

# God Chat

## 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; 2 Timothy 3:14, 17

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

Luke 24:44

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

See notes column -->

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

Context:

Deut. 14:26

God meets people where they are:

Exodus 21:10; Matthew 19:3-8; Hosea 4:16

The ideal truth is progressive and unfolded as time goes on:

Exo. 21:23-25; Matthew 5:38-39

God has an enemy:

Genesis 1:1-3 - Tohu/Bohu - formless and void; Jeremiah 4:22-23 22; John 1:4-5, 9

Revelation 12:7-9; John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19

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

Matthew 11:4-6 (See Isaiah 35 and 61.)

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

John 17:3-6; John 1:18; John 14:8-9

### notes:

For orthodox Jews there were only 29 books in the bible: (The Cannons)

The Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The Writings: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles.

### THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE:

"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)