



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

## Bible Info and Keys to Reading It

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



[Learn the Bible at Home](#)

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## **Bible Info and Keys to Reading It.**

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### **Topics.**

- Why the Bible is superior to other spiritual books.
- The greatest key to Bible study.
- Figurative language, exaggerations, overstatements.
- Bible writers hide themselves.
- Ancient Hebrew writers and repetitions
- Common sense and chunks of history left out.
- Paul's style of writing.
- Twenty-one tips to help when reading the Bible.
- I come in the volume of the book.
- King James Bible is not the only inspired word of God.

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### **WHY THE BIBLE IS SUPERIOR TO OTHER SPIRITUAL BOOKS**

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There are thousands of books on the market today that teach various spiritual paths many of them offer some good principles for the emotions, the mind and meditation, some will even benefit a person's well-being, their mental state and their life as a whole while dwelling on planet earth, but the reason the Bible tells us not to trust in man is because no matter what he does or how gifted he maybe, he cannot give eternal life, when he breaths his last breath he returns to the earth and all his plans perish. God through His chosen prophets and apostles offers the only message on earth that leads to eternal life.

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### **THE GREATEST KEY TO BIBLE STUDY**

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All interpretations of Scripture must be in harmony with the following two Scriptures:

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (Matt. 22:37).
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:39).

Love your neighbor as yourself, means, treat others with decency, respect, and honest justice. James the half-brother of Jesus calls this the royal law (James 2:8), and the apostle Paul wrote, "love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." (Rom. 13:10). The apostle John wrote:

- Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8).

These Scriptures show, that every interpretation of Scripture, must be in harmony with loving God, (obviously this includes loving Christ), and loving our neighbour.

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## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, EXAGGERATIONS, OVERSTATEMENTS

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Many times, Bible writers very skilfully and very beautifully use figurative language and colourful exaggerations and overstatements:

- To amplify the story and the battle.
- To magnify the message, the moral and the teaching.
- To dramatize the event in focus.
- To highlight God's power and glory.

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## BIBLE WRITERS HIDE THEMSELVES

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It seems to be a principal of humble Bible writers to hide themselves in their letters to avoid using the word I. They will often say, "That disciple with them" or "That disciple with him" rather than say, "I was with him" or "I was with them" when they are referring to themselves it is a style of writing that avoids boasting. The spirit of the world is pride and the desire to feel important. If those in the secular world have contact with a famous person, they want to boast about it to their friends' biblical writers often avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings.

John writes, "Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved" (John 20:2). The disciple who Jesus loved was John, we know this because in the next chapter John says, "When Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved," a few verses later we read, "He was the disciple who has written the things in this letter" (John 21:20-24). Meaning the disciple who wrote the book of John was the disciple Jesus loved.

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## ANCIENT HEBREW WRITERS AND REPETITIONS

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It is common to see many repetitions in Scriptures this is characteristic of very ancient Hebrew writers to give completeness and finish to each section of their story. They continually repeat a thing to make the account of what they are saying fully intelligible and to imprint what they are saying upon the mind and heart. The following statement, "Moses gave no inheritance to the Levites," is a typical example of such repetitions.

- To the tribe of *Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance*. The offerings by fire to the LORD God of Israel are their inheritance. (Josh. 13:14).
- To the tribe of *Levi Moses gave no inheritance*; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them. (Josh. 13:33).
- Moses had given an inheritance to the two and one-half tribes beyond the Jordan, but to the *Levites he gave no inheritance*. (Josh. 14:3).
- The *Levites have no portion among you*, for the priesthood of the LORD is their heritage. (Josh. 18:7).

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## COMMON SENSE AND CHUNKS OF HISTORY LEFT OUT

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Biblical writers may expand the story to develop the meaning or leave out much of the detail so that the core message of the story is in focus. The central focus or primary purpose of the Bible is not the historical account or the exact detail of the story or history, but the eternal lessons that the

story communicates to the reader, it is about God's relationship with man and the good and evil in the human heart. To quickly get to the idea or the message the writer is communicating to the hearer or the reader, they will often leave out large chunks of history and information that is not important to the core idea or message they want to give. Even though the Bible records snippets of history, it is not a real historical book, rather it is telling a spiritual story from God's perspective, and records certain historical events that reveal how God works through world events, and that express a faith that shows, God is just, if there is punishment there is a reason for it.

The historical events that are recorded also contain a message of hope and forgiveness for those who turn to God with all their heart and soul, and obey God's word, accept their guilt, and change their ways. No reader should be surprised that large chunks of history or unimportant details of the story are not mentioned, had the original writers of the Bible manuscripts included every detail of a story the Bible would be so thick it would take a lifetime to read it. When these gaps occur, it is left to the intelligence, reasoning, and logic of the reader to fill them in.

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### **PAUL'S STYLE OF WRITING**

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When Paul is writing a letter, he has no audience before him to ask questions so he often adopts a style of writing that enables him to raise a topic by asking a question himself. This style of writing has three benefits:

1. Questions always grab the attention of the reader as they set the mind to seek an answer.
2. It gives the author the opportunity to answer questions that they perceive they might be asked if in front of a live audience.
3. It raises a topic the writer wants to highlight and discuss.

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### **TWENTY-ONE TIPS TO HELP WHEN READING THE BIBLE**

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1. Know that God by his Spirit is with you as you seek after him so talk and pray to him as you read.
2. Do not trust what you have been taught, prove it for yourself.
3. Do not fear getting things wrong, it is Christ who saves us not head knowledge (when in doubt you can always ask someone you trust later).
4. Meditate on what you do not understand, but do not fret or be anxious about it, know that as you continue to read the verses you do not understand will slowly unfold.
5. Keep in mind God delights in those who seek after him (whether they clearly understand everything they read or not).
6. Know that salvation is in Christ, not in detailed knowledge so do not be afraid to explore and test what others are teaching.
7. If born into a religious organisation mentally question what you believe until you have made it your own.
8. Treat your time in the Bible as a spiritual journey and adventure of discovery.
9. Pretend you know nothing and allow Scripture to reveal itself to you.

10. Read the verses in context, and then apply the principal to yourself.
11. Take time to read it devotionally, be consciously aware that God is with you, meditate on the Lord, allow what you are reading to transcend your mind to heavenly places, it does not always have to be about learning.
12. Compare what has been taught against the lives of Jesus and the apostles (i.e., if a teacher is proclaiming that God's children should prosper, be successful and wealthy because they belong to God the King, look at the lives of Jesus and the apostles and test this (and any other) teaching against how they lived.
13. Look to see who in the story is speaking, because what they are saying may not be the truth.
14. Look for the sequence of thought in the chapter.
15. Be consciously aware of wider meanings, meaning the hidden undesigned patterns that are deeper than what is superficially being said.
16. Keep in mind that the Scriptures contain the words of the greatest mind in the universe.
17. Single verses must be interpreted in the light of the Bible's core truth.
18. Gods' prophets speak to Israel, but the principle and application can often apply to the reader personally.
19. Look for the power or meaning behind the message the words contain.
20. Words do not always carry the same meaning, often it is the context that gives the word its meaning.
21. Though the Lord Jesus Christ, and a future age is not the prime focus of a prophecy or chapter, they can be seen intertwined in the language of various passages.

**The Bible's credibility:** the Bible is the only book that hangs its entire credibility on its ability to write history in advance, without error. (Chuck Missler).

**Different styles of writing:** a letter written to a loved one will be different in style to one that is written to a university. Who a person is that writes will determine the style and intellect and the emotion of that letter. It is always important to take this principal into account when interpreting the Bible and to be aware of the danger of being beguiled by words, into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the words were never designed to bear, many false doctrines are built this way.

**Repetition of writing:** the repetition of details that have already been made known is a common practise amongst Oriental writings. It is a style of writing designed to impress all the details concerning family relations, a prophecy or event upon the mind of the reader.

**Overthrowing the context:** it should always be kept in mind, a single word or text should not be allowed to overthrow the context of the paragraph, the chapter, or the big picture of the Bible, nor the continuous theme that the Scriptures present which is God sacrificing, not Himself, but His only foreordained and beloved Son to save mankind. (John 3:16)

**All Scripture is breathed out by God:** applies to the messages spoken by the prophets and apostles, it does not mean every individual and single word of the Bible is inspired, but that the messages that the sum-total of the individual words are teaching is inspired.

**The Bible is to be used for:** teaching and reproof, correction, and training in righteousness so that the man or woman of God may be competent and equipped for every good work.

- **2 Tim. 3:16-17:** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Bible's translations:** some Bibles translate the thought the words carry, while others translate it word for word.

**A danger in biblical interpretation:** be careful of building a theological superstructure upon words, which the words were never designed to carry.

**The book of Kings and Chronicles:** the book of Kings is the plain history, while Chronicles shows how God was acting in history.

**The main message of the Bible:** is man's way back to God and the proclamation of the Kingdom and the resurrection. The purpose of the miracles and healings were to authenticate the message.

**The Greek language:** cannot be separated from Greek thought, during the Roman era it opened-up literature and served as the model for Roman writers. When reading the New Testament, it should be kept in mind, the use of personification is heavenly ingrained in the Greek language.

**Prophecy, past and present tense:** for a Jew and Bible writers if a thing or event is declared by God that it will happen, it can be spoken of, or written about as though it has already happened, this is because it is sure to come to pass.

**The prophets and language:** throughout many Scriptures the person speaking changes between them speaking and God speaking, such a change of person's speaking is not uncommon in the Scriptures especially in Psalms and poetic and prophetic language. This is because the prophet is speaking on behalf of God, and being inspired by God, so though he is always the one actually-speaking, the language can switch between him speaking about things to him speaking as the voice of God to the people.

**A language the people had not known:** the expression, "The people will speak a language they had not known," is not always referring to a different language of speech, it can refer to a message of a different kind or different lifestyle, in some contexts it can refer to the language of rejoicing and praising the LORD. When foreign nations were oppressing and persecuting Israel or had taken them into captivity and they were in great mourning and a prophet said, "The people will speak a language they had not known," it means they would speak the language of joy, praise, and happiness in contrast to mourning and grief.

**The French, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Hebrew language:** these languages are known as the romantic languages, this is because nouns are personified as either masculine or feminine.

**Different levels of Scripture:** the same Scriptures can often apply on the following four levels:

1. Worldly level.
2. A national level.
3. An organizational level.
4. A personal level.

**Different styles of writing:** bible writers will often only give very brief surveys, by leaving out certain selections of things and events to get to the idea or the message they are communicating quickly to the hearer or the reader and to do this will often leave out large chunks of history or information that is not important to the core idea or message they want to give.

**Literal words:** when a literal word is used figuratively in Scripture and its meaning is somewhat obscure, the meaning of the word can often be found by looking at the context of other Scriptures that use that same word figuratively.

**Individual and personal moments:** sometimes to bring encouragement or comfort (especially in moments of extreme crisis and sorrow), God may highlight a Scripture to the readers mind, these are very individual and personal moments that only apply to the readers life, faith, and their circumstance so they should be treasured as God's intimate gift to the reader only, and not taught as a principle that applies to everyone.

**Hold fast what is good (1 Thess. 5:16):** carries the following two ideas:

1. After testing what you have been taught and found to be true and good, embrace it, make it a stronghold of your mind, your heart, your life, and your faith.
2. Make growing and increasing in love, kindness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, grace, and such like things the goal and ambition of your life, and hold fast to them.

**Women and genealogies:** in most Hebrew and Jewish genealogies only women of nobility or who gave birth to someone of nobility or someone important to the story of the Bible are generally mentioned. This is the common practise for Hebrew and Jewish genealogies.

**Overthrowing the context:** it should always be kept in mind, a single word or text should not be allowed to overthrow the context of the paragraph, the chapter, or the big picture of the Bible, nor the continuous theme that the Scriptures present which is, God sacrificing, His only beloved Son to save mankind. (John 3:16).

**Darby's Bible:** uses the words, "congregation" or "assembly" rather than the word church, some say the Darby Bible is a good literal translation, because the author had a big mind.

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## I COME IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK

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The only reason we are counted worthy of eternal salvation is because of our faith in God's Son, and because of God's grace, this is the place the Good News of the Gospel should bring us to. Once we are secure in Christ and in God's grace nothing can shake us, and we can walk with the Lord with a stable and secure mind while still being open to challenge what we have been taught by others, and prove (like the brothers sisters at Berea) (Acts 17:10-11), to ourselves, that what we have been taught is actually so, all the time knowing that our salvation is never in jeopardy, because it is not based on having every detail of doctrine in its exact place, but rather in our trust and faith in Christ and our dependence upon God's grace.

Jesus said to religious Jews who believed in God, daily read the Old Testament Scriptures, and adhered to every religious ceremonial rite, law, and tradition:

- You do not have God's word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one who He has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (John 5:38-40).

This shows that the primary purpose of the Scriptures is to bring us to Christ. David in prayer and in faith echoing Christ wrote:

- Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book, it is written of me: <sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:7).

Thousands of years later the author of Hebrews in his letter cites the words of David:

- Then I said, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.” (Heb. 10:7).

The author of Hebrews used these words of David to prove to the unbelieving Jews the following two things:

1. That salvation to eternal life is not in intellectual knowledge of the Scripture, but in a devoted living and faithful relationship with the Father and with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. That the purpose of all Scripture is to deliver a sinner from the kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of light by bringing them into this fellowship with Christ and with his Father.

When we all stand before the Lord’s judgment seat Christ will not sit us down to do a written doctrinal exam, but he will examine our lives to see if our religious actions stemmed from a devoted and loving heart toward him and his Father or from self, ego, and pride, and will measure us against the Royal Law, “Love your neighbour as yourself” (i.e., did we treat others with love, kindness, compassion, grace, mercy, and forgiveness especially our brothers and sisters in Christ). This does not mean that studying the Scriptures is of no value, quite the contrary, since the more we understand the Bible the stronger our faith and our hope grows, and the more we learn of the nature, character will and the heart of the one we love, and what he requires of us.

**To give a simple example;** a young man may meet a girl that he is attracted to, so he takes her out on a few dates and finds she has a pleasant personality and caring nature, now, he knows this girl, no-one can say anything against her that he would believe because he knows her nature and her character, but if he never takes her for another date, it will not be long before that relationship will dissipate and other things will take its place. So, it is with the Scriptures they are our date with Christ and through them we gain eternal and heavenly insights into treasures of God that touch our hearts in a manner that nothing in this world can.

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## **KING JAMES BIBLE IS NOT THE ONLY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD**

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The King James Bible is not the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God, for the following four reasons.

1. It is very difficult for people of our generation to read since we do not speak in the manner the King James Bible is written in. Certainly, it was the common language of that generation and is a great Bible and beautifully written.
2. It is the messages that are inspired, not every individual word of the Bible, if this was the case only those who could read the original manuscripts would be able to read the inspired word of God.
3. If the King James Bible is the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God the Chinese, Mexicans, the French, and people that speak all other foreign languages would never be able to read the inspired word of God since all their Bibles are translated into a totally different language to the English language.
4. Unless we speak Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek none of us would be able to read the inspired word of God since the original Manuscripts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.



Now here is the beauty of Scripture, it is the messages the Bible contains that is the inspired word of God, not the language or the individual words, but the messages the individual words joined together as complete sentences and paragraphs proclaim.

**A personal note:** for those who have difficulty reading the King James Bible (and many do) here is the good news, all well recognised modern Christian Bibles contain the same messages as the King James Bible has. Whichever of these Bibles a person seeking God choses to read, there is no doubt, if their heart is right before God, they will not only find the way to eternal life, but also the love and grace of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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## THE SEPTUAGINT

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After Alexander the Great conquered the Babylonian Empire, he promoted the Greek language throughout the known world, and which resulted in almost everyone including the Jews speaking Greek. Hebrew slowly fell into disuse amongst the people, only being used for ceremonial purposes (somewhat like the Roman Catholics used Latin). In order to make the Jewish Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) available to the average Jewish reader, Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–246 B.C.) commissioned Seventy scholars to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Their completed work is known as the 'Septuagint translation.' (Septuagint means 70, it is often abbreviated 'LXX.')

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*