



## 1-INTRODUCTION - HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these studies from the books of the bible we will see enough evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

### INTRO

The books of the bible show us and explain to us the mess we are in and what God has done. If these experiences were not collected, the world wouldn't have known the evidence about God's true character. But a question is raised, why do we trust the bible?

#### 1) DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT COLLECTION OF BOOKS IN THE BIBLE?

2 Timothy 3:16. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching ... "(RSV)

2 Timothy 3:14, 17. "But for your part, stand by the truths you have learned and are assured of. Remember from whom you learned them; remember that from early childhood you have been familiar with the sacred writings which have power to make you wise and lead you to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every inspired scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error or for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind." (NEB)

#### 2) HOW DID JESUS TREAT THE OLD TESTAMENT? WHAT WAS HIS OPINION OF IT?

Luke 24:44, "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." (RSV)

#### 3) HOW DO WE KNOW WE HAVE THE WORDS ACCURATELY PRESERVED AND ACCURATELY TRANSLATED FROM THE HEBREW, ARAMAIC AND GREEK?

"The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries." (Frederic Kenyon, one' time curator of the British Museum)

#### 5) HOW SHOULD WE STUDY IT?

##### CONTEXT:

"a text without a context is a pretext for a proof-text". "Um texto fora do contexto eh um pretexto para o erro."

Don't take just a little bit here and a little bit there.

Deut. 14:26 You may spend the money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

##### GOD MEETS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE:

Exodus 21:10 If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.

Why did God say "if a man..." instead of saying, "no polygamy allowed?" But because he couldn't lead them faster, he conceded to their hard hearts.

Matthew 19:3-8 Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?" "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" And he said, "'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." "Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?" they asked. Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. 9 And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.

Hosea 4:16 The people of Israel are as stubborn as mules. How can I feed them like lambs in a meadow?

##### THE IDEAL TRUTH IS PROGRESSIVE AND UNFOLDED AS TIME GOES ON:

Exo. 21:23-25 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Matthew 5:38-39 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

#### **GOD HAS AN ENEMY:**

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (NASB)

Tohu/Bohu - formless and void

Jeremiah 4:22-23 22 “My people are foolish and do not know me,” says the Lord. “They are stupid children who have no understanding. They are clever enough at doing wrong, but they have no idea how to do right!” I looked at the earth, and it was empty and formless. I looked at the heavens, and there was no light. (NLT)

John 1:4-5 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Revelation 12:7-9 Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

John 12:31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

2 Cor. 4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe.

Eph. 2:1-2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

#### **4) WHY DOES THE BIBLE HAVE SO FEW THEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS? WHY IS THERE SO MUCH HISTORICAL DETAIL?**

God’s way is by demonstration. Not mere claims. He shows us the reasons why He acts in certain ways different than others sometimes, those details are in the context of the history around.

Matthew 11:4-6 “Jesus gave them this reply, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see - that blind men are recovering their sight, cripples are walking, lepers being healed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised to life and the good news is being given to those in need. And happy is the man who never loses his faith in me.’” (Phillips) (See Isaiah 35 and 61.)

#### **5) WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE BIBLE?**

John 17:3-6; 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.”

Jesus said in John 17 that He made God’s name known. in the bible, a name is always represented as character. The type of person he/she is. Remember Jacob? It means deceiver. Remember how he deceived his brother and father?

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Jesus purpose in coming to this world was to reveal God. To know God is to be intimate with him.

John 14:8-9 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father;