



THE WORD OF GOD  
IS HOLY



SURRENDER  
ministries

P.O. Box 5306, Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
[www.surrenderministries.org](http://www.surrenderministries.org)

A Book was handed down  
to me by a Friend  
He said, "I've written these words just for you"

I thanked Him in a casual way and said,  
"I'll treasure it  
and maybe read it  
if I have nothing else to do"

I continued my life  
with questions and fears  
His Book sat unused  
through many rough years

Then one brutal day  
when life was quite low  
I cried to the Lord  
"which way shall I go?"

My Friend turned to me  
with patience and love  
He said, "The words I have written  
give life from above"

I opened His Book  
and found  
eternal life

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"Then opened he their understanding,  
that they might understand the scriptures"  
*Luke 24:45*

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In this presentation, the following questions will be answered:

- How can I know that the Bible is God's inspired word to me?
- How can the Bible help me to daily surrender to God's will?
- Is it possible for me to understand the Bible?
- Why should I study the Bible?
- How can I effectively study the Bible?
- What will happen when I study the Bible?
- Is it really necessary to memorize scripture?
- How should I treat the Bible?

### **HOW CAN I KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD TO ME?**

"There is an evidence that is open to all, -- the most highly educated, and the most illiterate, -- the evidence of experience. God invites us to prove for ourselves the reality of His Word, the truth of His promises. He bids us 'taste and see that the Lord is good.' Psalms 34:8. Instead of depending upon the word of another, we are to taste for ourselves. He declares, 'Ask, and ye shall receive.' John 16:24. His promises will be fulfilled. They have never failed; they never can fail." *Steps to Christ p.111*

### **Challenging Themes**

"The apostle Peter says that there are in Scripture 'things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest . . . unto their own destruction.' 2 Peter 3:16. The difficulties of Scripture have been urged by skeptics as an argument against the Bible; but so far from this, they constitute a strong evidence of its divine inspiration. If it contained no account of God but that which we could easily comprehend; if His greatness and majesty could be grasped by finite minds, then the Bible would not bear the unmistakable credentials of divine authority. The very grandeur and mystery of the themes presented, should inspire faith in it as the Word of God." *Steps to Christ p.107*

## **Divine or Human?**

"The Ten Commandments were spoken by God Himself, and were written by His own hand. They are of divine, and not human composition. But the Bible, with its God-given truths expressed in the language of men, presents a union of the divine and the human. Such a union existed in the nature of Christ, who was the Son of God and the Son of man. Thus it is true of the Bible, as it was of Christ, that 'the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.' John 1:14." *The Great Controversy p.5,6*

"It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God." *I Selected Messages p.21*

"Had our Bible been written by uninspired persons, it would have presented quite a different appearance, and would have been a discouraging study to erring mortals, who are contending with natural frailties and the temptations of a wily foe. But as it is, we have a correct record of the religious experiences of marked characters in Bible history. Men whom God favored, and to whom he entrusted great responsibilities, were sometimes overcome by temptation and committed sins, even as we of the present day strive, waver, and frequently fall into error. But it is encouraging to our desponding hearts to know that through God's grace they could gain fresh vigor to again rise above their evil natures; and, remembering this, we are ready to renew the conflict ourselves." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p.10,11*

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

"The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience." *The Great Controversy p.7*

## **The Old and New**

"Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament, no less than the New, should receive attention." *Counsels to Teachers p.462*

"Many professed Christians now discard the Old Testament, claiming that it is no longer of any use. But such is not Christ's teaching. So highly did He value it that at one time He said, 'If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.' *Luke 16:31*

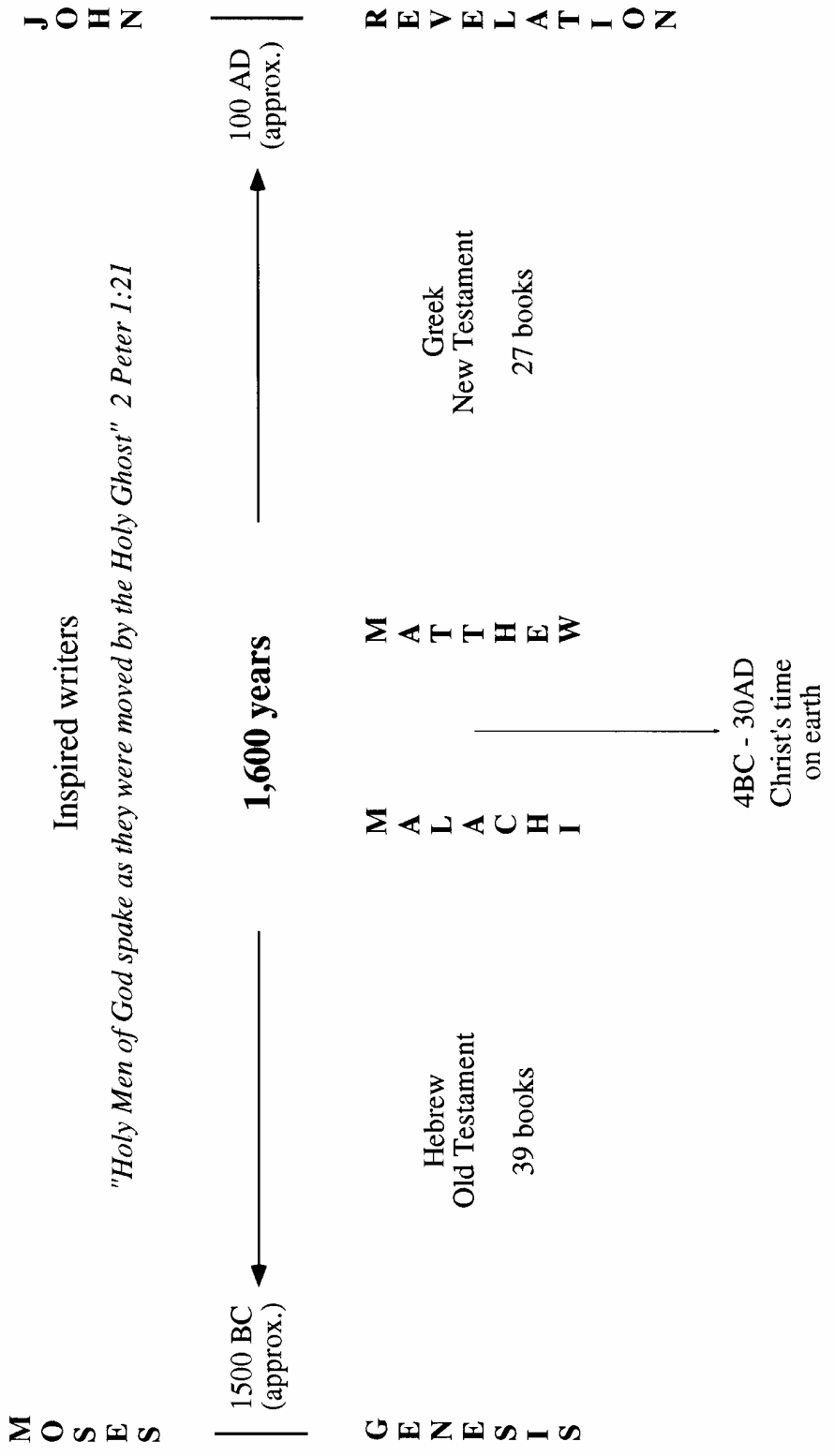
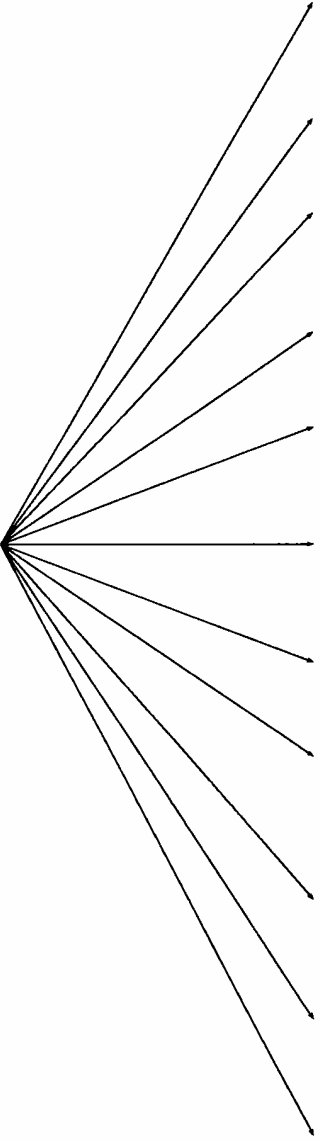
It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time. The Saviour is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. It is the light from the prophetic past that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty. The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but a stronger proof that He is the world's Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New." *The Desire of Ages* p.799

### **Why the Bible is Distrusted**

"There is nothing that he [Satan] desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt. There is a large class by whom the word of God is looked upon with distrust for the same reason as was its Author -- because it reproves and condemns sin. Those who are unwilling to obey its requirements endeavor to overthrow its authority." *The Great Controversy* p.526

# THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

## GOD'S THOUGHTS



## **THE BEAUTY, DEPTH, AND PRIVILEGE OF OWNING A BIBLE**

### **A Perfect Guide in Every Circumstance**

"The Bible presents a perfect standard of character. This sacred book, inspired by God, and written by holy men, is a perfect guide under all circumstances of life. It sets forth distinctly the duties of both young and old. If made the guide of life, its teachings will lead the soul upward. It will elevate the mind, improve the character, and give peace and joy to the heart." *Fundamentals of Christian Education p.100*

"God's Word is full of precious promises and helpful counsel. It is infallible; for God cannot err. It has help for every circumstance and condition of life, and God looks on with sadness when His children turn from it to human aid." *My Life Today p.27*

### **Beauty and Depth**

"The outward beauty of the Bible, the beauty of imagery and expression, is but the setting, as it were, for its real treasure -- the beauty of holiness." *Education p.192*

"We are to regard the Bible as God's disclosure to us of eternal things, -- the things of most consequence for us to know. By the world it is thrown aside, as if the perusal of it were finished; but a thousand years of research would not exhaust the hidden treasure it contains. Eternity alone will disclose the wisdom of this book; for it is the wisdom of an infinite mind." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students p.443*

"It is impossible for any mind to comprehend all the richness and greatness of even one promise of God. One catches the glory of one point of view, another the beauty and grace from another point, and the soul is filled with the heavenly light. If we saw all the glory, the spirit would faint." *Testimonies to Ministers p.111*

### **The Central Theme**

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God..."

He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's word.

The science of redemption is the science of all sciences; the science that is the study of the angels and of all the intelligences of the unfallen worlds; the science that engages the attention of our Lord and Saviour." *Education p.125,126*

## **The Only Accurate Account of World History**

"Here only do we find an authentic account of the origin of nations. Here only is given a history of our race unsullied by human pride or prejudice." *Education p.173*

"Without the Bible we should have been left to conjectures and fables in regard to the occurrences of past ages. Of all the books that have flooded the world, be they ever so valuable, the Bible is the Book of books, and is most deserving of the closest study and attention. It gives not only the history of the creation of this world, but a description of the world to come. It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe, and it reveals to our understanding the Author of the heavens and the earth. It unfolds a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy." *Fundamentals of Christian Education p.129*

## **CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE**

"In childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus studied the Scriptures. As a little child He was daily at His mother's knee taught from the scrolls of the prophets. In His youth the early morning and the evening twilight often found Him alone on the mountainside or among the trees of the forest, spending a quiet hour in prayer and the study of God's word. During His ministry His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures testifies to His diligence in their study. And since He gained knowledge as we may gain it, His wonderful power, both mental and spiritual, is a testimony to the value of the Bible as a means of education." *Education p.185*

"It was in the time of greatest weakness that Christ was assailed by the fiercest temptations. Thus Satan thought to prevail. By this policy he had gained the victory over men. When strength failed, and the will power weakened, and faith ceased to repose in God, then those who had stood long and valiantly for the right were overcome... Thus Satan has taken advantage of the weakness of humanity. And he will still work in the same way. Whenever one is encompassed with clouds, perplexed by circumstances, or afflicted by poverty or distress, Satan is at hand to tempt and annoy. He attacks our weak points of character. He seeks to shake our confidence in God, who suffers such a condition of things to exist. We are tempted to distrust God, to question His love. Often the tempter comes to us as he came to Christ, arraying before us our weakness and infirmities. He hopes to discourage the soul, and to break our hold on God. Then he is sure of his prey. If we would meet him as Jesus did, we should escape many a defeat." *The Desire of Ages p.120,121*

"Jesus met Satan with the words of Scripture. 'It is written,' He said. In every temptation the weapon of His warfare was the word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a 'Thus saith the



Lord,' was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage...

When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other." *The Desire of Ages* p.120,121

## **HOW CAN THE BIBLE HELP ME TO DAILY SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL?**

The will of God is plainly revealed throughout the Bible. For example:

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." *I Thessalonians 5:18*

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." *Romans 12:2*

"God reveals His will to us in His word, the Holy Scriptures...

If you are in doubt upon any subject you must first consult the Scriptures." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5* p.512

## **God Always Keeps His Promises**

It is our privilege to claim any promise in the Bible and know that God will either fulfill His promise exactly as it reads or do something even better for us than what is written in the promise we are claiming.

"Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature." *II Peter 1:4*

"Christ says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them; and ye shall have them.' He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.

To live thus by the word of God means the surrender to Him of the whole life. There will be felt a continual sense of need and dependence, a drawing out of the heart after God." *Education p.257,258*

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" *Matthew 7:7*

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." *Mark 11:24*

"...And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." *John 11:41*

### **Let It Go**

"...If any part of God's Word condemns any habit you have cherished, any feeling you have indulged, any spirit you have manifested, turn not from the Word of God; but turn away from the evil of your doings, and let Jesus cleanse and sanctify your heart." *My Life Today p.22*

### **The Key to Success**

"God cares for us as intelligent beings, and He has given us His word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Its teachings have a vital bearing upon our prosperity in all the relations of life. Even in our temporal affairs it will be a wiser guide than any other counselor. Its divine instruction points the only way to true success. There is no social position, no phase of human experience, for which the study of the Bible is not an essential preparation." *Counsels to Teachers p.422*

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." *Psalms 119:105*

### **IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?**

#### **Truths Open to All Who Will See**

"Men of humble acquirements, possessing but limited capabilities and opportunities to become conversant in the Scriptures, find in the Living Oracles comfort, guidance, counsel, and the plan of salvation as clear as a sunbeam. No one need be lost for want of knowledge unless he is willfully blind." *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A p.389*

"That which in the counsels of heaven the Father and the Son deemed essential for man's salvation, is clearly presented in the Holy Scriptures. The infinite truths of salvation are stated so plainly that finite beings who desire to know the truth cannot fail to understand." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students p.438*

"Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ... An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness." *The Great Controversy p.599*

### **Truths Beyond Our Understanding**

"Those are blessed with clearest light who are willing thus to accept the living oracles upon the authority of God. If asked to explain certain statements, they can only answer: 'It is so presented in the Scriptures.' They are obliged to acknowledge that they cannot explain the operation of divine power or the manifestation of divine wisdom. It is as the Lord intended it should be, that we find ourselves compelled to accept some things solely by faith. To acknowledge this, is only to admit that the finite mind is inadequate to grasp the infinite; that man, with his limited, human knowledge, cannot understand the purposes of Omniscience." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5 p.700,701*

"If it were possible for created beings to attain to a full understanding of God and His works, then, having reached this point, there would be for them no further discovery of truth, no growth in knowledge, no further development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and man, having reached the limit of knowledge and attainment, would cease to advance." *Steps to Christ p.109*

### **The Path to Greater Understanding**

"...give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light. By the grace of Christ, perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding, and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt." *Steps to Christ p.111*

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, " *John 7:17*

### **WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE BIBLE?**

## **After All, My Way Seems Right**

"Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.

'There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.' Proverbs 16:25. Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God. A man is traveling and comes to a place where there are several roads and a guideboard indicating where each one leads. If he disregards the guideboard, and takes whichever road seems to him to be right, he may be ever so sincere, but will in all probability find himself on the wrong road.

God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, 'What shall I do to inherit eternal life?' the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: 'What is written in the law? how readest thou?' Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything." *The Great Controversy p.597,598*

## **The Result of Neglect**

"In turning from God's word to feed on the writings of uninspired men, the mind becomes dwarfed and cheapened. It is not brought in contact with deep, broad principles of eternal truth. The understanding adapts itself to the comprehension of the things with which it is familiar, and in this devotion to finite things it is weakened, its power is contracted, and after a time it becomes unable to expand." *Christ's Object Lessons p.40*

"It is a sin to be neglectful of the study of the Word while attempting to teach it to others." *Gospel Workers p.99*

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind." *The Great Controversy p.519*

## **The Only Solid Foundation**

"But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority -- not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain 'Thus saith the Lord' in its support." *The Great Controversy p.595*

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." *Isaiah 8:20*

## **The Standard for Character**

"We are to compare our characters with the infallible standard of God's law. In order to do this, we must search the Scriptures, measuring our attainments by the word of God. Through the grace of Christ, the highest attainments in character are possible; for every soul who comes under the molding influence of the Spirit of God, may be transformed in mind and heart." *Fundamentals of Christian Education p.214*

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." *II Timothy 2:15*

## **WE MUST STUDY FOR OURSELVES**

"It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God." *The Great Controversy p.598*

"No living man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who it is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a perfect criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject to one another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God." *Counsels to Writers and Editors p.45*

"One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments."  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7 p.71*

## **HOW CAN I EFFECTIVELY STUDY THE BIBLE?**

### **Keep the Central Theme in Mind**

"There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures -- Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme." *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A p.308*

### **Prayerful Reverence**

"We should come with reverence to the study of the Bible, feeling that we are in the presence of God. All lightness and trifling should be laid aside. While some portions of the word are easily understood, the true meaning of other parts is not so readily discerned. There must be patient study and meditation and earnest prayer. Every student, as he opens the Scriptures, should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit; and the promise is sure that it will be given.

The spirit in which you come to the investigation of the Scriptures will determine the character of the assistant at your side. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. But if the Bible is opened with irreverence, with a feeling of self-sufficiency, if the heart is filled with prejudice, Satan is beside you, and he will set the plain statements of God's word in a perverted light." *Testimonies to Ministers p.107,108*

"If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit. A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe. When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5 p.703,704*

"You should desire above all things that you may know the will and ways of the Lord. You should not search for the purpose of finding texts of Scripture that you can construe to prove your theories; for the word of God declares that this is wresting the Scriptures to your own destruction. You must empty yourselves of every prejudice, and come in the spirit of prayer to the investigation of the word of God." *Fundamentals of Christian Education p.308*

"The Bible should never be studied without prayer." *The Great Controversy p.599*

## **Compare Scripture With Scripture**

"The Bible is its own interpreter, one passage explaining another. By comparing scriptures referring to the same subjects, you will see beauty and harmony of which you have never dreamed." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 4 p.499*

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" *Isaiah 28:10*

"...remember that little good will be accomplished by skimming over the surface of the word. Thoughtful investigation and earnest, taxing study are required in order for this word to be understood." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 8 p.157*

## **Consider the Lilies...**

"Many illustrations from nature are used by the Bible writers, and as we observe the things of the natural world, we shall be enabled, under the guiding of the Holy Spirit, more fully to understand the lessons of God's word. It is thus that nature becomes a key to the treasure house of the word." *Education p.120*

## **Powerful Tools for Bible Study**

*Bible Atlas* (with color maps) -- to follow the movements of Bible characters.

*Bible Concordance* (with Hebrew/Greek dictionaries, e.g. "Strong's" or "Young's") -- for quick word searches and a deeper understanding of the original meaning of words used in scripture.

*Bible Dictionary and Encyclopedia* -- for details regarding people, countries, places, cultures, and concepts.

*Bible Software* -- for fast/powerful access to scripture by verse, topic, or phrase; color maps; Bible concordance; topical studies; and a wide variety of other tools.

*Topical Concordance* -- to find verses that address a specific topic.

*Tools that relate the writings of Ellen G. White to the Bible*

- *Conflict of the Ages Series* (a 5 volume set) -- for beautiful and inspiring commentary that parallels the Bible and can be read along with the Bible.



- *Scripture Index* (found in Comprehensive Index to the Writings of Ellen G. White, Volume 1) -- for quick access to commentary regarding a given verse of scripture.
- *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A* -- for access to additional commentary regarding a given verse of scripture. A perfect companion to the Scripture Index.

### **Other valuable tools that can be found in many Bibles**

*Cross-references* -- to easily find related passages. For example: Christ, as well as other New Testament characters, often made short, subtle references to entire passages of Old Testament scripture. Knowing when these references are made and to which passages they refer opens an entirely new window of understanding to the Bible student.

*Red letter edition* -- Christ's words in red (provided only in the New Testament).

*Thumb indexes* -- for quick access to any book in the Bible. For even faster access, memorize the books of the Bible in order.

*Wide margins* -- for note taking.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I STUDY THE BIBLE?**

"No one can search the Scriptures in the spirit of Christ without being rewarded. When man is willing to be instructed as a little child, when he submits wholly to God, he will find the truth in His word. If men would be obedient, they would understand the plan of God's government. The heavenly world would open its chambers of grace and glory for exploration. Human beings would be altogether different from what they now are, for by exploring the mines of truth men would be ennobled. The mystery of redemption, the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice, would not be as they are now, vague in our minds. They would be not only better understood, but altogether more highly appreciated." *Christ's Object Lessons p.114*

"When a real love for the Bible is awakened, and the student begins to realize how vast is the field and how precious its treasure, he will desire to seize upon every opportunity for acquainting himself with God's word. Its study will be restricted to no special time or place. And this continuous study is one of the best means of cultivating a love for the Scriptures." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students p.463*

"The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character..."

Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving." *Christ's Object Lessons p.100,101*

## IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

This is a question that many Christians ask themselves. Rote memorization of scripture can be a time-consuming (although extremely rewarding) task. Some enthusiastically begin memorizing verses only to become discouraged that, over time, their list of "memory verses" has become so long that they can't remember even the most simple of verses. But this need not be the case. There is a simple, enjoyable, yet powerful way to fortify the mind with scripture without the pressure and frustration often associated with rote memorization. This method is called "Text Storage." Here is how it works:

Each evening, or each morning, ask God to help you find a text in the Bible that will be particularly helpful to you. Choose a text (1 or more verses) that will give you strength and courage in your current situation. Highlight this text in your Bible. Then write out the text (along with where it is found) on a 3 x 5 card or similar piece of paper that you can easily carry with you. This will be your "storage text" for the next day.

Each morning, before beginning your day, read your storage text 5 - 10 times - attempting to store it in your mind. If, after doing this, you don't have it memorized, don't be concerned. Simply put the card in your purse or pocket to keep it with you throughout the day. Then, whenever you are tempted, encounter trials, or feel discouraged, repeat your storage text (even if it doesn't seem to apply to the situation at hand). This will quickly set your focus upon God's word. The Holy Spirit can then bring to mind previously stored texts that are even more helpful and comforting. If after one day you are not able to repeat your storage text from memory, keep it as your storage text for the next day.

"Let the student take one verse, and concentrate his mind on ascertaining the thought that God has put into that verse for him, and then dwell upon the thought until it becomes his own. One passage thus studied until its significance becomes clear, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained." *Counsels to Teachers p.461*

"Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets, you may read a passage, and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in the mind." *Steps to Christ p.90*

"Though at first the memory be defective, it will gain strength by exercise, so that after a time you will delight thus to treasure up the words of truth. And the habit will prove a most valuable aid to spiritual growth." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students p.137,138*

Try it. You will be amazed at how powerful and effective this method can be. The more difficult your day, the more deeply embedded your storage text will become and the more often you will be reminded that God is by your side to help.

Remember that in using Scripture weapons against the attacks of the enemy, we are but following in the footsteps of our Saviour.

"There should be a living, growing interest in storing the mind with Bible truth. The precious knowledge thus gained will build a barrier about the soul. Although assailed with temptation, there will be a firm trust in Jesus, through the knowledge of Him who hath called them to glory and to virtue." *Counsels on Sabbath School Work p.36*

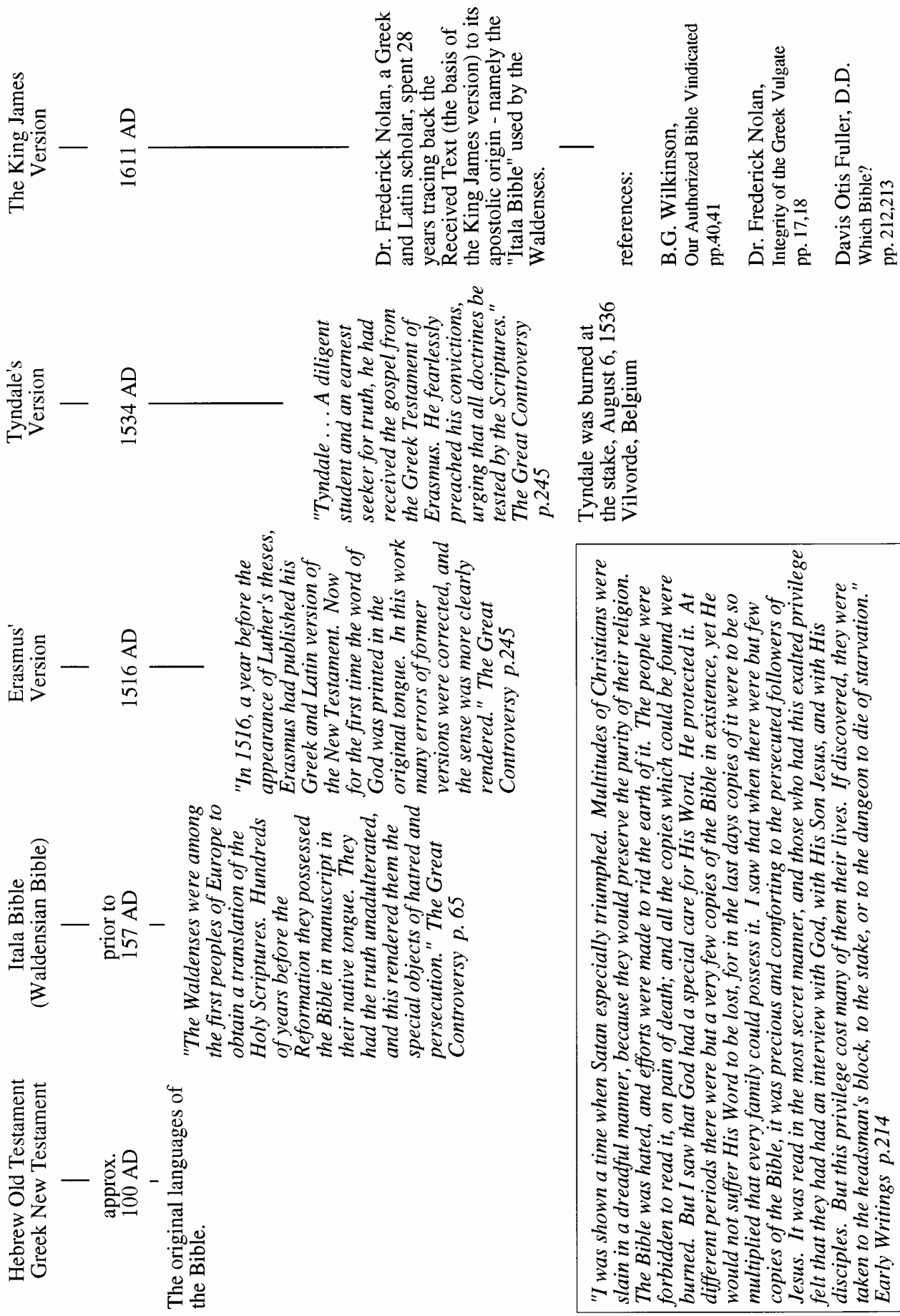
"Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus 'when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.' Isaiah 59:19.

Jesus promised His disciples: 'The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.' John 14:26. But the teachings of Christ must previously have been stored in the mind in order for the Spirit of God to bring them to our remembrance in the time of peril. 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart,' said David, 'that I might not sin against Thee.' Psalms 119:11." *The Great Controversy p.600*

"It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures, storing the mind with the truths of God. You may be separated from the companionship of Christians and placed where you will not have the privilege of meeting with the children of God. You need the treasures of God's Word hidden in your heart." *My Life Today p.28*

"Let us commit its precious promises to memory, so that, when we are deprived of our Bibles, we may still be in possession of the Word of God." *My Life Today p.28*

# THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE



*"I was shown a time when Satan especially triumphed. Multitudes of Christians were slain in a dreadful manner, because they would preserve the purity of their religion. The Bible was hated, and efforts were made to rid the earth of it. The people were forbidden to read it, on pain of death; and all the copies which could be found were burned. But I saw that God had a special care for His Word. He protected it. At different periods there were but a very few copies of the Bible in existence, yet He would not suffer His Word to be lost, for in the last days copies of it were to be so multiplied that every family could possess it. I saw that when there were but few copies of the Bible, it was precious and comforting to the persecuted followers of Jesus. It was read in the most secret manner, and those who had this exalted privilege felt that they had had an interview with God, with His Son Jesus, and with His disciples. But this privilege cost many of them their lives. If discovered, they were taken to the headsman's block, to the stake, or to the dungeon to die of starvation." Early Writings p.214*

Tyndale was burned at the stake, August 6, 1536  
Vilvorde, Belgium

references:

B. G. Wilkinson,  
Our Authorized Bible Vindicated  
pp.40,41

Dr. Frederick Nolan,  
Integrity of the Greek Vulgate  
pp. 17,18

Davis Otis Fuller, D.D.  
Which Bible?  
pp. 212,213

## **GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE BIBLE VERSION FROM WHICH TO STUDY AND STORE/MEMORIZE TEXTS**

- 1) Before you begin the process of selecting a Bible version, surrender the outcome of your decision to God.
- 2) Pray that God will give you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding through His Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth regarding which version to consistently use.
- 3) Be certain that the version you are considering does not contradict the true line of Bible versions that God has preserved through the centuries.
- 4) Recognize that God originally inspired the writing of only one Bible and that all accurate versions must agree with the original inspiration of God.
- 5) Recognize that Satan has used every possible means to destroy the Bible, including the issuance of counterfeit Bibles.
- 6) "Every chapter and every verse of the Bible is a communication from God to men." Patriarchs and Prophets p.504

## **HOW SHOULD I TREAT THE BIBLE?**

"We should reverence God's word. For the printed volume we should show respect, never putting it to common uses, or handling it carelessly.

...true reverence is shown by obedience. God has commanded nothing that is unessential, and there is no other way of manifesting reverence so pleasing to Him as obedience to that which He has spoken." *Education p.244*

"The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe we would open God's Word and with what earnestness we would search its precepts. The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One." *My Life Today p.283*

"Every word of God is pure:" Proverbs 30:5

"Never allow one expression of lightness and trifling to escape your lips when quoting Scripture. As you take the Bible in your hands, remember that you are on holy ground. Angels are around you, and could your eyes be opened, you would behold them." *Fundamentals of Christian Education p.195*



## **Bibliography:**

The King James version of the Holy Bible, 1611  
Available at all Christian bookstores

*The following books were written by Ellen G. White. They are available by calling ABC at (800)765-6955 or Laymen Ministries at (800)245-1844.*

Christ's Object Lessons, 1900  
Counsels on Sabbath School Work (compilation), 1938  
Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 1913  
Counsels to Writers and Editors (compilation), 1946  
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The Desire of Ages, 1898  
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