

# Bethel Bible Series

## The Word of God

### Study 3A

*Scripture does not condone everything it records. It simply records it, and it is scandalous. PK*

Welcome

Introductions - What is your favorite Bible verse and why?  
Memory Review  
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

## Review of Last Weeks

Genesis 1 - Creation and its Concepts

*Hands lifting the earth out of hazy mist*  
*Halo of white light circling the earth*  
*Fingers opened on the right hand*  
*White links attached to the arms and globe*  
*Lettered banner flying on the earth*  
*Figure grasping staff*  
*Banner furling around figure*  
*Halo of light behind figures' heads*  
*Figures holding crowns*  
*Four jewels in crowns*  
*Jewel 1*  
*Jewel 2*  
*Jewel 3*  
*Jewel 4*

Genesis 2 - Divine Intentions

*Garden*  
*Note banner extended from heavens*  
*Four mountain peaks*  
*Raised arms of figures*  
*Banner enfolding figures*  
*Clasped arms of figures*  
*Banner flowing through peaceful lake scene*  
*Figures with faces lifted upward*  
*Halos behind figures' heads*

Genesis 3 - Disharmony

*Broken Note*  
*Figure facing away from outstretched hand*  
*Outstretched arms of central figure*  
*Space between figure and outstretched hand*  
*Painful countenance on figure's face*  
*Broken note piercing side*  
*Broken note striking other figure*  
*Broken note penetrating earth*  
*Cracked earth and parched ground*  
*Yoke-like appearance of broken note*  
*Large hand in beckoning position*

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### Lesson

What We Believe (*Acts 4:12*)

Does it matter what we believe?

Acts 4:12

What does it mean to be saved, and what is this name by which we must be saved?

John 17:3

Is thinking about God enough to know Him and be saved?

Matthew 22:29

The Bible for Everyday Life (*2 Timothy 3:16*)

How can studying the Bible help us know God and Jesus enough to receive the life He offers?

John 20:31

Can the Bible also help us in our daily lives?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Other than growth, what promise does God give to those who study His word?

Luke 11:28

Law and Gospel (*Romans 3:21-24*)

What two paths towards salvation are revealed in the Bible?

Romans 3:21-24

How easy is it for us to be saved by following the path of God's Law?

Galatians 3:10-12

How easy is it for us to be saved by following the path of God's Grace?

Galatians 3:13-14

Is God's Law only found in the Old Testament?

Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22a

Is God's Gospel ("Good News") found only in the New Testament?

Genesis 3:15

What is God's Word? (*John 1*)

How long has God's Word been around?

John 1:1-3

Why does John refer to the Word as "him"?

John 1:14

How were all things made through the Word?

Genesis 1:3

How did the Word become flesh?

Luke 24:27

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### The Bible

Not one book, but a book of books (66)

*biblion*

#### Canon

List of books recognized as the genuine, original inspired, authoritative Word of God

What did Peter explain to be the source of the books in the Bible?

2 Peter 1:20-21

How did Paul, the author of nearly half of the New Testament books, feel about the message he gave?

Galatians 1:11-12

How seriously should we consider the words in the Bible to be the exact Words of God?

Galatians 1:8

### The Old Testament

*Testament:* A covenant or agreement between two parties

Implies a strong relationship between the two

What was God's old testament?

Leviticus 26:3, 9, 12

What is the focus of the Old Testament books of the Bible?

Genesis 28:13-15

Current Old Testament canon selected soon after return from Babylon, around the time of Ezra

Books organized mostly chronologically within 5 categories (39 books):

The Law (Torah) - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings,  
1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,  
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

What is the difference between a Major Prophet and a Minor Prophet?

### The New Testament

What was God's new testament?

Hebrews 9:15

Is this new covenant still restricted to the children of Abraham?

Galatians 3:6-9, 14, 29

What is the focus of the New Testament books of the Bible?

Ephesians 3:4-6

Current New Testament canon selected in 397 AD at the Council of Carthage

Were any of our New Testament books regarded as Scripture before this time?

2 Peter 3:15-16

Books organized thematically within 5 categories (27 books):

Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

History - Acts

Letters of Paul - Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians,  
Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians,  
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Letters of Others - Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude

Apocalypse - Revelation

### Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

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### Versions

Old Testament originally written in Hebrew  
New Testament originally written in Greek

*Translation*

*Paraphrase*

See comparison of Psalm 23

#### *Literal Bible Versions*

Translations aim at word-for-word accuracy

Useful for careful word-by-word study

Septuagint (Old Testament Hebrew translated into Greek) - 285-132 BC

Vulgate (Bible translated into Latin by Jerome) - 405 AD

German Bible (Translated by Martin Luther) - 1522-1534

King James Version (KJV, Authorized) - 1611

Revised Standard Version (RSV) - 1952

New American Standard (NASB) - 1960

#### *Dynamic Bible Versions*

Translations aimed at dynamic equivalency (phrase-by-phrase)

Easier to read than literal, Useful for serious study

New International Version (NIV) - 1978

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) - 1989

#### *Paraphrases*

Sentences and verses rewritten to maximize readability in today's language

Especially helpful for first-time and casual Bible readers

The Living Bible (TLB) - 1971

Today's English Version (Good News) - 1976

The Message - 2002

### How To Take Advantage of God's Word

How should we begin to study the Bible?

Colossians 1:9

How can praying help us better understand the deep truths of the Bible?

John 14:26

But what if what we read is too difficult to understand?

Hebrews 5:11-14

What are three main ways we are to study the Bible?

Acts 17:2-3

Acts 17:11

2 Timothy 3:14-15

### Closing Prayer

### Distribute Materials

Homework - Read Genesis 4-11 and bring your questions to class

Question: What Disharmonies are represented by the sins in Genesis 3, 4, 6 and 11?

Next Week - *Pronouncement of a Destiny*

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### Books of the Old Testament

**The Law** - Torah (Hebrew for “law” or “teaching”), Pentateuch (Greek for “five volumes”)

- Genesis** - Beginnings of God’s People
- Exodus** - Birth of God’s Chosen Nation
- Leviticus** - Instructions for Living as God’s Holy People
- Numbers** - Israel’s Journey to the Promised Land
- Deuteronomy** - Moses Reminds Israel of Her Calling

**History** - Stories of the Jews before Christ

- Joshua** - Israel Enters, Conquers and Settles the Promised Land
- Judges** - Israel’s Early Years as a Confederacy
- Ruth** - Story of God’s Love and Care to Ancestor of David and Jesus
- 1 Samuel** - God Gives Israel a King - Saul
- 2 Samuel** - Israel’s Second and Most Faithful King - David
- 1 Kings** - Israel Under Solomon and Divided into Two Kingdoms
- 2 Kings** - Kings and Fall of Israel and Judah
- 1 Chronicles** - Chronicle of the Reign of King David
- 2 Chronicles** - Chronicle of the Reigns of Solomon and Kings of Judah
- Ezra** - Jews Return from Exile and Commit to God
- Nehemiah** - Jews Rebuild Jerusalem and Rebuild Holy Nation
- Esther** - Story of God’s Protection of His People

**Poetry**

- Job** - Faithful Jew Tries to Understand God’s Will Through Suffering
- Psalms** - Hymns, Poems and Prayers of Israel
- Proverbs** - Words of Wisdom from Solomon and Other Wise Israelites
- Ecclesiastes** - Solomon’s Thoughts on the Vanity of Earthly Life
- Song of Solomon** - Love Songs Symbolizing God’s Relationship With His People

**Major Prophets** - Pointed Israel Back to God, Warned of Judgment, Promised Hope

- Isaiah** - Prophet to King Hezekiah, Foretold of the Messiah
- Jeremiah** - Prophet to Southern Kingdom of Judah During its Last Days
- Lamentations** - Songs of Mourning by Jeremiah Over Exile of Judah
- Ezekiel** - Prophet of Judgment and Hope to Jews During Exile in Babylon
- Daniel** - Prophet of God’s Plans to Jews During Exile in Babylon

**Minor Prophets** - “Minor” Because Books are Smaller

- Hosea** - Prophet to Northern Kingdom of Israel During its Last Days
- Joel** - Prophet to Judah Compares Famine to the Day of the Lord’s Judgment
- Amos** - Prophet of Judgment Against Social Injustice
- Obadiah** - Prophet of Judgment Against Judah’s Neighbor Edom
- Jonah** - Story of Unwilling Prophet to Assyrian Capital, Ninevah
- Micah** - Prophet Against Social, Political and Religious Evils
- Nahum** - Prophet Foretells destruction of Ninevah
- Habakkuk** - Prophet Questions God’s Purpose in Imminent Babylonian Conquest of Judah
- Zephaniah** - Prophet Proclaims God’s Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem For Evils
- Haggai** - Prophet Reprimands Jews to Return to Rebuilding the Temple
- Zechariah** - Prophet Calls Jews to Rebuild Temple and Reveals God’s Future Plans
- Malachi** - Prophet Calls Jews to Commitment and Obedience While Awaiting the Messiah

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### Books of the New Testament

#### **Gospels** - "Good News" of Jesus, the Christ (Messiah)

**Matthew** - Story of Jesus as the Promised Messiah, Directed to Jews

**Mark** - Story of Jesus as the Active Son of God, Directed to Romans

**Luke** - Story of Jesus as the Perfect Son of Man, Focuses on Jesus' Humanity

**John** - Story of Jesus as the Full Son of God, Focuses on Jesus' Divinity

#### **History** - Story of God's New Covenant People

**Acts** - Formation and Expansion of the Christian Church

#### **Letters by Paul**

**Romans** - Explanation of Christianity, Saving Righteousness Comes Through Faith

**1 Corinthians** - Exhortations Against Disorders Within the Church

**2 Corinthians** - Reconciliation Between Christians and With God

**Galatians** - Christians Are to Live By Grace, Not By Law

**Ephesians** - Live As Members of Christ's Body, the Church

**Philippians** - Be Joyful and Thankful in all Circumstances

**Colossians** - Salvation is in Christ and in Christ Alone

**1 Thessalonians** - Remain Steadfast While Awaiting Christ's Return

**2 Thessalonians** - Misconceptions of Christ's Second Coming Corrected

**1 Timothy** - Advice for Pastor of Christian Congregation

**2 Timothy** - Persevere in Faith Despite Persecution and Godlessness in the World

**Titus** - Guidance to Pastor in Handling Opposition

**Philemon** - Forgiveness and Acceptance of Runaway Slave as Fellow Christian

#### **Letters by Others**

**Hebrews** - Christ Supersedes All Things of God's Old Covenant

**James** - True Faith is Evident in its Resultant Good Works

**1 Peter** - Encouragement to Stay on the Narrow Road Despite Persecution

**2 Peter** - Condemnation of False Teachings Within the Church

**1 John** - Avoid False Teachings and Live Out God's Love For Others

**2 John** - Avoid False Teachers and Obey God's Commands

**3 John** - Hospitality Commended in Face of Opposition From Church Leader

**Jude** - Defending the Faith Against False Teachers

#### **Apocalypse** - Highly Symbolic Writings that Describe Future Times

**Revelation** - Visions of Heaven and the Last Days Given to John

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### Books of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

#### Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Religious writings not accepted as divinely inspired (not in *canon*)  
Old Testament canon defined by rabbis at Jamnia in 90 AD  
Produced and circulated during period of 200 BC - 100 AD  
Contain various historical references and stories  
Recommended by Jerome and Luther for ethical but not doctrinal teaching  
Many apocryphal New Testament writings also exist, such as:  
*Gospel of the Infancy, Gospel of Thomas, ... Nicodemus, ... Bartholomew  
Acts of John, ... Paul, ... Peter, ... Andrew, ... Philip, ... Thomas*

#### Apocrypha - Greek for *hidden things*

Contain ideas that disagree with Protestant doctrine  
Purgatory, masses for the dead, good works earn merit with God  
Roman Catholics accept 12 of these 15 books as *Deuterocanonical*  
Accepted at *Council of Trent* in 1546 in response to reformers  
Eastern Orthodox accept all but 2 Esdras as canonical

*1 & 2 Esdras*  
*Tobit*  
*Judith*  
*Additions To Esther*  
*Wisdom of Solomon*  
*Ecclesiasticus*  
*Baruch*  
*Letter of Jeremiah*  
*Song of the Three Young Men*  
*Susanna*  
*Bel and the Dragon*  
*Prayer of Manasseh*  
*1 & 2 Maccabees*

#### Pseudepigrapha - Greek for *false authorship*

Falsely claimed to be written by a well-known ancient figure  
Given even less credence than apocrypha  
Called Apocrypha by Roman Catholics  
Eastern Orthodox accept 3 & 4 Maccabees as canonical

*Enoch*  
*Psalms of Solomon*  
*Books of Adam and Eve*  
*Martyrdom of Isaiah*  
*Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs*

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### King James Version

(A Psalm of David.)

**23** THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
3 He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.  
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
5 Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### Revised Standard Version

A psalm of David.

**23** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
2 he makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters;  
3 he restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.  
5 Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil,  
my cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### The Living Bible

**23** Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need!  
2,3 He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the  
quiet streams. He gives me new strength. He helps me do what  
honors him the most.  
4 Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not  
be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the  
way.  
5 You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my  
enemies. You have welcomed me as your guest; blessings  
overflow!  
6 Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of  
my life, and afterwards I will live with you forever in your  
home.

### New International Version

A psalm of David.

**23** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
3 he restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### New Revised Standard Version

A psalm of David.

**23** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
2 he makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters;  
3 he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
my cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

### The Message

A David Psalm

**23** God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.  
2 You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
3 True to your word, you let me catch my breath,  
And send me in the right direction.  
4 Even when the way goes through Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.  
5 You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.  
6 Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.