

God Has Spoken
Tract Series

**An Introduction
to the Study of
The Bible**

by A. L. Parr

If someone has given you this tract it was probably for one of two reasons: either you are being encouraged to undertake a study of the Bible, or you have already decided to take up that study.

Congratulations! You now have before you the greatest opportunity – leading to the highest attainment – you will ever know! Since man is actually a spirit being dwelling for a short time in the flesh, when the flesh decays YOU will live on forever. In all your eternal existence you will never face a more important decision than the one facing you right now: what will you do about the message of the Bible?

But what is the Bible, and why is the study of it so important? The answer begins with a definition of the word itself, and is completed in its amazing content.

THE BOOKS

The word “bible” comes into the English language from a Greek word spelled almost the same. It means “book,” and it is translated that way throughout the Bible (Matthew 1:1; Mark 12:26; Acts 1:20; Revelation 3:5; 20:12, 15).

As in Revelation 20:12 the word “books” is plural, so the Bible actually is a library of 66 different books. These books were written by about 40 different men over a period of about 1600 years, yet they all share a single purpose: the salvation of man through Jesus Christ, the son of God.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds
(Hebrews 1:1-2).

These 66 books were written in the languages of the people who wrote them: some in Hebrew, some in Greek, and a few brief sections in Aramaic. They have been translated over the years into more than 1500 different languages so that all the world can read the Bible for themselves.

THREE QUESTIONS

Of all the books ever written, only the Bible has been proven to answer accurately the most important questions of human life.

WHERE AM I FROM? How did man come to be on earth in the first place? Modern man is continually bombarded with the news that his existence is nothing more than an accident of mindless, unplanned and uncontrolled evolution. Honest minds are not satisfied with that assertion because it leaves them with a haunting feeling that it just doesn't answer all the questions. The Bible teaches that man is the crowning glory of God's creation (Genesis 1:26-28) – and the Bible (unlike evolution) has been proven true!

WHY AM I HERE? Listening to the so-called “experts” on society and psychology, man is left with the impression that his highest ideal in life is to do or to be “good.” Being a “good” person is commendable, and doing “good” to one's neighbor is certainly preferable in the eyes of that neighbor to doing him “bad.” Still, one is left with the question: “WHY?” If man is an accident of creation and the end of the flesh is the end of man's existence, why does it really matter what we are or how we behave? “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When we learn from the Bible of God's love for his creation and the blessings he has promised to all who are faithful to him, we learn the true purpose of life.

WHERE AM I GOING? Evolutionists claim that man has no destiny other than death and oblivion. This, too, leaves many unanswered questions and haunting fears. People who are not familiar with God's answer to this important question are led to deny God's existence and his influence in their lives. Consequently, they are left with no real purpose in life, no goal worth achieving, and no hope worth holding. In his parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus prints on the mind of the Bible reader a clear picture of the true destiny of man: A Heaven of peace and rest free from pain and problems for the faithful – and for the disobedient a Hell of intense torment and suffering.

BEFORE WE STUDY

What, then, is the Bible? Where did it come from? Finally, why, really, do I need to study it? Let the Bible itself answer these questions.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE? “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

“Now all these things happened unto them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (I Corinthians 10:11).

“When you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God” (I Thessalonians 2:13).

HOW DID THE BIBLE ORIGINATE? “[P]rophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (II Timothy 3:16).

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches” (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE BIBLE? “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (II Peter 1:3).

“[W]e must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to that he has done, whether good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10).

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent me gave me a command, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:48-49).

IT'S YOUR DECISION (FOR NOW)

No one will – or indeed can – force you to study the Bible. That is your decision alone. If you have already decided to study to be sure of your salvation, may God bless your every effort to that end.

If you have not yet made that commitment, that, too, is your prerogative, but consider this. Someday you WILL face Jesus and you WILL confess his name, even though it may be too late to do you any good, for God “has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7).

In anticipation of that great judgment day God, after raising Jesus from the dead, “also has highly exalted Him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

Please don't wait until it's too late. Start your study of God's word today. One who wants to assist you in studying, and support you in faith is:



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