



# My Bible School Lessons

Exploring the Word of God

## Lesson #1: "God's Amazing Word"

### GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK, THE BIBLE: SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads' (Revelation 22:4), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme-man's uplifting-the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 15:57). He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's Word.

"The science of redemption is the science of all sciences; the science that is the study of the angels and of all the intelligences of the unfallen worlds; the science that engages the attention of our Lord and Saviour; the science that enters into the purpose brooded in the mind of the Infinite; 'kept secret since the world began' (Romans 16:25); the science that will be the study of God's redeemed throughout endless ages. This is the highest study in which it is possible for man to engage. As no other study can, it will quicken the mind and uplift the soul. .

"The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the Word of God. This Word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God.

"The life thus imparted is in like manner sustained. 'By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4) shall man live.

"The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character. Of every human being privileged with access to the Scriptures, God says, 'I have written to him the great things of My law.' 'Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not' (Hosea 8: 12; Jeremiah 33:3).

"With the Word of God in his hands, every human being, wherever his lot in life may be cast, may have such companionship as he shall choose. In its pages he may hold converse with the noblest and best of the human race, and may listen to the voice of the Eternal as He speaks with men. As he studies and meditates upon the themes into which 'the angels desire to look' (1 Peter 1: 12), he may have their companionship. He may follow the steps of the heavenly Teacher, and listen to His words as when He taught on mountain and plain and sea. He may dwell in this world in the atmosphere of heaven."

*Education, 125-127*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

There was an old Scotsman who said of the Bible, "It is a good thing in a good place for a good purpose." It is a good thing to remember that the Bible in the head won't do. The Bible in the hand won't do. The Bible in the pocket won't do. The Bible on the shelf won't do. But the Bible, the Word of God, in the heart, accepted, through faith and full surrender, will bring a new life. He that hath the Word hath life, and "He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5: 12).

John Wesley said: "I want to know one thing: the way to heaven, how to land on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! O give me that book! At any price give me that book of God! Here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of the book"

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the Word of our God shall stand for ever." Isaiah 40:8. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35. In those two verses, the voice of Jesus joins with Isaiah of old in asserting that the Word of God is forever. "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:17.

A skeptic in London, in speaking of the Bible, said that it was quite impossible in these days to believe in any book whose authority was unknown. A Christian asked if the compiler of the multiplication table was known. "No!" he answered. "Then, of course, you do not believe in it." "Oh yes," was the skeptic's reply, "I believe in it because it works well" "So does the Bible," was the Christian's reply. The skeptic had no answer to that.

Martin Luther said, "I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb; and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf."

## STATISTICS

It takes 70 hours and 40 minutes to read the Bible at pulpit rate.

It takes 52 hours and 20 minutes to read the Old Testament.

It takes 18 hours and 20 minutes to read the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Psalms take the longest to read: 4 hours and 28 minutes.

In the New Testament, the Gospel of Luke: 2 hours and 43 minutes.

## The seven wonders of the Word:

1. The wonder of its formation – the way in which it grew is one of the mysteries of time.
2. The wonder of its unification - a library of 66 books, yet one book in total unity of truth.
3. The wonder of its age - the most ancient of all books.
4. The wonder of its sale - the best seller of all time and of all books.
5. The wonder of its interest - the only book in the world read by all classes of people.
6. The wonder of its language - written largely by uneducated men, yet the best book from a literary and scientific standpoint.
7. The wonder of its preservation - the most hated of all books, yet it continues to exist.
  - Old Testament books: 39.
  - New Testament books: 27.
  - Total number of books: 66.

## Lesson 1: God's Amazing Word

- Old Testament chapters: 929.
- New Testament chapters: 260.
- Total number of chapters: 1,189.
- Old Testament verses: 33,214.
- New Testament verses: 7,959.
- Total number of verses: 41,173.
- Old Testament words: 593,393.
- New Testament words: 181,253.
- Total number of words: 774,646.
- Old Testament letters: 2,738,100.
- New Testament letters: 838,380.
- Total number of letters: 3,576,480.
- The shortest chapter is Psalm 117.
- Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except "f" and "l"
- Esther 8:9 is the longest verse.
- John 11:35 is the shortest verse.
- No word has more than six syllables.

Over 150 years ago, Sir William Ramsey went to the Near East, to prove that the history given in the Bible was inaccurate. His professors had told him the Book could not be right. Ramsey began to dig in the ancient ruins. To his amazement, he found that the Old and New Testament Scriptures were accurate to the tiniest detail. So convincing was the evidence that Ramsey became a Christian.

Dr. J. O. Kinnaman said: "Of the hundreds of thousands of artefacts found by the archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible; but that always confirms and verifies the facts of the Biblical record."

George Washington said: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." John Quincy Adams said: "So great is my veneration of the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society." Andrew Jackson said: "That Book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests." Abraham Lincoln said: "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this Book" Woodrow Wilson said: "I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily reading of this great Book"

Martin Luther warned: "I am afraid the universities will prove to be the great gates to hell, unless they diligently labor to explain the holy Scriptures and engrave them upon the hearts of youths. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution where men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt." "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." Psalm 119:9.

"For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89. Long ago God gave ten rules: the Ten Commandments. They are spiritually and morally changeless and their keeping is obligatory for the children of God from generation to generation. Isaac Watts said: "I believe God's promises so surely that I stake my eternal destiny on them!" The Bible says: "He is faithful that promised." Hebrews 10:23.