

CHAPTER TWENTY

STUDYING BIBLE PROPHECY

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- C Write the Key Verse from memory.
- C List three reasons why it is important to study Bible prophecy.
- C Identify the source of Biblical prophecy.
- C Define Biblical prophecy.
- C Name two methods by which God gave prophecies.
- C Distinguish between true and false prophets.
- C List three purposes of prophecy.
- C List five keys for understanding Biblical prophecy.

KEY VERSE:

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.
(Luke 24:44)

INTRODUCTION

As you learned previously in this course, there are several books in God's Word which are called books of prophecy. This chapter presents basic guidelines for studying and understanding Bible prophecy.

A BOOK OF PROPHECY

God's written Word, the Holy Bible, differs in many ways from the sacred writings of other religions. But there is one important difference. That difference is that the sacred books of all other religions, but do not contain prophecies that have been accurately fulfilled. The prophecy contained in the Bible, much of which has already been fulfilled, is an important witness of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

DEFINITION OF PROPHECY

The word "prophecy" means to speak forth. Bible prophecy includes three basic kinds of speaking forth:

1. A message of inspiration from God.
2. Prediction of future events in God's eternal plan.
3. An interpretation for man of the acts of God.

THE PROPHETS

God commissioned each prophet of the Bible to fulfill a particular role in His plan.

-As interpreters they explained God's acts to men.

-As spokesmen they voiced God's truth. They spoke messages of hope and inspiration.

-As prophets they predicted future events in God's plan through revelation given by the Holy Spirit.

The predictions of Bible prophecy are beyond the power of human ability. They include a sufficient number of details to eliminate speculation or guessing.

METHODS OF PROPHECY

There are two basic ways in which God spoke through the prophets.

THE SPOKEN WORD:

The method most often used was the spoken word. God would tell the prophet the words to speak. For example, God said to the prophet Jeremiah:

. . . for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. (Jeremiah 1:7)

Throughout the book of Jeremiah God's instructions to him were. . .

Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord. . .
(Jeremiah 2:2)

Jeremiah spoke the words which God told him to speak.

ACTED PROPHECIES:

In addition to spoken prophecy, God had the prophets visually act out a message. For example, God told Jeremiah to:

. . . Make thee bonds and yokes and put them upon thy neck. . .
(Jeremiah 27:2)

These yokes were a visual prophecy of the yokes of bondage which were to come on the people because of their sin. Jeremiah acted out the prophetic message of God.

THE SOURCE OF PROPHECY

The source of Biblical prophecy is God who reveals His message to man through the Holy Spirit:

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (II Peter 1:21)

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (I Corinthians 2:10)

God can speak accurately of the future because:

Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.
(Acts 15:18)

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.
(Isaiah 46:9-10)

God raises up true prophets:

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. (Deuteronomy 18:15)

God reveals His future plans to these prophets:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)

FALSE PROPHETS

Satan imitates true prophecy through false predictions by fortune tellers, witches, and astrologers. These methods are not of God. The Prophet Daniel said:

Daniel answered in the presence of the king and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers shew unto the king.

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. . .
(Daniel 2:27-28)

True prophecy directs attention to Jesus Christ:

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. (I Corinthians 12:3)

The Bible warns of false prophets (Matthew 24:11,24; Mark 13:22). A person called "the false prophet" will be evident in events at the end of the world (Revelation 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10). The Bible reveals several ways to identify false prophets:

- They teach sexual immorality and permissiveness: II Peter 2:13
- They try to lead people away from obedience to God's Word: Deuteronomy 13:1-5
- They make false claims: Matthew 24:23-24
- They deceive people with miraculous signs: Matthew 24:11,24
- They do not prophecy according to the proportion of faith (in right relation to God's Word): Romans 12:6
- False prophets do not have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives: Matthew 7:15-16; Galatians 5:22-23
- What they prophesy does not come to pass: Deuteronomy 18:20-22

THE PURPOSES OF PROPHECY

The Bible reveals special purposes for God speaking to men through prophecy:

TO AUTHENTICATE GOD'S MESSAGE:

Fulfilled prophecy proves that God's message is authentic (true). In Isaiah 41:21-23 God challenges the gods of the heathen nations to prove their power by foretelling future events. They could not do it because they were false gods:

Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and known the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods. (Isaiah 41:21-23)

TO CONFIRM GOD'S MESSENGER:

Prophecy confirms the true messengers of God:

The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him. (Jeremiah 28:9)

TO INSTRUCT BELIEVERS:

Believers are to receive instruction from prophecy and take heed (pay attention) to it:

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. . . (II Peter 1:19)

IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING PROPHECY

There are three main reasons why it is important to study Bible prophecy:

1. All Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for study:

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. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

2. Prophecy brings understanding of past, present, and future events in the plan of God:

. . . the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter. (Revelation 1:19)

3. Understanding of God's future plan prevents deception by Satan:

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders: insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. BEHOLD, I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold He is in the desert; go not forth: behold He is in the secret chambers; believe it not.
(Matthew 24:23-26)

God's future plan has been shared before it happens so we will not be deceived by Satan.

4. There is a special blessing pronounced upon those who study Bible prophecy:

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
(Revelation 1:3)

THE STUDY OF PROPHECY

Bible prophecy is part of the "meat" of the Word of God which we referred to previously in this course. The "meat" of prophecy is more difficult to understand than the "milk" of God's Word which presents basic concepts of the Christian faith.

If you are a new believer and do not have any background knowledge of the Bible, you should study other portions of God's Word before you try to study the prophetic books. Study the Gospels, Acts, and Letters of the New Testament. Study the Poetry, Law, and History divisions of the Old Testament. As you study, use what you have learned in this course about book, chapter, paragraph, verse, and word study.

After you have a basic knowledge of these divisions, then study the prophetic books of the Bible. Do not worry if you do not understand all of the prophecies in the Bible. Many great Bible scholars have debated for years about the meaning of some portions of Bible prophecy.

PROPHETIC BOOKS

In addition to the books of prophecy there are many other chapters and verses of prophecy scattered throughout God's Word.

The very first prophecy recorded in the Bible is in the book of Genesis:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.
(Genesis 3:15)

This verse prophesies the coming of Jesus Christ who, through His death for the sins of man, would crush the enemy, Satan.

It is not possible to list in this manual every prophecy in the Word of God. We just want you to be aware that there are prophecies throughout the entire Bible. Prophecy is not just confined to the books known as the Books of Prophecy. With study and experience you will be able to identify the prophetic theme that runs throughout the entire Bible.

UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY

Some people are frustrated when they try to study Bible prophecy. Because prophecy is more difficult than other portions of the Bible, they wonder if God really intended for them to understand it. It is possible to understand Bible prophecy. God wanted so much for Daniel to understand prophecy that he sent an angel to explain it to him. The angel said:

. . . I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.
(Daniel 9:22)

Jesus took time to explain Old Testament prophecy to His Disciples:

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.
(Luke 24:44)

When the Disciples asked Jesus about the end of the world, Jesus listed several prophetic signs for which they were to watch. He wanted them to understand future events. Jesus said:

So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. (Matthew 24:33)

In the introduction to the book of Revelation, a book which some consider quite difficult to understand, it is clear that God wants His people to understand prophecy:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass. . . (Revelation 1:1)

KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING

There are some basic keys which will help you understand and properly interpret Bible prophecy.

ONE: THE BASIC THEME OF PROPHECY

The Lord Jesus Christ is the basic theme of Bible prophecy. There are many other subjects of Bible prophecy. For example, there are prophecies of judgment of wicked nations by God. But the underlying theme of all Bible prophecies is that they somehow relate to Jesus and the purpose of God regarding Him:

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself;

That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

All Bible prophecy, even when it deals with subjects such as judgment upon nations, etc., relates to the overall plan of God. That plan is to bring all mankind into right relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose is to gather in one all things in Christ.

The Bible states that the "spirit" or theme of Bible prophecy is Jesus:

. . . for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10)

When you study Bible prophecy consider it in terms of this question: How does this prophecy relate to Jesus Christ (the spirit of prophecy) and God's overall plan concerning Him?

TWO: THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITSELF

Another key to understanding is to realize that often the Bible explains its own prophecies. For an example of how the Bible interprets itself read Daniel chapter 2. Here a king by the name of Nebuchadnezzar is given a dream from God. Upon waking he cannot remember

the dream. He calls upon the astrologers and magicians to recall and interpret the dream. They cannot do it. Then God uses the prophet Daniel to tell the king what he dreamed and interpret it for him. The dream is described by Daniel in verses 31-35. The interpretation of the dream is given in verses 36-45. This is an example of how, in many passages, the Bible interprets its own prophecies.

The New Testament interprets many of the prophecies of the Old Testament because much of the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament. For example, compare this Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament fulfillment:

. . . and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people, and they shall say, Thou art my God. (Hosea 2:23)

Even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

And it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said unto them, ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.
(Romans 9:24-26)

Fulfilled prophecy in the New Testament includes many Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

THREE: THE RULE OF DOUBLE REFERENCE

Another key to understanding Bible prophecy is the "rule of double reference." This rule for interpreting Bible prophecy states that a prophecy of immediate fulfillment is made as a means of teaching a deeper truth or foretelling an event to be fulfilled farther in the future.

Many times in the Bible a prophecy was fulfilled immediately after it was given, but the same prophecy applied not only to the event which was fulfilled immediately, but also to a second fulfillment farther in the future.

For example, there is a prophecy given in Ezekiel 28:1-19 which is addressed to Ethbaal who was then the king of Tyre. He was a wicked king. He was a type of the Antichrist who will arise during the end of the world. By saying Ethbaal is a "type" we mean that in nature and actions he was like the Antichrist which will come in the future. (You will learn more about "types" in the next chapter.) When God spoke in prophecy through Ezekiel, it was fulfilled in the immediate future in the life of Ethbaal. But there is a future event, as yet unfulfilled, where the same prophecy applies to the evil end time ruler called the

Antichrist.

As you study Bible prophecy remember this rule of double reference. Ask yourself two questions:

1. What did this prophecy mean at the time it was given for the people to whom it was given?
2. Is there a future double reference in this prophecy?

Asking these questions will help you interpret prophecy to the full extent of its meaning.

FOUR: PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

The prophets described future events as if they were continuous and in immediate order. For example, Isaiah prophesied:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)

When Jesus read from this portion of Isaiah in Luke 4:17-20 He stopped with the phrase "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book and said that these Scriptures were fulfilled in Him that day. By this He meant that He was fulfilling this prophecy. He was the one with God's Spirit upon Him to preach good tidings, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty, and open the prisons.

But it is significant that Jesus stopped reading with the phrase "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." He did not read the portion regarding "the day of vengeance of our God" because the day of vengeance had not yet come. Already a gap of almost 2,000 years has elapsed since Jesus read this passage. The day of God's vengeance still has not yet come.

Prophetic perspective records events as if they were immediate. Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit Isaiah saw the whole plan of God. He saw Jesus coming to preach, bind

up, proclaim liberty, open the prison, proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and bring the vengeance of God.

Isaiah saw the events as you would look at distant ranges of mountains. The valleys in between the mountains are not visible until you climb to the top of the nearest range. Prophetic perspective reveals the whole plan of God from a distance. Sometimes events seem to appear as though they happen immediately in sequence. But as the prophecies are fulfilled there are often valleys of time between them as illustrated by this passage from Isaiah. Jesus has not yet fulfilled the Scriptures about the day of vengeance.

FIVE: THE CONDITIONAL NATURE OF PROPHECY

Much Bible prophecy is conditional in nature. This means that God says He will do certain things based on the response of man. IF man does NOT listen to God's message, certain things will happen. IF man HEARS God's message and RESPONDS properly to it, then something else will happen.

God said:

At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

IF that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it,

IF it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them. (Jeremiah 18:7-10)

In much Bible prophecy, you must continue studying in order to discover man's response to it because the fulfillment of prophecy is often conditional upon man's response. For a good example of this principle read the book of Jonah. The Prophet Jonah revealed that God would destroy Ninevah in three days IF they did not repent. The destruction never came. The reason was that Ninevah responded properly to the message of God and repented of their sins.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Prophecy in the Old Testament centers on:

1. The people of Israel which was the nation God raised up through which to reveal

Himself to the world. During the period of time when Israel was divided into two kingdoms this prophecy is directed to Israel and Judah. An example of prophecy to Israel is the book of Hosea. An example of prophecy to Judah is the book of Joel.

2. Prophecies to the nations surrounding the people of Israel. For example, prophecies are given regarding Babylon, Egypt, Tyre, Edom, etc. An example is the prophecy of Obadiah directed to the nation of Edom.
3. Prophecies concerning the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. These are not contained in any one prophetic book. They are scattered throughout the Old Testament. A good example is Isaiah 7:14.
4. Prophecies concerning the entire world, its destiny, future events, the end of the world, and the end of time as we know it. The book of Daniel is an excellent example of this type of prophecy. The following chart condenses the general content of the books of prophecy in the Old Testament. As you use this chart be sure to remember the rule of double reference. Although prophecies were directed to certain nations and fulfilled in the immediate future, many of the prophecies spoke of even greater events in the far future:

Old Testament Prophets		
Prophet	Message	Time Period
Jonah Nahum	God loves the Gentiles Doom of Ninevah for its brutality (800-650 B.C.)	To Assyria Before Captivity
Obadiah	Doom of Edom for its treachery	To Edom Before Captivity (800 B.C.)
Hosea Amos	God's love for adulterous Israel God's people ripe for punishment	To Israel Before Captivity (750 B.C.)
Isaiah Jeremiah/ Lamentations Joel Micah Habakkuk Zephaniah	Messiah is coming Judgment now, glory to follow Judgment will fall like a plague God's people on trial The just shall live by faith God's day is coming	To Judah Before Captivity (800-606 B.C.)
Ezekiel Daniel	God is not finished with Israel God's hand in world events	To Judah During Captivity (606-536 B.C.)
Haggai Zechariah Malachi	The danger of halfheartedness The glory of Messiah The danger of hardheartedness	To Judah After Captivity (536-400 B.C.)

NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

There are many prophecies scattered throughout the New Testament. Most of these deal with future events which are to happen prior to the end of the world. For examples read the prophecies in Matthew chapter 24.

There is only one book in the prophecy division in the New Testament, however. That is the book of Revelation. John, a Disciple of Jesus, was given this revelation from God through the Holy Spirit. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass. . . (Revelation 1:1)

John was told to. . .

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter. (Revelation 1:19)

The Book of Daniel should be studied along with the book of Revelation as the two books relate to each other.

There are many different interpretations given to the prophecies in the book of Revelation. Most of these interpretations center on the exact timing of certain events or specific details of these events. It is important to have a general understanding, however, of what the Bible says will happen. The following outline provides understanding of the major events:

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE FUTURE

- I. The Bible teaches that Jesus will return to earth for believers: John 14:2-3.
 - A. The Rapture: I Thessalonians 4:13-18 gives the most detail about Christ's return for believers. This return is called the rapture:
 - 1. Christ Himself will return: Verse 16
 - 2. There will be a resurrection from the grave of those who were believers when they died: Verse 16
 - 3. There will be rapture, which means "the act of taking a person from one place to another." Living believers will be taken from earth to meet Jesus: Verse 17.
 - 4. There will be a reunion between believers who have previously died, believers living at the time of Christ's return, and the Lord Jesus Christ: Verse 17.
 - B. The Tribulation: The Bible tells of a terrible time on earth which is called the tribulation.
 - 1. The tribulation will last for 42 months or 1,260 days: Daniel 9:24-27
 - 2. It will be a very difficult time. There have been many difficult times in the world, but three things will distinguish the tribulation from all other times of trouble.

- a. First, it will be worldwide and not just local: Revelation 3:10
 - b. Second, people will realize the end of the world is near: Revelation 6:16
 - c. Third, the intensity of the trouble will be greater than ever before experienced: Matthew 24:4-14
 - 3. Its description: There are a series of judgments on earth during the tribulation. These are described in Revelation chapters 6, 8-9, and 16 and Matthew 24:4-14.
 - 4. The reason for the tribulation: The wickedness of man must be punished, Satan defeated, and Jesus acknowledged as Lord of all. This completes God's plan of the ages spoken of in Ephesians 1:8-9.
- C. The timing of the rapture: Some people believe the rapture will occur before the tribulation and that believers will not have to experience any of this terrible time on earth. Others believe the rapture will happen midway through this period. Still other believe the rapture will happen at the end of the tribulation. The most common interpretation is that the rapture of believers will happen before the tribulation begins. The different views of the timing of the rapture result from various interpretations of prophetic information given in Revelation and other books of the Bible. What is most important is to know you are a true believer and will be ready to go with Jesus in the rapture when it does occur.
- D. The Millennium: The Millennium is a period of 1,000 years after the tribulation during which Jesus will rule the earth in righteousness (Zechariah 14:9; Daniel 7:14). The city of Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isaiah 2:3). This period will end when Satan stages a last revolt against God (Revelation 20:7-9). God will send fire from heaven and end all opposition. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. (Revelation 20:10).
- E. Judgment: All created beings will be judged by God. This is known as the time of eternal judgment. Those who died as unbelievers will be resurrected to face judgment. Because they did not repent from sin and accept Jesus as Savior they will be condemned to eternity in Hell (Revelation 20:12-15). True believers who repented from sin and accepted Jesus as Savior will spend eternity in heaven in the presence of God (Revelation 21).

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. List three purposes of Biblical prophecy.

3. List four reasons why it is important to study prophecy.

4. List five keys to understanding Bible prophecy.

5. Who is the source of Bible prophecy?

6. Define the word "prophecy."

7. Identify the three kinds of "speaking forth" involved in Biblical prophecy.

8. What two methods did God use in the Bible to give a prophetic message to men?

9. Where is the first prophecy in the Bible found?

10. The Bible gives several ways to identify false prophets. List at least three of these.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Apply what you have learned in this lesson to study of the following prophetic books:

Old Testament:

___ Isaiah ___ Jeremiah ___ Lamentations ___ Ezekiel ___ Daniel ___ Hosea ___ Joel
___ Amos ___ Obadiah ___ Jonah ___ Micah ___ Nahum ___ Habakkuk ___ Zephaniah
___ Haggai ___ Zechariah ___ Malachi

New Testament: ___ Revelation

2. God speaks through prophecy in the Bible to His people. He also uses prophets in the church to speak to His people:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets. . .
(I Corinthians 12:28)

The messages given by prophets today do not become part of the written Word of God. Their messages are given in confirmation of the written Word of God. What they say is to be judged by its accuracy in relation to the Bible.

For further study of the gift of prophecy as it operates in the church today obtain the Harvestime International Institute course entitled "Ministry of the Holy Spirit." This course presents a more detailed discussion of this spiritual gift and lists references on all the prophets of the Bible for further study.

ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

CHAPTER ONE:

1. 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. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
2. The word "Bible" means "the books."
3. The word "Scripture" means "sacred writings."
4. Old Testament and New Testament.
5. 66.
6. Law, history, poetry, prophecy.
7. Gospels, history, letters, prophecy.
8. The word "testament" means "covenant."
9. For doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
10. The Bible contains no contradictions and it is united in its major theme.
11. The Bible has variety.
12. a. T; b. T; c. F; d. F; e. F
13. Jesus. Luke 24:44-48.

CHAPTER TWO:

1. Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to thy Word. (Psalm 119:169)
2. 39

3. 27
4. If you just read a chapter here and there you fail to understand how the Bible fits together. You must read the Bible in an orderly way if you are to understand its content.
5.
 - Read daily.
 - Read selectively.
 - Read prayerfully.
 - Read systematically.

CHAPTER THREE:

1. The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it. (Psalm 68:11)
2. A version is a Bible written in a language different from the languages in which God's Word was originally written.
3. A translation is a word by word translation of the Greek, Hebrew, and Aramic words. A paraphrase does not translate word for word. It is translated thought by thought.
4. The King James version.
5. Because no two languages are exactly alike so differences occur when translation is done.
6. Hebrew, Aramic, and Greek.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. (John 8:47)
2. Because they try to read it the same way they do any other book.
3. Something you must do before you can do something else.
4. Knowing God and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.
5. Believers who are called as teachers. The Holy Spirit.

6. The Holy Spirit.
7. The milk is the simple truths of the Word of God.
8. The meat is the deeper spiritual truths of the Bible which are not so easily understood.
9. -Desire the milk.
-Be obedient to God's Word.
-Search for the meat.
10. -Set a special time each day to study.
-Select a special place to study.
-Start each study session with prayer.

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Thou through thy commandments has made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. (Psalm 119:98-100)
2. -To locate all the Bible references to a word.
-To locate a specific Bible text.
-To find the meaning of a word.
3. 4, 2, 6, 1, 3, 5

CHAPTER SIX:

1. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)
2. It means you must understand what is being said to whom. You must also interpret and apply the meaning correctly.
3. The verbal inspiration of the Bible means every word in the original manuscripts was inspired by God.
4. The plenary inspiration of the Bible means the full inspiration of all Scripture as opposed to partial inspiration. Every portion of the Bible is inspired.
5. The rules and explanations are as follows:

1. The rule of divine authority. We accept the Bible as the final authority because it is inspired by God.
2. The rule of literal interpretation. The Bible means exactly what it says.
3. The rule of contextual consideration. Each verse must be studied in relation to its context.
4. The rule of first mention. The first time a word, phrase, object, or incident is mentioned in the Bible, it gives the key to its meaning anywhere else it is used in the Bible.
5. The rule of repetition. When something is repeated in the Bible it deserves special attention as it is very important.
6. The rule of cumulative revelation. The full truth of God's Word on any subject must not be gathered from an isolated passage. The cumulative (total) revelation of all the Bible says regarding a truth must be considered.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. (Psalm 119:152)
2. k, l, c, d, e, g, f, j, h, i, b, a
3. When.
4. Biblical archaeology is the study of remains found in Bible lands. It is a science which gains knowledge of Bible times from the study of existing remains of their civilizations.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live. (Psalm 119:144)
2. The second main point should not come under point I. It should be a separate point and indicated by the Roman numerals II. Review the instructions for outlining given in this chapter.

3. Horizontally and vertically.
4. Marking is a way to emphasize key Bible passages. You underline selected verses or use symbols in the margins.

CHAPTER NINE:

1. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous thing out of thy law. (Psalm 119:18)
2. See the symbols listed in Chapter Nine.
3. See the purposes listed in Chapter Nine.
4. Everyone who claims to speak God's Word is not really doing so. There are false teachers.
5. God will add to them the plagues written in the Word. Revelation 22:18-19
6. Their part will be taken out of God's book of life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in the Word. Revelation 22:18-19.
7. God.
8. God's words.
9. Milk and the meat.
10. Moses.

CHAPTER TEN:

1. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy Word. (Psalm 119:148)
2. This method emphasizes application of knowledge to life and ministry. It results in increased devotion to God.
3.

-Record passage information -Identify the key verse -Meditate	-Identify the subject -Summarize -Make application
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4. It is not enough just to hear the Word. You must also apply the Word in your life.
James 1:22-25
5. Satan fights the use of this method because he is concerned when Bible study results in application which brings positive change in spiritual life.

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)
2. 2, 1
3. -Do an initial survey
-Create a book study chart
-Create an outline
4. -Title of the book
-Theme
-Author
-To whom the book was written
-Purpose
-Basic life and ministry principle

CHAPTER TWELVE:

1. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Psalm 119:11)
2. Study of the Bible by chapters.
3. -Select a chapter title.
-Mark paragraph divisions.
-Create a chapter study chart.
-Create a chapter outline.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

1. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (Psalm 119:130)
2. -Do a chapter study
-Observe details of the paragraph

- Create a paragraph study chart
- Create a paragraph study outline

3. 3, 2, 4, 1
4. 4, 5, 1, 2, 3
5. 3, 2, 4, 1

CHAPTER FOURTEEN:

1. My tongue shall speak of thy Word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. (Psalm 119:172)
2. Context.
3.
 - Study the verse within its context
 - Study related verses
 - Create a verse study chart
 - Create a verse study outline

CHAPTER FIFTEEN:

1. 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. (Matthew 5:18)
2.
 - Select the word.
 - Study the word within its context.
 - Determine the meaning.
 - Summarize your study.
3. A key word is one which is basic to the meaning of the verse. It is an important word. Sometimes it is a word difficult to understand or it is repeated for special emphasis.
4. The word "temperance" would be a good subject for word study. The other words are not key words.
5. A concordance and Bible word study book.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN:

1. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I

esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.
(Psalm 119:127-128)

2. The topical method focuses on a selected subject. The goal of the study is to discover all the Bible teaches on the subject.
3.
 - Select a topic.
 - Select the portion of Scripture.
 - Gather the information.
 - Summarize the information.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN :

1. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition . . .(I Corinthians 10:11)
2. The biographical method focuses on the lives of Bible personalities. By studying their lives we learn from their experiences.
3.
 - Select the person to be studied.
 - Gather the information.
 - Analyze The Information.
 - Apply What You Have Learned.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN:

1. 7, 8, 5, 3, 4, 2, 1, 6, 9, 10
2. Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my soul keep them. (Psalm 119:129)
3. The theological method is the study of basic Bible doctrines about God. The method includes collecting, comparing, and organizing doctrinal statements.
4.
 - Select the topic of study.
 - Define the doctrine selected.
 - Select the Bible portion to be studied.
 - Gather information on the doctrine.
 - Summarize the information you gather.
5. A "doctrine" is a group of teachings about a certain subject. It contains all the Bible teaches on a selected subject.

CHAPTER NINETEEN:

1. Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. (Psalm 119:164)
2. b, c, a
3. c, a, b, d
4. Synonymous.
5. Antithetic.
6. Synthetic.
7. Emblematic.

CHAPTER TWENTY:

1. 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. (Luke 24:44)
2.
 - To authenticate God's message.
 - To confirm God's messenger.
 - To instruct believers.
3. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for study. Prophecy presents a proper perspective of past, present, and future events in the plan of God. Understanding God's future plan prevents deception by Satan. A special blessing is pronounced on those who study it.
4.
 - Recognize Jesus is the basic theme of prophecy.
 - Realize that in many cases the Bible interprets itself.
 - Understand the rule of double reference.
 - Understand prophetic perspective.
 - Realize that prophecy is conditional in nature.
5. God.
6. Prophecy means to speak forth under the inspiration of God.

7. -A message of inspiration from God.
 -Prediction of future events in God's plan.
 -An interpretation for man of the acts of God.
8. The spoken word and acted prophecy.
9. Genesis 3:15. It is the promise of a Messiah.
10. See the ways of identifying false prophets discussed in Chapter Twenty.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE:

1. For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. (Hebrews 10:1)
2. The typological method is the study of a person, place, event, or thing as a type of something else. Types give an advance view of what is to come in God's future plan. Although the type is important in itself, it has an even greater significance in the future person or event which it represents.
3. Shadow, figure, pattern.
4. -Persons
 -Places
 -Events
 -Material things
5. Joseph.
6. Jesus Christ.