

# Learning Subjects from the Bible

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## **Teaching Actual Subjects From the Bible**

I would like to attempt to show how it is possible to teach school in all subject areas primarily through the use of the Bible. Keep in mind that this is a focus on the spiritual life here on earth as opposed to the carnal life. Even though God created everything we see, hear, smell, and touch, He is Spiritual. If we want our children to live according to God and in His will, then we must not hinder the work of the Holy Spirit Whose object it is to form a spiritual mind in them after the example of Jesus Christ (2 Chron. 27:6). To transform their minds in this way, it is our responsibility to see that they have all that they need to wisely choose Jesus Christ and become born again. This is the first and most important step along the path of a life that culminates in true and lasting success.

I believe that I owe it to you to demonstrate exactly, by example, how I propose parents can give their children subject preparation to accommodate the role they might play out in this life. But, I cannot stress too greatly, before setting about to do this, that the whole emphasis that God has for your children is a foundation and preparedness for service to God or ministry. Even if you are set on the idea that your son or daughter will be a doctor, lawyer or scientist, you must come to realize that the underlying goal therein is still service to God and ministry. I tell you frankly that nothing else will do and anything short of that will culminate in a form of disaster that is a lack of joy for him or her (2 Chron. 12:14, Romans 14:17).

I need to add just one more caveat. If I were to demonstrate here how to specifically teach these subjects, this would amount to a curriculum that I would have presented here. Therefore, what you will be getting here is an explanation of the idea behind how these subject areas are taken from the pages of the Bible. Additionally, it is important to point out that these subjects are most always used to accentuate the teaching of Bible verses or passages, as opposed to the other way around. Be that as it may, let us now proceed.

The subjects we will attempt to examine from the Bible are language, grammar, vocabulary, archaeology, geography, music, art, literature, chemistry, biology, astronomy, geology, physics, mathematics, government, economics, logic, history, nutrition, and health.

### ***Learn Language from the Bible***

The impact of the Bible on language has been varied. In some cases the Bible has given people a literary language for the first time. Words such as the following have come from the Bible: angel, devil, manna, paradise, Sabbath, scapegoats, and shibboleth. Various biblical expressions have entered into our literature and speech: e.g. a soft answer, a mess of pottage, and the shadow of death. The Bible has also supplied a host of proper names. And, it has stimulated a comparative study of languages. The Bible is a library of many kinds of literature and has called libraries of literature into being. The translation of the Bible into a multitude of languages is both a witness to and a channel of its impact.

The majority of root meaning of words in the English language comes in the form of Greek or Latin. If you don't understand this statement, just look up a hand full of words in an English dictionary. The Bible is taken from the Greek and the Hebrew. It is difficult to have a real study of the Word of God without delving into these languages. With the use of a good copy of Strong's Concordance, you can teach your children Greek and Hebrew by having them look up key words in their Bible verse. Then have them write out the verse with the translated meaning of those words.

### ***Learn Grammar in the Bible***

(From "Every Word of God"; LetGodBeTrue.com)

'Give God the glory! We have preserved for us in 66 books, 1,189 chapters, and 31,173 verses the very words of the living God. Though neither our Savior nor Paul ever got close to any "originals" of the Old Testament, they knew they had the Scripture from which to make their case for the truth of the gospel. And they made their invincible case sometimes from a single letter, single word, or point of grammar. So that we may by faith proceed in our reading, studying, and preaching with the same confidence. Amen!

If you do not believe you have a word-perfect Bible, then you do not have much; for Scripture is word-perfect. If it were not, then neither our Lord nor Paul would have argued from single words in mere copies and/or translations. For Scripture cannot be broken with the wrong word (John 10:35). As has been shown, modern translations condemn themselves as not being Scripture by defrauding Paul of his important argument in Galatians 3:16 from the word SEED. They have replaced this essential word in the Old Testament text with OFFSPRING or DESCENDANTS to reveal their corruption.

We live in the perilous times of the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:1-5). Our age is marked by a form of religion without authority, a love of pleasure more than a love of God, a geometric increase in learning with little truth, and churchgoers who would rather have their itching ears tickled than hear sound doctrine. Such people would have no use for the methods of our Lord Jesus and Paul. They were not entertaining enough for contemporary worship in carnal churches. These people want to hear only the sound of Scripture, and then only a little squeezed in between stage acts: they do not want to be bothered with its precise sense. They desire pleasure rather than the demands of a holy God detailed by words and grammar in the Bible.

If ever caught with a preacher like Jesus or Paul, they would be bored witless and resent the "nitpicking arrogance" of the speaker boldly proclaiming the precise sense of God's Holy Word.

Where are those who tremble at the Word of God (Isaiah 66:5)?

Where are men who esteem the words of His mouth more than their necessary food (Job 23:12)?

Let every man of God called by Jesus Christ to the work of the ministry take his sixty-six inch blade out of its scabbard and polish it. Let every New Testament bishop get his .66 magnum out and clean it. What does the enemy have? Their dreams? What is the chaff to the wheat? Saith the Lord. Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? They have nothing. We have the words of the living God (Jeremiah 23:28-32).

Let the examples in this study bolster your courage and refine your methods, ye soldiers of the cross. Our mandate is simple: preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2). Out of ten classes of expository preaching or hermeneutics taught in modern seminaries, how many train men for the battle with these examples of our Lord Christ and brother Paul? Let us follow their lead and aggressively exalt every word of God for the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.'

Bible grammar study can provide the student a rudimentary knowledge of the contents of the Bible. The student can memorize the books of the Bible, main themes, primary characters, key verses, and the outline of each book.'

### ***Learn Vocabulary from the Bible***

Children learn English vocabulary through the study of Latin & Greek roots. These can be taken directly from the pages of the Bible. The use of the Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary and Strong's Concordance makes the complete complement. Teaching phonics through root words is much more valuable, in that you teach children how to determine the meaning of words at the same time as you teach them to sound or pronounce their parts.

### **How to simplify a compound sentence**

Genesis 1:29

And God said,

Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed,  
which [is] upon the face of all the earth,  
and every tree,  
in which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed;  
to you it shall be for meat.

Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed,  
which [is] upon the face of all the earth,  
to you it shall be for meat.

Behold, I have given you every tree,  
in which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed;  
to you it shall be for meat.

## ***Learn Vocabulary from Greek in the Bible***

(From Mark L. Strauss's *Distorting Scripture? The Challenge of Bible Translation & Gender Accuracy*):

‘This idea of rendering God's Word into the language of the people has its primary precedent in the Bible itself. It was once believed that the language of the New Testament was a unique kind of Hebraic Greek or even a "Holy Ghost language" created especially for Biblical revelation. Study of the Egyptian papyri over the past one hundred years has demonstrated conclusively that New Testament Greek is actually an example of Koine (or "common") Greek, the everyday language of the people that spread throughout the Mediterranean region following the conquests of Alexander the Great (late fourth century B.C.). There is nothing archaic, solemn or mystical about the kind of language used by the inspired authors of the New Testament. It is the Greek of the street. This says a great deal about the nature of God's revelation. Just as God took on the form of common humanity when he revealed himself as the living Word, so his written Word was revealed in language that the person on the street could understand. This fact alone should convince us to translate Scripture into contemporary, idiomatic English-not an imitation English that artificially mimics patterns and structures of either Greek or Hebrew.’

One other comment I need to make here is about the discussion today of translations and paraphrasing. The scholarship today is a bit eschew about all the new versions of English Bibles that are sprouting up. I can, of course, understand the main concern that this invites error, however, I have been concerned about the argument getting out of hand also and hurting the unity of the body of believers. There is nothing less understandable to an unsaved person than to see Christians arguing over the book they are proclaiming as the truth. I would like to put something straight, once and for all, about the various Bibles.

I personally look for Scripture in a Bible that closely models the original text of the early writings, so far as I know they are the early writings. One reason for this is that I feel like I can trust it more. Anything, after all, that men have a hand in has the mark of Adam on it in some measure large or small. One trustworthy source has been the King James and I use it for study, in that it coincides with the Strong's Concordance and other Greek and Hebrew study sources I enjoy. Our church is rather serious in the use of the King James too. I know, however, there are other Bible versions in English that do just as grand a job at scholarship and closeness to the original languages. I like to read the modern Tyndale Bible version too, as a paraphrase of the original.

The key thing that one runs into with Bibles is that the original Scripture comes from basically scrolls found in Hebrew and Greek. These have been “translated” from those languages to other languages and later to varying ages of English advancement. To “translate” something means to change from one language to another. The problem with translating from those early languages to modern, or even to 16th century English, is that the English vocabulary does not have words as varied in range of meaning as those other languages of old. Therefore, translation is not a very accurate thing. However, we have become comfortable with some translations, such as the King James, and are satisfied we can look up, with extra study, those idiosyncrasies that are needed for proper

understanding of the text. Unfortunately, just reading the English text, in most Bibles, is not really enough for proper understanding and interpretation and can lead to serious deviations from understanding the life God would have us live for Him.

I said that I liked my Tyndale Bible, because it was a “paraphrase.” Paraphrase is actually more accurate than translation. A paraphrase does not change from one language to another. Paraphrase actually comes from the same root as parable or paralegal. Neither of these methods is thought any less efficient than having the thing from which they model. A paraphrase is the result of telling someone something and then saying, “On the other hand...”. We do this all the time in conversation, and without changing the original intent of our first statement; we find that the second statement was more clear and understandable. The Tyndale Bible, for example, paraphrases the earlier translations of the Tyndale Bible, which were very good translations in their own rite. Not only does the paraphrase, in this case, retain the original meaning of the text, but often it is more concise in its terms. When you read the King James, you often have to look to the footnotes to see what words were in the original translation in Greek or Latin. Almost, invariably, I would look at the word mentioned in the notes and this was the exact word that the paraphrase used in the modern text. The whole purpose of picking a good translation is not to use the most popular Bible, but one that gets at the right meaning of words and is closest to their original meaning, if not dead on. So, do the extra study to find real meaning, so that your children are exactly right about what the verse is saying. God will see their heart in the study and give them the rest.

### ***Learn Archeology from the Bible***

(From Aish.com: Society Today; Rabbi Dovid Lichtman)

‘One of the main indications of an anachronism in the Bible was thought to be that of the camel. The Book of Genesis reports that camels were mainstay beasts of burden and transportation already at the time of Abraham, in the 18th century BC. Yet it was originally thought that camels were first domesticated in the Middle East no earlier than the 12th century BC. This anachronism was a clear indication of the later writing of the Bible. Or so it was thought.

All this changed with the turn of a shovel. Recent archaeological finds have clearly demonstrated that the camel was domesticated by the 18th century BC. What was previously thought to be a knockout punch against the Bible, is now evidence supporting it. Prof. Kenneth Kitchen, an Egyptologist at the University of Liverpool (retired) points out that the sale of Joseph to a caravan of Midianites (for 20 silver pieces) could have been an example of anachronism in the Bible, since 1,000 years later the price for a slave was much higher (ancient inflation). However, the price reported in the Bible matches precisely the going price of slaves in the region from Joseph's time period. This is just one example that demonstrates, according to Kitchen, that "it's more reasonable to assume that the biblical data reflect reality."

Furthermore, we find that the detailed descriptions of the court of the Pharaoh and its protocols, as reported in Genesis, are extremely accurate to that time period. Joseph's

Egyptian name, clothing, and court orders are all very much in line with what we now understand to have been the norm for that time and place.’

(From Back to the Bible; Woodrow Kroll)

‘It is not necessary to look to archaeologists to prove that the Bible is true. We take the validity and the accuracy of the Bible by faith. But almost every time the archaeologist's spade turns up something of significance, we find new evidence corroborating what the Bible says.

In 1992 archaeologists discovered the bones of a first-century man who had the same name as that of the high priest who handed Jesus over to the Romans-Caiaphas. This discovery provided the first archaeological evidence of a major figure in the New Testament.

The age of the bones, the elaborateness of the ossuary (the small casket-like box that held the bones) and the inscription with the name Caiaphas on the side of the ossuary-all point to the man described in the Gospels as the high priest who conducted the trial of Jesus. In 1986 the waters of the Sea of Galilee receded because of several years of drought. One day two brothers, fishermen on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, noticed something sticking up out of the mud in the low water. They began to dig around it, and they found a boat. It is called the Kinneret Boat, and it is very much like the boats used by Peter, Andrew, James and John.

At Tell Mardikh, in northern Syria, an archaeological team discovered 42 clay tablets. Then a year later about 1,000 tablets were found in one room and 15,000 in another room of an ancient library. These tablets provide a wealth of information about the Old Testament. They even mention cities such as Hazor, Lachish, Megiddo, Gaza, Joppa and Urusalima, which some believe to be an early name for Jerusalem.

Second Samuel 24 tells us that King David's realm stretched from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south. An inscription found at Dan has provided the first extra-biblical mention of David from the period of Judah's kingdom. This inscription was discovered on a fragment of a monument in the ruins of a wall. Ninety-four-year-old archaeologist Avraham Biran said that the inscription appears to be part of a larger victory monument of King Ben-Hadad of Damascus, erected following a campaign against Dan and other cities of Israel in the early ninth century B.C. This war is mentioned in 1 Kings 15.

In Genesis 12 God called Abraham (then known as Abram) to leave his family and his country behind and go to a place that He would show him. God blessed him significantly, and we read that his possessions included "sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels" (v. 16).

For generations critics of the Bible said that this verse had to be wrong because camels were not known until many years after Abraham died.

However, the opinion of these scholars changed when archaeologist Joseph Free discovered evidence showing that camels were known during the period when Abraham lived. What did he find? The evidence included statuettes and figurines of camels, plaques bearing representations of camels, rock carvings and drawings of camels, camel bones, a camel skull and a camel hair rope. This evidence ranges in date from the seventh century B.C. to about 3,000 B.C., and cannot be contested.

In the New Testament we read the account of Paul's journey to Jerusalem, where he was seized in the temple by an angry mob. Acts 21:27-28 says, "The Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, 'Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.'"

This mob leveled two significant charges against Paul. One was that he taught things contrary to the Jewish Law. Every time Paul told people that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses and the prophets, the Jews believed that Paul was speaking contrary to the Law. They were still looking for their Messiah. Paul, a Jew, was saying the Messiah had already come.

Second, they charged him with bringing Greeks into the temple and polluting it. These first century Jewish religious leaders probably hated Paul more for the second charge than they did for the first, for they looked upon all Gentiles (anyone not a Jew) as heathen.

But how do we know that the Jews felt this way? Has the Bible painted an accurate picture of the relationship between the Jews and the Gentiles of that century? Archaeology sheds significant light here. In 1871 a French archaeologist, Clairmont Ganeau, discovered a Greek inscription, which was evidently placed in one of the precincts of the temple. It said: "No Gentile may enter inside the enclosed screen around the temple. Whoever is caught is alone responsible for the death which follows." The Jews took a dim view of anyone who disobeyed their warning, and they believed Paul had polluted the temple. Once more archaeology validated the trustworthiness of the Bible.

Archaeology is an exact science. And while we do not look to archaeology to prove that the Bible is true, we know that no discovery ever made by an archaeologist in any way disproves the accuracy of the Bible.'

### ***Learn Geography through the Bible***

(From FamilyRadio.com: How Do I Know the Bible is True?; Thomas Schaff)  
'While the Bible does not intend to deliberately school its readers in scientific principles and data, any subject, which it discusses about God's creation, is accurate and true. As one case in point, we can turn to Job 26:7, where we read a modern description of the earth as it spins in empty space. This was written about 3,000 years B.C. This description

is in sharp contrast to the fantastic imaginary notions, which the rest of the world taught or believed at that time. In support of Job 26:7, Isaiah 40:22 points out that God sits upon "the circle of the earth." The earth would appear as a "circle" to all those who lived on it only if it were a sphere. Isaiah 40 matches the description in Job 26 and supports its accurate statement, which is what we can expect from the Bible. After all, who knows better than the Creator how the universe is designed and built?'

(From ReadingGroupGuides.com: review of *Walking the Bible* by Bruce Feiler)  
'In engaging and lucid prose, Feiler continually reflects on how the geography of the land affects the narrative of the Bible, and pointedly wonders whether the Bible is just an abstraction, or a living, breathing entity. Ultimately, Feiler concludes in **Walking the Bible** that the Bible "is forever applicable, it's always now...It lives because it never dies.'" This skeptical Jewish author does not know how true this statement really is from simply taking a "10,000-mile journey and archaeological odyssey -- by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel -- through the Holy Land".

I realize that this may sound sort of strange to some Christians, though it shouldn't, but our children should be taught, over all other Geography, to begin recognizing where Biblical lands reside. The main one is the location of Israel. From this time on, the News will be predominantly about Israel and her neighboring countries and territories. This is not a time for us to be caught up learning about other places, where they will probably never go, and which will be of lesser concern in this end times. Already they have seen two significant wars, in which the United States were involved, with allies. These, of course, were both in the same general area of the Mid East. Not so coincidental is the fact that Scripture speaks a bunch about this area of the world. Significantly, the Bible gives not only the geography, but the history of the geography of these territories as far back as time goes. The Bible is the best and foremost authority on this particular study of Geography. Many Bibles have good maps of these regions and show how these countries came about. The Bible always gives the proper pronunciation for these places and tells about the people who live there and the culture. What you usually do not get from Geography textbooks is true stories of people who lived in these regions and why they feel like they do today about the nations around them.

### ***Learn Music from the Bible***

From what I can see, there are several aspects of the study of music from the Bible, ranging anywhere from instruments, to voices, to the stars. This is one thing that you can get a bunch of information on in Scripture, and that is probably why it has become so controversial in these days in our churches.

A quick look at the instruments in the Bible reveals the use, as far back as 2000 and 4000 years ago, of man recognizable instruments and some that we have never heard about or seen. This not to say that people have not either built them or attempted to build them. Going through the list, there were:

- bells (Exodus 28:31-35; 39:25-26),

- flutes or pipes (1 Samuel 10:5; Isaiah 5:12; 30:29; 1 Kings 1:39,40; Jeremiah 48:35,36; Matt 9:23-26; 11:16-19; Luke 7:32; 1 Corinthians 14:7-9; Revelation 18:21-22)
- cymbals (2 Samuel 6:5; Ps. 150:3-5; 1 Chron. 15:16, 19; 16:4-6, 42; 25:1, 6; 2 Chron. 5:12-14; 29:25; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:27)
- gong (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- horn or trumpet (Daniel 3:5; 3:7; 3:10; 3:15; 7:8; 7:11; 7:20; 7:21; 7:24; 8:8; 8:9; 8:12; 8:21)
- lyre (Genesis 4:21; 31:27; 1 Samuel 10:5; 16:16, 23; 18:10; 19:9; 1 Chronicles 25:3; Job 21:12; 30:31, Psalms 33:2; 43:4, 49:4; 57:8; 71:22; 81:2; 92:3; 98:5; 108:2; 147:7; 149:3; Isaiah 5:12; 16:11; 24:8)
- harp or lute (1 Samuel 10:5; 2 Samuel 6:5; 1 Kings 10:12; 1 Chron. 13:8; 15:16, 20, 28; 16:; 25:1; 6; 2 Chron. 5:12; 9:11; 20:28; 29:25; Nehemiah 12:27; Isaiah 14:11; Amos 5:23; 1 Corinthians 14:7; Revelation 5:8; 14:2; 15:2)
- Sistrums (2 Samuel 6:5)
- trumpet (Sopfar) mentioned 72 times (1 Chron 15:28)
- trumpet (Kasoserah) mentioned 29 times (Num 10:1-2)
- tambourines or trimbels (Genesis 31:27; Exodus 15:20; Judges 11:34; 1 Samuel 10:5; 18:6; Samuel 6:5; 1 Chron. 13:8; Psalms 81:2; 149:3; 150:4; Isaiah 24:8; 30:32; Jeremiah 31:4)

There are more instruments than listed here referenced and mentioned in the Scriptures, some which are recognizable, such as the bagpipes (Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15), a some never quite heard of, such as the trigon (same verses). There were even some very unusual instruments that have been readily reproduced today, such as the psaltery (2 Samuel 6:5; 1 Chronicles 13:8). No matter what the instrument mentioned, there was no doubt as to why they were there. Their purpose is outlined in Psalm 150 to:

Praise the LORD  
 Praise God in his sanctuary:  
 Praise him in his mighty heavens.  
 Praise him for his mighty acts of power;  
 praise him for his surpassing greatness.  
 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
 praise him with the harp and lyre,  
 praise him with tambourine and dancing,  
 praise him with the strings and the flute,  
 praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
 praise him with resounding cymbals.  
 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
 Praise the LORD.

(From Biblical Archeology: Music & the Bible; Norman A. Rubin)

‘Musical instruments are frequently mentioned in the Bible, whether relating to ritual ceremonies or to secular festivities. The Temple Priests blew the trumpets on Holy Days

and feasts. The trumpets were also used for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. At coronations the trumpets were blown as part of the formal proclamation.

The SHOFARS (spiritual horns) were sounded in times of peace and in times of war; the KINNOR was the instrument David played before Saul; and "By the waters of Babylon... there we hung our harps on the willow trees; the reed flute in numerous legends, is connected to supernatural forces, magic, taboos, hidden desires, and other themes. Military commanders, returning victorious from battle, were greeted by song and dances, "his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and dances.." (Judges 11:34). Spontaneous rejoicings after victory in war were accompanied by women who sang, drummed and danced.

The Bible is also replete with songs, which were always accompanied by musical instruments. The musical accompaniment at the feasts of the rich and, of course, at the king's court is also described several times, often with a note of reproach. There was Amos' denunciations against the external pomp of the cult centers of the northern tribes, which the prophet rattled against the roaring of song and the playing of LYRES. For many of the terms of musical instruments, a precise archaeological equivalent can already be proposed. Others still await future excavations.'

In addition to instruments in the Bible, music has a history there that can be studied. An interesting study of some of the events of this progressive history is as follows:

- Jubal was the inventor of musical instruments.  
"...Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ."(Gen. 4:21)
- Laban & Jacob - "I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?" (Gen. 31:27)
- Song of Deliverance - after Moses goes through the Red Sea. (Ex. 15)
- Golden Age of Hebrew Music and Poetry (Samuel, David, Solomon) - Book of Psalms
- Music training in the schools of the prophets (1 Sam. 10:5; 19:19-24; 2 Kings 3:15; 1 Chr. 25:6)
- Professional Singers (2 Sam. 19:35; Eccl. 2:8)
- Church (temple) - large bands of trained singers and players on instruments were constantly employed (2 Sam. 6:5; 1 Chr. 15; 16; 23:5; 25:1-6).
- Music in private life - (Eccl. 2:8; Amos 6:4-6; Isa. 5:11, 12; 24:8, 9; Ps. 137; Jer. 48:33; Luke 15:25)

So, as you can see, music as a subject from the Bible is plentiful in its subject matter and can be examined from more than one approach. Your children can also study music through the Bible in relation to the influences it had on people and civilizations. You might also challenge your children to play some of the instruments in the Bible to the glory of God.

## ***Learn Art from the Bible***

When I think of the study of art from the pages of the Bible, I think about the multitude of art that came from its pages. Most of the great art had as its subject the true stories and inspirations that artists gained from knowing the God of the Bible and the rich, life-giving themes with which He presented them (DaVinci and Michelangelo come to mind first). It is interesting how there are no illustrations or pictures in the Bible, yet all these great artists were able to visualize real illustrations of vast beauty and splendor from its verses. God has proven His self once again to be the ultimate Creator. Out of His Word have flowed paintings, statues, and drawings that have pleased and awed men for ages and have not failed to do the same, even to this day.

(From *Is There A Christian Art?: The Bible, Art and Christian Culture*; essay collections by Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher)

'The Christian faith will thus never be able to take a neutral position towards art, but will refine it in many ways, expressing man's nature as creature and as image of God, but continually opposing the deification of art and reminding artists that they are just as responsible for the consequences of their work as any politician, theologian or scientist. I would like to conclude with a challenge. Even though we have seen that Christian art can be produced by non-Christians, believers are still challenged to do their part in the artistic world, so that the Creator will be glorified. The question will always be the same: who shapes whom? Will Christians shape the values, and thus the art, of others, or will they allow themselves to be influenced by others? For many centuries, the best art was the work produced to glorify God; this specifically Christian work was the standard for all other art. Nowadays things are usually the other way around. Christians copy what others have done and seldom have anything of worth to oppose the destructive suggestions of modern art (Douglas Floyd Kelly and H. R. Rookmaaker).

The influence of once widespread Christian culture is still visible in the work of many artists who have no official connection with Christianity, but our civilization's resources of Christian values seems to be exhausted. We need believers and artists who make a conscious effort to express the all-comprehensive aspect of our faith and are prepared to influence their culture through art. Periods of spiritual awakening have always been prepared, strengthened and followed by wonderful art. The Reformation, for example, was prepared by Albrecht Durer's (1471-1528) fifteen wood-prints on the Apocalypse (1498), and the Reformation itself led to further artistic renewal, for "without a Luther, there could never have been a Bach" (H. R. Rookmaaker, Gene Edward Veith, and Francis Schaeffer).

Because "Art is an inescapably religious activity," art exists as art initiated by God or it is no art at all (Rousas J. Rushdoony and Dorothy L. Sayers).'

Speaking in very simple terms, Christian art has gone through many dramatic and starkly different ages. These ages carried diverse philosophies into art that changed its complexion. This age is the Church Age, according to the Book of Revelation. It is the duty of a Christian artist toward the God Who created him to glorify Christ in all his works. This age, like no other, needs to see Christ in His best and most glorious light. We must look once more for the source of our inspiration for subjects in art to the

Scriptures and to Biblical themes. We must present the world with the Gospel message with every stroke of the brush, pencil, pen, or pallet knife. We, as Christians have been commissioned to the same, just as those artists of old.

In all art we must not distort the creation of God. We must make it our aim to depict God's creation as natural as did He. We must read Scripture to draw on themes for our art and thus glorify God. Nothing else is worthwhile, and we must teach this to our children, while we are standing up sitting down or about our way.

### ***Learn Literature from the Bible***

One writer has aptly noted that if every Bible in every city of the world was destroyed, the entire book could be restored by piecing together quotations from books on the shelves of public libraries. This example was given to show how often the Bible has been cited in the works of literature.

The Bible is Literature. The Bible is not only literature that has been translated; it is also literature that has been interpreted. Throughout the centuries, beginning in biblical days, both Christians and Jews have produced many different kinds of aids to Bible study. Wherever the Bible has gone it has entered into the literature of the country. In the period just after the writing of the New Testament, no writer stands out more clearly than Augustine (354-430). While the Bible was not the only instrument in his conversion it was a major one. One reason he hesitated to receive Christian baptism was the temptation to immorality, but Rom. 13:13-14 helped him to make the decision to become a Christian. His most famous writings are his Confessions and City of God. The former reflects his experience of conversion, his study of the Bible, and the evils of his time. Augustine stressed original sin and salvation by God's grace alone. Pelagius became his antagonist, maintaining that man himself, without the help of God's grace, could take the first steps toward his salvation. The City of God is a Christian philosophy of history and is therefore greatly dependent on the Bible.

A popular theme for writers in the early church, the creation and fall, reflected the controversy between Augustine and Pelagius. Dante (1265-1321) symbolizes Italian writers of the Middle Ages whose works show the influence of the Bible. His Divine Comedy is indirectly dependent on the Bible. Victor Hugo (1802-85) may well represent French writers whose works give evidence of dependence on the Bible. The best representatives of Russian authors who have been influenced by the Bible are Dostoevski (1821-81) and Tolstoy (1828-1910). The early translations and paraphrases of parts of the Bible into Old English helped to make the English a Bible-loving people. In the Middle English Canterbury Tales (Chaucer ca. 1340-1400) demonstrates a detailed knowledge of the Bible at specific points.

The principal Bible used by Shakespeare (1564-1616) seems to have been the Geneva Version. Though the extent of his knowledge of the Bible has been debated, he probably knew it well. It is interesting that two of his daughters, Susanna and Judith, were named after characters in the Apocrypha. John Milton (1608-74) grew up with the Bible.

English life of his day was permeated with it. Milton read from the Bible every morning, sometimes in the Hebrew. He was a linguist, and his study of the Scriptures was carried on in various languages. Moreover, it was supported by wide reading in interpretations of the Bible and a thorough knowledge of the classics. So far as we know, his first literary attempt was the versification of Psalms 114:136 at the age of 15. At the age of 43 he was totally blind: the sonnet "On His Blindness" makes use of the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). His major works - Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained, and Samson Agonistes - are all based on the Bible.

In contrast to the widely read Milton stands John Bunyan (1628-88), whose library was the Bible with only a few other books. Thus his thought was biblically saturated. Among English-speaking people his Pilgrim's Progress has probably been the most widely circulated religious book other than the Bible itself.

Perhaps the best place to see Robert Burns's acquaintance with and appreciation of the Bible is in *The Cotter's Saturday Night* (1785), where he pictures the Scottish father leading his family in worship as he reads a passage from each testament. In his writings Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) quotes or alludes to not less than 30 of the biblical books as well as to certain books of the Apocrypha. Many of the poems of Robert Browning (1812-89) deal with the biblical themes, and it has been claimed that there are 500 biblical expressions or allusions in *The Ring and The Book* alone.

While Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) has been likened to an OT prophet, Charles Dickens (1812-70) has been likened to a prophet of the NT. He is noted for his love of children and for his frequent mention of Christ's placing a little child in the midst of his disciples. The impact of the Bible on Tennyson (1809-92) is reflected in his style, expression, and thought. *In Memoriam* is regarded by many as his greatest work. As he grapples there with the problem of death, he recalls the angels' song from Luke 2:14, the raising of Lazarus, and God's dealings with Israel at Sinai.

As a child Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94) was nourished on the Bible and the Shorter Catechism. His favorite biblical passage was Isaiah 58. Though the Bible does not seem to be regarded as a source of his *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, the student of the Bible is struck by the similarity of its theme to Paul's doctrine of the conflict between good and evil within a man (in Roman 7). Of course, the influence of the Bible on English literature has continued to be felt in the 20th century, e.g. in the work of T.S. Eliot (1888-1965).

When the land, which was later to become the U.S.A., was being settled in the 17th century, there was comparatively little literary production. That which was produced, however, was mostly religious and biblical -- often in the form of diary. In the next century, Jonathan Edwards (1703-58), Calvinistic preacher and theologian, was one of the most prominent writers. Among the 19th century American writers who made use of the Bible were Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-64) and Herman Melville (1819-91). Hawthorne was familiar with the Bible, especially valuing Job, but generally used it without making direct reference to it in his writings. Melville, on the other hand, made

extensive use of biblical characters and episodes, not so much treating the characters and episodes in their original meaning, but rather reworking the biblical material and giving it a symbolic meaning.

So, if the greatest literature throughout time was derived from the Scriptures, why is it that we think we cannot teach literature from the pages of the Bible and with safer results? If you think that children will find it boring, just read to them from 1st and 2nd Kings and watch their interest heighten.

### ***Learn Chemistry from the Bible***

“The entrance of thy words giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

‘If all would make the Bible their study, we should see a people who were better developed, who were capable of thinking more deeply, who would manifest greater intelligence than those who have earnestly studied the sciences and histories of the world, apart from the Bible. The Bible gives the true seeker for truth an advanced mental discipline, and he comes from contemplation of divine things with his faculties enriched; self is humbled, while God and his revealed truth are exalted.’ *Ellen White, in Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, October 1, 1892.

(From Arizona State University: Clay Minerals in Deep Sea Volcanic Vents: A Potential Site for the Creation of Organic Molecules by Lynda Williams, Center for Solid State Science, Faculty Research Associate)

‘Was man really made from clay?’

**“Oh Lord, thou art our father, we are the clay and thou the potter,  
and we all are the work of thy hand ” (Isa 64:8)**

This metaphor from the Bible takes on a different light in context of the exciting new discovery of clay in hydrothermal vents deep in the ocean, where scientists find ancient forms of life.

Hot water, upwelling from volcanic activity beneath the seafloor, causes alteration of the lava rock (basalt) to clay minerals. This metal laden fluid is expelled onto the cold seafloor, precipitating minerals (primarily iron-sulfides) that form what looks like chimneys. You may have seen pictures of these fascinating structures in popular science magazines and on public television, and would have noted a great variety of sea creatures (crabs, shrimp, and colorful tubeworms) that abound in this dark, warm environment. The chimney towers are called “black smokers” when sulfide particles billow out of the vent like smoke.

The photograph shown is a black smoker chimney that was taken from the Juan de Fuca Ridge, off the coast of Oregon (Kelley et al., 1999). When it was cut open, it contained a

large amount of a clay mineral called “smectite”. A sample of this was given to me because my research involves the study of the chemistry and reaction mechanisms in this material.

You all know smectite. It is the most slimy, slippery mud that you have walked in. When you drive across Nebraska the highways roll up and down in nauseating monotony because they are built on a bed of smectite-rich clay. The clay acts like a sponge and adsorbs water into the mineral structure, between layers that lie flat like a deck of cards. When water is present in the clay “interlayer” the mineral expands, so that semi-trailer trucks driving the highway leave a wave in their wake that gets set into the road base when the clays dry.

On the seafloor, scientists have found that gases emitted from the volcanic vents ( $H_2$ ,  $CO_2$ ) combine with water into simple organic molecules like alcohols (Vogelsonger, 2001). The conditions are also right for formation of amino acids (Amend and Shock, 1998), the building blocks of life. The question is, how can these simple organic molecules be combined into more complex organic molecules needed for life: proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and nucleic acids?

The answer could be in the clay. Research has shown that expandable smectite incorporates metal ions and small organic molecules in the interlayer that adsorbs water. At the elevated temperatures of seafloor volcanic activity (over  $300^\circ C$ ) the smectite reacts to a more stable configuration by expelling adsorbed water, and incorporating ions that balance the electrical charge of the mineral. The interlayer chemical conditions (acidity and oxidation state) can be very different than the fluids outside of the clay interlayer. The gradual changes in the electrochemistry of the smectite interlayer allow reactions to take place that would otherwise have been unstable. Smectite interlayers in essence behave as a “nano-incubator” for developing bonds between simple organic compounds and stabilizing more complex structures.

My recent research with Rick Hervig (CSSS Senior Research Scientist) focussed on some of the trace elements (ions and molecules) incorporated into smectite during its reaction at elevated temperatures similar to the black smokers. The results of that work showed that some molecules are trapped or tightly held in the interlayer. Think of it like peanut butter and jelly in a sandwich. The peanut butter represents ions that want to be in the mineral while the jelly represents trapped molecules. Gradually there is a charge buildup on surrounding layers (bread) squeezing the layers together. Eventually the sandwich collapses and the jelly squishes out. Similarly, when the clay structure is stable, organic molecules in the interlayer are expelled.

Knowing this, I tested the hypothesis that the smectite reaction could form complex organic molecules from simple ones. I reacted a standard smectite with methanol and ethanol at  $350^\circ C$  and a sub-seafloor pressure. The smectite was a pure white powder of particles less than 2 microns in diameter, and the alcohols were clear liquid. At the end of one week the reaction capsule was full of a black oily product containing three types of benzene (ring-shaped) molecules.

With collaboration of several eminent researchers at ASU (John Holloway, Dept. of Geology, Peter Williams and Sandra Pizzarello Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry) a research proposal is under review at the National Science Foundation to further explore the potential of clay minerals to “incubate” organic compounds under the physical and chemical conditions found under deep sea hydrothermal vents. We expect the results of the proposed study to allow assessment of the role of clay minerals on organic polymerization reactions under natural conditions on and in the present day seafloor, and in the pre-biotic Earth.’

Chemistry is a science dealing with elements of God’s nature. I think it sort of strange when scientists say that Chemistry and the other natural sciences separate science from the Word of God. Ecclesiastes tells us there is nothing new under the Sun yet scientists refuse to see this and continue to claim “new” discoveries. One example is the discovery of Zirconium. The name zircon originated from the arabic "zargun", which describes the color of the gemstone now known as zircon ( $ZrSiO_4$ ). The minerals jargon, hyacinth, and jacinth also contain zircon and these have been known since biblical times and are **mentioned in the bible in several places**. The existence of a new element within these minerals was not suspected until studies by Martin Heinrich Klaproth in the late 18th century. Scientists work kind of slow for money.

The impure metal was first isolated by Jöns Jacob Berzelius in 1824 who heated a mixture of potassium and potassium zirconium fluoride together in an iron tube. Pure zirconium was first prepared in 1914. God knew it was there.

The whole point to all this is that you can teach your children real factual Chemistry, which teaching them so that this knowledge has redeeming value. When the Bible brings up elements of creation, or lost cities, or gold and precious stones, don’t just brush by these elements. Have the children learn more about them and then discuss the role they play in God’s scheme of things and their lives. When your children read in Scripture about Jesus Christ washing away their sin, use iodine in water to be their sin and then mix bleach into the water to be the Holy Spirit cleansing them. When stirred, the water will turn clear again. Teach Chemistry this way and children will remember it and grow.

### ***Learn Biology from the Bible***

Biology in the Bible could very approximately be called Medicine in the Bible, due to the preponderance of medical knowledge that was revealed therein. Long before medical science learned what makes the body tick, God revealed these mysteries to His people. I will try to report some of the cases as an example of what you can teach your children from the Scripture.

(From Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School: *Fertility and Sterility Magazine*, Isaac Schiff, MD)

This magazine reports what the doctor says about this probable first case of anorexia nervosa in the Bible:

‘The story tells of Hannah, one of two wives of Elkanah. The other wife, Penninah, had several children and constantly tormented Hannah because of her childlessness. Even when her husband reassured her that he loved her best, Hannah continued to "weep and

not eat." During an annual visit to the temple in Shiloh, Hannah was so distressed that she approached the temple in tears, praying for a son and promising to dedicate him to God's service. The High Priest Eli, seeing her apparently talking to herself, at first thought her unusual behavior was caused by drunkenness and scolded her for her unseemly actions:

Not so, my lord, Hannah replied. I am a woman distressed in spirit; I have had neither wine nor beer, but have been pouring out my soul before the Eternal. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman. All this time I have been speaking out of my abundant sorrow and torment. Then Eli replied: Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your request. May your maidservant find favor in your sight, she said. So the woman went on her way. She ate and was downcast no longer (1 Samuel 1: 15-18).

The story goes on to tell how Hannah conceived and gave birth to Samuel and brought him back to Shiloh when he was weaned, giving him over to the service of God in gratitude for the granting of her request.

"This story has a lot to tell us about things that are still very true today," Schiff says. "It very explicitly describes the pain of infertility and how truly unhappy Hannah was, in spite of her husband's love. It also reflects the patriarchal nature of the society both in the importance of bearing a son and in how the burden of infertility fell most heavily on the woman, something we now know is unjustified.

"We also see that anorexia - which we think of as a very contemporary problem - might have existed 2,500 years ago," he adds. "While Hannah apparently had trouble conceiving even before she became so depressed, the many times that the biblical writer mentions that she did not eat suggests that it was a remarkable problem. Since we now know that extreme weight loss causes infertility, it is logical to conclude that anorexia either caused or contributed to Hannah's inability to conceive."

Schiff adds that the reassurance Hannah received from Eli and perhaps from her own prayers could be regarded as a form of therapy that helped her recover from her anorexia and eventually conceive her much-desired son. "In a mere 28 verses the very perceptive biblical writer has included enough detail for us to diagnose Hannah's problem 25 centuries later," he says.'

***The Advanced Training Institute: Wisdom Booklet*** reveals many wonderful insights from the Bible that clue us to how God gave us knowledge of things we needed to know medically through His Word. The Old Testament ceremonial laws found in Leviticus, chapters 11-23, are no less than a wealth of such information. We are admonished to pay attention to these things, not for salvation or ceremony, but for protection health-wise in Deuteronomy 30:9-10.

God's Law protect us from infectious diseases, such as:

- blood, Leviticus 6:27, 15:23-25, 16:28
- leprosy Leviticus 13:54:14:8-9, 47

- venereal disease Leviticus 15:5-10, 27
- seed of copulation Leviticus 15:16-18
- woman's issue of blood Leviticus 15:21-24
- touching dead things Leviticus 11:28, 17:15-16; Numbers 31:24

Gods' Law also helps us identify safe foods (Deuteronomy 14:4-6), parasites (Leviticus 7:26), and the source of life:

“for the life of the flesh is in the blood...” (Leviticus 17:11)

Also we can learn from God's Law what is good for our heart (Leviticus 7:23, how to avoid many poisonous toxins, by eating low on the food chain. The higher on the food chain you eat the more toxins you consume. Rabbits turn out to be notorious carriers of the disease *tularemia*. And, Leviticus 12:2-7 tells us that circumcision is vital to protect against venereal disease and cervical cancer in women. It is vital to the protection of the child to circumcise on the eighth day (Leviticus 12:3) because the protection with vitamin K peaks on that day after birth. Vitamin K turns out to be important in the role of a substance called prothrombin, which is a key element in the complex process of coagulation. Without prothrombin, the baby boy could actually bleed to death from even a minor cut. Surprisingly, God's Law even gives us the recipe for a powerful antiseptic cleanser (see Exodus 30:23-25, 32). The value of antiseptic surgery was not discovered by medical science until 1865, when Joseph Lister began praying surgical wounds with carbolic acid.

(From NewTestamentChurch.org: Science in the Bible; Dennis Crawford)

‘In the field of biology, one of the most commonly accepted and widely used laws of science is the Law of Biogenesis. This law was set forth many years ago to dictate what both theory and experimental evidence showed to be true among living organisms--that life comes only from preceding life and perpetuates itself by reproducing only its own kind or type. As Dr. David Kirk has correctly stated, "By the end of the nineteenth century there was a general agreement that life cannot arise from the non-living under conditions that now exist upon our planet. The dictum ‘All life from preexisting life’ became the dogma of modern biology, from which no reasonable man could be expected to dissent" (ref.7). Such men as Francesco Redi (1688), Lazzaro Spallanzani (1799), Louis Pasteur (1860), and Rudolph Virchow (1858) first carried out the experiments, which formed the ultimate basis of this law. It was Virchow who documented that cells do not arise from formless matter, but instead come only from preexisting cells (ref.1, vol.IX, les.#6, p.22). This law has no exceptions. (This law, by the way, is one of the major flaws in the theory of evolution!)

- Thousands of years before the "Law of Biogenesis," Moses declared that things reproduce "after their kind" (Genesis 1:11-12, 21, 24). You do not get bananas from corn stalks, buffaloes from zebras, or dogs from cats. Moses was right on target, but how did he know these things, since the science of genetics was not instituted until the year 1900?

- Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15:39, states that there are four fleshes--those of men, beasts, birds, and fishes. Today, every evolutionist acknowledges this truth. These fleshes are different indeed in their biochemical makeup. But how did Paul, an itinerant preacher, know this?
- Paul also said that it is God who gives all life (Acts 17:25). For centuries men tried to prove spontaneous generation true; they attempted to "create" life through naturalistic process, yet always without success. Men may alter the state that life is, but they cannot create it. But, how did Paul know this almost 2,000 years ago? One of those lucky guesses?'

### ***Learn Astronomy from the Bible***

Folks our solar system was brand new when the Bible began and the men of the bible did not have their own personal clue as to how it all went round and the like. They had their guesses, but then, just like now, there was a clue from the One Who created all of it. He also authored the Word to tell everyone. Here are some things your children can learn from the Bible about our universe, the planet, and the stars. And, there is also much, much more.

(From NewTestamentChurch.org: Science in the Bible; Dennis Crawford)

- Job states, in speaking of God, that "He stretcheth out the north over the empty space, and hangs the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). That, of course, is a well-known fact today. The earth is literally "hanging upon nothing." But we must remember that this was not the concept of Job's day. Men in Job's time felt the earth was possibly suspended on the backs of four elephants, which stood on the back of a giant turtle! Or, they felt that the earth was suspended upon the shoulders of a supernaturally strong man! There were many odd views about the condition of the earth, but none stated the matter in the clear and correct manner as does Job. A lucky guess--when everyone else was wrong?
- Isaiah says, "It is he [God] who sits upon the circle of the earth " (Isaiah 40: 22).
  - The Hebrew word Isaiah used for "circle" means literally something with "roundness" or "spherically." Of course, the people of Isaiah's time (and for many generations to come) thought the earth was flat, not spherical. Another lucky guess?
- Psalm 19:5-6 contains several interesting facts. In speaking of the sun, the psalmist says that "His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and the circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."
  - For many years, Bible critics scoffed at the Bible stating that this verse taught the old false doctrine that the sun revolves around the earth! Then, it was recently discovered that the sun is, in fact, moving through space. It is not stationary, as was once thought. In fact, it is estimated to be

moving through space at about 600,000 miles per hour, in an orbit so large it would take an estimated 200,000,000 years just to complete one orbit!  
Another lucky guess?

- There is another gem tucked away in these two verses. The writer hints at the fact that the sun is the source of the energy of the earth ("and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof"). An amazing statement, considering when it was written, is it not?

### ***Learn Geology from the Bible***

Some of the best Geology lessons around are given by Creation Science evangelists and proponents such as Kent Hovind, Dr. Henry Morris, Ken Ham, and I just know I have left some people out here. Now, these people are not Geologists per se, however, they can give you the information quite accurately. And, where do they get their information? They get it primarily **from the first twelve chapters of Genesis in the Bible**. Moses who was inspired by God wrote it down and it is very reliable - God was there.

(From Revolution Against Evolution: The Bible and the Nineteenth Century; L. T. Townsend D.D.)

"It is now thirty-five years," says Sharon Turner "since my attention was turned to these considerations. It was then the fashion of science, and of a large part of the educated and inquisitive world, to rush into a disbelief of all written revelation; and several geological speculations were directed against the Bible. But I have live to see the most hostile of these destroyed." At the date referred to, there were several conflicts between the teaching of science and those of the Bible; that is, between the errors of science and the truths of the Bible. **The Bible can hardly be condemned for not harmonizing with error, though the error is in strictest scientific garb, and supported by able scientific authorities.** Says the late Professor Lyell, a man justly regarded as one of the most noted geologists of the world, "In the year 1806, the French Institute enumerated no less than eighty geological theories which were hostile to the scriptures; but not one of those theories is held to-day." That those French skeptics in the year 1806 saw discrepancies between Bible-teachings and their own opinions, need not surprise us, their opinions having been wholly exploded.

It may also be said of some of the scientific opinions of our own day, that they are not established. Says Professor Tyndall, "The views of Lucretius and Bruno, of Darwin and Spencer, may be wrong. I concede this possibility, deeming it, indeed, certain that their views will undergo modification." We must not, therefore, decide matters hastily. We must be sure of at least two things, before pronouncing against the correctness of Biblical statement; namely, correctness of interpretation, and the firm establishment of scientific fact. Had this rule governed skeptical thought and expression during the last half-century, much that has been said against the Bible would not have been spoken.'

(From Answers in Genesis Ministries: Geology and the young Earth; Tas Walker)

‘True knowledge begins with the Bible (Proverbs 1:7, Psalms 119:160; 138:2), and that is where we need to start. God was there when He created the world. He knows everything, does not tell lies, and does not make mistakes. It is from the Bible that we learn that the world is ‘young’.

If the Bible taught that the world was millions of years old, we would believe that. However, the concept of millions of years of death and suffering contradicts the Word of God, and destroys the foundation of the Gospel of Christ.

Many people find it difficult to accept that scientific investigation should start with the Bible. They think we can answer the question about the age of the earth by coming to the evidence with an ‘open mind’. In fact, no one has an open mind. Evidence does not interpret itself; rather, everyone views the world through a belief framework.

Unfortunately, as humans we never have all the information. So, when we start from the evidence, we can never be sure our conclusions are right - like in a classic ‘whodunnit’, just one piece of information can change the whole picture. By contrast, when we start from the Word of God, we can be sure that what it says is true.’

### ***Learn Physics from the Bible***

It might be that you think that I have taken the study of subjects a bit too far by now, but you will probably really expect to draw the line when I tell you that your child can learn physics from the Bible. I cannot say as I blame you for thinking this way. But, in actuality, I am here to inform you that there is nothing that God did not tell us in Scripture that man can contrive as fact. This is because, once again, the Word of God is the only absolute truth that we have. With this in mind, I want to proceed with something very interesting that I discovered in my search for the study of subjects from the Bible.

(From What is Scriptural Physics?; Brian Fraser)

‘Scriptural Physics is a method of acquiring fundamental knowledge about the physical universe that is guided by principles found in the Bible. Physics itself is the study of the interaction between matter and energy. More generally, it is a search for the fundamental rules that govern the physical universe.

Scriptural Physics has the following characteristics:

- Scriptural Physics seeks to find a fundamental underlying physical reality that is usually invisible and not experienced directly. In this sense it has much in common with the biblical conception of faith, which depends on "evidence of things not seen." And like faith, the reality often turns out to be something unexpected, something contrary to outward appearances.
- The methodology of Scriptural Physics is largely inductive instead of deductive. That is, it proceeds inferentially from particular to general. It begins with specific facts and then tries to infer powerful principles that would encompass these facts and perhaps predict the existence of other phenomena yet undiscovered. In this

regard, Scriptural Physics is rather ordinary, and not unlike the so-called scientific method, or even just plain old common sense.

- Scriptural Physics uses ordinary principles of biblical interpretation. Whatever the Bible meant to people of ancient times, it is taken to have basically the same meaning for us today. Likewise, what it did not mean to them, it does not mean to us today. This is required by the fact that the Bible was written in a historical manner anchored to real people and common, human circumstances. It was clearly not about physics, and because a scripture cannot mean today what it never meant in the first place, there is no point in looking for "secret messages that were concealed by the Holy Spirit in ancient times for the modern physicist" (or gamblers, fortune-tellers, etc., etc.)
- Scriptural Physics does not use "miraculous revelation" from God. The Scriptural Physicist acquires knowledge the old fashioned way: he works for it!

Biblical principles central to Scriptural Physics include the following:

**Principle #1: The Physical Universe is worthy of study.**

"He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work . . . Stand and consider the wonders of God. Do you know how God establishes them?" (Job 37:7, 14-15)

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. . . . How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all." (Psalm 19:1-3, *NASB*, 104:24, *NIV*)

"Great are the works of the Lord; They are studied by all who delight in them" (Psalm 111:2)

**Principle #2: The Physical Universe is intrinsically reasonable, understandable, and accessible to man.**

"What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20, *NIV*)

"Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? . . . Where is the way that the light is divided? . . . Where is the way to the dwelling of light?" (Job 38:33, 24, 19; Note that these are "physical" questions, and that they are also "fair" questions that must have answers that are understandable by mankind.)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."  
(2Timothy 3:16-17)

"The anointing you received from [God] abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but . . . His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie" (1John 2:27; John 14:26))

"walk as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9)

"His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3)

"Those who seek the Lord understand all things" (Proverbs 28:5; See also Proverbs 1:7, 29-33, 9:10, Psalm 111:10)

"The Lord will give you understanding in everything." (2Timothy 2:7)

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."  
(Ecclesiastes 3:11, *NKJ*)

"I applied my heart to know, to search and seek out wisdom and the reason of things . . ." (Ecclesiastes 7:25)

**Principle #3: The Bible outlines principles that pertain to perception of the invisible.**

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. . . . By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."  
(Hebrews 11:1-3, *NKJ*; Hebrews 11 goes on to give examples such as that of Moses who "endured as seeing Him who is invisible.")

**Principle #4: The Bible outlines principles that pertain to obtaining reliable knowledge.**

"The naive believes everything. But the prudent man considers his steps" (Proverbs 14:15)

"Test the spirits to see whether they are from God (1 John 4:1-3)

"Examine yourselves . . . Test yourselves" (2Cor 13:5)

"Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings" (Hebrews 13:9)

'Here is what he concluded: "I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily...Atheism is...senseless."'

Isaac Newton  
Considered the Father of Physics

## ***Learn Mathematics from the Bible***

The mathematics of the Bible is more exacting than the mathematics of this world and science, in general. For example, when the Bible gives a measurement of a shekel of wheat, the Bible specifically points out that one has to take into account that it was customary to press down and then shake together (pack or compress) the wheat (Luke 6:38) before it was considered a complete and honest measurement. This measurement, unlike the measurement of wheat today, takes into account the justness of an honest measure for a day's work. To teach, as we do today, that for a company to sell wheat by the pound is a just measure leads our children to believe that all men are basically honest and God-fearing in their transactions and sales. This, of course, is no more the truth than to teach that all men are basically good.

Perhaps a more important lesson on mathematics comes from the understanding the Bible gives the student over that of modern textbooks. We see this in several places, in Scripture, such as in John 6:5-13 we see where Jesus taught a math lesson of a different yet real sense. He showed how with God we do not have to depend upon the mathematics of the day. There were reported to be five thousand people to whom we given two fish and five barley loaves. As a result, everyone ate his fill and there remained twelve full baskets of bread fragments over and above what they all had eaten. Now this can be either a mathematician's nightmare or a lesson in mathematics that is more valuable and true and useful in this life. That is, if our children learn and depend on mathematics to assure their measure in life, then they will have no more than that and see no more than that. However, if they learn to trust God over mathematics, they will have abundance in every honest measure of their life.

As I grew my family, with what I thought at the time was a good job, I began to wonder about the mathematics of our monthly budget. I thought that I was so smart that even I could take a more microscopic look at my output verses my input each month and determine how to get us financially straight. I set up an elaborate budget worksheet, using Microsoft Excel, and plugged in all our household receipts bills and such. Now this should have shown me exactly what I needed to know mathematically, however instead I was shocked. What I discovered was that our monthly income was actually (mathematically) smaller than our monthly output. I mathematically rechecked and rechecked my figures to make sure it was correct. To my shock and surprise, it was!

This exercise brought something very important to my attention. Without really realizing it, God had been doing the miracle of the loaves and fishes in my life, every month. God's mathematics do not follow the limited understanding of man's mathematics, because He says, "...My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Learning mere textbook mathematics will not prepare children for the world in which they are to live as Christians.

Because of sin in the world, mathematics is innately evil and destructive in this world. If you were to closely examine this point, you would be able to see how this is a true statement. It is man's sinful perception of mathematics that has us live under a calendar conceived by an idol worshipper. It was man's mathematics that convinced us to trust more in the theory of relativity than in the law of thermodynamics. It is man's absorption and trust in mathematics that leads fine Christians who are in the fields of science to believe that the earth and the universe were formed millions of years ago instead of just thousands, as God's Word says. It has been known to lead pastors to abandon their faith.

There can seem to be error in math in the Scriptures, if you use the basis of what idol worshippers have found. A case in point is where the Hebrew, Greek, and the Roman counting systems had no digit for zero. When you use the zero in counting Biblical facts, it comes short on the basis of man-made mathematics. Phil Stone wrote, in BibleTime.com, "The topic of a Biblical chronology eventually reveals interpretive issues surrounding the problem of pure biblical mathematics. The Bible was written before most of the modern mathematical principles were widely adopted. This means that the Bible is built using techniques that will "trip up" a modern reader if that reader is not very careful." For example, there can be seemingly be either an interpretive or a numeric error found in the generational mathematics of Matthew 1, if modern mathematics is used to figure it. The interpretive error would come in understanding, something that could only be explained by faith, which was that Joseph was not actually the biological father of Jesus. Just like the case of my budget before, which relates directly to history and mundane life actually is of a spiritual figuring. The numeric error lends itself to the fact that Arabic numerals, and the ability to state the value "0" using Arabic numerals did not happen until well after the close of the Christian cannon. Any attempt to understand the text of the Bible, requires careful attention to the value "0" and any accidental use of that value not implied by the Bible's text. Modern, Elementary School mathematics can drive a wrong conclusion about what various passages in the Bible actually mean.

In the book *Financial Parenting*, the author, Larry Burkett, explains seven basic principles about money that will help parents more effectively teach their children. They give practical tips and activities to teach kids basic money skills and management, using the Bible as the primary text.

(See the supplement titled: *Bible Mathematics: Learning Mathematics from the Bible*)

### ***Learn Government from the Bible***

Did you know that 71% of the Bible is about Government? Take a look at the following information.

(From Ten Commandments Bible Studies: Most of your Bible was written by Civil Rulers, or is about Government; Walter Kay)

'At the time of the Exodus, Pharaoh was the governor of Egypt. Moses was the governor of Israel. People often assume that the Bible is all about religion, and not government. The public is led to believe that Christians and religious people do not belong in government. That Clergy are not to speak out from the pulpit about political issues.

Moses was the head of the nation's government. (Aaron was the High Priest and head of the church.)

Joshua succeeded Moses as governor of Israel.

After Joshua the Judges ruled in Israel.

- Five books of Moses
- Joshua
- Judges

Kings and their kingdoms followed the Judges system of government. Saul was the first king and Zedekiah the last. After many wars the King of Babylon conquered the remaining Israelites.

The history of these kings and their kingdoms is recorded in your Bible in these four books.

- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles

These are followed up by four books written by Kings David and King Solomon. These four books of your Bible written by kings are:

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- The Song Of Solomon

In the Bible's books of Ezra and Nehemiah we read about the restoration of the Israelite government in Palestine many years later. What was Nehemiah's title? The answer is in the Bible's Book titled Nehemiah.

### **Nehemiah 5**

**14** Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their **governor** in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the **king**, [that is], twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the **governor**.

Here we are 500 pages into an 1130 page Bible and, thus far, it is almost all written by men in government, about civil rulers or it is about the history of national governments.

1. Governor Moses wrote the first five books, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
2. Joshua and Judges were about governors.

3. I Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles recorded the history of the Kings of Israel and Judah.
4. Kings David and King Solomon wrote four books; Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and The Song of Solomon.
5. The Book of Nehemiah is about Governor Nehemiah.

Now we are at page 638. In the remainder of the Old Testament we have books about the prophets such as, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Prophets were sent to the governments of the nation. They delivered God's word to the king. Many times the king didn't like what he heard and the prophet had to leave town, hide, or be put in jail.

Then we come to the New Testament. The Gospels are about the **Kingdom** of Heaven. In Acts 9:15, Paul was commissioned by Christ to bear His name before kings. Revelation 5:10 reads, ..and we (Christians) shall reign on the earth.

#### Acts 9

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, **and kings**, and the children of Israel:

#### Revelation 5

10 And hast made us unto our God **kings** and priests: and **we shall reign** on the earth.

So, in addition to all the 'religious' content, the New Testament also talks about government. In fact, **at least 71% of your Bible is about government!**

Also we find that we can teach about how the U.S.A. was prophesied in the Scripture.

(From U.S.A. in the Bible: The Great Eagle; George Kirkpatrick)

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And the four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." \*\*\* Daniel 7:2-4

The first beast was like a lion. The next great empire to rise to power after the Roman Empire was the British Empire. Great Britain's national symbol is the lion.

In Daniel's vision, the first beast was like a lion, having eagle wings. Daniel beheld until the wings were plucked, or separated. This happened when the United States won its independence from England in 1776. Thus, the United States of America was born. It cannot be denied that we came off the back of England. Our nation's symbol is the Eagle. Daniel went on to say that the Eagle's wings were separated and lifted up from the earth. God raised this nation above all nations of the earth. Because the United States was started on the knees of God-fearing men, freedom of worship became the foundation stone on which this nation was built.

Our belief in God was known throughout the earth. "IN GOD WE TRUST" was imprinted on all our money. "One nation under God" was our Pledge of Allegiance. Congress and the Senate opened every session with a prayer. Prayer and Bible study were established in the schools. The Bible was the main study tool. Church was the social center of the community. Praising God was a way of life. God truly blessed the United States and made it stand upon the feet as a man. We were the first human form of government on the face of the earth.

"A MAN'S HEART WAS GIVEN TO IT".

The United States was ruled from the heart of a man. The people elected their representatives, and sent them to Washington and to their state governments. The people's voice was heard in the affairs of government; locally and nationally. Every town and city held town hall meetings so that every person could be heard.

"IT STOOD UPON THE FEET AS A MAN"

This was to be a human government, not one of the beast governments. Other nations have tried this form of government, as far back as the Grecian Empire, but failed. God's hand was on this nation. It not only succeeded, but it became the greatest nation ever recorded in the history of man.'

(From Ministry in Daily Life: Family, State, and Church: Three Inseparable Institutions: Intervarsity Christian Fellowship)

'The family is the primary institution established by God (Gen. 2:23). Before there were any nations, cities, or other human communities, there was a family. Logically and chronologically, family comes first.

But when the world's first family began to break down because of sin, God established the state. After Cain killed Abel (4:8), his judgment and punishment came from God (4:9-15). There was no court of law or other governmental authority to deal with the case. But when God placed a mark on Cain as a peace-bond, He gave a law to prevent other members of the family from killing Cain (4:15). This rule of law was the beginning of the state. As in the case of the family, however, it was not long before sinful people began to corrupt the state as well (4:23-24).

But a third institution can also trace its beginnings to the early days of the world. After righteous Abel was buried, Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. This man and his son Enosh were linked with an increasing tendency of people to "call on the name of the Lord" (4:26). This kind of commitment to righteousness was preserved in Noah (6:8), and continued later with Abraham, through whom God promised to bless "all the families of the earth" (12:1-3).

The promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He has brought the blessing of salvation from sin. But He has also brought the blessing of a community based on a common faith, known as the church (Eph. 2:14-22).

Ideally, these three institutions-the family, based on biological unity; the state, based on geographical unity; and the church, based on spiritual unity-are intended to reinforce each other and be mutually dependent. Each one needs the other two to function in an effective, godly way. Otherwise, all three suffer. Yet when one institution is struggling or breaking down, the other two need to offer support and assistance, though they cannot replace it.'

Many have asked the question, "Where did our founders get the idea for three branches of our government?" It is clear and evident from the writings of our founding fathers that they allowed Scripture to influence their way of thinking. Therefore, we must turn no further than to the pages of the inspired Word of God to find the answer, for Isaiah 33:22 says:

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us."

The three branches of Government are necessary to secure our Constitutional rights, for they, the judicial, the legislative, and the executive branches are to check and balance each other, as we saw in Isaiah 33:22.

(From Amy Writing Awards: A Suddenly Shocking Ruling; Tom Flannery)

"Even the Constitution laws themselves were rooted in Scripture - the separation of powers was based upon Jeremiah 17:9, tax exemption for churches on Ezra 7:24, Article 4 of the Constitution on Exodus 18:21-22, and so on....

Not surprisingly, of the 15,000 political writings of the men who crafted the Constitution, the source they quoted most frequently in stating their political beliefs was the Bible. A whopping 34% of their political quotes came straight out of the Book they hailed as the inspired Word of God."

## ***Learn Economics from the Bible***

I intend here to show how practical and more real-to-life Biblical Economics are than secular ideals of the same subject.

We Christians, in the great U.S.A., think that it is wise to allow the continuation of a government that spends way more money than it collects in taxes each year, and allows a non-American organization to hold government bonds. This of course is the Federal Reserve. For over 60 years they have been an "engine of inflation, and a meddling agency to de-stabilize the economy" in our country (U.S.A.). If our country spends more money than is collected in taxes, this is just like running up credit card debt, which anyone knows is bad economics.

As Christians we must realize that inflating the money supply (1) is an insidious method of taxation and collective theft and is, therefore, forbidden by God's Word (Exodus 2:15, 17, Proverbs 11:1), (2) is a treacherous means by which rules can be used to demoralize and buy off the people, thus bending citizens to their will (Psalms 2:2,3), (3) serves to remove mothers from the home and thus to weaken their moral influence on children (2 Timothy

1:6), and (4) leads to the destruction of Christian institutions and weakens the “salting influence” of Christians in society (Matthew 5:13).

(From OT Template.org: Economics; Landa Cope)

‘If we summarize the economic principles in Deuteronomy 15:1-10 we might say:

1. Personal debt is to be limited.
2. A nation is to work to eliminate poverty.
3. Avoid national debt.
4. It is wicked to ignore the legitimate needs of the poor.

The Hebrew mind could not grasp a concept of blessing without it being manifest in tangible as well as intangible ways. The goodness of God was tied in part to having enough to eat, clothing and shelter. The word “shalom” itself contained the concept of material blessing. Most of the earth’s population today is desperate for this Gospel.’

(From Pamphlet of the Henry George Institute: Biblical Economics; Rev. Archer Torrey)

‘According to Lev. 25, when a possessor of land wishes to sell it, all he can do is offer a leasehold up until the year of jubilee. There is no special word in the Bible translated either "lease" or "rent", because this is what is meant by the word "sell". The concept of selling land as held in most "civilized" lands today does not exist in the Bible -- except as a crime. (There are three exceptions, where a perpetual title was acquired by purchase, and these will be examined.) The key principle enunciated is in verse 23: "Land must not be sold in perpetuity, for he belongs to me and you are only strangers and guests. You will allow a right of redemption on all your landed property.'"

(From Capitalism and Market Economics: Money Matters; Allan Turner)

‘I am defining *economics* as “a study of the choices human beings make with regard to scarce resources.” By “capital,” I mean: “Any asset-material or non-material-that produces continuing benefits of any kind.” In view of these definitions, the Lord makes a very important statement concerning economics during His earthly ministry. After His miraculous feeding of the five thousand, Jesus said, “*Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost*” (John 6:12). Quite clearly, the Lord, in this passage, was speaking of the *conservation of capital*. Then, in Luke 16:10-11, He said: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [i.e. “riches” (money and possessions)], who will commit to your trust the true riches?” This does not teach greed and avarice, nor does it teach one to be consumed by the pursuit of money and possessions. In fact, earlier, the Lord had said that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). What it teaches is that the test of spiritual stewardship lies in the use of money and possessions. In other words, a fool is a fool, whether it has to do with material or spiritual things. “There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it” (Proverbs 21:20).

Consequently, in John 6:12, the fragments that remained were capital, as I have defined the term, and, as such, they needed to be conserved. Likewise, in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-14), the Lord taught a lesson on spiritual neglect by picturing a young man squandering his material possessions. Simply put, the Bible teaches a very important principle of economics: *wastefulness* (i.e., the failure to conserve capital) *produces want* (cf. Proverbs 21:20; 18:9; 29:3).'

The Bible has over 2000 verses that deal with money and financial planning. Some of those verses deal with topics such as: budgets, debt, financial planning, savings, investing, tithing and much more. To become a better steward it is important to follow the financial wisdom in the Bible.

### ***Learn Logic from the Bible***

Learning logic is involved with learning to reason well and the Bible is not void of logic or reason. A child who grows up without being able to share the reason for what he or she believes will not be effective in testimony for Christ Jesus, which is the reason for his or her being here. The following is a Biblical explanation for the reasons to study logic.

(From Learning Logic at Home: Reasons From the Bible to Study Logic; Nathaniel Bluedorn)

'Learning how to reason well is something about which the Bible speaks. I have found in the Bible seven reasons to learn logic.

#### 1. To Logically Defend Your Faith - Apologetics

Now sanctify the Lord God in your hearts (minds); and always be prepared for (presenting) a logical defense to everyone who requests a reason from you concerning the hope which is among you, (doing so) with meekness and fear . . .

-1 Peter 3:15. (Very Literal Translation)

Always be ready to give a logical defense for your faith in Christ. Why does Peter say this? If we defend our faith, as taught in the Bible, with clear logical reasoning, showing how every man is accountable to the Bible, then we will be witnesses against the world. The world will have no logical excuse for its rebellion against God and for its hatred of us.

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. - Colossians 4:5-6. (KJV)

Know how to respond with a wise answer to non-Christians. God knows that if we prepare ourselves to answer those who accost us about our faith, then our faith and our hope in Christ will be strengthened.

. . . holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. -Titus 1:9 (NKJV)

Hold tight to God's truth in order to be able to refute your opposition with sound biblical reasoning. The Lord makes every man pass this test before he can become an elder in His church. Shouldn't we all aspire to meet this challenge? If we stand firm in the truth, then we will be able to refute those who attack what we know is true.

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious . . . -Acts 17:22-31 (KJV)

Paul stood before the pagan Greeks in Athens and showed them how the true God whom they did not know required them to repent. Have we trained ourselves to be able to do as Paul did? To give logical arguments when the opportunity presents itself? This is what first century Christians had to do, and quickly before the lions had the time to spring! Defending our faith is our duty, and good reasoning is a means God has given us to do it.

## 2. To Defeat the World's Philosophies by Advancing Biblical Reasoning.

We are at War

For the weapons of our warfare (are) not fleshly, rather (they are) powerful in God for the demolishing of fortresses; demolishing reasonings and every thing lifting itself up against the knowledge of God, and taking captive every thought into the obedience of Christ.  
-2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (Very Literal Translation)

God gave us weapons in order to pull down the reasoning and philosophies of the world, and to subjugate all thoughts to the teaching of the Bible. The Bible lays down a plan for victory, not for defeat. This is a war we are fighting. It is not a war of swords and shields, but of thoughts and ideas, a war of minds, a war between God's truth and the world's rebellious reasoning.

. . .[I] exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. -Jude 3 (KJV)

Contend earnestly for the religion, which the Bible teaches. The world's opinion is that we all should contend earnestly for nothing. They want everyone to learn to accept all beliefs and diverse religions in the name of tolerance and progress. But Jude says something quite different. There is only one Book of Truth, and its doctrines deserve to be argued uncompromisingly everywhere.

The Enemy is strong. Be prepared.

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; -Ephesians 4:14. (KJV)

Do not be like children, believing everything, which comes your way, and falling for the cunning lies of the world. The world is not without designs on you. For they that are

such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. -Romans 16:18. (KJV)

Beware of those who try to deceive the unlearned. Have your mind well grounded in Biblical reasoning. This is your best lie detector.

. . . Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. -Colossians 2:6-8

Be well established in the teaching of the Bible, and be on your guard for those who would hoodwink you with the traditions and philosophies of the world.

### The Weapon of Logic

God gave us a weapon with a winning edge: sound reasoning from the Bible. Though we may seem to lose battles as our enemies try to silence the truth we proclaim, nevertheless this is a war we know we cannot lose in the end - if we are on God's side.

### 3. To Prove Your Doctrines from the Bible.

When it comes to the doctrines we believe, what is one of the most worthy examples in the Bible?

These [of Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. - Acts 17:10-11 (KJV)

Paul and Silas, coming to Berea, found the people there more noble than at previous cities, for these people were eager to listen, and carefully studied the Bible to see if what Paul and Silas taught was true. What was so important to these Bereans? Why didn't they immediately accept what Paul and Silas were saying? Because the Bible says we should prove a doctrine before we let ourselves be convinced by it.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. -1 Thessalonians 5:21. (KJV)

The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. -Proverbs 14:15. (KJV)

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God. . . -1 John 4:1. (KJV)

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. . . Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. -Ephesians 5:8-11. (KJV)

. . .abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent. . . -Philippians 1:9-10. (KJV)

Whom shall [God] teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. . . -Isaiah 28:9-10. (KJV)

#### Paul's methods

If the Bereans needed things proven to them, what were Paul's methods for accomplishing this? The following passages from Acts illustrate how Paul tried to convince his audience:

Acts:

9:22 [Paul] confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

17:2. And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

18:4. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

18:19 . . .he. . . entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

18:28. For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. (KJV)

Paul knew he needed to prove that Jesus was the Messiah. If he couldn't prove what he said, he could not rightly expect them to believe it.

#### Augustine on Logic

A Christian in the fourth century, St. Augustine of Hippo, had much to say about logic. He believed it was important to teach logic, which was the common practice in the classical schools of his day.

"The science of reasoning is of very great service in searching into and unraveling all sorts of questions that come up in Scripture, only in the use of it we must guard against the love of wrangling and the childish vanity of entrapping an adversary." (On Christian Doctrine II,48)

Augustine used Paul's argument against those who deny the resurrection of the dead (I Corinthians 15:12-20) as an example of how logic is necessary for proving our Christian doctrines.

". . .if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen,  
then our preaching is in vain,  
then we are false witnesses  
then your faith is in vain,  
then you are yet in your sins,  
then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

"But all these false inferences followed legitimately from the opinion of those who said that there is no resurrection of the dead. These inferences, then, being repudiated as false, it follows that since they would be true if the dead rise not, there will be a resurrection of the dead. As then valid conclusions may be drawn not only from true but from false propositions, the laws of valid reasoning may easily be learnt in the schools ....But the truth of propositions must be inquired into in the sacred books...." (II,49)

Augustine also explained how logic is not an invention of the pagan philosophers, as some men objected, but a science which man has learned from God.

"...[T]he validity of logical sequences is not a thing devised by men, but is observed and noted by them.... ...[I]t exists eternally in the reason of things, and has its origin with God. For as the man who narrates the order of events does not himself create that order; ...and as he who points out the stars and their movements does not point out anything that he himself or any other man has ordained; in the same way, he who says, "When the consequent is false, the antecedent must also be false," says what is most true; but he does not himself make it so, he only points out that it is so. And it is upon this rule that the reasoning ...from the Apostle Paul proceeds. For the antecedent is, "There is no resurrection of the dead...." ...the necessary consequence is "Then Christ is not risen." But this consequence is false, for Christ has risen; therefore the antecedent is also false. ...We conclude therefore that there is a resurrection of the dead. ...This rule, then, that when the consequent is removed, the antecedent must also be removed, is not made by man, but only pointed out by him. And this rule has reference to the validity of the reasoning, not to the truth of the statement." (II,50)

#### A Cloud of Witnesses

The Bereans were commended for carefully studying the Bible before believing; Paul used proof and clear reasoning to convince men of the truth of the gospel; and Augustine, though not an inspired writer, showed how the Bible uses logic to demonstrate our most basic doctrines.

#### 4. To Apply the Logical Implications of God's Commands in Your Life.

As Christians, God has put in us the desire to obey His commands. But we cannot obey them if we do not know and understand them. Therefore, God has written His commands in the Bible and given us a mind to understand His commands. Now what is our duty?

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.  
-Ephesians 5:17. (KJV)

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. -  
Romans 12:2. (KJV)

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; -Colossians 1:9. (KJV)

God commands us not only to know His commands, but also to understand them - to understand their logical implications and to apply them to our life.

#### Abortion

An example of how we recognize the need to obey the logical implications of God's commands is in the issue of abortion. Nowhere does the Bible explicitly say killing unborn children is sin, but we can deduce this command by comparing scripture with scripture.

Murdering living persons is sin. Exodus 20:13. Matthew 19:18.

To unlawfully kill a person with premeditation is murder. Deuteronomy 19:4, 11.

Pre-born children are living persons. Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41.

Abortion is killing a living pre-born child

Therefore, abortion is murder and a sin.

The logic is clear, no one can deny it. The conclusion is true, if you believe the Bible.

#### 5. To Be a Good Steward of Your Mind.

Some men think that all we need to get by in life is big muscles and wilderness survival skills. I would challenge these men to prove this idea from the Bible. God gave us a mind in order to make us more than just another kind of animal.

Some men assert that the mind is evil. It is only our feelings, which we should trust. Though our mind is fallen like the rest of us, it is still an essential part of who we are as sons of God, created in His likeness. God tells us to renew our mind, and learning to reason logically instead of emotionally is part of that.

Brethren, be not children in understanding. . . in understanding be men. -1Corinthians 14:20.

Be a man. Use your mind.

In Matthew, Jesus tells us the parable of the talents in order to teach us to be good stewards with what God has given us.

. . . And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one. . . he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents. . . His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . -Matthew 25:14 (KJV)

Like the many other things God has given us, our mind is also a stewardship we need to be faithful in.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind . . -1 Peter 1:13. (KJV)

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. -Matthew 22:37. (KJV)

. . . strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses [mind] exercised to discern both good and evil. -Hebrews 5:14. (KJV)

As newborn babes, crave ye after the genuine mental [/logical] milk, in order that ye may grow by it. -I Peter 2:2. (Very Literal Translation)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. -II Timothy 1:7. (KJV)

Some liken our mind to a muscle - the more we exercise it the stronger it grows. I know this to be true in my own experience. If I don't stimulate my mind, then it becomes like jelly and it won't work when I need it.

#### 6. To Seek Wisdom in Living Your Life.

So far we have been talking about one branch of logic, called deductive reasoning. This is the logic of proving things. I described it at the beginning of this article. Other areas of logic are also useful. It is handy to learn to recognize common errors in reasoning. This protects us from slick propaganda techniques and sales pitches. These common errors - such as circular reasoning, straw man, red herring - have, for our benefit, been cataloged by men.

Another branch of logic is inductive or scientific reasoning. The world is run by rational rules. God set it up this way so we could understand it. Good inductive reasoning helps us to make wise and practical choices in our everyday life. The study of scientific reasoning, and how to evaluate evidence to make wise choices, has a wide range of useful applications. (However, inductive reasoning is disastrous when used in theology.)

Many characters in the Bible are commended for their wisdom in their every day life. Joseph, Solomon, the wise woman of Proverbs 31, and Daniel are warmly commended for their wisdom. Proverbs often holds up the wise man who seeks to understand discretion, gathers knowledge to increase learning, and listens to the counsel of other wise men.

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: Proverbs 1:1-5.

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets . . . How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof. . . . whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil. -Proverbs 1:20-33.

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. -Proverbs 15:14.

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. -Proverbs 15:22.

Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war. -Proverbs 20:18.

## 7. Jesus Was a Logical Man.

This last reason is the heart of the whole matter. A few examples will show you what use Jesus made of Logic.

At the very beginning of the New Testament, our Lord displayed His mental acumen and thorough knowledge of His Father's Word. In Matthew 4, the devil tempted Jesus. Each time Jesus withstood Satan by deducing that if He complied with the devil's request, then He would disobey the logical implications of Scripture.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus used logic to deduce His theology from the Bible. In Matthew 12:1-8, Jesus deduced from the exceptions to a command of Moses' that the law of mercy superseded Moses' law. (See my father's pamphlet Sabbath Syllogism)

### Battle on the Temple Steps

But the greatest example is in Matthew 21:23-22:46, where Jesus stood out as the world's foremost logician. There were six battles of the mind that day at the temple, and Jesus stood unvanquished. (For a better treatment of this topic see my father's article Jesus' Use of the Logical Dilemma.)

First, the Jewish leaders asked Jesus where he received the authority to do what He did. In response, Jesus gave them a logical dilemma, which answered their question and yet left them with nothing they could use against Him.

Second, Jesus told three parables with which the Jewish leaders must agree, but in doing so they condemned themselves.

Third, the Pharisees asked Jesus if Roman taxes were lawful, trying to trap Him into angering either the Romans or the common people. But Jesus threw the question back at them in another dilemma exposing their false either or dilemma

Fourth, the liberal, skeptical Sadducees tried to show how absurd the idea of life after death was by presenting the dilemma of a woman who had seven husbands, one after another, and then died herself. Their question: whose wife would she be in the resurrection? Jesus destroyed their faulty reasoning by citing the Old Testament, how marriage plainly did not exist after death. Then came the most masterful move of the millennia. Jesus showed from the passage of the burning bush in Exodus that the logical implication of the tense of the verb is proved that God still was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Therefore there is indeed life after death.

Fifth, the Pharisees came again and tried to stump Jesus with a question Jewish theologians had been debating for a long time: "Which is the greatest commandment of the law?" But again, Jesus showed that upon the first command, and the second after it, all the other commands hung. No Jew could disagree.

Sixth, and last of all, Jesus Himself put forth a dilemma - a dilemma, which, if the Jewish leaders answered, they would have to acknowledge who Jesus was. Jesus asked how it could be that David spoke of his son, the Messiah, as his Lord. The only way this could be true was if Christ was both born a son of David but also existed before David - as God the Son.

What a mind our Lord had! What a logician He was! By God's grace, I want to be like Him. There is no greater reason to study Logic.'

### ***Learn History from the Bible***

(From Bible History Online: The Bible: Reliable Enough for "the Father of Modern Navigation")

'Skeptics of the Bible's validity should be interested to note how it was involved in the history of ocean navigation. Thousands of years before scientists knew anything about ocean currents, a scripture was penned in the Psalms which stated, "... whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas" (Psalm 8:8).

Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), known today as "the father of navigation," made the discovery in 1860 that the ocean was a circulating system. He recorded in his journals that he first came upon this theory while reading the scriptures. He went on to draw accurate maps of ocean currents, which are still used today.

Taking into account that the Bible is a historically, geographically, and scientifically accurate book - as opposed to some storybook - should lead every rational thinker to make an intelligent decision about the message that the book conveys.'

(From Bible History Online: The Influence of the World's Greatest Book)

'Historian Philip Schaff vividly describes the uniqueness of the Bible and its influence: "This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon: without science and learning. He shed more light on things human and divine than all scholars and philosophers combined:

without the eloquence of schools. He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line. He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times."

(From Christian Answers: Associates for Biblical Research; Bryan Wood)

'The most documented Biblical event is the worldwide flood, described in Genesis 6-9. A number of Babylonian documents have been discovered which describe the same flood....

Other examples of extra-Biblical confirmation of Biblical events:

- Campaign into Israel by Pharaoh Shishak (1 Kings 14:25-26), recorded on the walls of the Temple of Amun in Thebes, Egypt.
- Revolt of Moab against Israel (2 Kings 1:1; 3:4-27), recorded on the Mesha Inscription.
- Fall of Samaria (2 Kings 17:3-6, 24; 18:9-11) to Sargon II, king of Assyria, as recorded on his palace walls.
- Defeat of Ashrod by Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1), as recorded on his palace walls.
- Campaign of the Assyrian king Sennacherib against Judah (2 Kings 18:13-16), as recorded on the Taylor Prism.
- Siege of Lachish by Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:14,17), as recorded on the Lachish reliefs.
- Assassination of Sennacherib by his own sons (2 Kings 19:37), as recorded in the annals of his son Esarhaddon.
- Fall of Nineveh as predicted by the prophets Nahum and Zephaniah (2:13-15), recorded on the Tablet of Nabopolassar.
- Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchanezzar, king of Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-12), as recorded in the Babylonian Chronicles.
- Captivity of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in Babylon (2 Kings 24:15-16), as recorded on the Babylonian Ration Records.
- Fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:30-31), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder.
- Freeing of captives in Babylon by Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-4), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder.
- The existence of Jesus Christ as recorded by Josephus, Suetonius, Thallus, Pliny the Younger, the Talmud, and Lucian.
- Forcing Jews to leave Rome during the reign of Claudius (A.D. 41-54) (Acts 18:2), as recorded by Suetonius.'

(From Christian Evidences: Why the Bible Cannot Be Legend; Richard Riss)

'...the events of history are inextricably interwoven. Every event that actually takes place is interconnected with all others that occur at the same time and place. To deny the historicity of a single event requires a re-explanation of all of the circumstances surrounding its occurrence. Biblical history and secular history are completely interrelated. They interpenetrate each other to such a degree that it is impossible to

divorce them. A denial of Biblical history would entail a denial of what is known about secular history, because both are interwoven into the same fabric. The facts recorded in the Old Testament, including the supernatural events, are integral to the secular history of Israel and the nations that surrounded her before the time of Christ. In the same way, the facts recorded in the New Testament are integral to the history of the Roman Empire. If we did not take the Bible at face value, it would be difficult to explain the rise of Christian faith in the midst of persecution in the Roman Empire until it eventually became the preferred religion almost three hundred years later.

Any historical narrative purporting to have occurred at a particular time and place is going to have countless effects upon both other events of that time and upon later events. Because of the many intricacies of detail in history, it would be impossible to invent alternate accounts of events that have already transpired which do not have serious deficiencies in their effectiveness in accounting for various attending circumstances. These characteristics of history are of tremendous relevance to the study of the Bible, which, after all, is a historical book. It is filled with information directly relevant to the study of ancient political entities, governments, geography, biography, customs, languages, and history. Had the Bible, or portions within it, been forgeries, these constant allusions to historical data would contain countless inaccuracies and anachronisms. The absence of such signs of forgery forces us to come to grips with the genuineness of the Bible. It must be a record of events that actually happened to real people at specific times and places. There has been too much corroboration of the Biblical details, both through archaeological findings and through other ancient documents, for us to conclude otherwise.'

What is unique about the Bible, as a history book, is that it not only goes back to the absolute beginning of time, but it also moves past the present and into the future. How many History textbooks can offer that in truth!

### ***Learn Nutrition/Health (Medicine) from the Bible***

There are few books I wish I could just hand you that you would read that would make it abundantly obvious that the Scriptures have the remedy for all nutrition and health of the body. It makes absolute sense to me that God, Who is our Creator would know better than anyone how these bodies of ours function and how best to take care of them. In the Scriptures, you find that there are remedies, which affects the physical yet have a direct basis in the spiritual aspect of your life. People find it difficult to realize that sin, for example, could possibly be responsible for their sickness and poor health. Once you see the Scripture, you begin to find that there is truth to this.

In the Old Testament, we find, in **Deuteronomy 8:8** that God describes the good of the land using seven foods. These foods are **wheat, barley, honey, olive oil, figs,**

**pomegranates and grapes.** These foods, of course, all have symbolic value and sometimes-surprising nutritional value. Many ancient Bible scholars and rabbis have studied the subject, and I found a number of theories about their importance. Medicine, nutrition, and good advice about health have been around much longer than the secular textbooks might wish to admit. After all, they wouldn't want to admit the Bible was more than an antiquated or out-of-date book. Here are some facts otherwise:

- Dr. Harvey (1578-1657) was the first scientist to discover that life is **in** the blood, confirming the statement which Moses made about blood circulation thousands of years before his discovery: "**For the life of the flesh is in the blood:...**" (Leviticus 17:11).
- The medical discoveries of prenatal examinations confirm the scriptures (Job 10:10-12 and Psalm 139:15-16), not to mention the numerous laws about hygiene, care and nutrition given in the Bible, which science confirms.
- The Bible commands the Hebrews to circumcise each boy at the age of eight days. Modern blood research provides an explanation for this: studies of blood clotting in a newborn baby show that this is most effective on the eighth day.
- The biblical laws about the quarantine of individuals who are infected with various skin ailments give protection from infection and germs. The Bible complies with the modern rules of personal hygiene.
- The essential regulations, which God gave for His people in the book Leviticus, have been scientifically explained in recent times. God gave the people a lecture on personal hygiene, which was essential to protect them from many infectious diseases and parasites.
- It was only in the 19th century that a doctor called Semmelweiss recommended that you should wash your hands before dealing with sickness. In addition, the work of Pasteur in studying germs and their transmission clarified the reasons for numerous washings and frequent cleaning, which are ordered by biblical law.

The list is endless... but to conclude we will simply quote the famous English astronomer John Herschel (1792-1871) who stated: "It seems as though all human discoveries were made for one single purpose: to confirm, over and over again, the Truth which is contained in the Bible."