

# GOD ENCOUNTERED

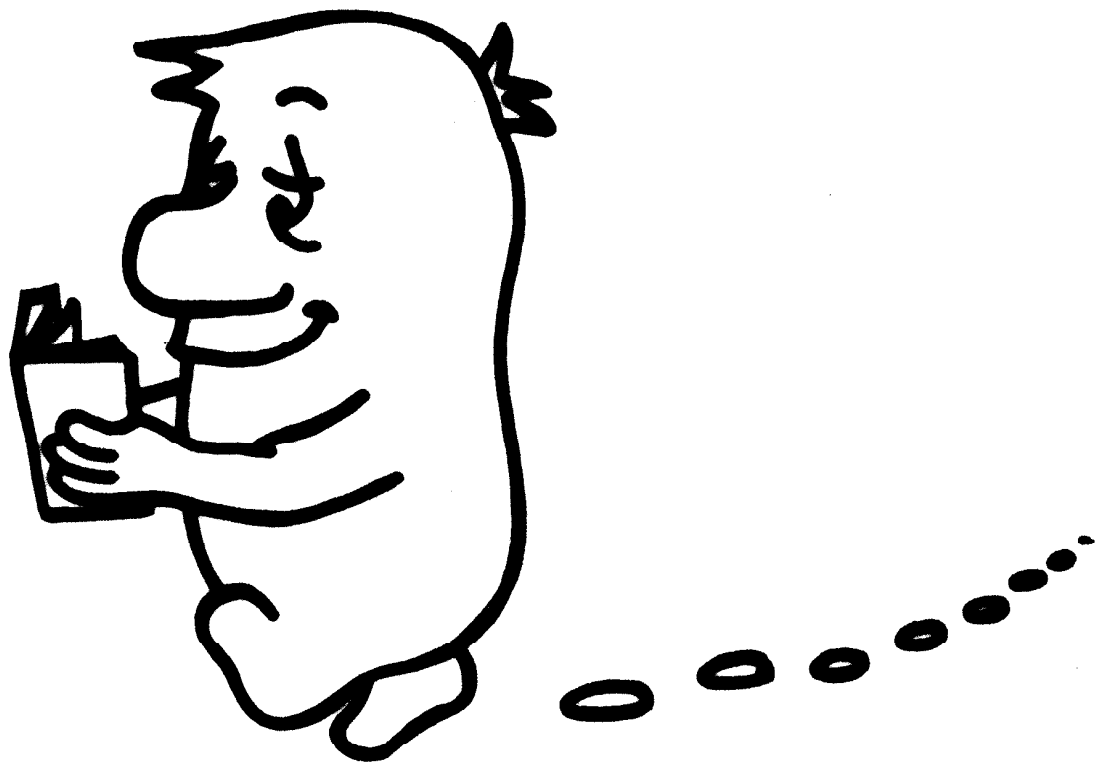


**VOLUME 1- STEPS TO MATURITY**

by David A. Clemens



**TEACHER'S MANUAL**



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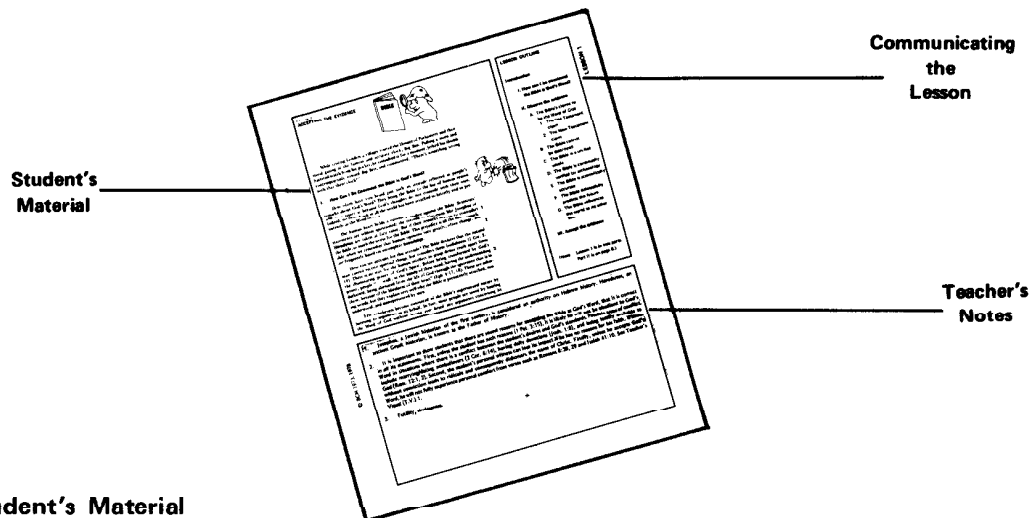
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## ABOUT THE TEACHER'S MANUAL

The teacher's manual has been organized to provide as much resource information on each lesson as possible within a few pages. Most pages contain three separate parts: the corresponding student's lesson page, indicated Teacher's Notes, and a portion of the "Communicating the Lesson" section.



### Student's Material

Each page of the student's material has been reduced in size and printed in the teacher's manual so that the teacher's manual is complete in itself.

### Teacher's Notes

The numbers to the side of the student's material indicate resource material related to the bold-face or underlined words and contained in Teacher's Notes (T.N.) at the bottom of the page (or preceding or following pages).

### Communicating the Lesson

**Note:** Some of the lessons are divided into two distinct parts. These are to be taught in two separate, but consecutive, lessons.

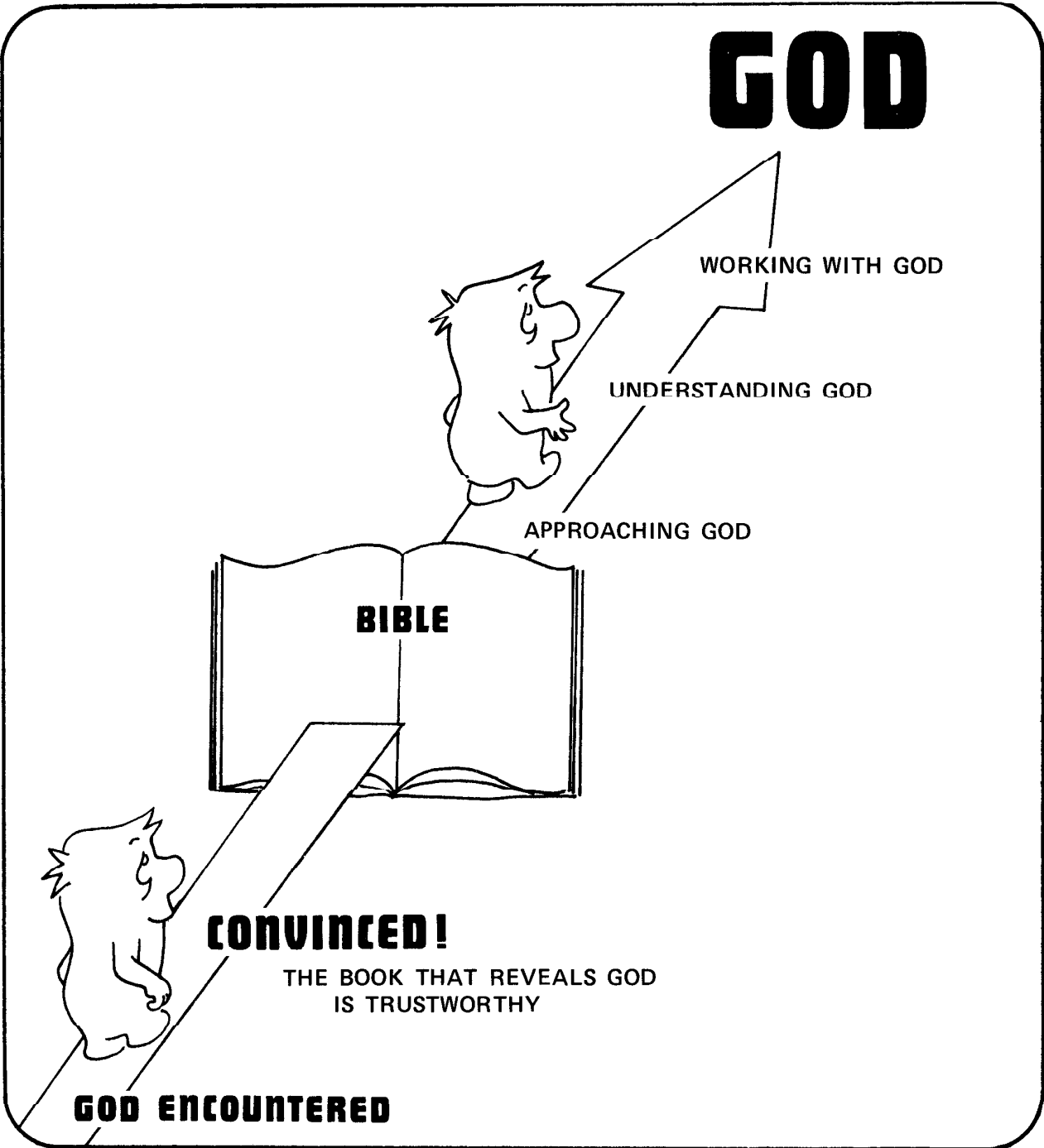
A teaching plan to show the teacher how to utilize the student material has been developed for each lesson. Each plan has been organized into the following parts:

*Objective:* The objective is stated to help clarify in the teacher's mind what the students are to gain from the combination of their own preparation and the lesson session. Focusing on the objective—not covering material—is the purpose of any teaching session. Learning is problem solving; the more practical, critical, and personal the problem is, the greater will be the student's attention to and retention of the solution. Objectives state the direction of a lesson. The teacher, however, should be aware of situations which may actually exist in the group and, whenever possible, relate the objective in a realistic, personal way to such problems. A problem that strikes home is far more pertinent than a problem based on theory.

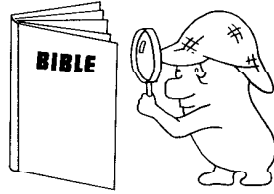
*Using the Lesson:* The time of concentrated group study and sharing revolves around a particular portion or point of each lesson. Discussions and small group activities are techniques used which allow the students to work together in this part of the lesson.

*Finalizing the Objective:* After the period of concentrated study, the teacher should spend a few minutes bringing the lesson to a close by sharing with the students thoughts which center around

# UNIT 1: CONVINCED!



Lesson 1  
ACCEPTING THE EVIDENCE



While visiting London a villager toured the Houses of Parliament and then stood gazing at the famous and accurate clock, Big Ben. Pulling a worn and battered watch from his pocket, he consulted it for a moment, jerked his thumb contemptuously toward Big Ben, and commented, "There's something wrong with that there clock!"

I. How Can I Be Convinced the Bible Is God's Word?

How often have you heard just such an attitude reflected in people's remarks about God's Word? They bring the Bible to the bar of human reason and then reject it because God's thoughts do not coincide with their own. Indeed, no other book in all the world has been attacked so bitterly and so persistently as the Word of God.



The human heart holds a curious prejudice against the Bible. Scientists' statements are seldom questioned; the records of historians like Josephus or Herodotus are taken at face value. But if their remarks happen to contradict the Bible, so much the worse for the Bible. This prejudice is all the more remarkable when we remember that human opinions vary greatly, often change, and are frequently based on incomplete knowledge.

How can we account for this attitude? The Bible declares that the natural man cannot receive spiritual things, but considers them foolishness (1 Cor. 2:14). There is no way for the human intellect to grasp divine truth apart from the illuminating power of God's Spirit. Before being transformed by God's power, people "...walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:17, 18). These are sobering words, but they explain very well why the Bible is persistently attacked, misunderstood, and misrepresented by men.

Few unbelievers become convinced of the Bible's supernatural nature by listening to arguments in its behalf. In fact, most people are saved by hearing the Word of God without having ever heard any arguments concerning its

LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction

I. How can I be convinced the Bible is God's Word?

II. Observe the evidence

- A. The Bible's claims to be the Word of God
  - 1. The Old Testament claim
  - 2. The New Testament claim
- B. The Bible cannot be destroyed
- C. The Bible is a unified whole
- D. The Bible is continually verified by archaeology
- E. The Bible is scientifically accurate
- F. The Bible successfully predicts the future
- G. The Bible influences the world as no other book

III. Accept the evidence

(Note: Lesson 1 is in two parts. Part II is on page 8.)

1. Josephus, a Jewish historian of the first century, is considered an authority on Hebrew history. Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, is known as the Father of History.
2. It is important to show students that there are sound reasons for accepting the Bible as God's Word, that it is correct in *all* its statements. First, unless the student has such reasons (1 Pet. 3:15), it is likely he will not be obedient to God's Word in situations where there is a conflict between the student's desires and God's standards. Possible areas of conflict include marrying/dating nonbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14), having daily devotions (Josh. 1:8), and being totally available to God (Rom. 12:1, 2). Second, the student's personal witness can lose its impact if he has no reasons for his faith. Witness without conviction leads to ridicule and consequently dishonors the name of Christ. Finally, unless he accepts God's Word, he will not fully experience personal comfort from verses such as Romans 8:28, 29 and Isaiah 41:10. See Teacher's Visual (T.V.) 1.
3. Futility, aimlessness.

**COMMUNICATING THE LESSON**

**OBJECTIVE:** To help the student realize that the Bible deserves his attention and consideration.

**SETTING THE STAGE**  
(15 minutes)

Begin the lesson by asking the question "What did you find in your reading that shows that the Bible is a remarkable Book?" If answers are slow in coming, prompt your group with such answers as "cannot be destroyed," "long-lasting popularity." After answers by the group members, briefly review two or three of the last six reasons given in the students' material (II, B-G). Reason 1 will be used in Part II of this lesson. To make this review interesting, draw from the material given in Teacher's Notes (T.N.) 11, 15, 16, 20.



inspiration. The Holy Spirit works in the individual's heart convincing him the Bible is God's Word. Through it he learns that he is a sinner, he needs a Saviour, and God has provided that Saviour in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believing the truthfulness of Scripture in salvation, he then accepts its truthfulness in other realms.

**II. Observe the Evidence**

The truthfulness of God's Word cannot be proved by mere argument; nevertheless, there are valid evidences for the Bible's inspiration (the study of them is called **Apologetics**), evidences which help confirm a believer's faith. Taken separately none of these evidences proves the Bible to be God's Word; however, collectively they build an impressive case for its trustworthiness.

Biblical Christianity is not built upon absurd reasoning or subjective religious experience; rather, it is rooted in verifiable, historical fact. Faith is believing what upon excellent testimony appears to be true. The Bible is the Word of God. Consider these seven reasons for accepting it as such.

*A. The Bible Claims to Be the Word of God*

It is significant that the Bible itself claims to be the Word of God, for then when an individual says that the Bible is the Word of God, he is not claiming

<p>IF the Bible did not claim to be the Word of God...</p>	<p>...and someone then claimed that the Bible is the Word of God...</p>	<p>...then he claims more for the Bible than the Bible claims for itself.</p>
<p>SINCE the Bible claims to be the Word of God...</p>	<p>...for someone to now claim that the Bible is the Word of God...</p>	<p>...is to claim no more for the Bible than the Bible claims for itself!</p>

1. The study of evidences is called "apologetics" from a Greek word meaning "a verbal defense or answer." Apologetics is the systematic defense of the Christian faith against intellectual attacks. Christian evidences, one aspect of apologetics, sets forth concrete reasons for accepting the Bible as God's Word and for accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Why study Christian evidences? 1) The Bible commands it (in 1 Pet. 3:15 the Greek word for "answer" is "apologia"; in Phil. 1:7, 17 the same word is translated "defense." See also Jude 3; Col. 4:6; Tit. 1:9). 2) The early Christians used Christian evidences in their witnessing (Acts 4:33; 26:8, 23, 26; 1 Cor. 15:1-8). Note evidences of the resurrection used in Acts 14:15-17; evidences of God in nature in Romans 1:20; Acts 26:8-23; 1 Timothy 1:12-16; fulfilled prophecy in Acts 26:22, 27. 3) Ignorance, skepticism, and unbelief demand sound exposition of facts concerning God's Word. Use these evidences lovingly (Col. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:24, 25), recognizing it is the Holy Spirit, not argument and logic, who converts people (1 Cor. 2:14; John 16:8, 9). See *Many Infallible Proofs* by Henry Morris (Creation-Life Publishers, San Diego, California), pp. 1-7, and *Set Forth Your Case* by Clark Pinnock (Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.), pp. 11-19.

more than the Bible claims for itself. More than 3000 times, in both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible says it is the Word of God.

1. *The Old Testament Claim*

The Old Testament writers claimed to be writing the very Word of God. Expressions such as "God said," "The Lord spake saying," "The Lord commanded," and "The Word of the Lord" occur nearly 700 times in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) and more than 2600 times throughout the entire Old Testament. See 2 Samuel 23:2-5, Joshua 1:1-9, and Jeremiah 1:1-10.

Those who deny the inspiration of the Old Testament must also deny the deity and dependability of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He firmly believed and taught that the Old Testament was God's authoritative word. Twelve times He endorsed the Old Testament. For example:

In Luke 24:44 He said, "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me." Here He endorsed all three **divisions** of the Hebrew Bible.

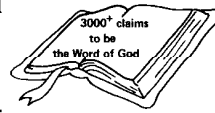
In Matthew 19:4-6 He endorsed the Genesis account of the creation; in Luke 17:26-32, the flood account and Sodom's destruction; in Matthew 12:39-41, the record of Jonah, the fish, and the conversion of Nineveh. Significantly, Christ endorsed the very Old Testament events which are most often denied by modern **critics**.

Including Jesus Christ's statements, the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) contain approximately 400 references to the Old Testament; Romans is saturated with Old Testament references; Hebrews records 88 quotations from 16 Old Testament books. Revelation has nearly 400 references and allusions to persons, thoughts, and events connected with the Old Testament.

Additionally, Acts 1:16 and 4:25 attribute the writings of David to the Holy Spirit, and Romans 9:17 equates Scripture with God's spoken Word. Speaking primarily of the Old Testament, 2 Timothy 3:16 declares, "All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God." Hebrews 1:1 states, "God...spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets." Second Peter 1:21 affirms that in the Old Testament, "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

2. *The New Testament Claim*

Many New Testament writings are letters. These naturally lack the Old Testament prophet's "Thus saith the Lord," yet it is evident that the writers knew their work was **inspired**.



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8, 9

**USING THE LESSON**

(25 - 30 minutes)

A. **Small Groups:** Give each group a 3 x 5 card (or a piece of paper) with one of the following "Situations and Questions" written on it (different one to each group). Allow 10 minutes for each group to formulate an answer to its question.

B. Have groups come back together. Ask one member from each group to explain his group's situation and question and present his group's answer. After each group's presentation the teacher will ask the audience whether or not they agree with the answer and/or how they would change or add to each answer. The teacher is to interject comments whenever necessary as each group reports. (Note: 15-20 minutes for this group sharing activity.)

5

5. **The Hebrew Old Testament**

Today the Old Testament contains 39 books which divide into four major sections: law, history, poetry, and the prophets. In Bible days the Hebrew Old Testament rearranged the same content condensing it into 24 books. Compare the Hebrew Old Testament arrangement that follows with the present day arrangement in the Table of Contents in your Bible. The arrangement of the books within each division is not certain. For example, some lists have Jeremiah at the head of the prophetic section.

**THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT**

**The Law**

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

**The Prophets**

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- The Book of the Twelve (Hosea to Malachi)

**The Writings**

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Job
- Song of Solomon
- Ruth
- Lamentations
- Ecclesiastes
- Esther
- Daniel
- Ezra-Nehemiah
- Chronicles

### Situations and Questions

1. You have been assigned to give a book report on the Bible to one of your classes at school. What would you say about it?
2. You are visiting in a foreign country and are asked by an English-speaking person, "What is the Bible?" How would you answer him?
3. You live in a small town which has just been taken over by the Communists. You have been selected by the town to plead with the Communist officers not to destroy the Bibles in the town. What would you say to the officers?

Paul called his own words "commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:37), and thanked God that his hearers received the word from him, ". . .not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God" (1 Thess. 2:13). Peter included himself and his fellow servants of Christ on the same level as Old Testament prophets (2 Pet. 3:2), and included Paul's epistles (letters) with "the other Scriptures" (2 Pet. 3:16). John claimed to write what was given him by God (Rev. 1:1).

None of the New Testament was written when the Lord Jesus was on earth. Any witness He gave to the New Testament had to be given before the actual writing. While on earth, He promised His disciples three things:

First, the Holy Spirit would bring back all His teachings to their memory (John 14:26). This promise was fulfilled when the Spirit enabled the Gospel writers to record accurately truths relating to Christ's earthly life.

Then, the Holy Spirit would teach them all things and guide them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13). The Spirit did teach and equip the disciples with an understanding of all truth necessary for life. These truths are recorded in the New Testament epistles.

Finally, the Holy Spirit would show them things to come (John 16:13). Revelation, the great prophetic book of the New Testament, reveals "things to come" and is the fulfillment of this promise.

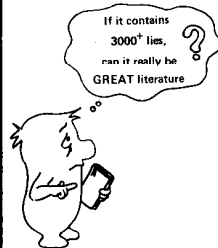
Clearly the Lord Jesus promised in advance the inspiration of the Gospels, the Epistles, and the book of Revelation. The Old Testament looks forward to His birth—the birth of the One who is God's full revelation of Himself to man (Col. 2:9). The New Testament explains Old Testament teaching and completes God's revelation of Himself by recording the significance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

The Bible is what it claims to be or else it is a book written by a most consistent group of liars. If, as some claim, the Bible is only great literature, it lies more than 3,000 times. Would such a book really be "great"?

The Bible's truthfulness can be demonstrated through archaeology, history, and fulfilled prophecy. All these evidences encourage us to believe it speaks the truth when it claims to be God's Word.

#### B. The Bible Cannot Be Destroyed

The Bible is unique because of its age. Rarely are books known or reprinted 10 25 years after their original publication. However, parts of the Old Testament were written over 2500 years ago, and the New Testament, over 1900 years ago.



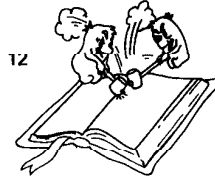
6. An additional example of Christ's endorsement of the Old Testament is found in Matthew 23:35. Jesus referred to the slaying of Abel (Gen. 4:8) and of Zechariah (2 Chron. 24:20, 21). Because Genesis was the first and Chronicles the last book of the Hebrew Old Testament (see T.N. 5), Jesus thus embraced the entire Old Testament. In the Matthew account Zechariah is called Barachiah's son, in 2 Chronicles Zechariah is called the son of Jehoiada, the priest. Barachiah was probably Zechariah's father, and Jehoiada his famous grandfather (2 Chron. 24:15, 20-22).
7. Inspiration means "God-breathed." See Lesson 2.
8. Bible writers believed their writings were inspired by God. Other individuals have also claimed inspiration for their writings (Mohammed, for example), but the number of times Bible writers make such a claim is unique to Scripture. Often the writers condemn lying and claim inspiration in the same passage. Their claim of divine authorship would be irreconcilable with their exhortations for truth and holiness if they were not, in fact, writing under inspiration. Otherwise they were hypocritical deceivers—inconceivable in view of the Bible's unique character and history.
9. The English word *Bible* is from the Greek word meaning "roll" or "book." "Book" in Luke 4:17, for example, refers to a roll of papyrus: "And there was handed to Him [the roll of] the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened (unrolled) the book. . ." (Amp.). The term *Scripture* refers to the inspired writings of both Old and New Testaments (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:16). The phrase *Word of God* refers to the written form of God's revelation (Matt. 15:6, NAS; John 10:35; Heb. 4:12). Each term indicates the Book of God's final revelation to man.
10. Approximately eighty percent of all books published are forgotten after the first year; only one half of one percent are in demand seven years after publication.

Throughout history the Bible's enemies have been aggressively hostile.

11

Infidels for 1800 years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels, with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, "Sire, the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers." So the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the anvil still endures. If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the book still lives.<sup>1</sup>

The threat of opposition to the Bible can be traced from early times to the present. Today opposition comes from sources such as Communism, present-day thinkers who demand—within the framework of the **New Morality**—that biblical standards be thrown out, and critics who claim the Bible is full of errors and contradictions. Nevertheless, the Bible remains a best seller with universal appeal. Millions of copies are published and sold annually. According to the American Bible Society, the Bible has been translated into over 1300 of the 2796 languages of the world.



To summarize: The eighteenth century French philosopher Voltaire dared to predict the Bible would be a forgotten book found only in museums by the nineteenth century. Ironically, however, within 25 years of Voltaire's death, the Geneva Bible Society was using his home and his printing presses to publish the Word of God.

The Bible cannot be destroyed. Doesn't this suggest it deserves our special attention?

#### C. *The Bible Is a Unified Whole*

One basic unifying theme runs throughout the Bible—Jesus Christ. The Old Testament looked forward to His coming; the Gospels record His birth and life; the rest of the New Testament explains the significance of His life, death, resurrection, and return.

The Bible's unity is also illustrated by its single moral **standard**. For example, adultery was condemned by Moses in the Old Testament (Ex. 20:14) as well as by Jesus in the New Testament (Matt. 5:27-32).

The Bible's unity becomes even more impressive when we consider it was written by nearly 40 men of varied backgrounds—including shepherds, fisher-

#### FINALIZING THE OBJECTIVE

The teacher may bring the lesson to a close by making the following statements. "The Bible is here to stay. It cannot be destroyed." Invite the group to close their eyes, bow their heads, and think along with you. Conclude with this statement and prayer: "Maybe, in light of all the evidence, we have something big here. Maybe the Bible really *do* deserve my attention and consideration."

**Prayer:** "O God, may I allow Your Word to be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Amen."

7

11. In 303 A.D. Diocletian demanded all Bibles be destroyed by fire. To celebrate his apparent success he ordered medals made with the inscription "The Christian religion is destroyed and the worship of the gods restored." A short ten years later, Constantine came to the throne and made Christianity the state religion. He offered a reward to any person bringing him a Bible. Within twenty-four hours he had fifty Bibles. In the sixteenth century William Tyndale translated the Bible into English, an illegal activity in England. He was forced to work in Germany, and copies of the translation were smuggled into England in barrels of flour, bales of cloth, and by other means. Thousands of copies were seized and burned only to be replaced by other thousands. Tyndale himself burned at the stake in 1536. His last words were a prayer that the king's eyes would be opened. Three years later the prayer was answered when Henry VIII ordered the publication of *The Great Bible*. For a historical account of the aggressive hostility against the Bible and Christians, read *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. Today, Russian communism is attempting to eliminate all of the Bible's influence, but Bibles are continually being smuggled into iron-curtain countries. *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew is a dramatic and current consideration of this.

12. The New Morality is essentially a revolt against authoritative, unbending guidelines set down in the Bible. The New Morality favors permissive freedom teaching "anything goes." For example, it amends the commandment dealing with adultery to read: "Thou shalt not commit adultery *ordinarily*."

13. Other concepts introduced in the Old Testament and developed further in the New Testament are:

- 1) The love of God: Jeremiah 31:3/1 John 4:8
- 2) Wages of sin: Ezekiel 18:20/Romans 6:23
- 3) The necessity of a new birth: Ezekiel 18:31/John 3:3
- 4) The great command to love: Leviticus 19:18/Matthew 22:37-39
- 5) Standard of righteousness: Leviticus 19:2/Matthew 5:48



## PART II

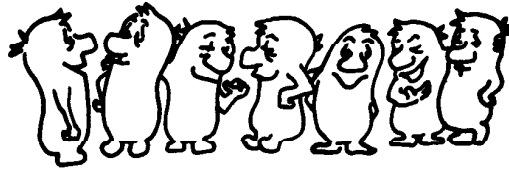
**OBJECTIVE:** To help the student realize and acknowledge that the Bible's claim to be God's Word is true, and therefore it has the right to instruct him.

### SETTING THE STAGE (15 minutes)

Open this part of the session by asking three or four questions from the Quick Check. Emphasize this lesson by reviewing the Bible's claim (Old and New Testament) to be the Word of God (pages 4-6). Emphasize particularly the thought at the end of Sec. A (p. 6)—“Either the Bible really is what it claims to be, or it is a pack of lies.”

men, prophets, kings, soldiers, scholars, professional men, and common laborers—representing thirteen countries and three continents. David and Solomon were kings, Jeremiah and Ezekiel were priests, Moses and Amos were shepherds, Paul was a theologian, Matthew was a tax collector, and Peter and John were

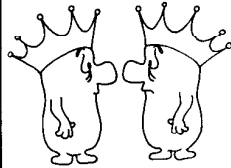
15 fishermen. Collectively they wrote over a period of **1600 years** and utilized at least three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek). That such a culturally, geographically, educationally diversified group could maintain the same theme and moral standard with no contradiction while dealing with many controversial subjects (morals, ethics, child training, family roles, etc.) can be explained only in terms of God—the true Author of the Book.



**40 Different Writers**  
**13 Different Countries**  
**3 Different Continents**  
**3 Different Languages**  
**1600 Years in Writing**

#### D. *The Bible Is Continually Verified by Archaeology*

Archaeology has proved the accuracy of many of the Bible's historical statements. Consider the case of Belshazzar in Daniel 5. The Bible's claim that Belshazzar was the king killed that fateful night—when God's hand wrote on the wall and Babylon was captured by the Medes and Persians—was long considered an error. Secular history recorded Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon, never mentioning Belshazzar. But in 1853 the biblical account was verified. Archaeologists discovered a cylinder which showed there were actually *two* kings of Babylon, a father and a son. Belshazzar had been made co-ruler by his father Nabonidus. On the night of the invasion, Nabonidus was at his oasis retreat in Arabia; Belshazzar was captured and killed.



14. Sometimes it is suggested that the emphasis on love in Matthew 5:38-42 indicates a change from the Old Testament standard of justice (an “eye for an eye,” Ex. 21:24). However, keep the following in mind:
- 1) Exodus 21:24 was an Old Testament judicial principle which emphasized that the punishment should fit the crime. This is a concept of law even today.
  - 2) “An eye for an eye” is a check against impassioned vengeance which often results from a minor injury. Man's natural reaction is to retaliate beyond what is called for; the death penalty is an over-retaliation for a theft of a sum of money. “An eye for an eye” was restricted only to crimes involving bodily injury.
  - 3) Men were not given the right to take vengeance into their own hands. The Old Testament principle, which coincides with the New Testament principle, indicates that men were to “love thy neighbor as thyself” (see Lev. 19:18). Consequently, “an eye for an eye” was not intended to “extract a pound of flesh” or to “get even,” but to limit or check severe punishment for crimes which did not warrant such.
  - 4) It is interesting to note that even in the Old Testament the payment for a crime was often a money fine; murder was the exception (see Num. 35:31). The Bible's standard is consistent throughout.
15. Use T.V. 2 to illustrate the length of 1600 years. The Bible's single moral standard is significant when we consider today's decline in attitudes toward moral standards. Actions accepted today would have been censored just a few years ago. This is evident in television broadcasting, magazine and billboard advertising, and everyday language standards. The Bible, however, amazingly retains the same standard over a 1600 year period.



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