

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8

KJV

**KING JAMES BIBLE
USED FOR ALL
REFERENCES TO
GOD'S WORD IN
THIS NEWSPAPER**

The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16

Sounding Out The Faith October 2021

The Golden Key to Bible Analysis

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth."

The Bible is the only book, religious or secular, that has survived the ages with wide respect and influence in moral and religious matters. It is the only book that tells, without apology, who we are, why we are here, and where we are going. The Bible is the only sacred book that has unity of plan, purpose, and fulfillment accurately recorded from the beginning to the end.

"Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" Ephesians 1:8-10

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:" Colossians 1:25-26

The Bible was originally written in three languages, Ancient Hebrew, Syriac Chaldee or Aramaic, and Koine Greek. The Old Testament was written mainly in Ancient Hebrew. However, there are a few Scriptures that are written in Syriac Chaldee or Aramaic. God, through the writer, was addressing or being addressed by Chaldean people so God spoke or wrote through them in the language the people understood. For example, here are some of the Scriptures written in Chaldee:

"Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens." Jeremiah 10:11

"Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live forever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;" Daniel 2:4-7, 28

"Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:" Ezra 4:8

"And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses." Ezra 6:18

"Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand; And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem: That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem. And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God. The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem. And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house. And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily," Ezra 7:12-21

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The New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek. This was the common people's language at the time of the Lord being physically on the earth. Notice how that God has always wanted to reach all the people of the world.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

The Old Testament was translated from Hebrew to Greek in about 280 B.C. in Alexandria. This was known as "The Translation of the 70", called the Septuagint. Later, in around 385-405 A.D., the Catholic version called the Vulgate was translated into Latin by Jerome. This version was translated from perverted and corrupted texts that were known not to have come from approved, or received text and original copies of the Scriptures. Some of these corrupted texts had even been discarded in waste bins because they were not correct, but they were taken and used in this translation anyway.

In around 1324-1384 A.D., John Wycliff translated the first English version of the Bible. In 1452, with the invention of the Gutenberg Press in Germany, the English Bible was printed in multiplicity.

In 1611, King James had 47 Episcopal scholars translate the accepted texts into English. This order came with strict instructions and consequences that they were to deliver a strict translation of the accepted texts without religious influence. These scholars checked and rechecked one another's translation of the texts to make sure the translation was correct with painstaking efforts. This translation was originally written on papyrus scrolls.

God's Word has always been man's "Guide" through life. Today, with the completed written Word of God, it is how God communicates with man. We have God's completed Word translated into English, the common language of the world today, in the King James Version. God's Word will truly guide us to God's will in our life if we will read, study, listen to, and heed to it.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." II Peter 3:16

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48

Bro. Ben Bogard developed a chart and wrote a book called The Golden Key. This simple study guide is the "key" to helping us learn how to study and rightly divide the Bible. It is a "key" to help us with the aid of the Holy Spirit in His office work as Comforter to New Testament church members to open up our understanding of the deep truths of the Bible. This study aid helps us to see the types, shadows, and object lessons throughout the Scriptures in the Old Testament that show the deep truths as they are revealed in the New Testament.

The Bible is a Divine Library of 66 books. It is not a mere "book", but a collection of Divinely inspired books authored by God Himself. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

How do we know we have a complete collection of books authored by God? All the books in the Bible have reference with respect to other Scriptures in different books except for Job. Many other books refer to the book of Job, however. It is assumed that Job was the first written book so it does not refer to another book. All 66 books harmonize with respect to teaching and doctrine having the same author, which is God.

The Bible was written by about 40 different writers. Some books directly declare who the writer was while others may be assumed by the reference to events in those books. However, God is the Author of each book having only used these men as a pen to record His Word. God spoke through these men and wrote through these men to declare His Word for the people.

"Then the word of the LORD came unto me saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." Jeremiah 1:4-9

"Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue." II Samuel 23:1-2

"And it came to pass in the fourth year of Johoia-kim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book." Jeremiah 36:1-4

The Bible was written over a period of about 1600 years. The first book being written at the end of Egyptian bondage around 1500-1400 B.C. God used holy men of God to pen His Word. These men came from all walks of life: herdsmen, exiles, tax collectors, preachers, prophets, captains, legislators, and judges, to name a few. It was written in many different places: the desert of Sinai, in the wilderness of Judea, the rivers of Shushan, the banks of the Chebar, the cave of Adullam, palaces of Jerusalem, in Babylon, prisons in Rome, and the Isle of Patmos, to name a few. However, each writer writing in different places with consistency

teaches the same doctrine because the message is not from the writer, but the Author, which is God.

The words of God, man, and angels are recorded in the Word of God. Direct quotes are made from kings, poets, philosophers, fishermen, devils, angels, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, statesmen, prophets, priests, lawyers, physicians, Pharisees, Sadducees, wicked men, and heathens, to name a few.

The Bible should be read.

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3

The Bible should be studied.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

The Bible should be searched and received.

"And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" John 5:38-47

The Bible should be received, searched, and believed.

"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people." Acts 17:10-13

The Bible should be meditated on. After one reads and studies the Word, they should be thinking upon and dwelling upon the things they read and studied.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3

The Bible should be heard and kept.

"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28

The Bible should be remembered and kept in one's heart.

***"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."* Proverbs 3:1-13**

The Bible should be received and done. The Bible is not meant only to be heard, but to be applied and accomplished in our every day lives.

***"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."* James 1:21-27**

The Bible is inspired by God. Notice in the following Scriptures that God spoke through the prophets and they only spoke as God moved them. God's Word was written by inspiration by God literally "breathing" the words into the men's mouths as they spoke and wrote.

***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."* II Timothy 3:16-17**

***"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* II Peter 1:21**

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Hebrews 1:1

Notice how that the Bible states that we are to know the "things" that are given to us by God. These things are found in the Word of God, given to us by God, not man. The Holy Ghost teaches us by these spiritual teachings found in the Word of God. These teachings do not come from man, otherwise we could understand them on our own.

***"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."* I Corinthians 2:12-13**

Consider the following Scripture as it states clearly that the writings in the passage were commandments of the Lord and not the writer. God does not

allow man to make up "God's rules". To have God's Word today, it needs to be God's words and not man's ideas of God's words.

***"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."* I Corinthians 14:37**

Here in Galatians, Bro. Paul is sure to point out that what he preached didn't come from man, not even himself.

***"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."* Galatians 1:11-12**

When the Lord used Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to write the Gospels, God used His own words but God was using terms that were common to these men. Remember, God desires that mankind "know" His Word.

Matthew was a tax collector. God used government terminology and terms dealing with the Hebrew Kingdom. God also used this terminology to teach Matthew and others of the Kingdom of Heaven. God the Holy Spirit was dealing with Matthew and anyone else using those terms to help give understanding to the teachings He inspired Matthew to write down.

In the book of Mark, God the Holy Spirit used terminology dealing with a servant and master relationship. The Holy Spirit used terms such as "straightway, forthwith, immediately, and suddenly" showing the action required by a servant upon a master's command. God uses these terms to teach obedience by man to the Father's will in our lives.

Luke was a physician so God used terms common to a physician. The Holy Spirit used terminology meaning penetrating wound, perforated wound, lacerated wound, etc.

John was a simple fisherman so God the Holy Spirit used terms of the common man. He used these common words to portray that Jesus was the Christ.

Consider these Scriptures again in light of being prepared as New Testament church members ready to be used by God. Each local, New Testament church should have a membership that is hungry and growing in the Scriptures. This can only be accomplished when we study and grow in maturity of the Scriptures.

***"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."* Acts 17:11**

***"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* II Timothy 2:15**

Jesus made it easier for us by breaking down the Scriptures for us. Jesus gave us the three grand divisions of the Old Testament. This allows us to harmonize and rightly divide the Old Testament by making a simple division to help us have a better working knowledge of the Scriptures.

***"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."* Luke 24:44**

The first five books of the Old Testament are the law books. Moses wrote down the words of the Lord. Copies were made of these books.

"And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the

***twelve tribes of Israel."* Exodus 24:4**

***"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."* Exodus 34:27-28**

***"And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out."* Numbers 33:2**

***"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:"* Deuteronomy 17:18**

"And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, " Deuteronomy 31:9-11, 24

These table of stones were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle. The law was placed in the side of the ark for a witness and preservation.

***"There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."* I Kings 8:9**

"And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: " II Kings 22:8, 13, 16

Moses spoke of this law as written for the people.

"If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, they will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:" Deuteronomy 28:58-66

"Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. Ye stand this day all of you before the LORD your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel, Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water: That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the LORD thy God, and into his oath, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day: The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:9-12, 29

These law books in the Old Testament are called law books in the New Testament. Notice the references to accounts in the book of Genesis being the law books.

"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman." Galatians 4:21-22

"And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael." Genesis 16:15

"For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." Genesis 21:2

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." I Corinthians 14:34

Referring to Genesis 3:16:

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Genesis 3:16

The book of Exodus is referred to as law.

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Exodus 20:17

Numbers is called a law book.

"Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?" Matthew 12:5

This New Testament verse is referring to Numbers 28:9 where the priests are "working" on the Sabbath which working was not allowed on the Sabbath, except that they were doing the work of the Lord.

"And on the sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof." Numbers 28:9

Leviticus and Deuteronomy are referred to as law in Matthew 22:36-40.

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:36-40

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:18

"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:5

As we study in the Old Testament, we must understand that it is profitable for us today. However, the law and prophets are not our rule of faith and practice today. Jesus fulfilled the law and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious." II Corinthians 3:6-11

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Colossians 2:14-17

However, we are to use the law and the prophets today as an example and for our learning.

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." I Corinthians 10:6-11

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon fit into the Psalm books of the Old Testament. The rest are books of prophecy. Today, as New Testament churches, our rule of faith and practice is the New Testament and Psalms.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Ephesians 5:19

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:16-20

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3

As one studies the Word of God we must rightly divide using the rules for right division.

- 1) Who is speaking?
- 2) To whom are they speaking?
- 3) About what are they speaking?
- 4) When are they speaking?
- 5) Why are they speaking?

For truly, as mentioned in the beginning of this article the words of many different ones are recorded in the Scriptures. For instance, John 9:31:

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

This Scripture has been used wrongly many times. First, we must consider who is speaking here. If you consider the context in this passage to find who is speaking in this Scripture you will see that this statement is made by a lost man. Now, this is the truth about what this man said, however, should we use a statement made by a lost man to base a doctrine on? The answer is clearly no, so rightly dividing shows us that we should not be using this Scripture to show that God does not hear every prayer. It is true that God has conditions for the prayers that He will hear and answer, but this Scripture CANNOT be used to show that doctrine. Here are some Scriptures that could be used instead of the statement of a lost man.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" Psalm 66:18

"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:22-33

These rules are the first step of rightly dividing. However, one must also use the simple rules of application as well. Every Scripture in the Bible is for our learning, but not every Scripture is applicable to us today. As we just considered, the law books in the Old Testament are not applicable to our lives today except for our example, learning and admonition. One must consider this when studying the Scriptures or heresy will begin to creep into our understanding of the Scriptures. Truly, all erroneous teaching has come as a result of wrongly dividing the Scriptures.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." I Corinthians 2:9-10