

Bible Overview Introductory Notes (1st draft)

Bible-

1. Reveals God's character and man's condition!
2. Most read, trusted, and translated literature of all time
3. Most criticized, mocked, and ridiculed piece of literature as well.
4. Received from God by men
 - a. Heart of God revealed through the hands and lives of men
 - i. **2Timothy 3:16** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

This will be a Bible study about the Bible from the Bible. We will address historicity, reliability, authenticity and the uniqueness of the Bible at a later time.

1. Apologetics: Defending the faith. 1Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"* Another branch to venture out on later.

Presuppositions:

1. There is a God
 - a. There is an order and design to the universe; observable reality.
 - i. Observable design has a designer/creator
 - ii. Isaiah 45:18 *"For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited; I am the Lord, and there is no other"*
2. Creator/God has made Himself known
 - a. Through creation: **Romans 1:20**
 - b. Through His interaction:
 - i. Genesis 28:16
 - ii. Exodus 33:14
 - iii. **Psalm 139:7-8**
 - iv. 100's of verses speaking of His presence/interaction
3. God can be known
 - a. People have been given the potential, capacity, ability to know Him:
 - i. Jesus-Mark 2:10
 1. Religious (Scribes) acted as if God is directing from a distance, not "among" us.
 2. Jesus did something that revealed His deity and they rightfully questioned what He said. His reply revealed God's desire- **Mark 2:10**
 3. Psalm 98:1,2 *The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the Gentiles*
 4. Greatest thing in life is to know God!
4. Bible is God's Word to humanity
 1. Divinely delivered, compiled and preserved by God Himself!
 - a. 2Timothy 3:16
 - i. Inspired individuals were His instruments of declaration
 - b. God selected individuals based on His wisdom, not their performance.
 2. Preserved by God. Isaiah 40:8 *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever"*

Bible overview introductory points:

1. Structure
 - a. OT/NT
 - b. Literary type and interpreting. It's important to know what type/style of writing you are reading;
 - i. Poetry with its similitudes and metaphors is not meant to be taken literal in the same fashion that a historical narrative would be interpreted.
 - c. 66 books, 39/27, over approx. 1500 years, multiple authors (instruments of inspiration)
 - i. History
 - ii. Poetry
 - iii. Epistle/Letter
 - iv. Prophecy
2. Main current, flow, foundational thought throughout all of the Bible- JESUS!
 - a. Visible expression and representation of the character of God!
 - a. Genesis:
 - i. Tell us of the Deliverer and Prophet (Jesus) to come.
 - ii. Genealogy of humanity follows a distinct path- Line of Christ
 1. Genealogy carried throughout; Son of God, Seed of David, Gospel genealogies in Mt./Lk.
 - b. Psalms speak of the nature, the suffering, the path, the 1st and 2nd coming of the Jesus (Messiah); Psalm 2, 16, 22, 110
 - c. Prophets look ahead to His coming as they write; Isaiah 53, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Hosea...
 - d. New Testament-Gospels give us a historical record of Jesus interaction among men and reminds us of His return
 - e. New Testament-Letters give doctrinal instruction for how to live as well as details concerning His return.
 - f. Book of Revelation-Confirms His first coming and details His return and ensuing final victory.