



Bible Study Principles by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

Bible Study Principles: Lesson #1 - ["Point"]

I. OPEN THE BOOK

A. Jesus Did! [Luke 4:15-21](#)

1. Only Jesus has the right to open the meaning and close the inspiration of the Bible
2. To "open" (Greek **anoigo**) can refer to:
 - a) prison doors **Acts 16:26**;
 - b) opportunity **1 Corinthians 16:9**; **Revelation 3:8**;
 - c) inspired message **Revelation 5:1-9**; **6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9**; **8:1**;
Revelation 10:1-8; **20:12**

B. God Has Given Two Books to Read ([Hebrews 11:3, 6](#)):

1. Revealed Meaning (Bible) **2 Timothy 3:16, 17**; **Matthew 7:7-8**
2. Revealed Matter ("Nature")
 - a) As only God could control **Genesis 8:22**; **Romans 1:20**
 - b) No other "god" can **Jeremiah 5:21-25**; **14:22**; **Acts 14:17**

C. Efforts to Keep Them Closed:

1. Ahab to Micaiah **2 Chronicles 18:1-19:1** cf **v.4-7, 14-17**
2. Jehoikim (Jehudi) **Jeremiah 36:20-26, 27-32**
3. Jews in Antioch **Acts 13:13-41, 42-52**
 - a) filled with envy **v. 45**

- b) contradicted
 - c) blasphemed
 - d) opposed the things spoken by Paul
 - e) stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city **v. 50**
 - f) raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas
4. Roman Catholic "Dark Ages" in Europe
 5. Muslim Religion suppression of Bible in Muslim-dominated countries

II. PERUSE THE PAGES - **REVELATION 1:3** (READ, HEED, NEED) **CF DEUTERONOMY 4:5-8**

A. Read (Greek *anaginosko* - recognize, know accurately, read)

1. Jesus chided the Jews for their obvious lack of exposure to the Scriptures ("dark ages"?):
 - a) **Matthew 12:3-4, 5** - about David and priests' exemptions
 - b) **Matthew 19:4-5** - about creation of marriage
 - c) **Matthew 21:15-16** - about people's excitement over Him
 - d) **Matthew 21:42-44** - about rejection of Jesus
 - e) **Matthew 22:31-32** - about life after death
 - f) **Matthew 24:15-16** - about Jerusalem's destruction
 - g) **John 19:19-22** - Pilate's misrepresentation in the title-board over the cross was for all the Jews to read
2. Reading Scriptures is the "lifeblood" of salvation:
 - a) **Acts 8:28-32** - Need Gospel for guidance
 - b) **Ephesians 3:1-7 cf v. 4** - Read words of revelation
 - c) **2 Corinthians 1:13** - Scriptures written to be read

- d) **2 Corinthians 3:1-3** - Christians are epistles, also
- e) **Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27** - Christians should cause Scripture to be read by others

*THOUGHT: HOW SHALL ANYONE READ THE BIBLE
WITHOUT FIRST LEARNING TO READ?!*

**III. EXAMINE ACTS 17:10-12; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:21;
2 CORINTHIANS 13:5; LAMENTATIONS 3:40**

A. Self - Do we come to the Bible with a:

- 1. Love of truth? **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**
- 2. Search for wisdom? **Proverbs 1:7**
- 3. Carnal mind? **Romans 8:6-8**
- 4. Veil of prejudice? **2 Corinthians 3:14-18**
- 5. Corruption of simplicity? **2 Corinthians 11:3**
- 6. Shipwrecked faith and conscience? **1 Timothy 1:19**

B. Scriptures - Are we afraid to require evidence to believe?

Some of those who did require evidence for their faith were:

- 1. Abraham **Genesis 15:8; 17:17**
- 2. Moses **Exodus 3:11, 13; 4:1, 10, 13**
- 3. Gideon **Judges 6:13-17, 36-40**
- 4. Jeremiah **Jeremiah 12:1-4**
- 5. Disciples **John 20:19-23, 24-29, 30-31**
- 6. Saul of Tarsus **Acts 9:1-6**
- 7. TRUTH HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM INVESTIGATION **John 18:37**

C. **Being Wary is Not Being Weary**

1. **Ephesians 4:14** - Error is stormy, tricky, crafty, and deceitful
2. **Colossians 2:8** - Error cheats
3. **Isaiah 29:13** - Error is surface commitment
4. **Proverbs 28:26** - Error is NOT individual meditation only

D. **Refuse those who come in their own name:**

1. **Deuteronomy 18:20-22** - with broken prophecies
2. **Ezekiel 13:1-16, 17-23** - with "egg on their faces"
3. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** - with a "look" of soundness
4. **2 Peter 2:1-3** - with secrets, destruction, covetousness, denial of Jesus (a.k.a. "spiritual terrorists")
5. **1 John 4:1-6** - with false "gospel" **cf Galatians 1:6-10**
6. **John 5:43-44** - but NOT Jesus!

IV. **NOTICE - HOW OPENLY THE BIBLE STORY WAS REVEALED:**

A. **Acts 26:26** - "this thing was not done in a corner"

1. **Matthew 4:25; 5:1; 7:28; 9:8, 23, 25, 33, 36; 12:15; 14:14**
Certainly Jesus' teaching and miracles were open to investigation by all!
2. **Acts 2:1-12** - Thousands in Jerusalem obeyed the Gospel
3. **Acts 3:16** - Miracles were widely known
4. **Acts 14:1, 4** - Iconium city was divided by Gospel
5. **Acts 19:10-12** - Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus
6. **Acts 19:21-20:1** - Ephesus was in an uproar

B. **John 21:24-25** - **Jesus' deeds were so abundant that the books it would take to record them would fill the world**

1. The *impact* too great for historians to deny it;
2. The *effects* too great for theologians to change it;
3. The *motive* too great for sinners to ignore it;
4. The *church* too great for apostates to smear it;
5. The *miracles* too great for false prophets to imitate it.
6. **Hebrews 2:3** - *HOW CAN ANYONE ESCAPE SO GREAT A SALVATION?*

Bible Study Principles: Lesson #2 - ["Process"]

I. EYE-OPENERS

A. **Acts 26:17-18** - Paul's mission in life is ours, also

1. **John 9:6-7** - Jesus healed blindness of eye or heart
2. **2 Corinthians 4:3-5** - Devil's mission is to cover-up truth
3. **Revelation 3:17-18** - Not healed over our objections

B. Just Look at what God Has Done – **Psalm 107:**

1. **v. 1, 2-7** - How about some real food?
2. **v. 8, 9-14** - "Help, I've fallen and can't get up"
3. **v. 15, 16-20** - near death experience
4. **v. 21, 22-30** - rocking 'n rolling area
5. **v. 31, 32-42** - on top of affairs
6. **v. 43** - he that has eyes, let him see

C. "Closed Circuit" Vision **1 Corinthians Chapters 1-2**

1. Faithful **1:4-9**
 - a) Christians **1:4-5**
 - b) Confirmed **1:6-8**
 - c) Called **1:9**
2. Feuding **1:10-17**
 - a) Solution **1:10-11**
 - b) Salvation **1:12-13**
 - c) Sent **1:14-17**
3. Foolishness **1:17, 18-31**
 - a) "Puny Wars" **1:18-19, 25**
 - b) Power **1:18-23**

- c) Real People **1:24-31**
- 4. Fearless **2:1-16**
 - a) NOT human cogency **2:1-5**
 - b) BUT Holy Spirit's Agency **2:6-16**

II. EARTHQUAKES - CF **AMOS 1:1**; **GENESIS CHAPTERS 1&2** - EARTH OBEYS

A. Creation

- 1. "According to its kind" **Genesis 1:11-12** - Vegetation
- 2. "According to its kind" **Genesis 1:21** - Fish & Fowl
- 3. "According to its kind" **Genesis 1:24-25** - Land Rovers (NOT the vehicle!)
 - a) **1 Corinthians 15:39** - NO EVOLUTION!!
 - b) Plants & Animals given to mankind for food
 - (1)No "Vegetarian-ism" here **Genesis 1:29-30**
 - (2)No "blood-slingers" on furs **Genesis 3:21**
 - (3)Use -- Not abuse, but proper use! **2 Peter 2:12**

NO ANIMAL LIFE IS EQUAL TO HUMAN LIFE - THEREFORE KILLING ANIMALS DOES NOT JUSTIFY KILLING HUMAN BABIES OR HUMANS!

- 4. "Kind" does not hinder wonderful "varieties":
 - a) Flowers **Matthew 6:28-30**
 - b) Animals **Matthew 6:25-26; 10:16**
 - c) People **John 1:47-49; John 2:24-25; Matthew 10:17**

B. **Mankind** - "What is man that You are mindful of him?" **Psalm 8:4**

1. *ONE BLOOD* – **Genesis 3:20; Acts 17:26**

- a) "Eve" NOT "Lucy" (African ape-like creature)
- b) No "superior races" - Only one "race" - **human**

2. *ONE FLESH*

- a) **1 Corinthians 15:39** - Not derived from non- human ancestor --
Darwin's "Evolution" Is Impossible
- b) Animal skins, not animal organs, have use
- c) Gene-splicing with animals useless and perverted

3. *ONE SPIRIT*

- a) Made in "the image of God" **Genesis 1:26-27**
- b) God has no physical body for man to be made in the likeness of!
 - (1) **John 4:24** - God is spirit
 - (2) **Luke 24:39** - Spirit has no "flesh and bones"
- c) **1 Thessalonians 5:23** - trinity composition **cf Matthew 28:19**
- d) "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" by Pointer Sisters
 - (1) **Genesis 9:6** - cannot "kill 'em off"
 - (2) **James 3:9-1** - can't "cuss 'em out"
- e) "Soul" men will lose it **James 2:26; Ecclesiastes 12:7**

4. *ONE YEARNING* **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

- a) **Matthew 16:26** - "What's it worth to ya"
- b) **Acts 2:40** - "Be saved" -- for what?

5. *ONE TONGUE* Genesis 11:1

- a) The universal *word* - "mama"
- b) The universal *reaction* - "smile"

- c) The universal *movement* - "hug"
- d) The universal *sign* - "handshake"
- e) The universal *display* - "tears"
- f) The universal *attraction* - "gift"
- g) Words and alphabets have striking similarities amid the God- given differences **Genesis 11:7-9**

III. EXECUTIVE (1 CORINTHIANS 8:4-7) - ORDER, NOT CHAOS, RULES

A. Scientific Phenomena - Romans 1:19-20

- 1. Heavens "holler" **Psalm 19:1-6**
- 2. Body "talks" **Psalm 139:13-16**
- 3. Stones "shout" **Luke 19:40**
- 4. "Hello — Is anybody home?"

B. Simple Principles – Romans 2:14-15

- 1. "Come out, come out, wherever you are" **Psalm 139:1-12**
 - a) **Hebrews 4:12** - Only One "Critic" per person
 - b) **John 3:19-21** - "You can face me now, or later"
- 2. "Get a clue" - **Psalm 19:7-14**

C. Striking "Power"(s)

- 1. **Psalm 115:1-8** - "God is no dummy - but we may be"
 - a) Whom do you think got us this far?
 - b) "Sudden Impact" **Psalm 115:9-18**
- 2. **Isaiah 44:9-20** - "You burned the good half"
- 3. **Isaiah 45:15-22** - "Woodman, Woodman, spare that tree"
- 4. **Acts 14:14-18** - "Stop this silliness, right now"

5. **Acts 17:22-31** - "You're looking where?"
6. "Unknown," Roman "Zeus/ Jupiter" and "Hermes/ Mercury," Latin "Deus," Greek "Theos," Egyptian "Ra(sun)," Mediterranean "Dios," "Sky-god," etc., BUT -
7. **Bible preaching identifies which God and what must be done to obey Him!**
8. **JESUS WAS CONSIDERED A "FOREIGN" GOD! ACTS 17:18**

Bible Study Principles: Lesson #3 - ["Procedure"]

I. PERCEPTION OF THE VOLUME

A. The Word of God must be *Held*:

1. Meekly **James 1:21**
2. Fast **Titus 1:9**
3. Forth **Philippians 2:16**
4. Alive
 - a) **John 1:1-4, 14** - Jesus lived in flesh
 - b) **1 Thessalonians 2:13** - God's Word works in flesh
 - c) **Luke 24:27-35** - Knowledge of God's Word moves flesh

B. The Word of God must be Halved - **2 Timothy 2:15**:

1. Everything *leading to* Christ - **Genesis - John**;
2. Everything *because of* Christ - **Acts - Revelation**.
3. "He is coming" (Old Testament) supplanted by "He has come" (New Testament)

C. The Word of God has "*Helps*" to find exact texts -

1. **Chapters** by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, England, who died in A.D.1227;
2. **Verses** by Robert Stephens in A.D. 1551, and introduced into the Geneva Bible in A.D. 1560.
3. THESE HUMAN AIDS MUST NEVER BE USED FOR INTERPRETATION!
 - a) **Genesis Chapters 1 & 2** some view as separated by a gap or separate creations! Not so! More details are added.
 - b) **Matthew Chapters 5, 6, 7** are all one sermon till **7:27**
 - c) **John Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17** are one session till **18:1**

D. The doctrine has to be *Handed out* as:

1. Milk and solid food **Hebrews 5:12-14**
2. Easy and "hard to understand" **2 Peter 3:16**
3. What was said versus what Jesus said **Matthew 5:17-48**
4. Whatever the Bible says it must **2 Timothy 2:15**

E. The interpretation cannot *Happen* with men:

1. **2 Peter 1:19-21** - men, alone, did not write Scripture
2. **1 Corinthians 2:6-16** - Holy Spirit chose the writers and words
 - a) Those who had "received... the Spirit... from God"
 - b) Those who were "natural" (or uninspired) **v. 12, 14**
3. **Matthew 23:1-3** - follow only the Scriptures the Pharisees preach but beware of their additions to that doctrine **Matthew 16:11-12**

II. POINTERS WITHIN THE VOLUME

A. Historically

1. **Matthew 1:1-17** cf parallel **Luke 3:23-38**
 - a) Jesus Christ's genealogy ends David's and Abraham's genealogies in 42 generations;
 - b) The Old Testament ends and New Testament begins with overlap in the life of Jesus Christ (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**);
 - c) The accuracy of Old Testament names proves Divine Guidance:

"Thus we find that in 143 cases of transliteration from Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian and Moabite into Hebrew and in 40 cases of the opposite, or 184 in all, the evidence shows that for 2300 to 3900 years the text of the proper names in the Hebrew Bible has been transmitted with the most minute accuracy...No stronger evidence for the substantial accuracy

of the Old Testament records could possibly be imagined than this collection of names of kings."-p 71,75, Robert Dick Wilson, ***A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament***, Moody Press, Chicago, 2nd printing, 1965

2. Other chapters that outline Bible history:

- a) **Nehemiah 9:5-38** - God *supervises* His plan;
- b) **Acts 13:14-42** - God *surveys* His will;
- c) **Hebrews 11:1-12:3** - God *supplies* the obedient

B. Prophetically

1. **Matthew 1:18-25:**

- a) **Isaiah 7:14** accurately quoted;
- b) 1st fulfilled Old Testament prophecy in New Testament;
- c) Jesus' Birth the only fulfilling of it;
- d) Isaiah could not have seen its fulfillment since he lived 700 years before Jesus;
- e) For comparison of argument, see **Acts 8:30-35**;
- f) **Matthew's** Greek "virgin" was an inspired commentary on Hebrew "almah" in **Isaiah 7:14!**;

2. Jesus Christ is the focus ("fulfillment") of Prophecy:

- a) **Acts 2:22-38** - David spoke of Christ
- b) **Acts 3:22-26** - The prophecies of Moses, Samuel, and those who followed, "foretold these days" of the establishment of Jesus in His Kingdom
- c) **1 Peter 1:10-12** - Old Testament Prophets did not see the reason they prophesied or its fulfillment
- d) **Romans 4:17** - God speaks before and makes it happen

III. POWERS IN THE VOLUME

A. God - same God Who Created Has Demonstrated His Power

1. Can overrule natural genetics **Matthew 1:18, 20, 23, 25**
2. Miracles are witness to God's intervention:
 - a) **John** only gives 7 specific miracles which Jesus did on earth:
 - (1) **2:1-11** - power over time;
 - (2) **4:46-54** - power over deathly illness;
 - (3) **5:1-10** - power over mobility;
 - (4) **6:1-14** - power over food;
 - (5) **9:1-15** - power over sight;
 - (6) **11:1-45** - power over death;
 - (7) **21:1-14** - power over nature
 - b) Written record is all that's needed to believe *the miracles need not be repeated* **John 20:20-21**
 - c) Scripture contains selection not exhaustive recounting of everything God Has Done **John 21:25**

B. Holy Spirit's Inspiration:

1. *Is a fixed account* **2 Peter 1:13-15** written by eye-witnesses **v. 16-21** that will be altered by unbelievers **2 Peter 2:1-3**
2. *Is specifically accurate:*
 - a) **Genesis 13:15; Galatians 3:16** - One seed meant and given
 - b) **2 Timothy 3:16, 17** - All Scripture is as accurate
 - c) **Matthew 2:1-6** - Even unbelievers read and knew
3. *Is precise:* (The first time word is used usually establishes its meaning)
 - a) "God" **Genesis 1:1** = Creator

- b) "Hallelujah" **Psalm 104:35** = "Praise the LORD"
- c) "Jesus" **Matthew 1:21** = Savior is His Name; "Christ" is His Title
Matthew 1:16
- d) "Immanuel" **Matthew 1:23** = "God with us"
- e) "Golgotha" **Matthew 27:33** = "Place of a Skull"
- f) "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" **Matthew 27:46** = "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

4. *First-time references are thus significant:*

- a) **Genesis 2:18** - 1st thing "not good"
- b) **Genesis 3:1** - Devil's 1st words question God's Words
- c) **Genesis 3:9** - God's 1st question to man in Old Testament "Where are you?" **Matthew 2:2** - Man's 1st question in New Testament -- "Where is He...?"
- d) **Luke 2:49** - Jesus' 1st recorded words - a question
- e) **Matthew 3:15** - Jesus' 1st words in **Matthew** - requesting baptism though He was too good
- f) **Matthew 19:1-9** - Jesus returned to the first time **Genesis 2:18-25**
- g) **1 Corinthians 11:17-26** - Paul returned to Jesus' beginning of His Supper in **Matthew 26:26-29**
- h) **John 15:20** - Always remember Jesus' words and deeds

5. *Context (immediate Scripture and event) clarifies:*

- a) **Matthew 2:9** - "the star" stood over where Jesus was, thus it could not have been "naturally-occurring" phenomenon
- b) **Matthew 2:7-8, 9, 16** - "the young Child" does not refer to a baby, for Herod killed male children 2 yrs. old and under. The wise men's trip had required time for them to travel.

6. *Account for "figures of speech"*

- a) **Matthew 1:1** - "the Son of" obviously can summarize a span of time, rather than immediate offspring
- b) **Matthew 5:13** - disciples share qualities of salt
- c) **Matthew 7:15** - does this refer to clothing or deceptive talk?
- d) **Matthew 13:10-17** - parables needed interpretation, but not every detail must be applied **Matthew 13:1-23**
- e) **Galatians 4:21-31** - "things are symbolic" and "correspond"
- f) **Revelation 1:1** - "signified" means to be careful

7. *Nothing taught contradicts obviously clear passages*

- a) **Matthew 28:18-20** - teaching and baptism is for "all the nations", and is not contradicted in New Testament
- b) **Matthew 3:11** - baptism in water essential to salvation **cf Matthew 28:18-20**

8. *Don't overlook the repetition of a word or phrase*

- a) "begot" **Matthew 1:1-16** shows God kept His lineage pure through human offspring **Matthew 1:18-25**
- b) "Assuredly I say to you" **Matthew 5:18, 26; 6:2, 5, 16; 8:10; Matthew 10:15, 23, 42; 11:11; 13:17; 16:28; 17:20; Matthew 18:3, 13, 18; 19:23, 28; 21:21, 31; 23:36; Matthew 24:2, 34, 47; 25:12, 40, 45; 26:13, 21, 34**
- c) "cannot be My disciple" **Luke 14:26, 27, 33**

9. *Some things are just similar ("as" and "so")*

- a) **John 15:4, 8, 9, 10, 12**
- b) **John 3:14**
- c) **Proverbs 25:25**

*THE BIBLE IS ACCURATELY WRITTEN, FULFILLED, AND EFFECTIVE
— IT **MUST** BE STUDIED WITH THE SAME CARE WITH WHICH IT
HAS BEEN GIVEN*