am" statements from Christ, revealing Jesus' identity as the divine Savior, as the eternal God—the Creator of all things and hope for all mankind.

Other examples:

**Hebrews:** Although the author is unknown (and is often attributed to Paul), the reason for the book is simple: this book was written to Jewish Christians who were facing persecution and were tempted to revert to their former Jewish faith; hence, it's filled with references to the Jewish temple and ceremonial system.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Context Matters

**Romans:** Written by the Apostle Paul to Gentile Christians (the Church of Rome) for the purpose of explaining the sinfulness of mankind and the power we have over sin through Christ. Paul endeavors to dissuade Believers from participating in the vile culture and encourage them to live and behave as followers of Christ. The City of Roman, like its surrounding cities, carried a unique set of customs, cultural and spiritual beliefs, and environmental challenges, and these were the things Paul had to address.

**1 Corinthians:** Written by the Apostle Paul to the Gentile Christians in the City of Corinth, a wealthy town known for its temple dedicated to Aphrodite whose temple prostitutes drew wealthy merchants near and far and posed specific problems for the women in that church.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Exercise:

**At the beginning of each book, look at the beginning of that book and record the contextual information such as...**

- Who wrote it
- To whom it was written
- When was it written
- The major theme(s) covered

**Do this before reading the book. The advantage this will give you is...**

- You'll understand the unique challenges the target audience faced
- You'll discover how those challenges relate to your specific circumstance
- You'll understand the specific message the author was conveying in the book



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Context Matters

**Grammar:** The immediate sentence and paragraph within which a word or phrase is found.

**Synthesis:** Comparing it with other parts of Scripture for a fuller meaning.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Get a Greek/Hebrew Concordance

It's critically important to note that the Bible was originally written using two languages: Hebrew and Koine Greek.

"Koine Greek is an ancient form of the Greek language that was widely spoken from around 300 BC to 300 AD, while Modern Greek is the contemporary version of the language spoken today. The two differ significantly in phonology, vocabulary, and grammar, with Modern Greek being more simplified and having evolved from Koine over centuries." (Source: Google)



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Get a Greek/Hebrew Concordance

During the time of Nehemiah (5th Century BC), the Hebrew language was a dead language, so the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek. Since Greek was a common language at the time due to Hellenization, the **Septuagint** (LXX), the Greek translation of the Old Testament, produced between 280 and 150 B.C.E; it is named after the tradition that seventy Jewish scholars translated the Torah—the first five books of the Bible—into Greek, became the standard version of scripture used by Jews through the time of Jesus.



# THE RIGHT TOOLS

## Get a Greek/Hebrew Concordance

Most Bible translations are based on the **Masoretic Text**, which was created around the 7th Century A.D. The Masoretic Text (MT) is the authoritative Hebrew text of the Old Testament for Rabbinic Judaism. It gets its name from the Masoretes (Masorites), Jewish scribes and scholars working between the 7th and 10th centuries C.E., dedicated to preserving the text of the Hebrew Bible.

The Masoretes sought to maintain the original text while adding a system of vowels and accents to standardize pronunciation and interpretation, as the original Hebrew was only written in consonants. The MT has been foundational for modern translations of the Old Testament due to its presumed fidelity to the original text.

## Lesson 2: Gathering The Right Tools



Lesson 3:

# The Best Approach To Studying The Bible

Instructor: Timothy Flemming, Jr.






# THE BEST APPROACH

**There Are Two Main Approaches:**

Topical Approach

Linear Approach

**Lesson 3: The Best Approach To Studying The Bible**






# THE BEST APPROACH

**Topical Approach:** This is where you study the Bible by searching up topics (i.e. Salvation, God's love, Healing, etc.)

**Linear Approach:** This is where you start at the beginning of a book (or the first book of the Bible: Genesis) and decide to read through it, chapter by chapter



**Lesson 3: The Best Approach To Studying The Bible**



# THE BEST APPROACH

## Topical Approach

### Pros:

You get to the topic and information a lot faster

### Cons:

You run the risk of taking a verse out of context and walking in error



# THE BEST APPROACH

## Topical Approach Cons (examples):

- Jeremiah 29:11
- Philippians 4:13
- Rev 3:20
- Matthew 18:20
- Matthew 7:1
- Romans 8:38
- Luke 6:38



# THE BEST APPROACH

## Linear Approach

### Pros:

You get the big picture of what's going on, minimizing the risk of waking in error due to taking a verse out of context

### Cons:

This approach takes longer to get to the heart of the matter. And without understanding the "Big Picture" theme of the Bible, you may find yourself feeling lost while taking this approach, finding it difficult to put the piece together and make sense of what you're reading.



# THE BEST APPROACH

## Topics To Research

### Salvation:

Why was salvation necessary?

What happened in this world to cause a need for salvation?

What was God's plan of salvation?

What was the significance of the Levitical system of worship (the Tabernacle/Temple of Jerusalem, purpose of shedding the blood of animals, etc.)?

Why was it necessary for Jesus to come to earth and shed His blood on the cross?

### The Grace of God:

What is the biblical definition of grace (remember to use your Greek/Hebrew Concordance)?

Does grace free man from the Commandments of God?

Does grace give us the freedom to live in sin?

Can grace run out?



# THE BEST APPROACH

## **Sin:**

What is sin and why is sin so dangerous according to the Bible?

What is the biblical solution to sin?

## **Angels and Demons:**

What does the Bible teach us about angels and demons?

What are the characteristics of angels and demons?

What are the assignments of angels according to the Bible?

What are the different types of angels in the Bible?

What are the different classifications (types) of demonic entities according to the Bible?

## **Heaven and Hell:**

Who goes to Heaven and who goes to Hell according to the Bible?

What sends men to Hell according to the Bible?

What are the characteristics of Heaven and Hell according to the Bible?

**Lesson 3: The Best Approach To Studying The Bible**



# THE BEST APPROACH

## **The Trinity**

What is the Trinity?

Does the Bible support the idea of a Trinity? If so, where?

What are the roles of each member of the Trinity?

## **The Commandments of God**

What are the 10 Commandments, and where are they found?

What was God's purpose for giving man the laws according to the Bible?

Which of God's Commandments still apply to us today, and which ones don't—and why?

## **The Covenant**

What is a covenant and what is its significance according to the Bible?

What are examples of God's covenant with man in the Old Testament and New Testament?

What is God's covenant with the Church according to the New Testament?

**Lesson 3: The Best Approach To Studying The Bible**



Lesson 4:

# The 2 Pillars of Biblical Authority

Instructor: Timothy Flemming, Jr.





# THE 2 PILLARS OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Two Pillars Are:

History

Prophecy

Lesson 4: The 2 Pillars of Biblical Authority





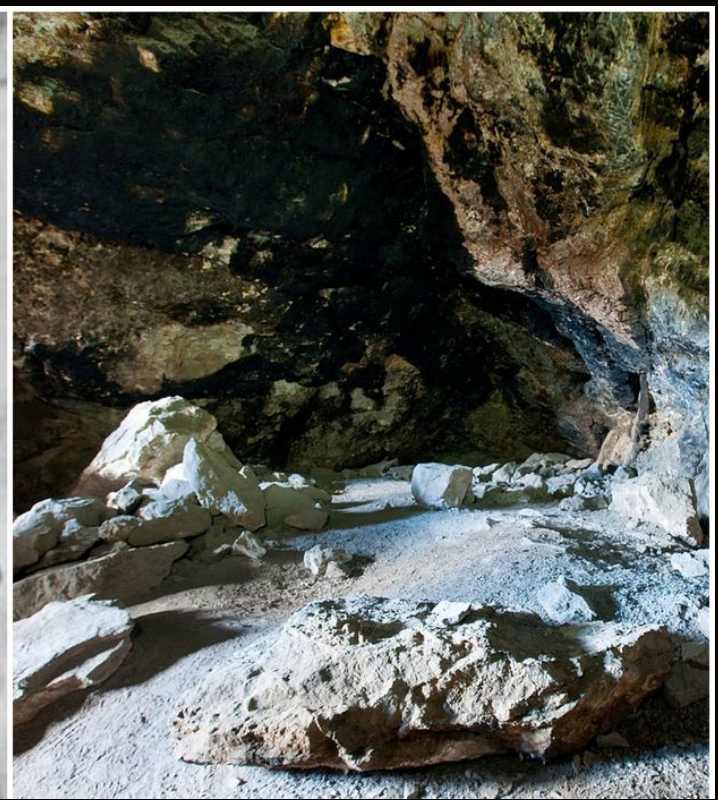
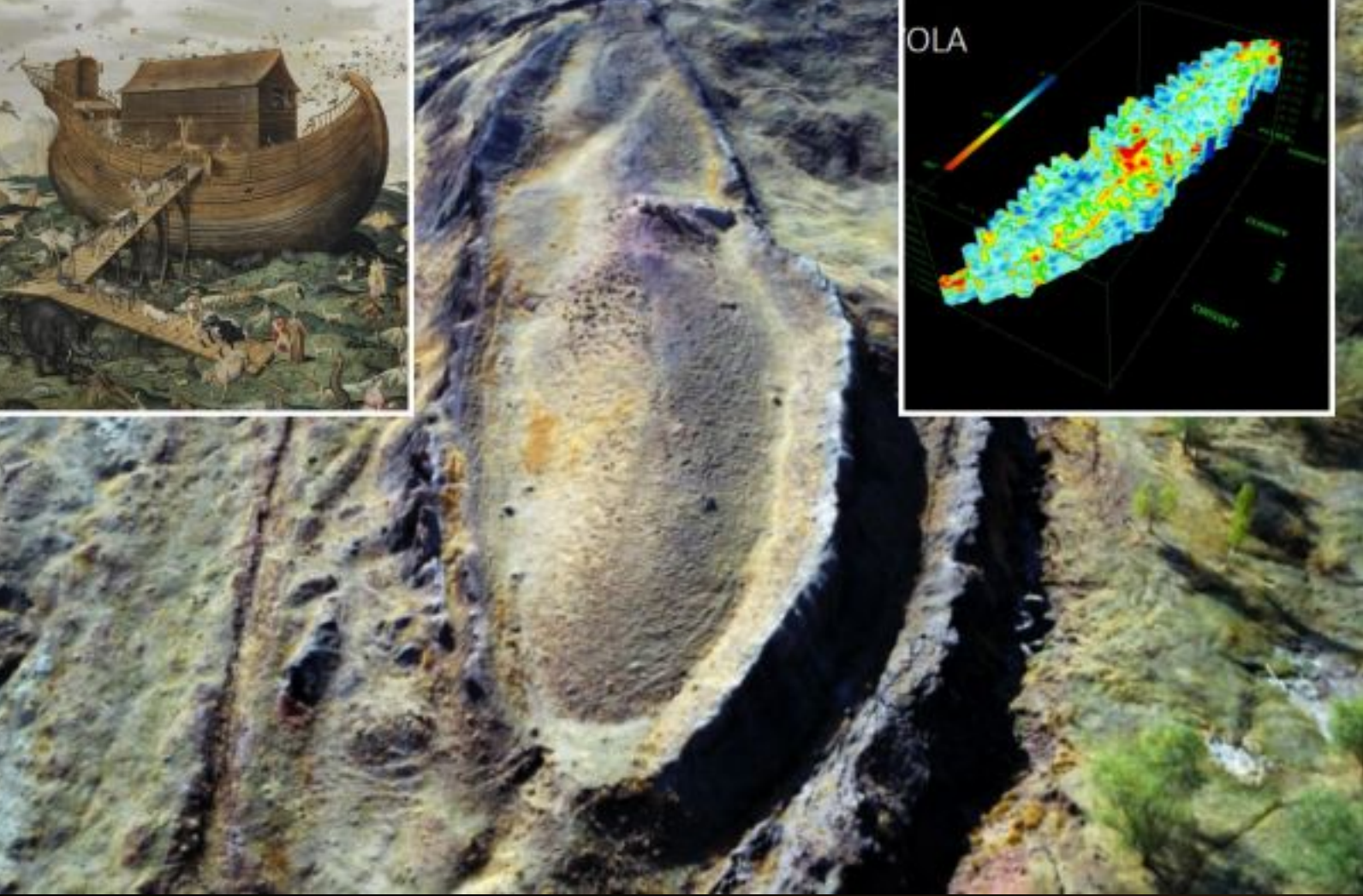
# THE 2 PILLARS OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

## History

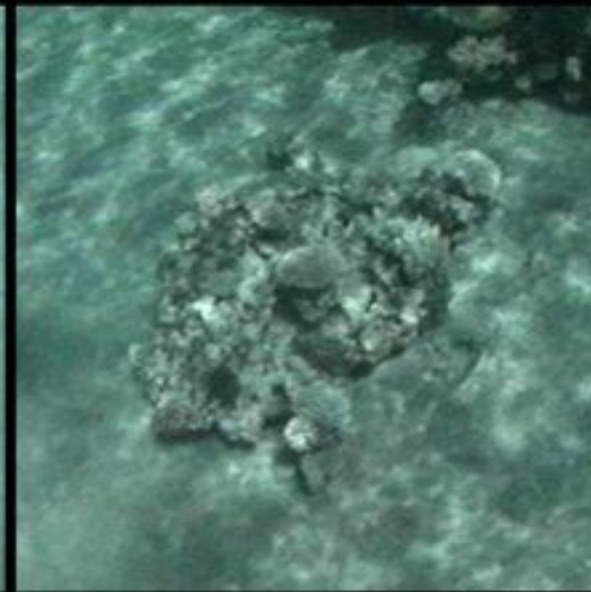
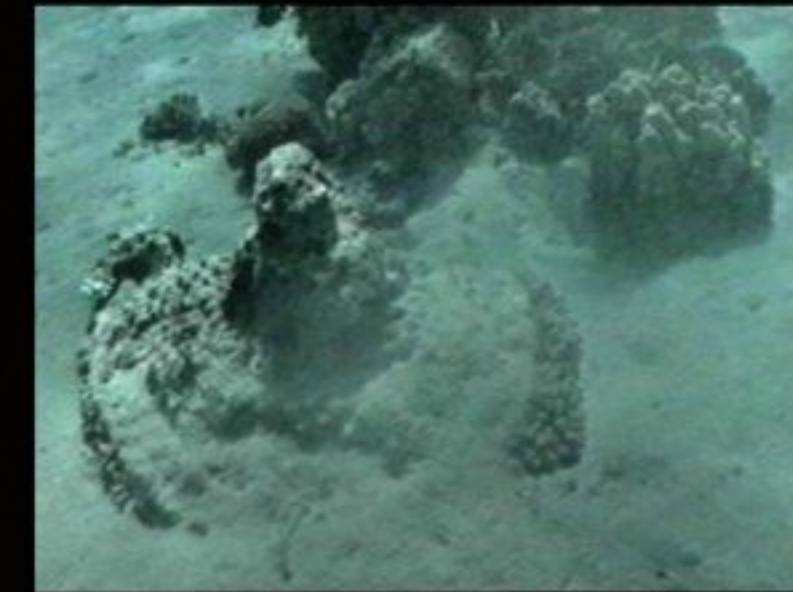
Much of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, is filled with historical data detailing the events in earth's past: **evidence of Intelligent Design, evidence of one matriarch of the human family (mitochondrial DNA), existence of giant humans, the flood of Noah, destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, day the sun stood still, existence of Jesus—including His death and resurrection, etc.**

The #1 tool in verifying the historical accounts in the Bible is archeology.





# Archeological Evidence





# Suggested Books and Videos

## Books:

- Ray Comfort “Scientific Facts In The Bible”
- Antony Flew “There Is A God”
- Michael A Cremo “Forbidden Archeology”
- Steve Quayle “Genesis 6 Giants”

## Videos:

- “Mountain of Fire: Search For The True Mt. Sinai” (YouTube & Amazon)
- “Sodom & Gomorrah: Archaeologist DISCOVERS Startling Evidence | FULL EPISODE | The Rosenberg Report” (YouTube)
- “Top 5 Scientific Reasons Noah's Flood ACTUALLY Happened” (YouTube)
- “Indisputable Evidence of Noah's Ark” — Renner Ministries (YouTube)



# THE 2 PILLARS OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

## Prophecy

Much of the Bible is also filled with prophecies big and small that prove its author is supernatural in nature: **300+ prophecies about Jesus, 70 weeks of years prophecy from Daniel 9, prophecy about the coming nations by Daniel 7, the rebirth of the Nation of Israel from Ezekiel 37, end-times events including the rise of artificial intelligence in Revelation, Egypt never again being a superpower (Ezekiel 29:15), The Euphrates River drying up (Isaiah 11:15, 19:5), etc.**