

THE WORD OF GOD

Lesson Four

Memory Verse: *Matthew 4:4*

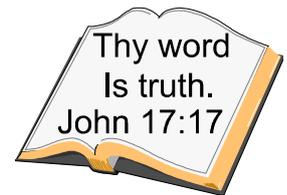
Lesson Verse: *Hebrews 4:12*

"For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

I. Introduction

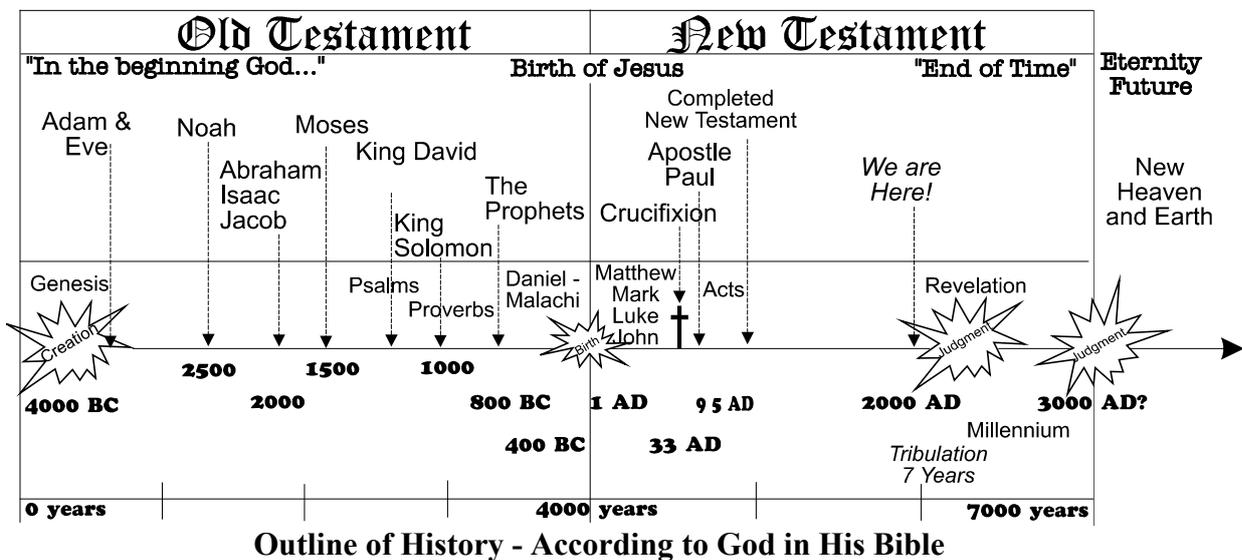
- A. What separates **Bible**-Christianity from all other types of Christianity is its claim to an absolute, written authority from God (*John 17:17*). So many "Christians" only *use* the Bible, but do not believe it is completely true. Having the perfect word of God is essential because the way in which a Christian is to live his or her life is only found in the pages of the Holy Bible!
- B. The purpose of this lesson is to help the Christian to know what it is that they hold in their hands, and how they can trust it as *the very* "word of _____" (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*)! We don't just "believe" the Bible is God's word... we can **PROVE** it.
- C. What you hold in your hands is a supernatural Book, given to us by God to show us who God is, what He expects, and how to follow Him throughout all of our lives.



II. Bible Facts

- A. The Bible is **the oldest book in the world**. It has been read by more people and translated into more languages than any other book and holds the distinction of being the first book ever printed on a printing press.
- B. It alone has altered the events of human history **more than any other piece of literature**. The Bible has been introduced into nations full of chaotic warlike tribes and ended up producing civilized and safe societies. This one book has defended beleaguered women and freed slaves by expressly teaching all are to be treated as equals.
- C. It guides the human heart and mind on a journey that has led to the greatest discoveries and accomplishments ever attempted. And it speaks with all authority on the issues of not only life, but of death, and eternity. It does all this in words on a page, that can be held in a hand, studied by the mind, believed with the heart, and experienced in the soul. There is no other book like the Bible. And there is no better book for the soul. Read it. Test it. Believe it. And enjoy the fruits of living by it.
- D. The Bible is **ONE** Book made up of **66** separate books. During the Council of Trent (1563 AD), the Roman Catholic church added 7 more books called the *Apocrypha*, but they are not inspired like the other 66, and cause great confusion by its contradictions.
- E. Each book of the Bible is thankfully divided into Chapters, and each chapter into verses. There are 1,189 chapters in the entire Bible, and 31,102 verses.
- F. **It is eternal**. According to Jesus Christ, "_____ " and "_____ " will pass away, but NOT God's word (*Matthew 24:35*).
- G. Overall, the Bible is divided into two main sections:
 1. The **first** section is called the _____ (*2Cor 3:14*).
 2. The **second** section is called the _____ (*2Cor 3:6*).
 3. A "testament" is a written *testimony* about God's will for us in the form of a covenant (or agreement) with us.

- H. The Bible is **God's revelation** of the origin and destiny of all things (Isaiah 46:9,10). It is a record of how God dealt with man in the past, present and future. And it reveals the plan of God for mankind here and now, and in the next life.
- I. It contains **the message of eternal salvation** for all who believe in Christ, and eternal _____ for all who reject that Gospel (John 3:36).
- J. It is the most remarkable Book ever! Of its divine library of 66 books, there is history, biography, poetry, proverbial sayings (true sayings), hymns (songs), laws, parables (stories that teach truth), riddles, allegories (symbolic language), prophecies, records of birth, and death, mysteries, adventure, recipes, blessings, cursings, and all other forms of human expression!
- K. The Bible is superior to all philosophy because it was not given "by man's _____" but by the teaching of the _____ (1 Corinthians 2:13).
- L. **The Bible is perfect**, having no error because it is both *inspired*, and _____ by God (Psalm 12:6,7). God wrote the Scriptures through men (that's *inspiration*, 2Timothy 3:16), and then bound Himself to keep His word from error (that's *preservation*, Matthew 24:35)! That means God's word is still here today - it has not been lost or corrupted, or else Jesus was a liar!
- M. This one Book permeates all of literature. No stories are as well known as David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Moses at the Red Sea, and Noah's world wide flood. The words of this Book that you hold in your hand are even etched in stone upon so many public buildings all over the world as testimony to how it has been the foundation for laws and a just society.
- N. And the Bible is not going away... Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall _____."



- O. **Psalm 119** describes the importance of the Bible in the life of the believer.
 1. The Bible refers to *itself* in **Psalm 119** using eight different words:
 - a. **The** _____ - God's definition of right and wrong (vs 1)
 - b. **The** _____ - a record of what God thinks (vs 2)
 - c. **God's** _____ - a record of how God works (vs 3)
 - d. _____ - Truths that apply to life - principles (vs 4)
 - e. _____ - fixed truths of God (5)
 - f. _____ - clear commands and instructions (6)
 - g. _____ - God's conclusions about various subjects (vs 7)
 - h. **The** _____ - the very words of God (vs 9)

2. The Psalm also declares that God charges the believer with eight responsibilities concerning the Scriptures:
 - a. To *love* them (119:97,159) - How much do YOU love the Bible?
 - b. *Prize* them (119:72,127) as you would infinite **treasure!**
 - c. *Memorize* them (119:11) - learn God's words as He wrote them.
 - d. _____ on them (119:15,23,48,78) - understand each word!
 - e. *Study* them (119:12,18,26,27) - See *2Tim 2:15!*
 - f. *Trust* them (119:42) Faith comes by hearing this Bible (Rom 10:17)
 - g. *Obey* them (119:8) - See *James 1:22!* Live this Bible every day!
 - h. *Declare* them (119:13) - tell others of God's word on life!

P. There are four things God wants us to learn from the Bible (2Timothy 3:16,17):

1. **Doctrine** - learn what is right and true.
2. **Reproof** - learn what is not right in our life, and in the world.
3. _____ - learn how to **get** right - most important.
4. **Instruction** in righteousness - learn how to **stay** right.
5. These four foundations prepare you so that "...*the man of God* (the mature Christian) *may be* _____, *thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"

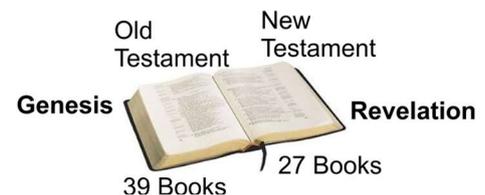
III. What The Bible Is Not - Make no mistake about it!

- A. It is NOT a charm or good luck piece.
- B. It is NOT a book of "heavenly utterances" in a supernatural language. It is God's revelation in the most simple human language possible.
- C. It is NOT a book of mysteries. It is self interpreting, explaining all the mysteries of life, so that no mysteries remain.
- D. It is NOT a book that says one thing and means another.
- E. It is NOT a book that should be constantly criticized and attacked simply because you don't like what it says, or how it says it! It is God's words!

IV. How We Got Our Bible - A Brief History Lesson

- A. The Bible was written not by just one or two people, but by 40 different people from 19 different occupations, including shepherds, soldiers, farmers, cattlemen, fishermen, tax collectors, a medical doctor, and even several kings and prophets, etc. These men's lives spanned a period of about 2,000 years, with the earliest book, the book of Job being written about 1,900 years before the birth of Christ. Other books, including Genesis through Deuteronomy were written around 1,400 years before Christ. And the book of the Revelation was written about 95 years AFTER the birth of Christ.

1. The first part of the Bible is called **the Old Testament**, and consists of 39 books. These books make up about 3/4ths of the entire Bible. They include Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, Psalms, Proverbs, Daniel, and ends with the book by Malachi. These 39 books were written mainly in the Jewish language of Hebrew.
2. The second part of the Bible is called **the New Testament**, and it has 27 books in it. They include Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Ephesians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, James, and it ends with the book of Revelation. All the New Testament books were written in the Greek language starting just after Christ's resurrection, with the last ones being completed by 95 A.D.



- B. The Bible is the written record of the very words that proceeded from the _____ of God (Matthew 4:4). They are referred to as the *Scriptures*, the *Law*, **God's Word**,

and *the Book*. We get our word “*Bible*” from the Greek word ‘Biblios’, which simply means “the Book.”

- C. The Bible actually describes how it was written.
1. The Bible came not “by the _____ of man” (2Peter 1:21). No one just sat down and decided to write something and call it Scripture.
 2. The Apostle Peter continued in 2Peter 1:21, “but *holy men of God spake as they were _____ by the Holy Ghost*”. That is called Inspiration (2Tim 3:16). This means God “breathed” (spoke) His very words into the human authors of the Bible as they wrote it - they were not invented by human imagination. They came directly from God (Matthew 4:4)!
 3. God chose to use over 40 human authors to pen the books of the Bible, with the Holy Spirit always directing, and controlling their words. Let’s look at some of the “sub-authors” that God used to pen this Book of books called the Bible:
 - a. Who wrote Deuteronomy 31:24-26? _____
 - b. Who wrote most of the Psalms? Luke 20:42 _____
 - c. Proverbs 1:1 _____
 - d. Isaiah 1:1 _____
 - e. Romans 1:1,7 _____
 - f. 1Peter 1:1 _____
 4. What the sub-authors spoke was written down. What was written down was copied and passed around throughout the world! These authors were serious men. They came from all walks of life. They were men of good reputation and of sound mind. Many of them were viciously persecuted and killed for the life they lived. None of the authors were ever made wealthy or powerful by the words they wrote, or the prophecies they gave. Far from it; many were impoverished. Moses, the author of the first five books of the Bible, chose to live a life of horrific hardship in the service of God as opposed to the billionaire’s life he could have lived as the adopted son of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Many Bible writers made similar choices. Their motivation certainly was not covetousness and worldly advantage. The lives they lived, and the testimonies they held, and the deaths they died gave powerful evidence that they were telling the truth.
- D. As each of the authors spoke, they then penned their words under the perfectly guided inspiration of the Holy Ghost (2Timothy 3:16 says, “*All scripture is given by _____ of God*”).
- E. The Old Testament was written mainly in the *HEBREW* language, with the oldest book being written 2000 years before the Birth of Christ (BC) and the last being written about 350 years BC. The Hebrew (which is read from right to left) for Genesis 1:1 looks like:

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ:

- F. The New Testament was written in *GREEK* from 35 AD to 95 AD (A.D. is a Latin abbreviation for, *Year of the Lord* starting from Christ’s birth). The Greek for John 3:16 looks like (you read Greek from left to right):

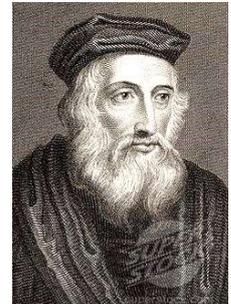
οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ
τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ
ἀποληταὶ ἀλλ' ἐχῆ ζωὴν αἰώνιον

- G. Aren't you glad we can read God's words in our own language?!
- H. The Bible is now **completed**. It's last book was finished in about 95 AD, when the apostle John completed the book of *Revelation*. No one can add anything to it through personal revelations, visions, or prophecies, and no one can take away from it (**Rev 22:18,19**) - anyone who tries to say they have any additional prophecies than already contained in the Bible is of the devil!
- I. Through 3,000 years, God has preserved over **5,200** Greek and Hebrew copies and portions of His words! These copies are what our Bible is translated from.
- J. From those copies, God combined His words into ONE Book at around 157 AD. This Bible was called the *Vetus Latina*, or **Old Latin Bible**. At the same time, the Bible was beginning to be translated into dozens of other languages including Coptic (Egyptian), Syriac, and Gothic (European).
- K. In 382 A.D. the Roman Catholic Church had Eusebius Jerome (340-420 AD) produce a new version of the Latin Bible, called **Jerome's Latin Vulgate**. It was completed in 405. Jerom's Vulgate became the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church for the next 1,300 years, and all other translation work was officially prohibited and was a criminal offence punishable by death. (See Council of Toulouse of 1229 A.D., the Council of Tarragona of 1234, and the Ecumenical Council of Constance in 1415). Until the Reformation of the 14th through 17th centuries the Bible was always read at great risk.
- L. **The English Bible** is the result of some 1,300 years of life-threatening work, starting as far back as 700 AD (only some of the publications are listed below).



MS 2650
Bible: Matthew, Egypt, 1st half of 4th c.
Unique text of the Gospel. 8 chapters are the earliest known of this part of the Bible

- 1. In 1382, a man named **John Wycliffe** (1330-1384) translated the first complete Bible into English. For this, he was *excommunicated*, and after death, his bones were *burned* by order of the pope! Here is an example of his translation of **John 3:16**:



for god loved so the world! that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that eche man that bileueth in him perisch not: but have euerlastynge life.

- 2. The next was made by **William Tyndale** (1494-1536), who was only able to finish the New Testament and the first five books of the Old Testament by 1530. By order of the Catholic Church, Tyndale was *burned* at the stake for translating the Scriptures on October 6, 1536!



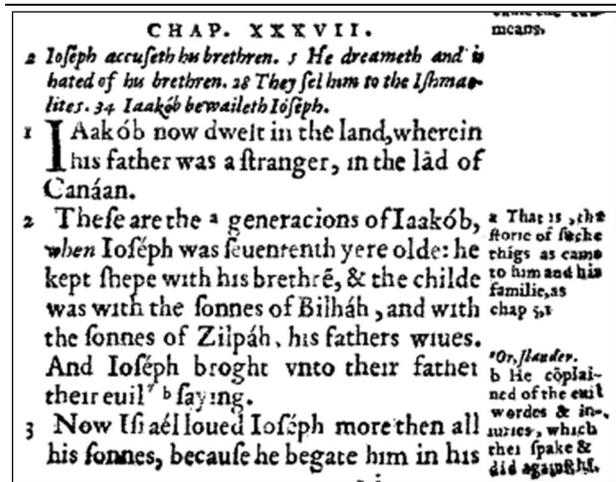
- 3. In 1535, **Myles Coverdale** (1485-1568) completed the first printed Bible (all others were *hand copied*, or printed without moveable type).
- 4. In 1539 the **Great Bible** was published. It was called **Great** because of its large size. This Bible was placed into every church, and a chain placed on it so that it could not be removed, but freely read from without worry of it being stolen.

5. In 1560, the **Geneva Bible** was produced by Bible scholars in Geneva, Switzerland because in England, Catholic *Queen Mary* had ascended the throne and forbid access to the Bible, and its publication.
6. The Roman Catholic church came out with it's **Rheims** New Testament in 1582, and **Douay** Old Testament in 1609. They were translated for the express purpose of backing up the dogma and teaching of the church instead of presenting the truths of Christ.
7. In 1604, **King James** the First, authorized 47 men to produce a complete translation of the Bible without Catholic influence in it. It was completed in 1611, and is referred to as the **King James Version (KJV)**, or **Authorized Version (AV)** of 1611, and still today is God's preserved word for the English speaking people. The King James Bible has gone through **seven editions**, the last one being in **1769**, correcting spelling errors, and making very minor changes so that it is completely accurate and faithful to the texts of the original languages from which it was translated.

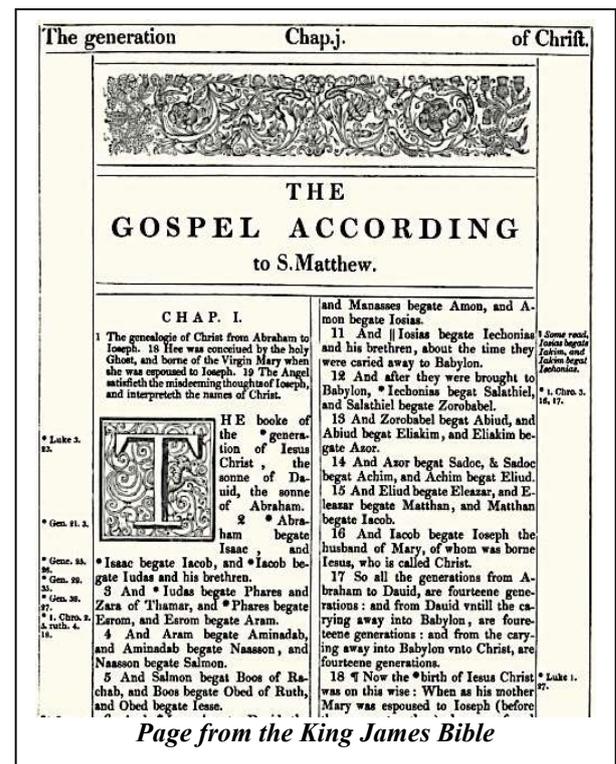
- M. Since 1611 there have been over 200 attempts to falsely “modernize” the Bible. Maybe you know of some of these. They include the **New International Version (NIV)**, **New American Standard Version (NASV)**, **Good News Bible**, **New King James Version**, **English Standard Version**, etc. But none are as accurate, or honest in their translation, or have the effect on people’s hearts like the **King James Bible!** More about this in Lesson 5.
- N. Since the time of the Reformation, over 2,000 languages have received the “*words of Life*” as the Apostles called them in **John 6:68**, due to the sacrificial efforts of Bible believing men and women who believed with all their heart that “_____ cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (**Romans 10:17**). Jesus plainly declared in **John 5:24**, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth _____, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto _____.*”
- O. So, what you hold in your hands, has cost a great number of people a high price to make sure you can read God’s words, and believe God’s promises for yourself.

V. Proofs of Inspiration - How We Know the Bible was Given By God!

- A. This book has been tested and proven scientifically to be absolutely accurate when it has spoken of science. Historically it has recorded ancient events that even now are being discovered to be 100% true. Prophetically the Bible has foretold hundreds of



Genesis 17 from Geneva Bible



Page from the King James Bible

vast future events, long before they ever occurred, with 100% accuracy! There is no other book in all of history like this Book you now hold in your hands!

- B. **Its Unity Proves it was Given by God.** Over 40 authors wrote the 66 books of the Bible in different lands (*Job* in Mesopotamia, *Moses* in Jordan, *Paul* in Rome and Greece, *John* in Turkey, *Peter* in Babylon), and at different times, covering a period of over 2,100 years (from 2000 B.C. to 95 A.D.), and yet never contradicting each other! Try to duplicate that! No matter what you have been told, none of the writings were “sanctioned” by some church council, or commanded to be written by some church leader. They were all written by the direct inspirational hand of _____ (2Tim 3:16), and preserved from any human error, in spite of the fact that myriads of religious efforts were made to destroy both the prophets and their message!
- C. **Its Influence on the World.** No other book has so influenced the course of human events like the Bible - it has never been *imposed* upon a people. No matter what culture a person lives in, one thing has always been true - *Religion* has always been forced upon people on a collective basis, while Biblical Christianity has always been *chosen* on an individual basis. This one piece of “literature” has brought about the greatest nations, and greatest freedoms no sword or any other means could! Notice the effect the word of God had upon the people of first century A.D. (Acts 8:4; 17:6) – it turned the world “_____”. Compare the time of the Dark Ages (when the Bible was banned from being read or believed), and the effects of Humanism, Stalinism, Marxism, and all other forms of tyrannical dictatorship (all banned the Bible) with the Reformation, and the Renaissance! Don’t let anyone take away your access to God’s written word!
- D. **Its Supernatural Preservation.** Whole kingdoms and religions have sought in vain to destroy the influence of the Scriptures, and yet it still reigns victorious, and indestructible (Matt 24:35). It has, and always will out-last all religions and kingdoms of this world, simply because, it is God’s pure word (Ps 12:6,7)!
- E. **Its Fulfilled Prophecy.** One of the most important areas of proof that God wrote the Bible involves the fact that almost 3,300 verses of prophecy have been fulfilled *to the letter*. These prophecies were predictions made hundreds and even thousands of years before their fulfilment:
1. The prediction in Micah 5:2 of the birthplace of _____ was made 700 years before the event - see Matthew 2:1-6).
 2. Jesus would be born of a virgin, "*Behold, a _____ shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*" (750 BC - Isaiah 7:14)
 3. Jesus would be rejected by His own people, "*He is despised and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him*" (750 BC - Isaiah 53:3).
 4. Jesus would heal people, "*The eyes of the blind shall be _____, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped... The lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb _____*" (Isaiah 35:5,6).
 5. The prophet Zechariah (in Zech 11:12,13) back in 500 BC foretells that Jesus would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver "*Give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price _____ of silver*". See Mt 26:15
 6. Jesus’ hands and His feet would be pierced by nails, "*They _____ my hands and my feet.*" (Ps 22:16), "*and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced*" (500 BC Zech 12:10). Normally criminals were stoned.
 7. Jesus would be in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights, "*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days*

and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40). The Book of Jonah was written 800 years before Christ.

8. Jesus would rise from the grave, "*But God will redeem (resurrect) my soul from the power of the _____*" (written 1000 years BC - Psalm 49:15)
 9. Not one detail has failed, and there are over 300 more yet to be fulfilled! Deuteronomy 18:20-22 says God promises that everything His prophets speak will be fulfilled, and if not, then they were *false* prophets, and should die! No human authored book would dare to make so many predictions, so far in advance, and subject its authenticity to such chance - yet God did!
- F. **Its Scientific Accuracy.** There are more than 300 clearly scientific statements in the Bible, that only God could have shown people – they could not have figured it out on their own.
1. The Bible describes the earth not as a flat world, but as a _____ (like a *sphere*, Isaiah 40:18,22). The Bible expressed this as FACT long before Columbus discovered it was right!
 2. It says the earth is suspended in space (Job 26:7) hanging upon _____. There is no way anyone could have known that to be true back in 2000 BC! And it told us these things without the aid of an orbiting satellite.
 3. The Bible explains that all the major languages were instantly divided into *confusion* 4,400 years ago at the Tower of _____ (Genesis 11:1-9).
 4. The Bible reveals that there are "paths," or currents in the seas (Psalm 8:8). Again, Columbus “discovered” that this was true when he sailed to the New World on one ocean *current*, and then back to Spain on another.
 5. The Scriptures in Psalm 102:24-27, and Hebrews 1:10-12 declare *the Second Law of Thermodynamics* (which states that everything **wears out**) before scientists ever figured it out on their own!
 6. God’s command to wash everything (Leviticus 17:15) protected His people from invisible diseases and germs that were not discovered until the 1600 and 1700’s!
 7. The Bible revealed that the stars are innumerable (Jeremiah 33:22). That is a big thing to say when only in the past 80 years has it been accepted as true!
 8. The Bible in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 also reveals the process by which all of life began on this planet (by supernatural and instantaneous creation).
 9. And there is *much, much more!* You can’t beat the awesomeness of the Bible, no matter how much education you obtain - it’s always years ahead of science!
- G. **Its Historical Accuracy.** Noah's flood (Genesis 6-9) is described by Babylonian tablets written in 650 B.C., as well as in 250 other ancient world histories. Most of the places named in the Bible have been identified through careful archaeology, thus validating the historical accuracy of the Bible again and again! The same cannot be said however about other religious books including the Book of Mormon.
- H. **The Claims of the Bible Itself.** Over 3,800 times the writers of the Bible boldly claim that God Himself spoke what they wrote (i.e., "*thus saith the Lord*"), and that what we hold in our hands are the very words of God (2Timothy 3:15,16; 1 Thes 2:13)

The Bible IS God's Word to Mankind

Read it; Believe it; Study it; Obey it; Love it, and Preach it!

Date Lesson Completed _____	Discipler _____
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