



“The Solid Rock”

Bible Course



# Lesson 1

## The Bible: God's Word and It's Central Figure

# 1. WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD BECAUSE OF FULFILLED PROPHECY.

The central figure of the Bible is Jesus Christ. He is spoken of prophetically in the Old Testament as the coming Lord and Savior of Mankind. He fulfills these prophecies in the new Testament.

Look at these examples of fulfilled prophecy:

A. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah seven hundred years before it took place.

***Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His Name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).***

*Note the new Testament fulfillment: Matthew 1:23.*

B. The death of Jesus Christ was spoken by the prophet David about one thousand years before it occurred.

***“My God, my God, why has Thou forsaken me?... (“Psalm 22:1)***

Note the New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:46

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Read Psalm 22 for it is a prophetic description of the death of Jesus Christ.

C. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was prophesied by David As well.

***“For Thou will not leave my soul in hell; neither will thou suffer Thine Holy One [Jesus Christ] to see corruption [in the grave].” (Psalm 16:10).***

Note the New Testament fulfillment: The Apostle Peter spoke in Acts 2:25-31 of this prophecy before thousands on the day of Pentecost around 33 A.D.

2. WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS COHESIVENESS. THOUGH IT HAS MANY BOOKS AND MANY WRITERS, IT HAS ONE THEME AND WAS INSPIRED BY ONE MIND-THE MIND OF GOD.

*....Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21).*

All scripture is given by inspiration of God...(II Timothy 3:16).

The Bible contains 66 books. It was written by 44 persons over a period of two thousand years. Yet there is one theme: The triumph of the Kingdom of God over sin, Satan, and death. Jesus Christ is the King. His people, redeemed (saved) from sin, are his Kingdom. Eventually all angles and men will be under His ruler-ship whether they are redeemed or not.

### 3. WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD BECAUSE OF IT'S VISIBLE RESULTS: CHANGED LIVES:

The New Testament tells how a man called Sault of Tarsus was violently persecuting the Christians. Suddenly, on the road to Damascus, he was confronted with the appearance of Jesus Christ. So profound was his conversion to Christ, he went throughout the whole world preaching Christ, and thousands upon thousands were healed and saved from both physical and spiritual bondages.

Read Acts 8:3; 9:1-6; 9:20-22

Today, there are churches throughout the world being raised up by God for the purpose of bringing deliverance to men and women. We have personally seen hundreds of folks delivered from everything...fear...cancer...drugs...and so on.

These same people were then so wonderfully filled with God's Spirit, they had joy and peace such as they have never known. The change took place as these men and women believed the Word of God as it was preached and taught.

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)*

## 4. WE SHOULD READ AND APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES DAILY.

The Bible will strengthen our faith, give us help, guidance, comfort, hope, love and strength.

**“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)**

**“And that from a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise until salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus. “(II Timothy 3:15).**

**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished until all good works.” (II Timothy 3:16-17).**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY: Read Matthew 4:1-5**

## 5. WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the son of Mary, true God and truly man, and the ONLY Mediator (go-between) that can represent both God and man. [Read Luke 1:35; Colossians 2:9 and 1 Timothy 2:5].

A. The Scriptures ascribe to Jesus Divine Names

*...This is the True God and eternal life (I John 5:20)*

*And Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God." (John 20:28).*

*...Behold, a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (Matthew 17:5).*

*...Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever (Romans 9:5).*

## B. The Scriptures ascribe to Jesus Divine attributes:

(1) Eternal

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)***

(2) Unchangeable

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)***

(3) Omnipresent (Ever present)

***“...lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world. Amen.”  
(Matthew 28:20).***

(4) Omniscient (All-knowing)

***“...Lord, thou knowest all things...” (John 21:17)***

(5) Omnipotent (All powerful)

***“...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” )Matthew 28:18)***

## C. The Scriptures ascribe to Jesus Divine Works:

*“All things were made by him: and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:30)*

*“He upholds all things by the word of his power...” (Hebrews 1:13)*

*“...the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.” (Matthew 9:6)*

*“(The Father)...hath given him authority to execute judgment...” (John 5:27)*

## D. The Scriptures ascribe to Jesus Divine Honor and Glory.

*“That all men should honour the son even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoroureth not the Father, which hath sent him.” (John 5:23)*

*“...Let all the angels of God worship him.” (Hebrews 1:6)*

## 6. WHY WAS HE CALLED “JESUS”?

The name “Jesus” means “Savior”, “Liberator,” or “Deliverer.” [Read Matthew 1:21].

## 7. WHY WAS JESUS CALLED “THE CHRIST?”

Christ, as well as Messiah, means “The Anointed One.” During the Old Testament (Covenant) age, Prophets, Priests, and Kings were anointed with oil for their public ministries. Jesus was “christened” – or anointed – with the Holy Spirit without measure. [Read John 3:34]

## 8. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST IF WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND CHRISTIANITY?

The strength of the Christian faith depends upon the person of Jesus Christ. In pagan (false) religions, take away the founder of the religion, and the teachings of the false religion will still be accepted by many. Take from Christianity the Name and Person of Jesus Christ and nothing is left. [Read John 15:5 and 1 Corinthians 14:14].

## 9. WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR OUR SAVIOR TO BE TRUE MAN?

Our Savior had to be man because it is man who sinned; and God would not punish any other creature as man's perfect sacrifice for sin. [Read Galatians 4:4-5 and Hebrews 2:14-18]

## 10. WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR OUR SAVIOR TO BE TRUE GOD?

Our Savior had to be God because no mere man – none but God – could carry the burden of God's wrath and satisfy God's demands against sin. [Read Psalm 49:7-8 and 1 Peter 1:17-21]

# 11. WHY IS JESUS CHRIST CALLED “THE ROCK”?

A. The new Testament tells us Jesus Christ is building a Temple, not with brick and mortar, but with His people, “lively stones.” The chief cornerstone of the spiritual building is Jesus Christ. [Read Ephesians 2:19-22]

B. Jesus revealed to His disciples He is the Rock upon which our faith is built.

***“...Thou art Peter [petros in the Greek, meaning a “small stone”], and upon this rock [petra in the Greek, meaning “a very large rock”] I will build My Church...(Matthew 16:18)***

C. Other Scripture references which refer to Christ as  
The “Rock” are:

Psalm 18:2

1 Corinthians 3:11

1 Corinthians 10:4

I Peter 2:6-7