

The Bible - Day One

Read: Psalm 119:89 • 2 Timothy 3:16a • 2 Peter 1:21

Many of humanity's questions are summed up in the single word, "Why?"

God has the answers to those questions, and He is willing to reveal most of the answers to us, *if* we truly want to know those answers and then act upon the truth those answers reveal.

The answers are not usually simple answers. It's possible your world view and the entire way you think may be changed, in order to receive and understand God's answers.

Where do we go to get God's answers? To God, to His Word, His book—the Bible.

The Bible is like no other book. It was written by over 40 authors from various backgrounds, over a period of about 1,600 years—in complete harmony. For this number of people, from different walks of life, in different periods of time, to write in complete harmony is a miracle.

- **From** today's Bible verses (printed on the right side of the next page), what does the Bible say about itself?

- **Based** on these Bible verses, how reliable is God's Word?

Generation after generation there have been many who have attacked the Bible...without success. John Clifford wrote a poem about this:

The Anvil of God's Word

*Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
When looking in, I saw upon the floor,*

Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

“How many anvils have you had,” said I,

“To wear and batter these hammers so?”

“Just one,” said he; then with a twinkling eye,

“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.”

And so, I thought, the anvil of God’s Word,

For ages, skeptics blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,

The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone.

Have you been the type of person who picks and chooses what you prefer to believe? God does not give us that option. Either we believe what He says is true or we don’t.

• **Perhaps** you have doubts. Ask God to show you His truth as you continue in this study. *If you truly want to know in order to obey the truth, He will show you* (see John 7:17).

• **Do** you already know His Word is true? Ask God to deepen your understanding and enrich your relationship with Him as you continue with this study.

Today’s Bible Reading

Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

— Psalm 119:89

All Scripture is God-breathed...

— 2 Timothy 3:16a

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

— 2 Peter 1:21

Additional reading:

2 Samuel 23:2

Psalm 119:160

Matthew 24:35

1 Peter 1:25

Isaiah 40:8

John 7:17

The Bible - Day Two

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:14 • John 3:3 • John 1:12-13

You may ask, “Can I personally understand what God says and means in the Bible? After all, there are a lot of interpretations and opinions regarding what the Bible has to say.” God has an answer for you!

- **From** 1 Corinthians 2:14, why are some people unable to understand God’s truth?

- **From** John 3:3, what must happen before a person can see, or perceive, the kingdom of God?

Stop a moment and consider the following. Can a bird understand a person’s thoughts, hopes, dreams, concerns, and plans—in other words, what a person thinks and feels? Of course not. The only way a bird could understand is if it could somehow have a human spirit—be born all over again as a human being. And so we humans cannot understand the things of God unless we are born all over again by God’s Spirit, and thus become His child.

- **From** John 1:12-13 what must a person do to be born of God?

- **Have** you been born of God's Spirit? If not, and you want to be:
 - a. Decide that you want to go God's way instead of your own. (This is *repentance*.)
 - b. Acknowledge to God that you are a sinner.
 - c. Receive Jesus as your Savior. This means that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that His death on the cross paid the price for your sin, that He rose from the dead, and that you want Him to be the Lord of your life.

This is the starting point of knowing and understanding God. You may turn to page 8 for additional information on the new birth and eternal life.

- **When** were you born again by God's Spirit?

Today's Bible Reading

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

— 1 Corinthians 2:14

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

— John 3:3

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

— John 1:12-13

Additional reading:

John 3:4-6

1 Peter 1:3

1 Peter 1:23