

Spiritual Strategic Warfare



”Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place” **Ephesians 6:14**

”And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” **Ephesians 6:15**

“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts (arrows) of the wicked one” **Ephesians 6:16**

”And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is *the word of God* ...” **Ephesians 6:17.**

“For *the word of God* is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (bone), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...” **Hebrews 4.12.**

Zidkiyah Yisrael

How To STUDY the Bible

“Every word of God is pure” **Proverbs 30:5**

“But he answered and said “it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” **Matthew 4:4, (Deuteronomy 8:3,** as written in the old testament)

“Search the scriptures” (Every word) **John 5:39**

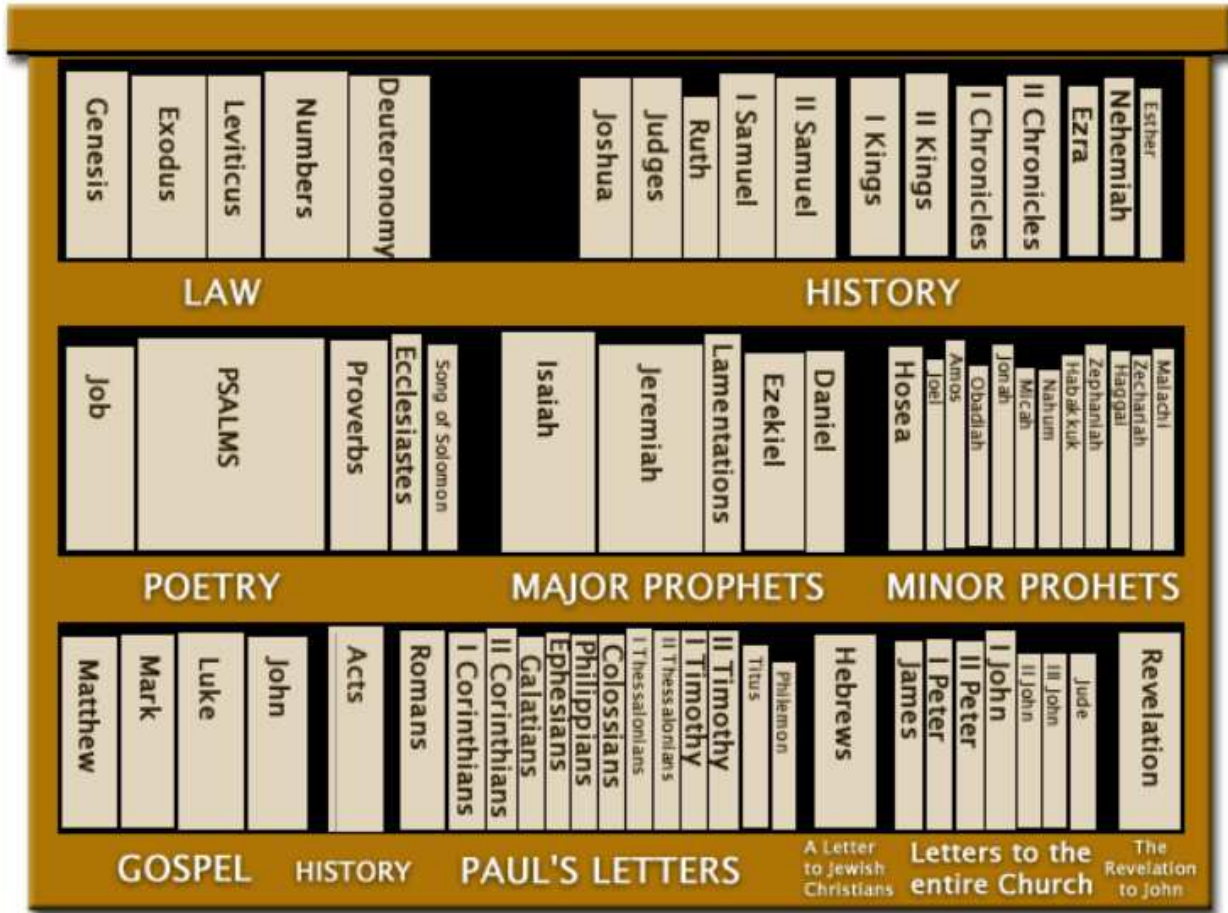
The Bible is the world’s most fascinating book. In **2 Timothy 3:16-17** we read, “All Scripture is inspired by God”. Peter tells us the written Word of God came about as the Holy Spirit guided the human authors to write it down **2 Peter 1:20-21.**

It has been written over a 1,500 year period by 40 authors, in three languages Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. It is absolutely amazing that the Most High God used many different authors who had a variety of occupations and experiences. Here are some examples of this: Moses was a leader, trained in the land of Egypt. Peter was a fisherman. Amos was a herdsman. Joshua was a military general. Nehemiah was a king's cupbearer. Daniel was a prime minister. Luke was a doctor. Solomon was a king. Matthew was a tax collector. Paul was a rabbi. David was a shepherd. They wrote in a variety of places such as a wilderness, a dungeon, and a palace. Their books include history, poetry, romance, prose, and prophecy; with a cast of 2,930 characters, depicted in 1,551 places. They wrote on a number of controversial subjects with perfect harmony regarding the past and future. The fact is, people just do not agree that easily, even in subjects like physics, chemistry, or medicine. Often you will get a different diagnosis from two doctors in the same specialty. The harmony of these men would have been unlikely without the spirit of God working in them! The unity of Scripture is a convincing evidence that it is not a natural book but a supernatural one, which God Himself directed and produced through human authors.

I must admit when you take a glance at such a book, the bible with its many pages, and size can be intimidating! But once you get pass the visual appearance of it, and start thumbing through some of the material, it is interesting to say the least. To give you an idea of what is in it, or how it is composed, take a look below.

Old Testament			New Testament			
History	Wisdom	Prophecy	Gospels	History	Epistles	Apocalypse
From <i>Genesis</i> through <i>Nehemiah</i> , first Moses and then others recorded events which actually took place. This material is not a myth or an allegory but claims to be the real history of the beginning of the world, mankind, and the nation Israel. These writings are unique among ancient works in that they do not glorify their heroes.	<i>Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon</i> , and some say <i>Esther</i> *, are known as wisdom literature. The focus here is not on historical events but what we can learn about living wisely and worshiping rightly. Although these are in the Old Testament, where blessings are earthly rewards, the wisdom from these books is timeless.	About 28.6% of the Old Testament and 21.6% of the New Testament is predictive literature. Unlike other ancient predictions, these are: (1) specific announcements (2) of future events, (3) consistent with other biblical prophecies, (4) many of which are already literally fulfilled.	These are four accounts (literally the "good news") about the life of Christ. They were written in the A.D. 50s (<i>Matthew</i> and <i>Mark</i>), the 60s (<i>Luke</i>), and the 70s (<i>John</i>). These are not strictly biographies of the life of Christ. They are selective, historically true events. The authors show Jesus: (1) revealing God to the world, (2) preparing the apostles to start the church, and (3) paying for the sins of the world by His death on the cross.	This is actually Volume 2 of Luke's work. Volume 1 is his Gospel. The "Acts of the Apostles" is Luke's history of the early church from the ascension of Christ through Paul's first imprisonment in Rome. Chapters 1-12 focus on Peter. Chapters 13-28 focus on Paul.	Some of these letters are written to individual believers—like <i>1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon</i> , and <i>2 and 3 John</i> . Some of them were meant to be circulated throughout different city churches—like <i>Ephesians, James, Hebrews</i> and <i>1 John</i> . Others were written to believers in specific cities—like <i>Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians</i> , and <i>Colossians</i> . These letters show the deep concern of the apostles and other leaders for the welfare, education, and lifestyles of the early believers.	The first chapters of <i>Revelation</i> address the churches of 7 cities in Asia Minor. Chapters 4–22 contain prophetic information about future events, specifically the book outlines details of the future Tribulation (chapters 4–18), the Second Coming of Christ (19), the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth (20:1-10), the Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15), and the eternal state (chapters 21–22). The word "apocalyptic" literally means "a sudden and violent end of the world."
	*Some list <i>Esther</i> as a history book, some as wisdom.	[Statistics from J. Barton Payne, <i>Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy</i> , pp. 631-682]				

The word **"BIBLE"** means **"books or many books"**. The English word *bible* is derived from the Greek term *biblia*. *Biblia* is the plural form of *biblion*. It is a series of books bound together between two covers. If we know what it means, the word Bible tells us that this book is really a library of smaller books. Think of it this way from the diagram below.



The word "Bible" is *not* of pagan origin. "Bible" also derives from Byblos, the Greek name of the Phoenician city, Gebal. The Greeks called this city *Byblos* due to its importance in the *bublos* ("Egyptian papyrus") trade. Because they were made of papyrus, books were called *biblia* by the Greeks. Check out some of the acronyms for this magnificent book!

Acronyms of the word "BIBLE"

- BIBLE Basic Instructions before Leaving Earth
- BIBLE Basic Information Before Leaving Earth
- BIBLE Best Instructions Before Leaving Earth
- BIBLE Best Investment Before Leaving Earth

BIBLE Be Informed Before Leaving Earth
BIBLE Basic Instructions before Life Ends
BIBLE Be Informed Before Life Ends
BIBLE Basic Instructions Before Living Eternally
BIBLE Believer's Instruction Before Leaving Earth
BIBLE Basic Instructional Book for Living Everyday
BIBLE Basic Instruction Book for Living on Earth
BIBLE Biblical Instruction Before Leaving Earth

In order for us to understand the bible, to digest what God has given us required two things! You must **submit to him**, and **study his word faithfully!** How do we do this? The answers are in the bible!

Isaiah 28:9-16 *King James Version (KJV)*

⁹ *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

¹⁰ *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

2 Timothy 2:15 *King James Version (KJV)*

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

John 5:39 *KJV*

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:39 *ESV*

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

John 5:39 *NLT*

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!”

When studying the Bible it is important to understand the proper tools and methods used. First thing first. **Understand what kind of literature we are reading.** Some styles are prominent in certain types of literature. For example, **history is mostly narrative, wisdom has a lot of poetry,** and the **epistles are basically prose.** However, nearly all books of the Bible contain all styles of literature.

From the first time we begin reading, we notice that the author is using a certain style to present his message. You don't have to be a literary expert to figure this out. It's obvious like everything else in Bible study from examining a passage in its context. Most readers can easily see whether the author is using poetry, parables, narrative, prose, etc. even if he or she doesn't know the correct label for it. Nonetheless, **it's helpful to learn some basic styles of literature, just to be aware of the different ways people write.**

1. **Prose.** This is an ordinary, straightforward explanation in nonfiction literature. It is the logical discourse used widely in places like the New Testament epistles, the lectures of Jesus, and the exhortations of the Mosaic Law. **Prose states things directly with an “A” therefore “B” therefore “C” logical progression.**

2. Narratives. These are stories. They may be biographies, autobiographies, national histories or other historical events. Unlike prose, which present things directly, narratives present the author's point.

3. Poetry. This is figurative literature. **Here the author expresses “experiences, ideas, or emotions in a style more concentrated, imaginative, and powerful than ordinary speech”** (Webster's New World Dictionary, p. 1999). Poetry uses words with a higher intensity than the dictionary definition would allow. For example, Proverbs 27:6 says, ... faithful are the wounds of a friend. If you look up “wounds” in a dictionary, you would probably not discover the author's intended meaning of the word. But when we read it, we get a feel for the intensity of what a faithful friend does. **Two common poetic expressions we should be familiar with are similes and metaphors. A simile is easy to recognize. It's a formal comparison between two things, expressed with the words “as” or “like.”** For example, Isaiah 55:10-11 reads, As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth ... so is My word that goes out from My mouth. **A metaphor is more common and more difficult to recognize. Here the comparison is unexpressed or merely implied.** For example, Jesus metaphorically referred to Himself as the Shepherd of the sheep (John 10:11), the Vine of the branches (John 15:1), and the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

4. Parables. These are short stories about familiar things from which a moral or religious lesson may be drawn. There is only one main point to a parable. There may be secondary ideas, but they will always be connected to the main one. For example, the parable of the 10 virgins is not about marriage, and the parable of the talents is not about money. Both are about being ready for Christ at His Second Coming (Matthew 25:1-23). **Parables make comparisons. When a simile (“as” or “like”) is extended into a story, it is called a parable.**

Parables always announce themselves in some way. When we read something like, “He spoke to them in parables, saying ...” we know that what follows this expression is not a historical event but a story created for the purpose of conveying some moral or religious point. Christ’s kingdom parables in Matthew 13 are a classic example.

5. Allegories. These are stories which have a hidden or symbolic meaning used for teaching some moral or religious principle. Like parables, they are also stories which express comparisons, except they are unannounced. So an allegory is a metaphor which has been extended into a story. In Proverbs 5:15-23, the author makes the statement, Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well (verse 15). Three verses later we learn he is talking about the wife of your youth (verse 18). The metaphorical nature of this poem is clear after we read it, but it sort of sneaks up on us without announcing itself. (See also Isaiah 5:1-7; 2 Samuel 12:1-4; and Ezekiel 23.) 10 11 **Parables and allegories are like paintings, sculptures, and other works of art. They are not a photograph of reality but a picture which expresses and emphasizes the point the author is making.** For example, the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 is hardly a description of reality. It’s unlikely that a groom is planning to marry ten virgins at the same time. The point is to tell us to be ready for the return of Christ. [We must note here that an allegory is a valid description of a certain literature style. But **an allegorical method of interpretation is a very different thing.** Allegorical interpretation is not valid. We will deal with that when we talk about interpretation, but I want to mention it here so you can note there are two different ways to use the word allegory.]

6. Hyperboles. These are a deliberate exaggeration. They’re a type of overstatement made to increase the effect of what is being said. For example, in Psalm 6:6 the Psalmist wrote, all night long I flood my bed with weeping. This is obviously a hyperbolic exaggeration meant to

call our attention to the seriousness of his situation. Jesus said, if your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away (Matthew 5:29). This is a hyperbolic expression about the importance of eliminating things that cause us to sin (see also 1 Corinthians 1:25). [The above material is taken from An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics by Kaiser and Silva, p. 87-95.]

7. Euphemisms. These are a substitution of a more gentle, pleasant, or modest expression for a more disagreeable or harsh reality. In a sense, they're the opposite of a hyperbole. For example, an Old Testament expression for using the toilet was covering his feet (Judges 3:24, 1 Samuel 24:3). In the New Testament, it is common to see the word "death" replaced with the word sleep (John 11:11, 1 Corinthians 15:51). These are euphemisms used to soften an expression.

8. Pegs. These are repeated words to affirm the relationship between two thoughts. Have you notice that the bible is sometimes repetitive? That is because God teaches by repetition! He says the same thing in a number of ways. **To find pegs look for the double occurrence of words in context. You must go over the context word by word to find the recurrences of any words. Once these words are found, the parallel verses and thoughts will appear because they show identical words.** Example of PEGS... Luke 1:2-3, "**From The**" is used twice. 1 Samuel 9:9, "**beforetime called a**". Following the Pegs is what is called a definition of the expression or meaning. After saying "**beforetime called a**" is mention "**Seer**" and "**Prophet**". A seer was known as a 'Prophet' by definition!

9. Idioms. All languages of the world, both modern and ancient have what is called "**idioms,**" and **mannerisms of speech.** People throughout the world express themselves differently. Their custom and manner varied. **Here is an example of an idiom in America. "he is in a pickle" meaning he is in trouble. Idioms are not to be taken literally.** As a student of the Bible, one must understand the culture and

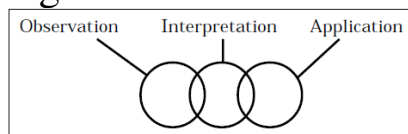
mannerism of the people who wrote it. They were a Hebrew people who spoke Hebrew and Aramaic. In order for us to understand the Bible we must look at it from the lens of a Hebrew culture and understand how the people expressed their language. A student must know their true meaning in order to translate them accurately into another language such as English. Remember all the authors of the Bible spoke Semitic languages in Hebrew and Aramaic, therefore what they say in their own language is well understood by their own people. As an example, a man said to Jesus, "Let me bury my father." The true expression means "**Let me first take care of my father until he dies.**" "Land flowing with milk and honey" Exodus 33:3, idiom "**A fertile land; wisdom and spiritual understanding.**" "God will send Hornets" Deuteronomy 7:20, "**God will send raiders and commandos.**" "To be met with bread and water" Deuteronomy 23:4, "**Friendly and sincere welcome.**"

The Two Basic Bible Study Methods: Synthesis and Analysis

Synthesis—Looking for the big idea, View, or Theme of a Book. **Bible study is both analysis and synthesis.** **Analysis** deal with specific details. It has to do with taking a text apart and looking for every detail. **Synthesis is telescopic. It's about putting it all together and looking at the big picture.** This is a continuous cycle. Bible study naturally begins with synthesis. As we read, we begin to get the big picture or theme of the author. We learn what is bothering him, or exciting him, or why he decided to write in the first place. [I shall here use "he" and "him" instead of "he or she" and "him or her" just for the sake of convenience, since most biblical authors were men.] When we determine the author's theme, that theme then helps us define the words he is using. As we begin to understand the author, his words increasingly become terms of significance, taking on a particular emphasis. Each word has been gathered together in sentences, paragraphs, and then longer sections, and chapters with main divisions. He may also go on

sidetracks or have parentheses to his main idea. But those, too, will become evident as we go, if we keep reading the book.

Analysis— The Microscopic View. **The Need to Observe, Interpret, and Apply.** These three steps are not just some method of Bible study some scholar thought up. This is the way we understand everything in life. We observe it and interpret it before we can apply it. Also, these three must occur in that order. We must observe before we can interpret, and we must interpret before we can apply. This process is linked together.



Observing (observation) is like a detective looking for clues.

surveying all the details at one time and coming to a conclusion.

Observation is noticing what has been written by the author.

Specifically, we are answering the question, What did the author say?

Interpretation - Interpretation Is Understanding. It's not possible to

interpret the Word of God if we don't **observe** it. It's impossible to

apply the Word of God if we don't understand it **Matthew 13:23**. This

step of Bible study is a very important connection between observing

and applying. **Observation** is **noticing** what it says. **Interpretation** is

understanding what it meant. **Application** is **using** what it means.

It's great to want to do what God says, but understanding must precede

doing or we won't understand what we are doing. As the psalmist wrote,

"Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with

all my heart" **Psalm 119:34**.

Interpretation all comes down to this one basic principle—

Interpretation is understanding the author's intended meaning

through the context.

Interpretation Is Both an Art and a Science

Interpretation is a science in that it supplies us with basic principles

which are true for all literature. **The only thing unique about**

interpreting the Bible is that it has two authors—the human author

and God. But since the divine authorship is revealed through human

authors, the principles of interpretation are unchanged. Interpretation is

also an art. Just because we know the basic principles of interpretation does not mean we are accomplished at using them. Accurate use takes practice, an increasing understanding of each human author, and ultimately an understanding of God.

I have several “**WHAT**” questions you should ask to help you learn the bible. Take a look below.

Question #1

What is this book about generally? What type of literature is this? What are some of the styles of writing used in this book? In general, what’s going on here? For example, if we read the book of Genesis, we would conclude this is a history book. It contains some poetry, predictions, similes, and metaphors, but basically, it’s a book of narrative. If we read 1 Corinthians, we would see many figures of speech, hyperboles, and metaphors, but basically it’s prose, it’s an epistle, a letter of instruction from the Apostle Paul.

Question #2

What is emphasized? In this reading, we primarily want to list what is repeated, related, or unrelated. For example, in Deuteronomy, Moses continually repeats the words “remember” or “don’t forget.” The book of Hebrews repeatedly says “Jesus was better than” the angels, Moses, the Levitical priesthood, etc.

Question #3

What is motivating the author to write? What is the author excited about or bothered by? What’s the burr under his saddle? Why did he bother to take pen in hand and write? For example, the book of Nehemiah begins with a report which comes to Nehemiah about Jerusalem. We read, And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with

fire.” Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven (Nehemiah 1:3-4). Here Nehemiah gave us his motivation which drove his every word and every act throughout the book.

Question #4

What basic solution or direction does the author give? What does he say, suggest, or command for his reader(s) to do because of what is motivating or bothering him? For example, in 1 Corinthians 5, Paul listed one of the many immoralities of the church of Corinth. This was about adultery. Then he said, Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened (1 Corinthians 5:6-7a). So Paul not only stated the problem, he also said what he expected them to do about it. In this reading, we want to make a general statement of what the author wants done.

Question #5

What specific commands or principles does the author give? How does the author believe his general solution or direction should be carried out? Are there any lists of principles, rules, or commands to keep? For example, God gave the Law to Israel through Moses to set 14 them apart from the nations around them (that would be Reading #4). But He gave this Law not just in general terms but in 613 specific commands. Jesus taught His disciples to love your enemies (Luke 6:27), but He followed that with a specific list of (at least) 12 commands which describe it. Namely, (1) do good to those who hate you, (2) bless those who curse you, (3) pray for those who mistreat you, etc. (Luke 6:27-38). This reading looks for commands or principles.

Question #6

What is the key verse or the key passage? As you read a book, look for a key verse and place a * mark by it. In a Psalm or a small book, it

may only occur once. In larger books, it may be repeated. For example, in Deuteronomy, Moses repeated the idea of “remember” or “don’t forget” what God has done in the past and what He has said in the Law.

Question #7

What are the paragraph divisions of the book? A paragraph is the most basic unit of thought. With sentences, we put our words together into a logical statement. These sentences have a subject (the thing we are talking about), a verb (the action we want to communicate), and an object for that action. But these statements are only rarely sufficient to get across our point. We usually need several sentences which explain, illustrate, and clarify our idea before we feel we have actually made our case. If someone begins to interrupt us after a few sentences, we will often say something like, “Wait! Let me finish!” What we want to finish (if it were written) is our paragraph. Paragraphs were not set off in any physical way in the original text. So paragraphs must be determined by reading the author’s content. During this reading, we want to begin to make a chart which labels each paragraph. Study Bibles can be helpful here. Remember, however, the Bible is inspired but not the divisions of a Study Bible.

Question #8

What are the major sections of the book? The current divisions of our Bibles—like many classic pieces of literature—are divided into chapters and verses. During this reading, we want to review our paragraph divisions and group them into major sections.

Question #9

What is the one major division or pivot point of the book? Generally speaking, there will be one (and, in a few rare instances, more than one) major division in a book. For example, in most of Paul’s epistles he first presents a theological argument. Then he suddenly changes to an appeal for application. In chapters 1 through 3 of Ephesians, Paul makes a

theological case for our calling, and through it, our salvation and position in Christ. Then in 4:1 he says, Therefore ... walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. The remainder of the epistle is about living consistent with our calling. Usually, the main division is near the middle of the book, but not always. In Romans, it's between chapters 11 and 12. After 11 chapters of theology, in 12:1 Paul said, Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice. Chapters 12 through 16 are an application of the first 11 chapters. Romans 12:1 (like Ephesians 4:1) is a pivot point which launches the rest of the book.

Question #10

What is the theme of the book? During this reading, we will look for the author's big idea. We will ask the question, "What is his main point and can we state that in a concise way?" The assumption is that the author had something to say. He may have had several things to say, and he may go in another direction for a while (that is, he may include some parenthesis to his main point). Nevertheless, there is some main reason why he wrote this. We want to read it to see if we can zero in on that theme.

Physical tools to have on hand, or by your side when studying are: **A bible dictionary, A Hebrew and Greek Lexicon**, which is used to look up English words in the Hebrew and Greek to get its full meaning. A word written in Hebrew or Greek can have a very different meaning from English.

Conclusion:

- I recommend begin with Scriptures that are easy to understand.
- Let the Bible interpret and prove itself. Don't try to look for what you want it to say or prove. Look for what it is honestly saying.

- Understand the context – the verses before and after, the chapters before and after.
- As often as possible try to look up a word in Hebrew or Greek.
- Ask: What does the Scripture say as well as its meaning (proper context)?
- Ask: What does the Scripture not say?
- Ask: Who was the book written to?
- Ask: Who wrote it?
- Ask: Who said it?
- Understand the historical time frame in which the book was written.
- Base your study on the scriptural knowledge you already have. What do you know up to this point in time?
- Do not allow personal assumptions or preconceived ideas to influence your understanding and conclusions.
- Do not form conclusions based on partial facts, insufficient information, or the opinions and speculations of others. (Example of the most common statement from people regarding this are “*I feel*” or “*I think*”). Know the real facts and evidence!
- Opinions are like noses, everyone has one. Regardless of how strongly you feel about your opinion, they don’t count. Only God’s word alone must be your guide.

How To Mark Your Bible

Recommended marking highlighters and pens: Use Zebrite Highlighters. They have a special ink that will not bleed through. You can find them at any bible book store, or order online. Writing pens to take notes in your bible, I recommend using Zebra -301 Ultra ball point pen – fine point. This ink will not bleed through or smear. Me personally, I use “Sakura” color pens, Pigma Micron 01, that is waterproof and fade proof. The pen is a very thin fine line which is

excellent for writing in your bible. I hope this information has been very helpful! Halleluyah! (Praise YAH)