

# BIBLE FIRST!



Dear Friend,

Congratulations on beginning your chronological study of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. The Bible is the Holy Word of the Living God, and He wrote it to be read and understood by all, that we might come to have a personal relationship with Him. The Bible reveals the character of God, His love for us, His passion for righteousness, and His plan for the ages. Most importantly, the Bible introduces us to our Savior: the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you begin your study, we would like to remind you that your final authority is the Bible itself. This course is simply a guide, which we hope will enrich your study of God's Word. You should always compare what you read in our course, or in the writings of others, with the Scriptures. Seek the Lord through prayer, and ask Him to reveal the truths of His Word to you as you study. Remember the prayer of David in Psalm 119:18, "*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*"

## Course Overview

You are about to begin Volume 1 of Bible First! The first three lessons are introductory, while the remaining seventeen lessons cover the book of Genesis in chronological order. Here is a brief topical overview of Bible First!:

Lesson 1 - Introducing the Bible	Lesson 11 - Abraham, Part 1 (Genesis 12-14)
Lesson 2 - Who is God	Lesson 12 - Abraham, Part 2 (Genesis 15-17)
Lesson 3 - The Spiritual World	Lesson 13 - Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-20)
Lesson 4 - Creation, Part 1 (Genesis 1)	Lesson 14 - Isaac (Genesis 21-22)
Lesson 5 - Creation, Part 2 (Genesis 2)	Lesson 15 - Isaac and His Family (Genesis 23-26)
Lesson 6 - Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-2)	Lesson 16 - Jacob, Part 1 (Genesis 27-30)
Lesson 7 - The Fall (Genesis 3)	Lesson 17 - Jacob, Part 2 (Genesis 31-36)
Lesson 8 - The Curse and the Promised Deliverer (Genesis 3)	Lesson 18 - Joseph, Part 1 (Genesis 37-42)
Lesson 9 - Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)	Lesson 19 - Joseph, Part 2 (Genesis 43-50)
Lesson 10 - Noah and the Great Flood (Genesis 5-11)	Lesson 20 - Next Steps

## How to Use This Course

As the main goal of this course is to better acquaint you with God's Word, we would encourage you to get your own copy of the Bible.† Although some of the shorter passages of God's Word that will be studied are printed in the lessons themselves, the longer portions are not. Most of the lessons have preliminary reading assignments at the beginning of the main sections of the lesson, and you will need to read these portions of Scripture before beginning the corresponding section.

† The version of the Bible used throughout Bible First! is the King James Version. In addition to purchasing a hard copy at your local bookstore, you can also read the Bible online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). To read the Bible on your mobile device, download Bible+ ([www.olivetree.com](http://www.olivetree.com)). You can also download e-Sword ([www.e-sword.com](http://www.e-sword.com)) to read and study the Bible on your PC.

Along with this introductory letter, your Distributor has you sent a copy of Volume 1 and a Q&A booklet for Lesson 1. Read Lesson 1, and then fill out the Q&A booklet with your answers to the questions. When you are finished, send the Q&A booklet back to your Distributor at the address listed on page 4 of the Q&A booklet. He or she will grade your lesson and send you the booklet for the next lesson. If you have any questions regarding the lesson, feel free to write them down and send them with the Q&A booklet.

## Quick Reference Guide

As you work your way through Bible First!, you will encounter boxes containing one of several different quick-reference symbols designed to draw your attention to bits of extra information. The following is a list of these symbols and their meanings.



Lesson Overview boxes give a list of the main themes that will be covered in each lesson.



Noteable Quote boxes present statements made by famous people.



The Bible Says boxes contain direct quotations from Scripture.



The Bible Explored boxes contain short summaries of what the Bible has to say about different issues.



Key Concept boxes contain short statements that summarize the material being studied.



Historical Feature boxes provide interesting information about past events or people relating to the material at hand.



Did You Know? boxes provide interesting facts, stories, and other information relating to the lesson.

## Conclusion

We hope that you will enjoy Bible First!, but more importantly, we wish you success as you study the most important book of all time: the Bible.