

**Part 8: The early church.** After Jesus ascended to Heaven, the gospel began to be preached throughout the world (starting in Jerusalem). When people would believe and obey the gospel's message, God would add them to His church (group of saved people). Letters would be written to help and encourage these Christians to live pleasing to God.

### **Why's The Bible So Important?**

**It tells us what we need to know about the past.** No other book can give you the full information you need about where you came from and what is so special about you (Genesis 1:26-27). And, no other book will tell you how God has used the past to make your salvation from sin possible (Galatians 3:7-9)! Furthermore, God has given many lessons in the past that will teach and encourage us today (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

**It tells us what we need to know about the future.** No other book can possibly tell you what is waiting for your soul beyond death. Only God can reveal what is in this spiritual realm awaiting you. Specifically, He speaks of a future judgment (Hebrews 9:27) in which all people will either be welcomed to spend eternity with God in Heaven or be sentenced to eternity in Hell (Matthew 25:31-46).

**It tells us what we need to know to live in the present.** No other book can properly prepare you for the future, in part, because the words of God in the Bible will be the standard (criteria) you will be judged by (John 12:48; Revelation 20:12). So, the Bible gives us basic instructions before leaving earth (BIBLE) about how to live to please God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)! If you desire to seek God and be saved eternally in Heaven, you must believe and obey its message (Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

### **Conclusion**

The Bible is the greatest book that has ever been or will ever be written! It is the only book from God and tells you everything you need to know about pleasing the God of the universe and experiencing the salvation of your soul. Therefore, you should determine that you will seek God by learning from and obeying its message!



The Bible can be a big and intimidating book – 2 major sections, 66 books, 1,189 chapters, and 31,102 verses (depending on translation). Consequently, it is easy to be exposed to various teachings from the Bible but still not understand what the Bible is really all about. And, unfortunately, many have become so intimidated by the Bible that they never even try.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn the key messages about the Bible – including what makes it so special, its theme, its story, and why it is so important.

### **What's So Special About The Bible?**

**The inspired word of God.** Unless you understand what is truly special about the Bible, you may never be truly motivated to know the contents of its message. But, if there is something truly unique about the Bible that you cannot get from any other source, then you will embrace it, give it a special place in your life, and seek to understand its message. Particularly, the Bible is unique in that it contains the words of the true and living God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)! This is confirmed by various evidences – including hundreds of fulfilled prophecies, claims confirmed by human discoveries, and its united revelation.

**The perfect revelation of truth.** God's words came into written form through the work of the Holy Spirit guiding its authors into all truth (John 16:12-15; Ephesians 3:3-6; 2 Peter 1:20-21). So, the words contained in its pages are not merely the words of human authors, but the words and commands of God Himself (1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13). Because the Bible comes from God, it is perfect (James 1:25; Titus 1:2). In fact, the Bible provides the only opportunity to learn a message that is from God and contains complete truth (as its revelation is complete and must not be changed, Jude 1:3; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19).

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Written by Eric Krieg

Watch video @ [WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGW550](http://WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGW550)

### What's The Theme Of The Bible?

**God's eternal plan.** The Bible reveals how God accomplished something that is crucial for every person. This is a plan God had in His mind from eternity (even before the creation of this world) and centers around saving people from sin (Ephesians 3:8-11; 1 Peter 1:18-21). For, sin is the violation of God's law and results in people dying spiritually (being separated from the holy God, Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 6:23). If people die physically in this condition, they will be eternally separated from God in the fires of Hell (Revelation 21:8). Only God could provide a way to redeem people from their sin and reconcile them to Himself. But, it would take the sacrifice of His own Son dying on the cross (Jesus Christ, John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19) – because there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood; and only Jesus's blood would suffice (Hebrews 9:22; 10:4)!

**How God accomplished His eternal plan.** The Bible story explains how God revealed this eternal plan to bring about redemption from sin. His plan was slowly revealed in the beginning. Then, God used the nation of Israel as a special group of people to accomplish His plan. Through this nation, God sent the Messiah into the world to provide the sacrifice for sin. God then provided the gospel message (the good news) to tell people about their opportunity of salvation through Jesus. Now, those who respond in faith-filled obedience to the gospel submit themselves as willing citizens of the kingdom of God. Then, God continues to provide people the opportunity through Jesus to be saved by believing and obeying the gospel and living as citizens of His kingdom until the end when He comes again and ends this world.

### What's The Story Of The Bible?

**Part 1: The beginning.** The Bible begins with details of how God created the world and made people in His image (Genesis 1-2). But, these people chose to sin against Him and were punished. Then, as sin spread, God sent a flood. Later, as the world was repopulated, God called a man named Abram (Abraham) and gave him three special promises (Genesis 12): That God would make a great nation from his descendants, give these descendants a special land, and bless all people on earth through his Seed. This family that comes through this man eventually moved to Egypt to survive a famine.

**Part 2: The exodus.** This nation (Israel) grew and the king of Egypt made them slaves. But, God called Moses to confront the king and he eventually led the Israelites out of Egypt (after a series of ten plagues). After their exodus from Egypt, God made a covenant with them and gave

them a law to live by. Although God wanted to lead them to the land He had promised Abraham, the people often rebelled and complained against God. Eventually, most of that rebellious generation died after God caused them to wander in the wilderness.

**Part 3: The promised land.** God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites into the promised land (Canaan). As long as the Israelites obeyed God, God caused them to be victorious. Thus, the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan and divided up the land among the 12 tribes of Israel. However, as the Israelites failed to obey God concerning the people and idols of the land, they would often be influenced to sin. Then, God delivered them to the enemy until they would repent and cry out to Him. After this, He would deliver them through a judge.

**Part 4: The united kingdom.** The people of Israel demanded that they be given a king to lead them. This did not please God, since they were rejecting His leadership. Still, God allowed them to have a king. They had three kings during this time when the king reigned over a single, united kingdom – Saul, David, and Solomon. The kingdom prospered under the rule of David and Solomon. Solomon also built the temple in Jerusalem to worship God at this time.

**Part 5: The divided kingdom.** After Solomon's son, Rehoboam, began to reign, he made a decision that resulted in the kingdom dividing. The northern kingdom would be called "Israel" and the southern kingdom would be called "Judah." The northern kingdom would have a history of all wicked kings – and God would send them into captivity under the Assyrians. The southern kingdom would also have many wicked kings, although their wickedness was slowed by a few good kings. After the exile of Israel, the Bible story focuses on Judah.

**Part 6: The exile and return.** The wickedness of Judah also reached a point at which God punished them by sending them into captivity under the Babylonians. This captivity lasted for 70 years. A small part of Judah then returned to their land after it had been destroyed by the Babylonians. These would work to re-inhabit the land and rebuild Jerusalem (including the temple).

**Part 7: The life of Christ.** Through the people of Judah, God brought His Son (Jesus Christ) into the world. During His earthly life, He fulfilled prophecies, performed miracles, preached about the kingdom of God, taught His disciples, and committed no sin. He was hated by the Jewish leaders and they determined to put Him to death by crucifixion. But, even though He was nailed to the cross, died, and was put into the tomb, God raised Him from the dead – and He later ascended back to Heaven.