

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

compiled by Rachel Cory 7/13/91

1. Claim the promises.

"If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak of myself"
(JOHN 7:17).

The Spirit will guide you into all truth. JOHN 16:13.

2. Prove it by the Word.

"To the Law and to the Testimony, if they speak not according to these it is because there is no light in them"
(ISAIAH 8:20).

3. The Counterfeit Principle.

For every true gift, Satan has a counterfeit. For every genuine blessing that God has given to man, there is a perversion of that blessing which brings pain and death. For every truth there is a clever falsehood. For the true Christ there is anti-Christ. Before Christ returns there will be a counterfeit second coming.

Remember: **The counterfeit closely resembles the true.**

Satan mixes a lot of truth with just a little falsehood. No one would accept the counterfeit, unless it looked like or felt like the real thing. If Satan is to "deceive the very elect" then He must develop a very subtle counterfeit. The "wine of Babylon" (REV. 18:3) is a mixture of truth (grape juice) + error (alcohol).

4. Great themes demonstrated.

God has demonstrated, on a small scale, how He governs. In the Bible He has shown us His great love, His mercy, His justice, and His truth. God is telling us how He has dealt with those who rebel against Him, and with those who question His trustworthiness. He tells us how He will one day resolve the sin problem.

TYPE (SYMBOL)	ANTITYPE (FULFILLMENT)
The sacrificial lamb (or goat, ram, bull)	Jesus Christ who died for us. John 1:29
Cain (first born) and Able (second born)	Satan and Christ
Saul (first king) and David (king forever)	Satan and Christ
Joseph (rejected by his brothers GEN 37:28) (sold for 30 pieces of silver)	Christ (rejected by his brothers) (sold for 30 pieces of silver)
Jacob who wrestled with the angel.	the sinner who wrestles with Christ - not recognizing his Savior
David vs Goliath	Christ vs Satan
Moses who died Elijah - translated without seeing death (2Ki2:11) These two stood with Christ on the mountain.	saints who die and then are resurrected by Jesus saints who will be translated without seeing death together Moses and Elijah represent the kingdom of God
Elijah in the wilderness	The Saints during the Time of Trouble hunted by the Beast power. (Mal 4:5)
The confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel	Armageddon - the battle between Christ and the Beast power.

Jezebel	Babylon - the great whore of Revelation False religions.
Egypt, Assyria, Babylon	Powers used by Satan to persecute God's people
Jerusalem, Israel	God's people.
The Flood	the end of the World (II PETER 3:6-7)
Noah's Ark	1. the Holy City, protected by Christ from the forces of evil 2. Protection in Christ = our Sanctuary
Moses - leading the people like a shepherd	Christ - leading his people through the wilderness of sin.
Sinai	the Great Judgment Day
David and Absalom	Jesus and Lucifer
King of Tyre	Satan
Abraham offers Isaac	God offers His Son
Egypt to Canaan	Journey through the wilderness of Sin to Heaven Last days tribulation period tests.
Earthly Sanctuary in the wilderness. Later the Temple in Jerusalem.	Heaven, God's throne, the ministry of Christ for us in Heaven. (Hebrews)
Leprosy	Sin
Job's Test	Christ, "forsaken of God" yet "obedient unto death."
The story of Abraham and Sodom's destruction (Gen 19).	God's fairness, God's warning, The destruction of the world.
Korah + 250 Princes rebel against Moses The glory of God consumes the rebels	Satan's rebellion against Christ GEN 16:32,35 Everlasting death in the lake of fire.
Shadrach, Mishack, Abednego in the fiery furnace.	Persecution of God's people who refuse to worship the image to the beast in the last days.
Tower of Babel	Man's efforts to save himself.

"Now all these things happened unto them for our examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." I COR 10:11

5. God is love, as revealed in Christ.

Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." JOHN 14:9.

6. God's character is revealed.

God's character has been challenged by Lucifer the highest created being. Satan has called God a liar. Who is telling the truth? God's word is a revelation of His character. Ask yourself as you study a portion of Scripture, "What does this say about the character of God?"

7. The controversy between good and evil.

In the Scriptures the events portrayed, and the events foretold deal exclusively with the controversy between good and evil,

between Christ and Satan, between the people of God and their enemies.

8. **Never study without prayer.**

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Only through the illumination of the Holy Spirit can we truly understand His word.

9. **Remain open minded.**

Avoid arrogance like the plague. It shuts off dialogue. It closes doors. You can say, "This is what I believe based upon my study of the Bible." But never imply that another Christian is stupid, or sinful because he/she does not understand a passage the same way you do.

Read commentaries from many different writers, of different denominations, of different philosophies. The questions generated by you reading will help you to clarify your beliefs. Some of the best studies I have done were originally begun to find answers to questions asked by students in my classes.

Question every thing! Do not assume something is right just because it was told to you by an admired teacher, or a priest, pope, bishop, elder, president or any other human being. Human beings are not infallible.

10. **Be patient with fellow Christians.** We grow at different rates. Influences great and small push us in different directions. We are all seeking to know more of God.

There is only one salvation issue. The Spirit of God comes to every man and woman on this earth. His/her response to that Spirit's influence will determine his/her salvation. The Spirit may come to a native deep in the rain forest with the conviction that he should not kill his neighbor and steal his chickens. The Spirit came to the citizens of Judea with the conviction that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. The Spirit may come to a Palestinian living in the West Bank with the conviction that God is love, and cannot possibly endorse violence and hatred towards anyone - not even Jews.

Remember. Just because a person does not follow all of the rules in your rule book, or believe every doctrine which you believe to be true, does not mean that he has no part in the kingdom of God.

11. **Do the word studies.**

Look up individual words in Strong's Concordance or in other word study helps. (See book store at this site.)
Read the text in several different translations. See how the same word Hebrew or Greek word was translated in other verses.

12. **Read the context.**

When searching for answers to larger questions ("Once saved - always saved," for instance) take the time to read through the entire New Testament with this one question in mind. It will take some time, but it's well worth the effort.

13. **Read the references** in the "**reference column**" if your Bible has this helpful feature. If not - look for a reference study Bible.

13. **Build a good library of Bible study helps and commentaries.** (See book store at this web site.)

And don't just buy those works which validate your own view. You will never be able to defend your beliefs if you are never challenged.

14. **Never assume you know enough.** Keep searching. Keep growing.