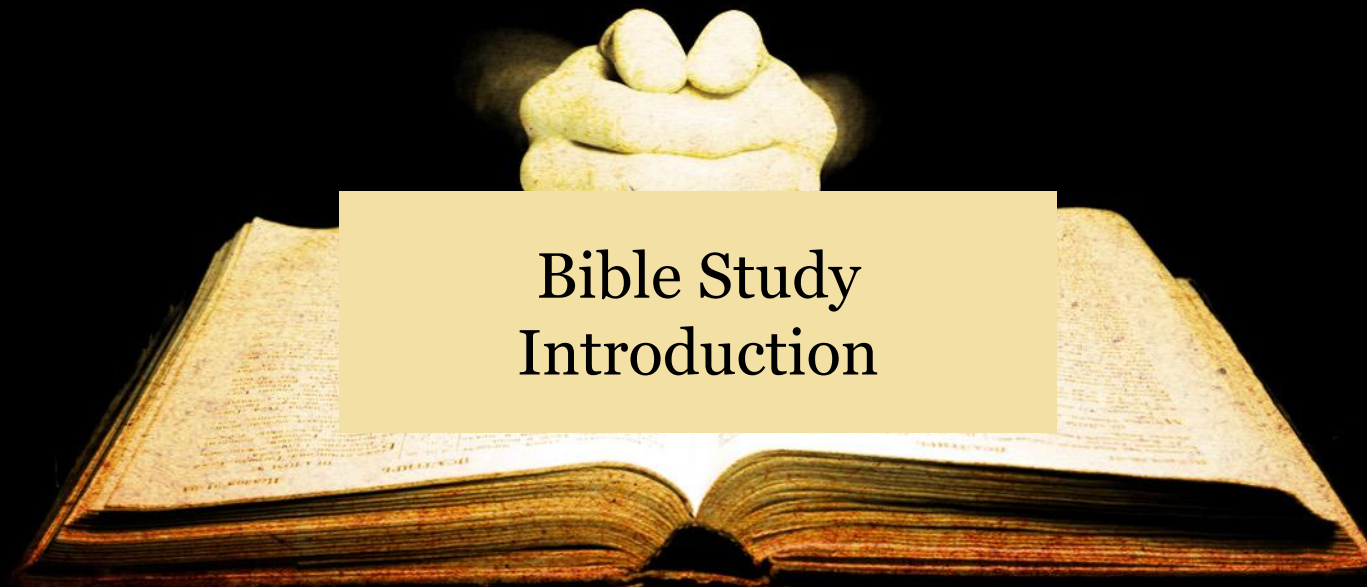


Communicating with God

A study of prayer and Bible study



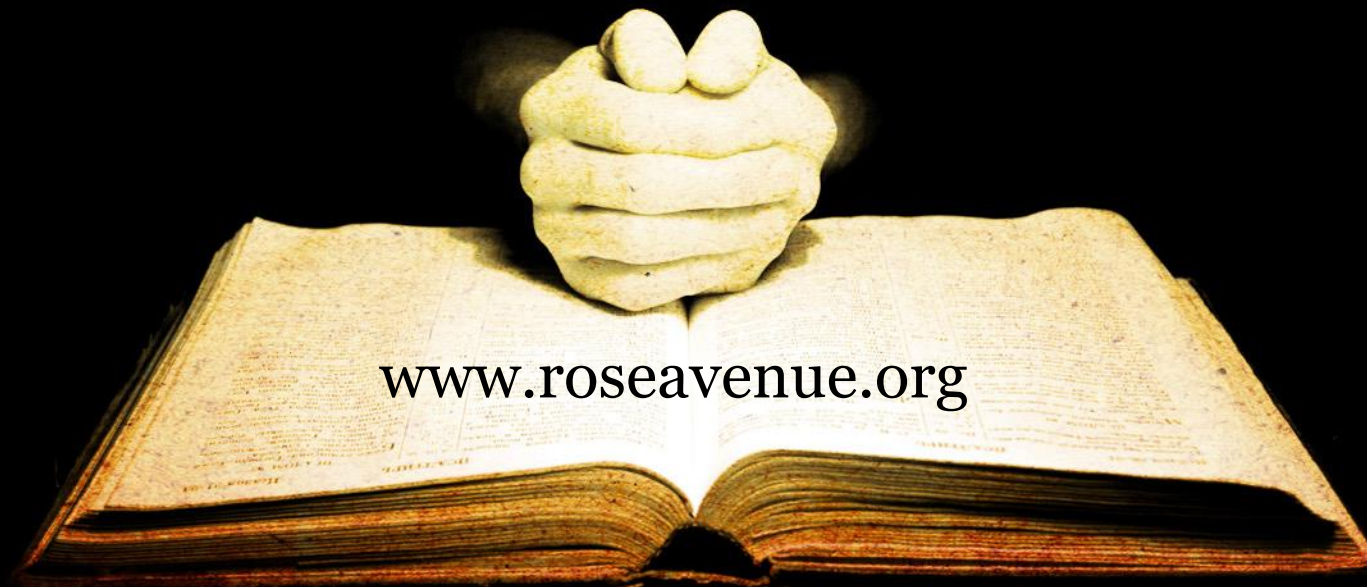
Bible Study
Introduction



Studying the Bible

- We have concluded our study of prayer establishing many factors related to its effectiveness. It is the avenue God has provided for His children to communicate TO Him.
- Today, we begin part 2 of this theme – How God communicates TO us.
- The simple answer is - through His word. Let us begin an examination of that.

Bible study (1)
Introduction
“If God were to speak to us...”



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Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme



A person's hands are visible holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred, focusing attention on the book.


Bible study - What we will address

- What is the Bible and why should we study it?
- How do we know the Bible is the word of God?
- Does truth matter?
- A brief introduction to authority
- What does it mean to study the Bible?
- What is the difference between Bible reading and Bible study

A person's hands are visible at the top of the frame, holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text.

Bible study - What we will address

- Proper attitudes as we study the Bible
- Different types of studies - “inductive study”
- Rules of interpretation (hermeneutics)
- How can we make our Bible study more effective?
- Various aids that help us rightly divide the word of truth



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?


- Imagine that you have never seen a Bible before. BUT you observe the world and KNOW that there is a Creator.
- Something within you tells you that He is there and wants us to follow Him (**cf. Ecclesiastes 3:11**)
- You find a copy of the Bible (perhaps given to you by someone). WHY should you believe it is the word of God?
- What qualities would you expect in a message that God has revealed to us?



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

☞ You would expect His message to tell you that it was from Him!

- Most would agree, if it could be proven that a book was from God, it would be holy and should be treated as such.
- The Bible tells us it is inspired
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Lit. “God breathed”
- Throughout scripture we find declarations that God is speaking - **Exodus 24:3-4, Isaiah 1:2, 1 Corinthians 14:37, Romans 1:16-17**




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect His message to introduce Him
- **Genesis 1:1-2**, “In the beginning God...”
Genesis 17:1, “I am Almighty God...” “The LORD”
Virtually every book of scripture makes reference to God by name or some other way or both.
“Thus says the LORD” (420x in OT) - **Isa. 28:16**
- The Bible addresses the character, power, eternity, work and many other qualities of God.




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect His message to introduce Him
- **Hebrews 1:1-2** - He declares that He speaks through His word.
- It is through such qualities that we can “know Him”
- who He is, what He expects of us, etc.




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect that book to offer proofs that it from Him (Divine in origin)
- The Bible is historically accurate
- It is written as a historical record (with various other literary forms)
- While written, beginning ~3500 years ago over a period of 1600 years, no place, person or event has been disproven as fictitious. Much of archaeology has verified its accuracy.
- If it is from God, accuracy is crucial!



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?


- ☞ You would expect that book to offer proofs that it from Him (Divine in origin)
 - Its natural and scientific accuracy
 - While not a book of science, when it deals with natural events and scientific details, it is accurate, and often well ahead of tis time.
 - Genesis 1:1** - in the “beginning”
 - Genesis 1:11-12ff** - “after its kind”
 - Acts 17:26** - “one blood”
 - Psalms 8:8** - “the paths of the sea”
- (Matthew Fontaine Maury - 1806-1873)



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?


☞ You would expect that book to offer proofs that it from
Him (Divine in origin)

- The power of prophecy!
- A most powerful and direct proof of inspiration. Only one with power to accurately know what will happen (millennia later) could do so - that is God
Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 - the crucifixion
Isaiah 44:28-45:1 - Cyrus would deliver Jerusalem
Daniel 2:44 - 4 kingdoms
- Only God could make such declarations ahead of time.
See **Isaiah 46:9-11**

A person's hands are shown holding an open book, with the pages slightly curved as if being turned. The person is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect it to be a work that is indestructible
- Recall, the earliest writings were around 3500 years ago (Moses).
- No other work of antiquity has faced the scrutiny of the Bible. Attempts have been made to destroy, outlaw, discredit and hinder its distribution.
- Yet, concerning the NT, we have more than 25,000 manuscripts and fragments, the earliest dating to within a few decades of the original.
90+% has been quoted by early authors over the first few centuries after its completion.

A person's hands are visible, holding an open book. The person is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

☞ You would expect it to be a work that is
indestructible

- It has had a profound influence on culture and societies since its writing. Our nation's founding documents used it as a guiding source.
- It has been translated into 700+ languages (complete), with 3500+ languages translating some part of it
- **EVERY major belief system HAS to address it (including atheism)!**



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?


- ☞ You would expect its content to be timeless and unified.
- While written over 1600 years, its diversity includes being written in 3 languages, on 3 continents by more than 40 authors from various backgrounds.
- Yet its message throughout is united! Truly, “Design demands a designer.”
- The theme of the Bible is salvation in Christ Jesus
**(1 Corinthians 15:1-2
1 John 5:11)**



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

☞ You would expect its content to be timeless and unified.

- The Bible claims to be truth!
John 17:17, Psalm 119:151
- It backs up that claim powerfully.
- The ONLY way this united message is possible is if an intelligent source is behind it. And that source needs to be OUTSIDE of the natural realm!
- For some, that IS the definition of God




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

☞ You would expect it to be meaningful to you!

- It should tell you what God's plans are for the world and for you.
- It does, beginning with man's fall and the promise of redemption - **Genesis 3:15**. As history unfolds, that plan is maintained and foretold. Jesus fulfilled that plan (**John 3:16**).

It tells us what is in store with Him and us -

1 Corinthians 15:22-26.




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect it to be meaningful to you!
- It should tell you what God has done to implement His plan.
- **Romans 5:6-8, Galatians 4:4**
“the fulness of the times”...




If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect it to be meaningful to you!
- It should tell you what God expects of you!
- **Matthew 7:12**, “the golden rule” summarizes our lives.
The Bible clearly declares what God expects of us both to be saved and to stay saved! **2 Peter 1:3-4**,
Romans 1:16-17



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

- ☞ You would expect it to be meaningful to you!
- You would expect it to be understandable
- **Ephesians 5:17**, “understand what the will of the Lord is.”
- While there are challenging sections, what we told to do and how to live is **simple** to understand (but not **easy** to do)



If God were speaking to us,
What would you expect?

☞ You would expect its to be meaningful to you!

- This brings us to our theme - Bible study
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - His word is able to make us complete.

2 Timothy 2:15 - *Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God,... rightly dividing the word of truth*

Considering these points, we can see why we OUGHT to consider the Bible!

In summary the Bible tells you:

- 1) Where you came from
- 2) Who God is and how much He loves you
- 3) Who your Savior is
- 4) How to be saved
- 5) How to live and stay saved
- 6) Where you are headed

It is NOT just another book. It is THE WORD OF GOD to us!

As the word of God, it is to be obeyed.

“To obey it is to obey God. To reject it is to reject God. That is the end of the matter.” (Jon Quinn, EF 16.4, 2009)



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open, aged Bible. The person is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The Bible is held horizontally, and the pages are slightly yellowed with age. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the fabric of the shirt.

How important is
the Bible to you?

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text "Let us pray!" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Let us pray!