

Bird's Eye View of the Bible

Fundamental Facts and Purpose of the Bible

I. The Bible's Meaning

- A. The word "bible" is from the Greek *biblios*, a _____.
- B. Though there are _____ individual books in the Bible, each with its particular message, the Bible is one Book with a _____ message.

II. The Bible's Authorship

- A. The Bible was written by about _____ human authors over a period of about _____ years (Gen. 3:15).
- B. The Bible was written by _____ who were chosen by God (2 Peter 1:21).
- C. The Bible was _____ in heaven in God's mind before it was given to men (Ps. 119:89).

III. The Bible's Division

- A. The Bible is divided into _____ major sections
 - 1. The Old Testament — _____ books
 - a. The Old Testament prepares the way for the New.
 - b. The Old Testament prepares the way for Jesus Christ.
 - c. *Christ* means God's an _____ one, God's chosen one. The Hebrew *Messiah* means the same thing.
 - d. Christ is God's man who will _____ God's kingdom (Isa. 9:6).
 - e. The Old Testament prepares the way for Christ by tracing His genealogy from Adam, by the creation of the nation Israel, by the giving of the law, by types, and by prophecy.

- f. The Messianic prophecies cover two major events: the _____ of Christ and the _____ of Christ. (1 Pe. 1:10-11).

2. The New Testament — _____ Books

IV. The Bible's Theme

A. The main theme is _____ (Ge. 1:1).

- The Bible is a revelation of God; it is God's Word to mankind; we cannot know God without a revelation, and the Bible is that revelation.

B. The main theme of the Bible is _____.

1. He is the _____ revelation of God (Luke 24:44-45; John 5:29; 1 Peter 1:10; Rev. 19:10).

2. The Bible can be outlined as follows:

- The Old Testament—Christ will come.
- The Gospels—Christ is here.
- The Book of Acts—Christ has come.
- The Epistles— Christ came for these reasons.
- The Book of Revelation— Christ is coming again.

God summarizes the theme of the Bible in three words in Col. 3:11, "Christ is all."

C. The main theme is God's _____ of the ages (Eph. 1:7-12).

1. God's eternal plan is founded on "*the _____ of Christ*" (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 13:8)
2. God's eternal plan is an *abounding of all _____ and _____* (Eph. 1:8).
3. God's eternal plan is the "*purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will*" (Eph. 1:11).
4. God's eternal plan is "*that in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all*

things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him" (Eph. 1:10).

- a. He will be the _____ of all things (Col 1:18-19).
 - b. All things will _____ to Jesus Christ as Lord (Phil 2:10-11).
 - c. All things will be rooted out of Christ's kingdom that are not _____ to Him (1 Co. 15:45; 2 Peter 3:12-13).
5. God's eternal plan encompasses " *things ... both which are in heaven, and which are on earth.*"
6. God's eternal plan is fulfilled in "*dispensations.*"
- "DISPENSATION" is *oikonomia*, meaning "manager of a household," referring to the divine government of the universe.
- a. It is God's administration of history "TIMES" (Eph. 1:10).
 - b. The Bible also uses the word "AGE" to refer to dispensations.
 - 1) There are "other ages," referring to ages past (Eph. 3:5).
 - 2) There are "ages to come" (Eph. 2:7).
7. God's plan of the ages is the key to understanding the Bible.
- The creation (Ge. 1-2)
 - The fall (Ge. 3)
 - Man before the flood (Ge. 4-5)
 - The global flood (Ge. 6-9)
 - The tower of Babel and the spread of the nations (Ge. 10-11)
 - The call of Abraham (Ge. 12-24)

- The creation of Israel (Ge. 25-32)
- Israel in Egypt (Ex 1-2)
- Israel's exodus from Egypt (Ex. 3-18)
- the giving of the law (Ex. 19-40; Leviticus)
- Israel's 40 year wandering (Nu-De.)
- Israel in the Promised Land (Joshua)
- Israel under the Judges, Israel's kingdom (1 Samuel - 2 Chronicles)
- Israel's judgment by Assyria, Babylon, and Rome (the times of the Gentiles)
- Christ's first coming, the church age, the day of the Lord, the conversion of Israel, Christ's return, the millennial kingdom, the final revolt and judgment of the devil (Re. 20)
- The Great White Throne judgment (Re. 20)
- The new heaven and new earth (Re. 21-22) (the fulness of times).

8. The first fruits of God's eternal plan is the _____ (Eph. 1:11-12).
- a. When Christ was _____ by Israel, He revealed His intent to create the church (Mt. 16:18; Joh. 1:11-12; Ja 1:18).
 - b. Church age believers have the first fruits of the _____ (Ro. 8:23) which will be poured out upon all flesh in the millennial kingdom (Joe. 2:28).
 - c. The church is a _____ of believers composed of Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 3:6).
 - 1) They are taken out of the Gentiles to be "a people for his name" (Ac. 15:14).
 - 2) They are those who hear and believe the gospel (Mr. 16:15-16).
 - d. The church's purpose is to manifest God's _____ by showing the exceeding riches of his

grace (Eph. 2:5-7).

- 1) The church is a special display, exhibit of God's grace. (Eph. 2:1-3, 12).
 - 2) When we preach the gospel, we are preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:4-8).
- e. As the first fruits of God's plan that all things be one in Christ, the churches are to submit to the Headship of Christ.
- f. God's eternal plan encompasses redeemed, glorified Israel.
- Redeemed, converted, glorified Israel will dwell in the New Jerusalem. The names of the 12 tribes will be inscribed on the city gates (Re. 21:12).
- g. God's eternal plan should be the passion of every redeemed saint. (2 Ti. 1:9).
- 1) God's plan is being fulfilled today by Christ's Great Commission to preach the gospel to every soul in every nation (Mr. 16:15; Ac. 1:8).
 - 2) to baptize believers and to teach them to observe all things whatsoever Christ has taught us (Mt. 28:19-20).
 - 3) Everyone is an ambassador of Christ in this great, eternal business (2 Co. 5:20).
 - 4) Everyone is to have on his gospel shoes (Eph. 6:13).
 - 5) You can be a part of God's plan of the ages by trusting Jesus Christ! (Eph. 1:12-14).