

Lesson 4

Why Do So Few Understand the Bible?

Why do so few people really understand the Bible? Too few find its pages OPEN to them revealing its life-saving message.

This rare 1,000-year-old Greek manuscript is part of the collection of the Ambassador College libraries. It is a carefully preserved copy of the four good news, painstakingly written by hand on vellum or sheepskin. The cover of the manuscript is green silk brocade with a pattern of red and silver. This manuscript originated in a Greek monastery in Southern Italy only about 900 years after the death of Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach.

An open letter from THE DIRECTOR

Greetings! -- fellow truth seekers of Yahuwah's Word:

Today we are living in the last days of this age -- the time of the DEATH THROES of man's civilization! Never has there been a time like this!

You need to realize you're living in an age when you -- yes, YOU -- are being THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION AT ANY MOMENT!

We are ACTUALLY living in the time of which Sha'ul spoke when he said, "*This know ... that in the LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES shall come*" (II Tim. 3:1).

That time is NOW! You are actually WITNESSING that climactic time of which so many prophecies speak -- that time of atheistic, Yahuwahless, defiant man, trembling on the brink of nuclear holocaust -- that time marking the END OF THIS AGE, and the approach of the glorious UTOPIA of the World Tomorrow!

You need DESPERATELY TO KNOW HOW you can SURVIVE this hazardous time of threatening worldwide conflict -- to know HOW TO LIVE ON OVER INTO that wonderful World Tomorrow!

It affects YOU, PERSONALLY!

Yahuwah has said there is only ONE way out -- only ONE method of escape! He is freely GIVING you that way -- IF YOU WANT IT!

We dare to preach the true good news of His kingdom to the world as a "WITNESS." We are willing to be corrected by the Bible and that's the only reason we REALLY UNDERSTAND Bible prophecy!

We have ONLY BEGUN to make plain the truly AMAZING and absolutely ASTOUNDING revelations Yahuwah has stored in His Kadosh Word -- the Bible!

Yahuwah is NOW giving you, IN ADVANCE, the opportunity to PREPARE YOURSELF for the catastrophic events which He reveals will soon engulf this world. He is giving you precious time to ACT on this Bible knowledge!

Do you recognize the vital necessity of WATCHING world events? Do you see how world news is literally fulfilling Bible prophecy? Are you heeding the admonition of Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach: "WATCH ye therefore, and PRAY ALWAYS, that ye may be accounted WORTHY TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man"? (Luke 21:36.)

You cannot watch world events unless you make DILIGENT EFFORT to keep up with world news! I strongly urge that in ADDITION to watching the world news daily, you browse reputable news internet sites as well. But remember, these news media can only give you the latest information on what has ALREADY happened! They can't PROPHECY. Only Yahuwah can reveal the future in advance.

Remember Amanuwal's admonition to "WATCH"! Pray that Yahuwah will GUIDE YOU in understanding the scriptures. And ask Him to HELP you live by His Word daily. Yahuwah will bless you abundantly if you truly submit yourself to Him in willing obedience.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

WHY do so FEW really UNDERSTAND the Bible?

Why do we find such confusion -- such disagreement as to what it says? Why don't the hundreds of differing church denominations and sects AGREE on what their acknowledged textbook SAYS?

WHY do so many individuals, capable of understanding almost any OTHER book say: "I just CAN'T understand the BIBLE"?

Take a recognized textbook on biology. Show this book to ten different biology professors from ten different colleges and universities. Ask them what it says. They'll all give you the same answer. People do not disagree as to what books actually say -- except when it comes to the one Book of ALL the books -- the Kadosh Bible! Did you ever stop to think of that?

But take the Kadosh Bible to ten different ministers or to professors of theology from ten different religious denominations, and ask them what Yahuwah's Book says -- and you'll probably receive ten different answers!

Didn't you ever wonder WHY? Here, certainly is the enigma of the ages! The most important, yet the least understood Book of ALL the books! Year after year, the world's BEST SELLER -- the Book owned by more people than any other. The one Book that has lived in spite of every effort to stamp it out, down through the ages -- and still outsells all others!

The one Book which has FORETOLD, centuries in advance, the very chaotic and uneasy conditions of the world today -- THE ONE BOOK THAT EXPLAINS THE MEANING of this

perturbed condition -- that opens before us to behold IN ADVANCE, the WONDERFUL, PEACEFUL, HAPPY WORLD that is coming TOMORROW!

The one Book that predicted, in advance, the rise and fall of specific nations and governments -- that reveals the DESTINY OF THE WORLD!

No mere HUMAN-devised book could reveal such things! If you want to know the most necessary, basic knowledge of all life -- the very FOUNDATION of all right knowledge -- WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Purpose of the Bible

WHAT are we? Were we put on earth for a PURPOSE? And WHAT is that purpose?

WHY are human lives empty, discontented, unhappy? How may human life become HAPPY, FILLED with interest, ABUNDANT, successful, prosperous?

WHAT is the real cause of wars, and THE WAY to world peace? WHAT lies on after death -- what is THE WAY to a happy, abundant, ETERNAL life? No book ever written, except the Kadosh Bible, reveals this FOUNDATION of all knowledge.

Are THESE questions important? One might ask, is anything ELSE important? You can find the answers to THESE questions ONLY in this one divinely inspired, sacred volume! -- and yet almost NO one has ever found the answers so PLAINLY written there!

Here is the Book that, in spite of the human perversion of it, has CHANGED more lives than all other books combined! And yet -- it is THE BOOK THAT NOBODY KNOWS!

The Bible is the most MISunderstood book of history! The most twisted, distorted, misrepresented, maligned and lied-about! WHAT'S WRONG?

Why Is the Bible Misunderstood?

Here is the answer -- and it is very plain!

The answer lies in the fact that people have NOT BEEN WILLING TO OBEY the precepts of this Kadosh, divine Word -- and therefore this world has LOST ITS WAY. In so doing it has not only lost PEACE, and HAPPINESS, and PROSPERITY, but it has also lost the knowledge of the PURPOSE of the Bible -- it doesn't know what the Bible really IS!

Stop and think! Would a Creator, having supreme intelligence, wisdom and love to think out, to plan, design, and bring about ALL CREATION -- this earth, and all life and life-functions upon it -- have left His created beings in IGNORANCE of HIS PURPOSE -- the PURPOSE of their being here -- THE LAWS that would bring them PEACE, and HAPPINESS, and JOY, and everything good?

THE BIBLE IS YAHUWAH'S DIVINE REVELATION OF BASIC NEEDED KNOWLEDGE which mankind is not otherwise capable of finding out!

Absolutely no tools or instruments of science can ever tell you if there is life after death -- the PURPOSE of your being alive -- where you are going -- or the WAY to a happy, abundant life, or to universal PEACE. Our scientists, our world leaders and our statesmen have failed UTTERLY to tell us these answers, or to lead us into the universally desired PEACE with happiness, and JOYOUS living!

Yahuwah Almighty did NOT hide from human minds these all-important truths. He made them accessible to mankind. HE COMMITTED HIS TREASURE-HOUSE OF BASIC KNOWLEDGE TO WRITING. He revealed THE WAY TO PEACE and everything the human heart desires!

Now, WHY do so few understand the Bible? WHY do all the different church denominations disagree as to what it says?

We find the answer in II Tim. 3:16-17: "*All scripture*" -- not just those few verses or PARTS of sentences you wish to apply to suit your desires, but -- "*ALL scripture is given by inspiration of Yahuwah.*" It is ALL inspired -- EVERY Scripture is inspired by the Eternal YAHUWAH -- "*and is profitable for*" -- WHAT? "... *is PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: that the man of Yahuwah may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"

So the Scriptures are PROFITABLE for the purpose of REPROVING, of CORRECTING us! Of course we need to be on the lookout for changes that Yahuwah has allowed Satan to corrupt via the lying pens of the scribes to hide the truth from the masses, but Yahuwah guides his callen, chosen, and elect through those changes and corruptions.

Psa 25:14 The secret of Yahuwah is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Joh 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his master doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

But how we do resent being reproved and corrected! How many people do you know who are even WILLING to be corrected where they are in error -- to be REPROVED for the wrong things they do!

Humanity Resents Correction

People Do NOT LIKE to BE REPROVED AND CORRECTED! They love PRAISE -- they like FLATTERY -- but reproof and correction they surely HATE! Now do you see why it is so hard for so many people to understand the Bible, and to agree on just what it says? The Bible is Yahuwah's great spiritual MIRROR. IT SHOWS UP EVERY FLAW IN OUR THINKING, reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us AS WE REALLY ARE -- AS YAHUWAH sees us, not as we like to THINK we are, or as we like to have other men look upon us!

"For the Word of Yahuwah," we read in Heb. 4:12, "*is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword*" -- IT CUTS DEEP, and it CUTS BOTH WAYS, "... *and is a discerner of*

the thoughts and INTENTS of the heart." Yes, it opens up and exposes and LAYS BARE THE INNER SOUL OF MAN!

When your little children do things that are wrong -- that you have forbidden -- do they usually admit it freely and frankly? Do they say: "Daddy, I cannot tell a lie. I did it! -- or do they usually DENY it as long as possible, then try to cover it up, excuse it, JUSTIFY it, or place the blame on somebody else? Yes, it's just human nature.

WE are all only little children grown up; and so, when our heavenly Father speaks to US, through His Kadosh Scriptures, and reproves and rebukes, and corrects us, we usually do not like to ADMIT our errors, our faults, our wrong ways.

Too often, men have applied some different meaning to Scriptures that reproved them -- they have passed right OVER SOME Scriptures that corrected and rebuked them or they have ignored them utterly, and have studied diligently to find some OTHER SCRIPTURE, or portion of Scripture, into which they could read a meaning THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THEIR COURSE! And so men began, centuries ago, to INTERPRET the Bible! Yahuwah's Word has become twisted, wrested, perverted.

Almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable is read INTO it, instead of drinking the natural meaning -- the plain, simple INTENDED meaning out of it! Today we have hundreds of human INTERPRETATIONS of the Bible. You NEVER HEAR OF HUNDREDS OF INTERPRETATIONS OF A CERTAIN BIOLOGY TEXTBOOK IN HUNDREDS OF COLLEGES! WHY? BECAUSE BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS DO NOT REBUKE AND CORRECT MEN!

Instead of acknowledging the truth, repenting of the sin, having it legally justified by the blood of Ha'Mashyach, men seek to JUSTIFY THEIR OWN ACTS BY PERVERTING THE SACRED AND KADOSH WORD OF YAHUWAH!

The MOST DIFFICULT thing on earth for the average person to do is to ADMIT IT and CONFESS IT and REPENT OF IT when he is wrong. OH how hard that seems to be! Almost the rarest thing in this world is a person who will ALWAYS acknowledge it when he is wrong, repent, and turn the other way. This world is FULL of people who PROFESS to be willing to do this. But the one who DOES it is a rare jewel.

Under Yahuwah's inspiration, Sha'ul continued to say, in II Tim. 4:1-4, that the time truly has come when the MANY do not endure SOUND doctrine. Men have turned away their ears from the TRUTH and have turned to FABLES! Yes, fables PALMED OFF AS the truth of Yahuwah's Word! ISAIAH prophesied that in these latter days men would demand, "*Preach not unto us RIGHT things, PREACH UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS -- PREACH DECEITS*" (Isaiah 30:8-11).

Yet Another Reason

Here is another reason why the Bible is not understood. Did you ever stop to think that KNOWLEDGE can be transmitted to the human mind, naturally, ONLY THROUGH FIVE CHANNELS? The ONLY means by which the mind can receive ANY KNOWLEDGE,

naturally, is through the eye, the ear, the nose, the mouth, or the sense of feeling -- the five physical senses. But the Bible reveals SPIRITUAL things -- and SPIRITUAL THINGS CANNOT NORMALLY BE SEEN, nor heard, nor tasted, nor felt, nor smelled. And so the NATURAL human mind is INCAPABLE of understanding these spiritual revelations.

Then notice *I Cor. 2:14*: "*The NATURAL man (that is, the natural-born, unconverted mind), receiveth not the things of the Ruwach of Yahuwah: for they are FOOLISHNESS unto HIM: neither can he know them, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED!*" -- revealed by YAHUWAH'S SPIRIT; for it says in the 10th verse, "Yahuwah hath REVEALED them unto us BY HIS SPIRIT." And then again, you read that it is "the Ruwach of Truth" which "will guide you into all Truth" (John 16:13).

Since the Bible is Yahuwah's Word (it distinctly says "THY WORD IS TRUTH"), then it requires Ruwach Ha'Kadosh to OPEN UP to the human mind this marvelous revelation of Yahuwah. Understand: Ruwach Ha'Kadosh WITHIN is the key which alone can unlock the doors to scriptural understanding.

Thus, as this Scripture has said, WHEN WE RECEIVE RUWACH HA'KADOSH -- when the mind becomes spirit-led, then, through this SUPERNATURAL PROCESS of Yahuwah, spiritual knowledge is REVEALED, and the Ruwachual mind can begin to UNDERSTAND!

REPENT and BELIEVE

The conditions in the Bible for receiving Yahuwah's Ruwach Ha'Kadosh are basically TWO -- REPENT, and BELIEVE. But, repent means MORE than being sorry. It means a complete yielding to the will of Yahuwah, AS THAT WILL IS EXPRESSED IN HIS WORD! It means a complete willingness to accept, and TO DO what Scripture teaches, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, THE PERSECUTION, THE SACRIFICE, OR THE EFFORT!

Amanuwal said, as recorded in John 7:16, 17: "My doctrine is not mine, but HIS THAT SENT ME. If ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL, he shall KNOW of the doctrine." Yes, there is a condition: You must surrender to the will of Yahuwah if you would come to understand the Bible.

Many are like the man who once said, "I wouldn't do anything I thought was wrong for the world!" He was sincere, but the BIBLE says, "*There IS a way which seemeth RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH!*" (Prov. 14:12.) Therefore, since death is the penalty of sin, then the ways that SEEM RIGHT to the natural mind of man MUST BE THE WAYS OF SIN.

Yahuwah's whole purpose is to rescue men from this FALSE way that appears so alluring -- this way that seems RIGHT -- and yet ends up in despair, and suffering, and death!

We read from Psalm 111: 7, 8, 10: ALL His commandments are SURE. They stand fast FOR EVER AND EVER and are done in truth and uprightness. The fear of Yahuwah is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments!"

We can see now why men do not understand the Bible. They are not yielded to the Eternal's will -- they are filled with the fear of MEN, instead of the fear of YAHUWAH. They tremble at the thought of what PEOPLE say -- but we had all better begin to tremble at the WORD OF THE LIVING YAHUWAH.

TRUTH is REVEALED. It is revealed by Yahuwah's spirit -- and that involves a SUPERNATURAL ACT of Yahuwah. The terms and conditions are utter surrender -- REPENTANCE, and FAITH.

David had understanding. And David said, "*THY WORD is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*" (Psalm 119:105). Today's generation is like that of Amanuwal's day, of which He said, "*This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness, rather than light, because their deeds were evil*" (John 3:19).

Yes, the Bible is light -- a lamp unto our feet -- a light unto our path. Surely the world is in gross darkness.

You Can Begin to Understand Your Bible

How then, can you understand the Bible?

Here is HOW you may begin this THRILLING, soul-satisfying adventure.

HERE is how YOU can begin to really UNDERSTAND the Bible. First, SURRENDER to Yahuwah, and the authority of His Word. Forsake YOUR ways -- YOUR thoughts -- and those of this world's society.

Study to find TRUTH -- to show yourself approved unto Yahuwah. Ask Yahuwah for guidance - - ASK Him to reveal the true meaning. Then BELIEVE YAHUWAH -- BELIEVE His Word -- accept it in its plain, NATURAL meaning, just as you would accept any other book in which you had confidence. Be careful to PROVE all things.

Be cautious -- avoid jumping to hasty conclusions, or taking things carelessly for granted.

And above all -- do not try to INTERPRET the Bible. DON'T take the interpretation of any MAN or CHURCH. THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITSELF.

Yahuwah would not have us shut up our ears and our minds from HEARING what is being preached -- even though it differs from what you have been taught. When the apostle Sha'ul came to Berea, the Bereans found he was preaching something utterly DIFFERENT than that which they had been taught and had believed. They did not know whether Sha'ul was a FALSE prophet, or a man sent FROM YAHUWAH. We read of them, in Acts 17:11: "*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind*" (that is, without prejudice) "*and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER those things were so.*" STUDY WITHOUT PREJUDICE -- but BE CAREFUL -- PROVE all things -- search the SCRIPTURES WHETHER those things be so.

Remember, the right SPIRIT -- the RIGHT ATTITUDE -- full SUBMISSION to scriptural dictates, BEING WILLING TO BE CORRECTED and reprov'd -- that is the MAIN THING.

Necessities for Bible Study

YAHUWAH wrote the Bible. He INSPIRED men to pen it (II Tim. 3:16). It is YAHUWAH'S MESSAGE TO MAN!

Yahuwah said, *"For precept must be upon precept ... line upon line ... here a little and there a little: FOR WITH STAMMERING LIPS AND ANOTHER TONGUE will I SPEAK to this people (Isa. 28:10-11).*

The dictionary defines "stammering" as the making of PAUSES in speaking. Yahuwah has written the Bible with GAPS or PAUSES BETWEEN RELATED MATERIAL -- material which MUST BE BROUGHT TOGETHER before its meaning becomes clear. Later, when you come to understand Yahuwah's PLAN, you will know WHY He did this.

Even Ha'Mashyach, in His day, spoke in PARABLES TO CLOUD THE MEANING (notice Mark 4:11-12 and also Mat. 13:11-13).

NOW Revealed!

But was there to be a FUTURE time when the TRUE message of the Bible could become known to those willing to be corrected?

Yes! But when? Yahuwah told Daniel to *"Seal the BOOK even TO the time of the end: [when] many shall run to and fro [through the pages of this BOOK], and KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED" (Dan. 12:4).*

IN THE TIME OF THE END BIBLE KNOWLEDGE WAS TO BE INCREASED! Moffatt translates "the time of the end" as "the CRISIS at the close."

The whole world is now approaching chaos -- we are NOW entering the WORLD-CRISIS, at the CLOSE of this age! Yahuwah said that at this crisis time -- NOW -- *"None of the wicked shall understand; but the WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND" (Dan. 12:10).*

Proper Attitude for Understanding

1. You must ACT on knowledge.

Let's get one thing straight right now! If you do not grasp this point, you have NO assurance that YOU will be able to understand this course regardless of all HUMAN effort to make it plain to you. YAHUWAH has vowed that none of the WICKED would be able to understand His Word in this closing crisis time, but that the WISE would understand (Dan. 12:10).

Since the Bible reveals that *"sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4)*, those who conduct themselves as though His law is done away, are, in Bible terminology, called "the wicked."

Who, then, are "the WISE" who shall now understand? Yahuwah says, "*The FEAR of Yahuwah is the beginning of WISDOM: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO -- [we must Do] -- His Commandments*" (Psalm 111:10).

Studying will reveal to you many things that Yahuwah commands you to DO. If you FEAR Him enough to begin to build into your life habits of OBEDIENCE to Him (DOING His Commandments) He has said, as we have just seen, that you WILL BEGIN TO BECOME WISE! THE GREATER YOUR OBEDIENCE TO YAHUWAH, THE GREATER YOUR WISDOM WILL BE.

If, on the other hand, somewhere along the way, you rebel at some of the things He wants you to do, your wisdom will be cut off.

None can understand by himself. The carnal mind cannot "see" spiritual things. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Ruwach of Yahuwah: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED" (I Cor. 2:14). Ha'Mashyach said, "*The Ruwach of truth ... will guide you [the OBEDIENT] into all truth*" (John 16:13).

These truths are REVEALED through the indwelling of Ruwach Ha'Kadosh -- and YAHUWAH GIVES the Ruwach ONLY to them that OBEY and keep His commandments (Acts 5:32). The choice is in YOUR hands.

2. You must PRAY

Pray to Yahuwah that He will give you more of His Spirit -- the Ruwach of TRUTH (Eph. 5:17-18).

Ha'Mashyach derived his power from Yahuwah. He prayed for hours to Yahuwah -- sometimes all night. Surely we can spend an hour or so a day in such practice -- we are incomparably weaker and less wise than Ha'Mashyach was. WE REALLY NEED HELP! IN YOUR PRAYERS ASK YAHUWAH THAT HE OPEN YOUR MIND TO HIS TRUTHS!

3. You must STUDY

There is a time coming, and it is not far away, when many who study will be JUDGED by the Word of Yahuwah -- the Bible. We MUST have a knowledge of its teachings!

The Father commands: "*STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED unto Yahuwah, a WORKMAN that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (II Tim. 2:15). We should be preparing ourselves for a high calling in Yahuwah's service!

4. You must BE ZEALOUS!

You are going to learn that Yahuwah IS working out a purpose here below. Each of us must use the minutes, hours, days, and years of conscious life which Yahuwah has given us, to prepare ourselves to fit into this purpose of His.

We do not have forever to do this, but Yahuwah has given us ENOUGH time! WE, TODAY, do not even have a lifetime -- WE HAVE BUT A FEW SHORT YEARS to prepare possibly fifteen or twenty -- and even in the latter part of these, conditions will make it more and more difficult for us to study. We live in the time of the "crisis at the close." NOW, while there is a relative calm -- BEFORE THE STORM BREAKS -- is the time to study and prepare for the future!

As most of you have to make a living and it requires a great deal of your time, you must use your remaining time to the greatest advantage. Above all, DON'T LET THE CARES OF THIS WORLD CROWD OUT THE TIME YOU SHOULD DEVOTE TO STUDY AND PRAYER (Mat. 13:22).

Yahuwah is making clear for a SHORT TIME now -- just before the close -- the message that the Bible REALLY conveys. Let's make the most of this brief period!

Be ZEALOUS in your Bible study! Go far! Dig deep! Yahuwah says, "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, DO IT WITH THY MIGHT; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave*" (Eccles. 9:10). WHAT YOU DO NOW CAN AFFECT YOUR LIFE FOR ALL ETERNITY! (Dan. 12:3.)

The Bible IS logical when its OVER-ALL PATTERN is grasped. BUT its over-all pattern cannot be grasped until all its uncorrelated parts, which are scattered here and there, are FITTED TOGETHER.

The very LOGIC of the Bible will enable you to RETAIN IN YOUR MIND THE BROAD PRINCIPLES WHICH YAHUWAH WANTS PEOPLE TO GATHER FROM IT!

You should set aside a definite amount of time for your Bible study and worship. You can decide what time of the day is best. Your mind is most likely to be more alert in the morning.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE should not be studied UNTIL YOU ARE THOROUGHLY GROUNDED in the Bible. NO LITERATURE CAN DO MORE! It would only confuse you to read other religious tracts at first. It is not recommended as a practice to beginning students.

After you have finished studying, it is OFTEN HELPFUL TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THE BIBLE VERSES OR CHAPTERS SURROUNDING the matter you have studied. Don't spend much time at this -- GLANCE over it because more writers than you realize have lifted whole passages of the Bible out of setting and have attempted to use these to prove the reverse of what the passages are intended to convey.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you become aware of this. Gradually you will learn you have been GROSSLY MISLED in many things.

LET THE BIBLE BE YOUR GUIDE, NOT MEN!

If you learn these principles you will know the right way to conduct yourself under ALL circumstances. You will not feel the need of an EXACT PARALLEL case in which Yahuwah said "do this" or "do that." But HOW can you learn to make the application of these principles?

David, Yahuwah's beloved, gave the ANSWER! He said, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the unKadosh ... his delight is in the law of Yahuwah; and IN HIS LAW DOTHE HE MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT (Psalm 1:1-2).*

David RECALLED the events that occurred during the day. He also remembered Yahuwah's commands -- His "law." And during the spare hours of his time -- during the day, and especially during the evening when he had even more leisure -- he recalled both, and THOUGHT on them - - he DREW BROAD CONCLUSIONS as to what Yahuwah really wanted. He applied these conclusions! For this reason, he was able to walk *"Not in the counsel of the unrighteous"* to the extent that he became one of those who stood highest in Yahuwah's good grace. WE MUST DO THE SAME! How should we go about doing this?

Most people can't pour knowledge into their minds and AT THE SAME TIME sort and analyze it PROPERLY. They, like David, will find it helpful to USE THE EVENING OR EARLY MORNING HOURS FOR ANALYZING it. Also, knowledge quickly slips away the first twenty-four hours after it is learned. The rate of loss lessens somewhat after this. If we lose the knowledge we obtain, there is very little use of acquiring it. How can you be relatively sure you will retain the knowledge you learned during the day, until you can analyze it? Here is how!

If you hear or study during the day, it is advisable that you REVIEW it mentally JUST AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN after hearing or reading it. PICTURE IT IN YOUR MIND in its real setting as nearly as possible.

In the evening of each day, or early the next morning, you can group off these newly learned thoughts with SIMILAR thoughts you remember, and draw from them conclusions or principles. ANSWER for yourself such questions as, "WHAT?" "WHERE?" "WHEN?" "WHO?" "HOW?" and "WHY?" These will about cover the field.

Decide how these newly learned principles will guide you in your daily problems that you know are going to come up. Apply these principles constantly! It will gradually become second nature for you to act by them! YAHUWAH WANTS YOU TO LEARN DEEPLY EVERY DAY!

Reviewing will be very profitable in order to FIX the knowledge you have learned in your mind so you will not forget it.

You will probably be surprised at the new and better understanding you will obtain by this method. It will help GREATLY in "putting you on your own" in reading and understanding your Bible.

A broad knowledge of the customs, social and educational life, history of the people, together with a knowledge of the geography of the country, is a great aid in visualizing and understanding events mentioned in the Bible.

From experience, we know what books will help you most. SOME of these books are MUCH MORE NECESSARY to have than others.

A CONCORDANCE IS ALMOST A MUST. Why? Because if you know a few words of a passage you wish to find in the Bible, it will FIND that PASSAGE for you.

It helps in another very important way also -- and this is VERY IMPORTANT! IT UNLOCKS THE MEANING OF THE BIBLE to you. How does it unlock the Bible? In TWO WAYS:

(a) Recall that at the very start of this lesson on "How to Study the Bible" we said that Yahuwah wrote the Bible with GAPS between related material in order to HIDE the meaning (Isa. 28:10-11). Related material naturally has the SAME subject and often many of the SAME WORDS will be used in each of these passages. By using a CONCORDANCE, which has the words of the Bible arranged alphabetically and tells WHERE they may be found, you can thus BRING RELATED MATERIAL TOGETHER and thereby CLOSE these GAPS and obtain the WHOLE TRUE MEANING of what the Bible has to say about anything!

(b) Now notice the second way. Yahuwah has used ANOTHER DEVICE to HIDE the meaning of Scripture UNTIL NOW! -- the "time of the end" (Dan. 12:4). He has used SYMBOLS!

A symbol is something which stands for something else. Yahuwah OFTEN uses symbols which do NOT show clearly what they represent. He speaks (through the Bible) to us "*with stammering lips [gaps] and ANOTHER TONGUE*" (Isa. 28:10-11) -- a tongue which uses UNKNOWN SYMBOLS. HE has to TELL you what they mean, for only He knows what they represent. Here is how He tells you:

In ANOTHER part of the Bible, He uses the SAME symbolical word and EXPLAINS CLEARLY WHAT IT MEANS there. The lesson? IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF A SYMBOLICAL WORD, TAKE IT TO A CONCORDANCE!

Here is a clear, simple EXAMPLE of what to do: Who is the "*great red dragon*" of Rev. 12:3? Turning to the concordance and locating the word "dragon," we find the word "dragon" appears in this same chapter in verse 9 also. Turning back to the Bible, we read in verse 9, "*The great DRAGON ... called the DEVIL.*" The symbolical mystery is solved! The "dragon" of verse 3 is the Devil! (Usually, however, the unknown word and the answer are not this close together.)

There are TWO TYPES OF CONCORDANCES: large complete concordances ("Strong's Exhaustive Concordance" or others), which are especially good for RESEARCH; and much SMALLER, but relatively complete concordances which are easy to carry and are very CONVENIENT to locate passages with. The small "Cruden's Complete Concordance" is very popular.

A BIBLE DICTIONARY is also desirable. "Peloubet's Bible Dictionary" is good. This book describes people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible. It also has chronological tables and maps concerning Bible times.

CAUTION: Because we recommend books, this does NOT mean we agree with ALL they say. We do say that the good they contain overbalances their errors. On the whole we find them accurate.

BIBLES other than the King James Version are valuable. We especially recommend the MOFFATT version. Its wording sometimes makes sections clearer than the King James. The new ENGLISH and AMERICAN REVISED versions also aid at times.

A BIBLE ATLAS is a book which specializes in Bible maps. They are very helpful.

Two Final Thoughts

There are two things you must always keep in mind.

1. Remember, though insignificant scribal errors have crept in now and then, YAHUWAH'S WORD IS INFALLIBLE.
2. The BIBLE MAKES SENSE. IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS. REGARD IT AS YAHUWAH'S WORD! It deals with places, events, and beings -- actual realities -- and REVEALS knowledge which you need to know, but which you could not otherwise discover.