



Lesson 1

The Bible, God's Word

Key Verse

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” *2 Timothy 3:16*

Key Words

- Scripture:
- Inspiration:
- Profitable:
- Instruction:
- Consistent:

Key Points

The Bible is like a puzzle.

It's not that its message is hidden but in order to understand it properly the pieces have to be put together in the right order. Here are four basic principles to help us see the right picture:

1. To learn any new concept, we begin with the basics.
2. Start at the beginning and move through in a logical order.
3. Don't mix up subject matter. Concentrate on one theme at a time.
4. Focus on major themes first. Once this is done, the rest of the Bible will make sense.

The Bible is the world's number one best-seller.

- It was written over 1500 years (40 generations).
- It was written by more than 40 authors (including such varied people as philosophers, fishermen, kings and poets).
- It was written in many different places (in the desert, in prison, in a palace, while travelling...).
- Its authors wrote it in various moods (great joy, great sadness, awe...).
- It was written on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe).
- It was written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
- Though its subject matter covers hundreds of topics, there is a consistency throughout the whole book.

The Bible is composed of 66 books.

- It is divided into two sections: the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books).
- Each book was further divided (by men, in order to make it easier to find things) into chapters and verses.
- A reference would follow this format: Book/Chapter/Verse (ex: John 3:16).

The Bible is the work of God.

- This book is not just a collection of history, poetry, and guidelines for life. It is special because it is God's message to us. Our verse tells us that the Bible was "inspired", or God-breathed. He used people to write this message, allowing room for their own style of writing without affecting its content. Because it is God's word, we describe it as a "living book". This means that God can speak to us through it. Every time we read it, we can learn something new.

Questions

1. Who wrote the Bible?
2. Why is the Bible special?
3. Find the following places in the Bible:
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Psalm 119:105
 - John 17:17
4. What is at least one good suggestion to avoid confusion while reading the Bible?

ΚΑΤΑ ΙΩ

¹_{III} **1** Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. **2** οὗτα **3** πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, κα ἐν¹. ὃ γέγονεν: **4** ἐν αὐτῷ ζα τῶν ἀνθρώπων\`· **5** καὶ τὸ α ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. ²_{III} **6** Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος, ἀπ

Greek

Psalm 23

¹ מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר: ² בְּנֵאֻחַ דְּשֵׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי
 עַל-מְיַ מִנְתּוֹת וַיְחַלֵּנִי: ³ וַיִּשְׂשֵׁר יִשׁוּבֵב
 וַיַּחֲנֵנִי בַמִּשְׁעָלִי צִדְקָה לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ:
 גַּם כִּי-אֵלֶיךָ בָּגַיִ אֶזְלָמוֹת לֹא-אִירָא רָע ⁴
 כִּי-אַתָּה עֲמֹדֵי שְׂבָטֶיךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ תִּפְּוֶה תַחְסִנֵנִי:
 תִּשְׂרֹף לְפָנָי שְׁלֹחַן גֶּדֶר צִרְיִי ⁵
 דִּשְׁנָתְךָ בְּשִׁמְוֹן רֹאשֵׁי בֹסֵי יְהוָה:
 אֵדָו אֲדָו וְתִסְדַּד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָל-יְמֵי חַיִּי ⁶
 וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יְהוָה לְאַרְבַּע יָמִים:

Hebrew