

Lesson 2

THE SCRIPTURES



I. The Importance of the Bible

1. People have always asked very serious questions about life: How did everything begin? Is there a God? What is he like? Can I know God? Is there life after death? How can my sins be forgiven? These are very important questions, and people have had many different answers. How can we know who is right when many of the answers are very different and cannot all be true?

a. What are some different ideas people have about God? _____

b. What are some explanations you have heard for the beginning of the universe? _____

2. The Bible came by "revelation."

Think of the right answers being behind a heavy curtain. We can guess what is behind the curtain, but we don't know for sure. The best thing would be to pull it back and see what is there. The Bible does just that — God pulls back the curtain to tell us what he is like and what life is all about. The word for this is revelation. So to understand God and life and death, we do not guess and hope we are right. We study what God has said.



Think
about it

a. Use the idea of a curtain to define revelation. _____

b. Without God's revealing himself to us, the best we can do is _____ about the meaning of life.

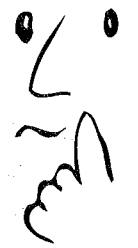
3. Look up Deuteronomy 29:29 and answer these questions:
- a. Has God told us everything about himself? _____
 - b. Do you think we could understand if he did? _____
 - c. Should we be surprised if we come to questions about God we cannot answer? _____
 - d. Why has God revealed the things that he has? _____

4. God has revealed himself in ways other than just through the Bible, but we need the Bible to tell us these other ways. From these verses tell how God is revealed:
- a. Romans 1:20 _____
 - b. Romans 2:15 _____
 - c. Hebrews 1:1 _____

5. But the only rule from God to actually direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him is: (S.C. #2) _____

- a. Look up Deuteronomy 31:24-26. Moses was an old man ready to die. But before he died, what did he do with the words of the Law? He finished _____ them in a _____. Then the book of the law (the Bible) was put by the side of the _____ of the covenant to remain as a _____ against them. (v. 26)
 - b. Look up Matthew 5:17, 18. How important did Jesus say the Bible was? _____

There are many today who ignore the Bible or who try to say that it is no different from any other religious book. But those who follow Jesus Christ love the Bible because Jesus did. They try to understand the Bible and believe what it says because that is what Jesus taught us to do.



Think
about it



6. Why do those who follow Jesus Christ love the Bible?

II. The Teaching of the Bible

1. The Bible records very interesting and accurate history. It sometimes mentions scientific matters. It has beautiful poetry, but two basic teachings are found in the Bible that are more important than anything else. What are they? (Look up S.C. #3)

What _____

and what _____

2. Look up II Timothy 3:14-17 and answer these questions:

a. How long had Timothy known the teaching of the Bible? (v. 15) _____

b. What did he learn from the Bible? (v. 15) _____

c. How much of the Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed)? (v. 16) _____

d. What is something else that happened when God breathed out? (Genesis 1:3) _____

e. What are four uses for the Bible (Scripture)? (v. 16)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

f. What does the Bible do for the Christian ("man of God") who understands it? (v. 17) _____

3. The Bible came from God.



Think
about it

The Bible itself teaches that it is not an ordinary book. It is a creation of God. We have it because God spoke. In creation God spoke, and the world came into being. The Bible is a different kind of creation because God spoke to men and then made sure they wrote exactly what he wanted them to write. But it is still his creation, not man's.

Look up II Peter 1:20, 21.

a. When Peter speaks of prophecy here he says (v. 20), "no prophecy of _____." So he is talking about the Bible.

b. This prophecy (Scripture) did not come from _____ (v. 21)

c. But men spoke from _____ as they were _____ by the _____ (v. 21)

4. The Bible is not so much one book but a library of 66 books written by about 36 different people between 1400 B.C. and A.D. 100.

a. How many books are in the Bible? _____

How many in the Old Testament? _____

How many in the New Testament? _____

b. What is the main difference between the Old and New Testaments? _____

c. How many different people did God inspire to write the books of the Bible? _____

d. Put these periods of Bible history in the proper order by using the numbers 1-8:



What do
YOU think?

_____ Jesus came into the world, died on the cross, and rose again.

_____ God called Abraham to be the father of a great nation and promised him a son.

_____ David was the greatest King of Israel; his son Solomon built the Temple.

_____ God created the world and made man and woman in his own image.

_____ Peter and Paul and others went everywhere preaching about Jesus.

_____ God punished his people and sent them to Babylon for 70 years.

_____ Moses led Israel out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

_____ Jesus went back to Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to fill his disciples.

Date Completed _____

Parent's Initials _____

