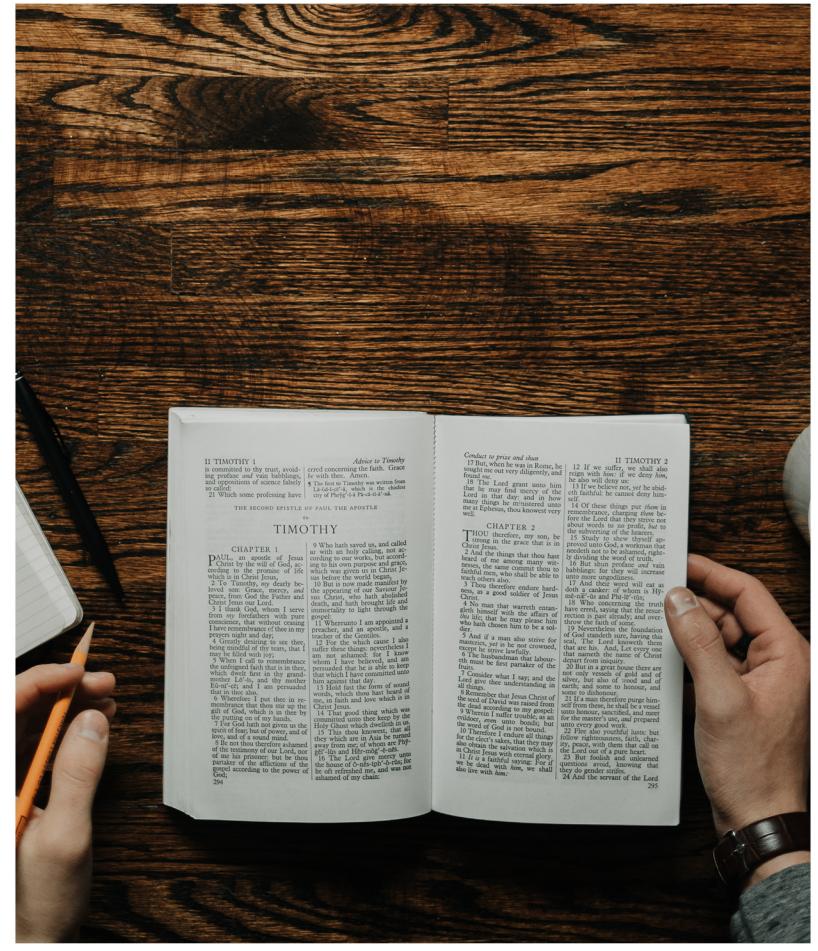


## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BIBLE STUDY

# WHAT IS BIBLE STUDY?



*Advice to Timothy*  
11 TIMOTHY 1  
is committed to thy trust, provide  
the young menbabes, so  
to professors of science fidelity  
so called.  
21 Which some professing have

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

CHAPTER 1  
PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according  
to the promise of life which was given me in Christ Je-  
sus,  
2 To Timothy, my dearly be-  
loved son, I thank God, who hath  
gracious gifts given me to you  
from God the Father and  
Christ Jesus,  
3 I thank God, whom I serve  
from my heart, because I have  
remembered thee in my  
prayers; 4 Greatly desirous to see  
them before I die, that they may be filled with joy;  
5 Now I exhort thee, therefore,  
the unfeigned faith that is in them,  
which is in Christ Jesus; and if  
thy mother Lois, and thy mother  
Eunice, have learned  
it, tell them also.  
6 Whereunto I am appointed, a  
militiaman in Christ Jesus, and a  
strong man in the grace that  
is strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
7 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
8 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
9 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

12 But when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.  
13 And when I had come to him,  
he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

17 Bus when he was in Rome, he  
sought me out very diligently, and  
found me.

18 And when I had come to him,

he said, "I have heard that  
you have labored hard, and on how  
many things he had written  
me, that you knewest very  
well."  
CHAPTER 2  
12 Tim: 2  
13 Strong in the grace that is  
given unto God, and I am  
not ashamed; for I know  
whom I have believed, and I am  
persuaded that he is able to keep  
me until that day.  
14 For I know well the form of sound  
words, which thou hast learned  
in Christ Jesus;  
15 How good things which we  
have heard, and how sound  
Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us  
the faithful.  
16 For I have been delivered  
of the testimony of our Lord, one  
partake of the afflictions of the  
people according to the power of  
God;

204

FISOLA TAIWO

# What is Bible Study?

By

Fisola Taiwo



Simply Pretty  
IG: simplyprettybooks

## **DEDICATION**



**This book is dedicated to Prof. and Mrs  
Ojo who hammered home the need to stay  
grounded in the word.**

# **CONTENTS**



<b><u>FOREWORD</u></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><u>THE WHO</u></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><u>THE WHAT</u></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><u>THE HOW</u></b>	<b>31</b>
<b><u>HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE</u></b>	<b>34</b>
<b><u>UNDERSTANDING BIBLE TEXT</u></b>	<b>38</b>
<b><u>APPRECIATION</u></b>	<b>41</b>

# **FOREWORD**



The Bible is a collection of history, God's words, and mysteries that are impossible to understand except with the help of the principal author: the Holy Spirit. Its pages hold stories, wisdom, and guidance that have shaped civilizations, inspired countless souls, and provided a foundation for belief.

Fisola Taiwo is the convener of "The Move"; a strategic and high-impact kingdom movement that is shaping the lives of the young and old, in the South Western regions of Nigeria. He has devoted his life to studying the Word of God, spiritual mentorship and mentoring, staying in God's presence, and asking questions from God and his spiritual parents. He brings a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and a profound reverence for the scriptures to this endeavor. With meticulous research and a deep understanding of the historical and cultural contexts, they offer readers a clear and insightful roadmap for approaching the Bible.

In this comprehensive guide, Fisola Taiwo embarks on a voyage to unlock the depths of the scriptures. "What is Bible Study" is a labor of love, crafted to assist seekers, scholars, and believers alike in their pursuit of a deeper connection with the Word. Through these pages, he has provided practical techniques, historical context, and thoughtful reflections designed to illuminate your path to a more profound comprehension of the Bible. From the intricacies of interpretation to the power of personal thought, this book is a compass for those who seek to navigate the terrain of scripture with purpose and understanding.

May this book find its place as an indispensable tool in your pursuit of a deeper understanding of the Word. It is my honor to commend this work to you, confident that it will enrich your spiritual journey in profound and lasting ways.

Warm regards,  
**Oludotun Olayinka.**

# **INTRODUCTION**



Bible study is a deliberate act to know the mind of God by reading the Holy Scriptures (Genesis to Revelations) It is impossible to explore the entire scope of bible study in one short note. However, I will attempt to condense as much as possible into this note.

There are a few things to note about the Bible:

1. It is a collection of writings (letters, historical accounts, artistic expressions) inspired by the holy spirit and written by men. Thus while the intent (design) is perfect, the execution is not always perfect. In other words, there are some contrasting statements, complex expressions, and potentially misleading imagery that cannot be taken at face value. 2nd Tim 3:16

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:  
2 Timothy 3:16, KJV*

2. Due to the involvement of man in the process of “creating” the bible (particularly in compilation and translations), we now must be very careful in our perusal of the scriptures. I believe this is because language is not fully equipped to communicate the mind of God and also, the best of man is still prone to make mistakes.

3. The bible has a purpose and that purpose is eternal and everlasting, it has not evolved, it is not evolving and it would

not evolve. I believe this is because the source and/or the inspiration of the Bible is a being that is outside of time. He is not controlled by time and so his perspective while always relevant to the present goes from eternity past to eternity future.

*The study of God's word for the purpose of discovering God's will is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest characters*

- James W. Alexander

I would like for us to use the who, what, and how model in our attempt to understand the Bible.

# THE WHO



## **WHO WROTE THE BIBLE AND TO WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN.**

The bible was written by men who knew and served God over at least 1000 years. The first credited author is Moses and the last is John.

The Who can further be divided into the following subsets;

1. Who inspired it ?(the source).
2. By whom was it physically written?
3. To whom was it written? (historical audience/recipients).
4. For whom was it written? (past, present, and future audience).
5. Of whom was it written?(the main character(s)).

### **1. WHO INSPIRED IT?**

Simply put, the Bible is inspired by the spirit of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, KJV

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17, KJV

**The holy spirit can thus be said to be the authentic author of Scripture.** A mentor of mine once described human writers

as “pencils in the hands of the original creative”

The lord is the originator, guide, editor, and concluder of this divine book. Some have described the bible as a (love) letter from God to humankind.

*The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home*  
- Augustine of Hippo.

## **2. BY WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN PHYSICALLY?**

Physical writing is credited to over 35 different authors who lived over a range of 1000–2000 years. These authors include Moses, David, Solomon, Matthew, Luke, and John.

## **3. TO WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN?**

I think that this section deserves an entire book dedicated to it as it is simply inexhaustible once we begin to look at the spiritual, social, cultural, political, historical, and even original context of each piece of writing. For example one of the most popular portions of the Bible is John 3:16 (KJV)

*John 3:16, KJV*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Spiritually, this passage is written to as many as will listen and either receive salvation or better understand the salvation they have received.

However, the original recipient of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in this statement is aimed at a certain Jewish man called Nicodemus. John 3:1-3

*John 3:1-3, KJV*

*There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: he same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Still, the entire book of John was written by the apostle John and it appears to have been written with the primary aim of validating Jesus as a man and as the savior of mankind, sent and anointed by God for this purpose while also testifying of his earthly and divine ministry. John 21:24.

*John 21:24, KJV*

*This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.*

You may ask why it is important that we have this kind of level of background information on the verses of scripture. My response is so that we do not misinterpret the statements and also, to maintain the true import of the statements that make up the word of God because as we would eventually see, the bible was very deliberately written and God places premium value on His words. Isaiah 40v8, Matthew 5v18.

*Isaiah 40:8, KJV*

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

*Matthew 5:18, KJV*

*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

**Therefore it follows that we the listeners and readers of this message are equally as deliberate about our understanding of this scripture. 2nd Tim 2:15.**

*2 Timothy 2:15, KJV*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**Nevertheless, no matter how we “divide” the word of truth, we should all remember that the bible is a multi-dimensional book and it is therefore written;**

**A. For nonbelievers to learn of a God who wants them saved.**  
**1st Tim 2:4.**

*1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV*

*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*

*4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of*

**B. For believers to learn of who saved us, why we were saved, how, when, from what, and finally into what we have been saved. John 3.**

*The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation*

*D.L Moody*

**C. Any and everyone who cares to read.**

## **4. FOR WHOM IT WAS WRITTEN?**

The Bible was written for the benefit of all the children of God.  
2nd Tim 3;16, Joshua 1;8

*Joshua 1:8, KJV*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

**It was written to help Christians who already have faith and to give the gift of faith to those who need faith. Romans 10;17.**

*Romans 10:17, KJV*

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

## **5. OF WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN?**

This can be rephrased as Who does the bible talk about? I must once again remind you, dear reader that the Bible is supremely multi-dimensional and so it would be inaccurate to just say the bible talks about one person. However, no matter how we cut this deck of cards, one is always guaranteed to be at the top and the always winning card is Jesus Christ.

The Bible can be divided into 3 major eras

1. Pre-physical Jesus as a man on Earth era.
2. The physical Jesus as a man on Earth era.
3. The post-Jesus as a man on earth era.

The interesting thing is this;

The first era (Genesis-Malachi) is indicative, promissory, and prophetic of Jesus coming as a man to save humankind, on the other hand, the second era documents his earthly sojourn from his birth to his death and resurrection (Matthew-Acts 1). Finally, the third era speaks primarily of

the immediate and eternal impact of Jesus's works on earth as Lord and Savior (Acts 1-Revelations).

This notwithstanding, we must note that there were/are key figures who must be noted and understood in the Bible if it is to make wholesome meaning to the reader. In my opinion, these characters can be categorized as follows( please note that one person may appear across many categories)

**1. The Patriarchs** - This being the name I give to all who had faith in God and acted in obedience to him before Jesus was born e.g. Abraham, Elijah, and Joseph & Mary, the parents of Jesus.

A very interesting fact about these people is that their lives are like a pre-edited cut of either Jesus' earthly ministry or the product of his earthly ministry.

**2. The Prophets** - This is a very interesting category of people who for the sake of this study, I will define as those who spoke or wrote directly about the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**3. The Opponents** -This group can simply be defined as those who opposed the gospel across the ages and did all they could to stop, destroy or detract from it whether knowingly or unknowingly. Examples are Cain, Jezebel, Ahab, Paul before he was saved, the Jews, and Satan.

**4. The disciples of Jesus** - This category is limited to those who were under the direct tutelage of Jesus while he was on earth. Examples are Peter, John, and James.

**5. Believers** - The believers are any who have accepted salvation following the birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Once again, the bible proves to be Christocentric. Luke 24v44.

Luke 24:44, KJV

*And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

**This for me is why it has been and remains the best book in human history.**

# **THE WHAT**



The Bible is the word of God, and it is essentially a message about his love for us. This message was practically delivered by the person of Jesus and his death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.

For the sake of this discussion, I would be expounding on the "what" of the bible from a place of its content. This means that I will categorize the bible into what I call the cardinal messages.

These cardinal points are very crucial in making meaning not just of the bible but also of life. I believe that once the cardinal points are settled in a person's mind, every other thing takes shape. The most common conclusion that results from an understanding of these truths goes something like this;

"God is good", "Jesus is King", "I am loved by a divine father" and "Sin destroys"

## **CARDINAL POINT 1 – THE CREATOR.**

There is a creator of everything we have known, everything we know, and everything we will know.

To many, the book Genesis is the book of beginnings, and in a sense, this is accurate, however, the very book of Genesis lets us know that it is not the book of "eternal" beginnings but rather the book of the beginnings of TIME, SPACE and MATTER as we know these elements.

In the first chapter of the book, we see an explosion of information, and the first question that comes to my mind is, who has/had the original template?

In the first verse, we are introduced to the originator of the world and so it follows that our knowledge is “limited” by the following elements since these elements (I believe) were introduced to guide our interactions with the world that was made for us to dwell in;

## 1. Time;

The first reference to time is in Genesis 1v1 “In the beginning”.

*Genesis 1:1, KJV*

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

If this was the original beginning, then how come there is an initiator called God? The answer is simple; this is the beginning of what was made for Man. And so as far as understanding the origins of humanity, Genesis is the beginning. However, I believe it is illogical to assume that this is the beginning of God.

And so in Genesis, the bible says “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”.

Thus, we see that time was created and the bible immediately assumes the position of record keeper with a duty of documentation, through a system called times and seasons.

In verse 4, the concepts of day and night are introduced. In Ecclesiastes 1v4-9 we are taught by the Preacher that there is something called times and seasons and we see a relationship between this and the tides and motions of the earth.

*Ecclesiastes 1:4-9, KJV*

*One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.*

*The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.*

*The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.*

*All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.*

*All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it. the eye is not satisfied*

*with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.  
The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done  
is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

## **2. Space;**

Once again I must refer to the book of Genesis because as stated earlier, this book contains the origins of things. We see the first description of movement, partitions, and distance in Genesis 1.

In verse 1 of chapter 1, we see the initiation of the process now known as the “creation” and a key component of this creation is the partitioning of the earth from the heavens. We also see the creation of the partitions of land from water, however for a clearer understanding of this conception, we must look beyond Genesis.

The prophet Isaiah gives us such an interesting insight into space in chapter 40 of his book. He presents a very important perspective on the originality of creation. He talks about how God never needed the input of any outside himself to create the world. I recommend a study of this chapter for any seeking to understand the brilliance of God’s creativity.

## **3. Matter.**

Yet again we must return to the Book of Genesis to understand the inception of Matter.

The idea of matter is that it is tangible. And this is what we see when we read that he created the heavens and the earth. The earth is a reference to the tangible components while the heavens refer to space. *Isaiah 48v13.*

*Isaiah 48:13, KJV*

*Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.*

And so the very idea of substance is substantiated initially by the bible. God made all the tangible things (seen) and

nothing that we see would exist outside of his creation. One supremely interesting statement that the scripture makes on this is in Psalms 148 which commands various elements of creation from the stars to man to praise God for creating them and sustaining them.

## CARDINAL POINT 2 – SIN

This very interesting subject is easy to understand if one is willing to subject all previous understanding and knowledge to the supremacy of the Bible's teaching.

In other words, it is possible to form opinions on sin that look good but are very evil and far from the truth of God's word. For example, the world today is very accepting of fornication and would do everything to normalize it fornication will be referred to by every name (cohabiting, friends-with-benefits, Besties, school parents, and so on) possible but the very word "fornication".

No matter how desensitized we are to fornication as a sin, it changes nothing about both its nature(sin) and its effects (spiritual death and separation from the love of God).

The Bible unequivocally informs us of the following things about sin:

### 1. The origin of sin. (Romans 5:12-19)

Romans 5:12-19, KJV

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by

*Sin is the assassin of the soul; it murders the life of grace, and leaves the dead body of the soul to rot in the grave of hell"*  
-Charles Spurgeon

grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.  
16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment  
It was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto  
justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they  
which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall  
reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to  
condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came  
upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the  
obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

## **2. The nature of sin. (Psalms 51;5 –its universality)**

*Psalm 51:5, KJV*

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

## **3. The effects of sin. (Ephesians 2;1)**

*Ephesians 2:1, KJV*

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

## **4. The promise of a savior from sin (Matthew 1;20-21)**

*Matthew 1:20-21, KJV*

*20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord  
appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear  
not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is  
of the Holy Ghost.*

*21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for  
he shall save his people from their sins.*

## **5. The channel of salvation from sin (John 11;25 – 26. & Ephesians 2;8)**

*John 11:25-26, KJV*

*25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

*26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

*Ephesians 2:8, KJV*

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is  
the gift of God:*

## **6. The coming of the savior and his effects (Titus 3;5)**

*Titus 3:5, KJV*

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

## **7. The saved (Ephesians 1;17-23)**

*Ephesians 1:17-23, KJV*

*17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

*19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

*20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

*21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

*22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

*23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

## **8. The great commission to save (Mark 16;15-16).**

*Mark 16:15-16, KJV*

*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

## **9. The return of Christ. (Matthew 24;36-44).**

*Matthew 24:36-44, KJV*

*36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

*37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

*38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

*39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall*

also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.  
41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

## 10. The eternal reign of the saints with God (Revelations 1:6).

*Revelation 1:6, KJV*

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

## CARDINAL POINT 3 – THE CREATOR’S NATURE OF LOVE

Many of those I have had the privilege of sharing the gospel with had a hard time believing that God does love them and even more so, that he was deliberate about expressing that natural (his nature is love) love for them.

His love is personal, eternal, and sure.

John 3:16 is probably the most commonly known verse of the Bible and I reckon that the work of missionaries like the Gideons International will further popularize this verse.

A look at the words of the Messiah himself informs all readers and listeners that salvation itself is premised on the love of the Father for us.

*Hebrews 1:1-2, KJV*

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 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;

This love is what has defined the following aspects of our interactions with God;

1. His expressions. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

The greatest attribute of God is love, and it is the essence of His nature

-Charles Spurgeon

## **2. His justice system (John 3:16).**

*John 3:16, KJV*

*16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

## **3. His forgiveness (1st John 1:9).**

*1 John 1:9, KJV*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

## **4. His sacrifice (Romans 3:25).**

*Romans 3:25, KJV*

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

**For emphasis, I will be listing 5 scriptures that declare God's love for us ;**

### **1. Lamentations 3; 22-23**

*22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

*23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

### **2. John 15:12-13**

*12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

*13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

### **3. 1st John 3:1**

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

### **4. Psalms 86:13**

*For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*

## **5. Galatiansns 2;20**

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

## **CARDINAL POINT 4 – THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.**

The birth of Jesus Christ is a very critical topic. It is one of the most vital elements of our salvation primarily because it proves that Jesus was a man (which validates his Messiahship). In addition to this, it also details the birth of Jesus by a woman as prophesied in the old testament. The scriptures concerning his birth can also (be stretched to) include all things about his mortality.

Scriptures on the birth of Jesus can be categorized into three major portions

- A. The scriptures pointing to his birth
- B. The scriptures that record his birth
- C. The scriptures that describe the impact of his birth.

**A. The scriptures pointing to his birth** are very interesting. They are mostly found in the portion of the bible commonly referred to as THE OLD TESTAMENT (more on the Old and New Testament nomenclatures)

These scriptures detail before occurrence the circumstances surrounding his birth: (Mathew 1;18–23.)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

### **His parentage (Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23)**

Isaiah 7:14, KJV

*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Matthew 1:23, KJV

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

### **The place (Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:10)**

Micah 5:2, KJV

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Matthew 2:10, KJV

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

### **The politics of the time of his birth (Hosea 11:1 & Matthew 2:13)**

Hosea 11:1, KJV

*When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

Matthew 2:13, KJV

*And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*

## **B. The scriptures that record his birth**

As previously stated, the scriptures that record his birth are important because they serve as evidence of his humanity and this proves that we can and should trust his ability to save us.

In these scriptures we see Jesus fulfill all the criteria needed for the salvation of all (1st John 2:2)

1 John 2:2, KJV

*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for*

*the sins of the whole world.*

**As well as all the criteria needed to prove his legitimacy as a savior(Luke 2v11 & 1st Timothy 1v15).**

*Luke 2:11, KJV*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

In other words, the historical accounts of his death, burial, and resurrection serve as logically irrefutable evidence of Christ as the savior and the believer as saved. Another way to look at it is this, these scriptures particularly the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are a testament to God's undying love and commitment to man as well as the extent to which he is willing to go to ensure that we are saved.

### **C. The scriptures that describe the impact of his birth.**

In (B) above, I already touched on the impact his life, death, and resurrection have had on those who believe. However, there's a need to further highlight some of the effects of His coming to earth as a man(John 1:14) that many are likely to overlook.

*John 1:14, KJV*

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**First of all, it proves that God is true (he kept his word) and so to be against him is to be false.  
(1st Cor 1:9).**

*1 Corinthians 1:9, KJV*

*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Secondly, we see that there's no other way by which we may be saved from sin (Acts 4:12)**

*Acts 4:12, KJV*

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**Thirdly, we are no longer guilty (subject to punishment) because of the work of Christ (Psalm 103:12 & 2nd Cor 5:21)**

*Psalm 103:12, KJV*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21, KJV*

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**However, it must be noted that while the believer is no longer sinful by nature, while he is no longer under the law, and while he is very much declared righteous by the works of Christ our savior (Acts 13:38-39) we must be circumspect to give full proof of this gift of salvation.**

*Acts 13:38-39, KJV*

*38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:*

*39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

**Also, the nature of sin was defeated by Christ for all, however, the acts of sin remain, and the desire for sin also must be tamed. A common mistake we make is to assume that we have to conquer sin consciousness despite the work of Jesus on the cross when rather, we are equipped to conquer sin because of the work of Christ on the cross.**

**Beyond sin, I believe a major impact of the work of Christ is how much of God we can replicate on earth. For example, the temple built by Bezaleel and Aholiab is an exact, precise, and accurate representation of the temple such that it had in it the ability to host heavenly beings such that it became a meeting point for God to meet man or earth (Exodus 25:17).**

*Exodus 25:17, KJV*

*And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.*

## **CARDINAL POINT 5 – SONSHIP BY SPIRIT OF GOD**

## (ROM 8;12-16)

Romans 8:12-16, KJV

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**Sonship is one of the most important concepts contained in the bible because it does the following things;**

**1.It confirms God's original intention for humankind.**

**(Romans 8;29)**

Romans 8:29, KJV

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**2.It speaks of our redemption by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1;7)**

Ephesians 1:7, KJV

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

*In Christ and through the Spirit , we experience a rebirth that transforms us from strangers to sons, from orphans to heirs of God's kingdom*

-Rick Warren

**3.Confirms our positions as children of God (Romans 8;15)**

Romans 8:15, KJV

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

**4.Our perfecred victory as sons over sin, sickness and death.**

**(Phillipians 4;13)**

Philippians 4:13, KJV

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**5.Our hope for a future in and with God (John 14;1-4)**

John 14:1-4, KJV

- 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

## **CARDINAL POINT 6. – FELLOWSHIP (1ST JOHN 1:3)**

*1 John 1:3, KJV*

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

**The word Fellowship is descriptive of oneness, singularity of focus, singularity of purpose, a sharing of bonds, union or Communion.**

**According to scriptures, we have fellowship with the father and fellowship in the son and fellowship through the holy spirit as believers. This fellowship is both private and communal. It is personal as much as it collective.(Philemon 1:6)**

*Philemon 1:6, KJV*

*That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

## **CARDINAL POINT 7- THE GREAT COMMISSION. (MATTHEW 28V;9-20)**

- 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.
- 10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.
- 11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.
- 12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,
- 13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.
- 14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

*15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

*16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.*

*17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

*18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

*19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

*20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**The great commission is an assignment that we have all received in Christ Jesus.**

**What is the great commission?**

The great commission is arguably the most popular verse of the bible. And the reason is very clear when you read the verse itself.

**The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20)**

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**We have a very distinct and exact command or obligation to fulfill as followers of the Lord. Since we have become a part of him, since we now figure in him, seeing as we exist in him (Acts 17:28), we only have purpose in him.**

*Acts 17:28, KJV*

*28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

**Our purpose is tied to him because his realities are now ours.  
(1st John 4:17)**

*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

**We have become one with him and so his goals are now ours. His pursuits are now ours. We have the vision of Christ. We have the pursuits of his heart as our own.**

## **WHY SHOULD HE BE FOREMOST ON OUR MINDS**

### **1.He is our saviour (Titus 2;13)**

*Titus 2:13, KJV*

*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

### **2.He is our king (John 12;15)**

*John 12:13, KJV*

*Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

### **3.He is our hope (Col 1;27)**

*Colossians 1:27, KJV*

*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

### **4.He is our master and Lord (John 13;13)**

*John 13:13, KJV*

*Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*

# THE HOW



## HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

This question has to be unpacked for us to truly do justice to it.

How was the bible written could be interpreted as a question of the style or the language. It could also be interpreted as a question of the materials used. I will try to touch on the how from all the above perspectives. This notwithstanding, my primary focus would be the languages and the style.

terms of language and translation, the following key points must be noted;

### WHAT MATERIALS WERE USED IN WRITING THE BIBLE?

Until the fairly recent discovery of the Palestinian

*The use of multiple languages in the Bible reminds us that God's word is for all nations and cultures ,inviting everyone to understand and embrace His message .*

*R.C Sproul*

letters written by their government officials around 1500 BC, it was argued and largely disbeliefed that there was a system of writing that validated Moses's work as an author. The discovery of the letters puts paid to the above. This is not to suggest that Moses had a system of writing comprising of pens and inks. No, nevertheless what he wrote is now beyond question.

So whether it was with stone tablets or papyrus, the fact remains that some people were very dedicated to writing the scriptures and they did a very commendable job.

To the more crucial question of how the bible was written in

1. The primary languages in which the bible was written are Greek and Hebrew. Aramaic is the third most used language in the bible with words, verses and entire chapters of different books such as Jeremiah, Ezra, Daniel and some portions of the synoptic gospels written in Aramaic.
2. The credited authors may not have physically written the actual copies that were translated into modern languages. For example, Moses was not alive at the time of creation, so if he is the credited author for the book of Genesis, then it follows that the original record of creation (whether written or oral) came from Adam and Eve, and was passed down to generations after until Moses could by the help of the holy spirit piece it all together.
3. The bible was divinely authored by the Holy Spirit of God through many different writers over a long time to help us understand God and life with Christ as the curriculum.

Asides from the writing of the bible verses, we have a very important set of contributors who I refer to as compilers who had the interesting job of putting together the scriptures to make a comprehensive piece.

Some of these compilers include but are not limited to:

1. The levitical priests who were tasked with compiling and carrying the written history and the instructions given through Moses to the people of Israel.
2. Saint Jerome is the first known compiler of the bible and he did this in 400 AD. His work is commonly referred to as the Vulgate. The entire compilation consisted of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament all written in Latin.
3. The creed in Nicea – the famous Nicene council is credited for compiling the bible into the most popular version we have today. The primary reason for the gathering was to settle certain differences between various

sects of the church particularly because of the potential effect on the political structure of the Roman Empire.

4. The King James Versions - the first of this version was put together at the request of the English King James in 1604 as he was nobly trying to respond to the issues raised by the Puritans concerning the problems with the translations existing at the time. This remains the most popular rendition of the bible.

While there are other translations with varying renditions I believe the above list sufficiently describes the formation of the bible as we now know it. There are many other iterations of the bible that have their appeal to the Christian audience because of their uniqueness. Some of the more notable versions available today are The Amplified, the Complete Jewish Bible and Young's literal translation.

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE



There are a few models for approaching the bible that I would recommend. However, it must be noted that these are my opinions and are in no way absolute but I have found them to be very effective.

## 1. CONTEXTUAL STUDY OF SCRIPTURES

This is a very safe way of interacting with the bible.

In this system, the student is

meticulous in finding the context of the study and this he does via a study of the preceding verses (pre-texts) and the succeeding verses (post-texts). This system ensures that the original meaning and purpose of the writing as conducted by the authors would be kept as honest as possible.

It makes it easier to retain the original meaning of the texts and this is very important because it ensures that the errors of private interpretation that the apostle Peter warned against are avoided. 2nd Peter 2; 19-21.

*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

*The Bible is not meant to be gulped down like fast food . It is meant to be savored like a fine meal*  
- Warren W. Wiersbe

## **2. CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF SCRIPTURES**

This is a study of the scripture that focuses on the chronological or historical sequence of the events in the bible. This system helps us understand the unfolding of the events of scripture sequentially. This way, the reader can follow the wisdom of God in a very orderly pattern

## **3. BY INSPIRATION**

This in my opinion is the most risky form of bible study. However, it is also probably the most rewarding. I believe this is because what is gained in such a situation is immediately personal and very much applicable to the exact personal context of the individual's situation. Nonetheless, this is very tricky because as evidenced by the level of distortions we find today, we know that when a personal experience becomes established as a doctrine, many followers are led astray and this is in no way pleasant for the body of Christ as a whole.

Contextually, the bible verse commonly used to teach material giving is Luke 6:38.

*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*  
Luke 6:38 NKJV

However, a contextual study reveals that the essence of this particular portion of scripture is to be gentle and merciful in judgment. I suspect that it may have been used by our merciful father to get a minister of the gospel to explain or understand material giving on a personal level, however, the format we find today is very different from what the contextual reading presents as the true purpose.

One personal experience that helped me believe in the ability of the holy spirit to use scripture to help believers is

how Psalms 23 seems to apply to many very differing situations which lead to the restoration of peace and a sense of security. Nonetheless, as suggested earlier, it would be remiss of me to use any of these scenarios to explain God's original intent. I believe that the tendency to equate "how God did it with me" to "how God does it" is a major reason for the differences in doctrines that we have in the body of Christ today.

#### **4. STAND-ALONE APPROACH**

This approach is a very unique one seeing as it simply means to pluck a verse, phrase or portion of scripture, divorce it from every context by solely interpreting and utilizing it on the content itself.

For example, the latter part of Joshua 1v8 says "...you shall make your way prosperous..." while the preceding and succeeding lines and verses bring a context of meditating on the word of God as the key to prosperity, the uprooting of the phrase as seen above may be used to describe, teach or explain how an individual's prosperity is dependent on said individual and so they have to be responsible for it.

I personally enjoy this type of study because it accentuates the uniqueness of the mind of each believer. Nonetheless, I think that whatever is gained by the study of scriptures using this approach is for personal benefit at the most and cannot be presented as doctrine.

#### **5. THEMATIC APPROACH**

Also, known as the topical approach, the thematic approach is one of the most popular types of bible study because of the unique way it posits to address very specific issues. A topical approach would mean that I go through all the

scriptures relating to the topic in question.

For example, if I am doing a study on sacrifice, I could begin my study from Genesis and jump to Psalms and then go to the gospels to hear what Jesus said about it before returning to see how the prophet Samuel conceptualized it. I might eventually settle at the epistles from the apostles.

One benefit of this approach that cannot be overlooked is how it helps us understand the way God sees things and his unchanging character. It usually helps us see the divine process and the pattern of thought. We see how these concepts are developed over a period.

# **UNDERSTANDING BIBLE TEXT**



I believe that the bible is very easy to understand and because this is so, I think it takes very deliberate efforts to complicate the scriptures. Below are some tips on the categorization of scriptural texts to help with bible interpretation.

The bible is comprised of multiple styles of writings that showcase the creativity of the divine author of these verses as well as ability of God to impart, inspire and use different people with their varying inclinations. On the surface this may seem unnecessary but I believe that it is very important to recognize, understand and utilize these nuances while studying the bible.

These are the major categorization of scriptural texts using writing style as the basis;

## **1. HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS.**

The historical texts are very important because they show in a very orderly manner the processes of God in actualizing his intents on earth. For example books like Numbers and the two Chronicles of the kings depict the process by which The Messiah is to come from Abraham and also the geneological pathway of the same Messiah as the seed of David. Even though this is not all that there is to these books, it can be argued that the functions given above are the most important reasons for such books.

## **2. POETIC WRITINGS**

This portions of scriptures are very unique because they first and foremost underline the ability of God as a creative. If somehow, a reader of scriptures misses certain cardinal truths identifiable in the historical accounts, the poetic verses like Psalms and Proverbs bring a new approach to the same topics.

**For example, Jesus as the ultimate expression of God's wisdom is written across scriptures and greatly emphasized in the Epistles (Luke 11:49, 1st Corinthians 1:24)**

*Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,'*  
Luke 11:49 NKJV

*but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

*I Corinthians 1:24 NKJV*

**But if one were to miss this, a study of the book of Proverbs subtly but surely plants it as a seed in one's heart.**

### **3. PROPHETIC WRITINGS.**

These portion of scripture can be easily understood by dividing into 4 parts

1. Prophecies concerning Jesus that he has fulfilled (his birth, death & resurrection, his travelling to and from Egypt).
2. Prophecies concerning Jesus he will fulfil ( his triumphal return to wed the church).
3. Prophecies concerning the believers that have been fulfilled ( the presence of the holy spirit within).
4. Prophecies concerning believers that will be fulfilled (reigning with Christ in majesty).



## **APPRECIATION**



**I want to appreciate everyone that contributed  
to the success of this book. Most especially my  
beloved mother and brothers.**

**Special thanks to Dr Odunlade for his  
tremendous support.**

