

# *“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program*

## **Lesson Two- What is the Bible?**

### **Scripture- II Peter 1:12-21**

**Memory verse- II Timothy 3:16,** *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”*

INTRODUCTION- In the middle 1450's in Mainz, Germany, a German publisher named Johannes Gutenberg produced the world's first printed book of any kind, and he chose to print the Bible. Of course, handwritten copies of the Bible existed long before this mechanical printing, but since Gutenberg's production, no other book has surpassed the Bible in sales, in printing, or in global distribution. The Bible has been widely praised as having “iconic status” even beyond the religious world and into secular societies.



Of the 160-185 first edition “Gutenberg Bibles” believed to have been printed around 1455 AD, only 48 are known to exist. These first editions of printing are claimed to be the most valuable books in print in the world today. But, is the Bible to be hailed for its high aesthetic, antiquated, yet artistic qualities, or is there more value to be found in this Holy Book? Consider the fact that without this one Source, mankind would know nothing of God, of creation, of salvation, of Heaven or Hell, or a host of other important topics. Without the Bible, who is to determine right or wrong? To ignore the Bible is to establish a world where “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). Therefore, it is vitally important that we answer completely the question—What is the Bible?

### **I. THE “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” OF THE BIBLE**

- A. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ to be the Word of God.**  
(Genesis 15:1; Psalm 68:11; II Peter 1:21; Genesis 3:1; Matthew 4:1-11)
- B. The Bible has \_\_\_\_\_ as the Word of God.**  
(Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:1-2; Revelation 1:19; Matthew 4:4; John 5:39). There will only ever be “one” Bible in every language translated from the original text (Textus Receptus), and for English speaking people, that Bible is the Authorized Version of 1611, the King James Bible.

**NOTE- Some will criticize the Bible as being “a Book written by man”-** To some extent this critic is accurate, for God gave His Word audibly to man to write down exactly what “*thus saith the Lord*” (II Peter 1:21). But, let us consider the over 40 men God would use to pen the Bible over a space of around 1,500 years. Each writer came from a unique background and time period. Some were well-educated, while others had no formal training. Some were prophets, priests, or kings, while some were shepherds, fishermen, prisoners, or former tax-collectors! And yet, the words these men were used to write, however controversial, never contradict that of another “human Bible-pen”. There is but one conclusion—God told these men what to write making the Bible authentic.

## **II. THE “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” OF THE BIBLE**

- A. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.**  
(Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-38; Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 60:3; Matthew 2:1-10)
- B. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.**
- C. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.**  
(Jeremiah 33:22; I Corinthians 15:41; Job 26:7; Isaiah 40:22; Job 25:5)
- D. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.**  
(Leviticus 17:11; Genesis 2:7)
- E. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.**  
(Job 28:25; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Job 26:8)

## **III. THE “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” OF THE BIBLE**

- A. The Bible is the sole authority concerning “ \_\_\_\_\_ we came from”.**  
(II Timothy 4:4; Romans 1:21-22; Proverbs 8:12; Psalm 8:3-5; Hebrews 11:3)
- B. The Bible is the sole authority concerning “ \_\_\_\_\_ we are here”.**  
(Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- C. The Bible is the sole authority concerning “ \_\_\_\_\_ we are going”.**  
(Luke 16:23) or to be “*with the Lord*” (II Corinthians 5:8).

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The reliability of the Bible should be quite obvious through its authenticity and accuracy. However, every individual must decide for themselves if the Bible is to become the final Authority in one's life. Once the decision has been made to accept the Bible by faith, the next step is to begin searching, reading, studying, and meditating upon every page, every promise, and every principle contained therein (II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 3:15; II Peter 3:18; Psalm 119:105).

**Student tip- The best defense of the Bible is the Bible Itself.**