

Right Division Part 1

#1 What You Need To Know About Bible Study

Before you can begin to study the Bible, there are some things you need to know about the Bible. The Bible is different than any other book. That should be no surprise because it was written by the Creator of the Universe!

First, the word of God is alive. The word “quick” means “living.” It is the only book that will read you. The writer of Hebrews says that the word of God discerns (knows) your thoughts and intentions.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Second, in our natural state, we cannot understand God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

God must reveal Himself to us by His Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

God's Spirit connects with our spirit when we are believers—children of God.

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

You must also know that the Bible was written by the Holy Ghost. Peter explains how.

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **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.**

There are many churches that profess to believe the Bible, but say there are errors or contradictions in it because it was written by men. Men did write down the scriptures--as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. There is no chance the Holy Ghost made mistakes in His dictation!

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the**

word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

The Bible is where we get our faith. We hear the word of God and we believe it. That is faith. When you have faith, you receive the word of God as the word of God, not the word of men. The word of God works in the hearts of believers.

Romans 10:17

So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

You cannot please God if you do not have faith. You must believe Him. God rewards those believers who take the time to study and understand His words.

Hebrews 11:6

But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Another thing you must believe is that the Bible is complete. There is no new information to be added. Paul was given the responsibility of completing it.

Colossians 1:25-27

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: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Jesus told His followers that man should live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. By that, we know that we have every word.

Matthew 4:4

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.

Not only do we have God's word that the Bible is complete, we have His assurance that He will preserve His word for us forever.

Psalms 12:6-7

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

This Bible study shows you that all of the "contradictions" and "errors" are cleared up by studying the Bible dispensationally, rightly divided.

#2 Right Division 101

The only place in the Bible where we are told to study the Bible by rightly dividing the word of truth (God's word, the Bible) is in the second letter written to Timothy (who was a pastor) by the apostle Paul.

2 Timothy 2:15

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

We know Paul is talking about rightly dividing the Bible because the Bible, God's word, is the word of truth.

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

To rightly divide the Bible, we need to separate the information God gave, or dispensed, to people of the past, from what He has given for people in the future, from what He has given to us for today. The word "dispensation" appears 4 times, only in the King James Bible, and only in Paul's letters.

This Bible study will focus on how to rightly divide God's word (the word of truth) so everything in the Bible makes sense. We are going to divide the things that God wrote to us, from the things He wrote to people of the past and the future. (Yes, God has already written to people of the future because He knows the future. For Him, it has already happened.)

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; **I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done**, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

#3 The First Dispensation/Division

Before you can explain something, you must understand it yourself. How do we know that God told people in the past, and is telling people in the future, different things than He is telling us today?

We know that God does not change.

Malachi 3:6

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

But God's instructions to man do change.

The first dispensation by God to the first man, Adam, was not written down. Adam got his

information directly from God. God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. Adam would have dominion over the animals, fish, and birds. Man and animal would eat a vegetarian diet, every herb-bearing seed and fruit of a tree yielding seed. The word “meat” in the King James Bible is synonymous with “food.”

Genesis 1:27-30

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and **God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.** And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Of course, you know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. Because of their disobedience, God dispensed some additional information to them in the form of a curse.

The instructions for living in the Garden of Eden were specific to Adam and Eve but the consequences of disobedience, the curse that God put on the serpent, Eve, Adam, and the entire earth, has affected man to this day. Women continue to give birth in pain, and anyone who has ever tried farming, gardening or landscaping has no doubt that the ground is cursed with thorns and thistles. It is hard work.

Genesis 3:14-19

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;** it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. **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. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

#4 The Second Dispensation/Division

The next dispensation from God was given to Noah. In Genesis chapter 6, we are told that God has repented (changed His mind) that he ever made man! He has decided He is going to give the people on earth 120 years to turn from their evil ways and if they don't, He will destroy every living thing on earth. Of course He knew the

earth would get to this point, even before He created Adam, but it grieved Him anyway.

Genesis 6:4,6

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet **his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.**

⁶**And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.**

God told Noah what was going to happen and why. God also gave him very specific instructions on how to build the Ark. Again, the Bible is very specific about who God was talking to. Noah obeyed

Genesis 6:8,13-16

⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

¹³**And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt**

make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

²²Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

When Noah and his family got off the Ark after the flood, their instructions to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth were the same as God gave to Adam. The Bible says that God blessed Noah and his sons.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Then we read something that is different from what God told Adam. The animals, birds, and fish will fear and dread man now because every moving thing that lives is now food for man. The green herb is still on the menu, too.

Genesis 9:2-3

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

This is called a dispensational change. When you understand right division, you understand that this is not a contradiction as many people try to point out. The Bible always tells us to whom the passage was written. We may have to look over a few verses, or even chapters to find it, but it will be there. God changes what He tells man to do based on events.

The animals, too, ate only plants until the flood. After the flood, they began to eat each other. The animals and we are still under this dispensation--they fear and dread us and we can eat them for food. This will all change one day and man and animal will return to eating only plants.

Then God makes a covenant with all flesh and perpetual generations. Applying right division to the passage below, you see that God is talking to Noah and his sons, but it still applies to us today. God even supplies a reminder, a rainbow, to that we, too, can be assured of His promise.

Genesis 9:8-11

And **God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him**, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and **with your seed after you**; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And **I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.** And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

Rightly dividing God's word keeps us from getting confused about what God wants from us.

Everyone understands a little about right division of God's word and the dispensations God gives to man. If you don't, you may think that because Noah was told to build an Ark, you would have to build an ark to "find grace in the eyes of the Lord" (as Noah did.)

In the precious passage, God specifically says that He will never again destroy the earth with a flood, so there would be no point to any of us building an ark.

Do you see how important it is to understand what God dispenses and to whom He dispenses it?

#5 The Third Dispensation/Division

The third dispensation from God was given to Abram. Abram was given a great blessing. God promised to make him a great nation. He would give Abram a land, He would bless Abram, and all families on earth would be blessed because of Abram.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Until God's dispensation to Abram, there were no Jews. This is the beginning of the nation of Israel. God stopped dispensing information to the rest of the people on earth and began focusing on Abram and his descendants. (In the verse below, Simeon is Simon Peter.)

Acts 15:14

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for his name.**

God dispenses more information to Abram. Abram's seed would be as numerous as the dust

of the earth. His land would reach as far as Abram could see.

Genesis 13:14-17

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: **For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.**

Abram and his male descendants would be required to be circumcised when they were 8 days old as their part of the covenant with God. If a male was not circumcised, he would be cut off from the rest of the nation because he had broken his part of the covenant. God also changed Abram's name to Abraham.

Genesis 17:1-5

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and

be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, **my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.**

Genesis 17:10-12

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

God now started dispensing information only to the children of Israel—the descendants of Abraham through his son Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob.

#6 The Forth Dispensation

The fourth dispensation from God was more about the kingdom promised to Abraham. This dispensation was given to Moses after he had led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt after 430 years. In the wilderness, Moses was told that if the children of Israel obeyed God's voice and kept God's covenant, they would be a peculiar treasure above all people, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Exodus 19:3-8

And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, **Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;** Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. **And Moses came and called for the**

elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Later on, in Deuteronomy, we find that God is very specific about what He will do for them if they hearken to his voice and do all His commandments. (Just a few verses are given here to give you an idea of how very good God will be to them if they obey.)

Deuteronomy 26:15-19

Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and **bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers,** a land that floweth with milk and honey. This day the LORD thy **God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.** Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his

judgments, and to hearken unto his voice: And **the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people**, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and **that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.**

How do we know that it was the Jews who were God's people? If you rightly divide the passage below, the information can only apply to the Jews who were led out of Egypt by Moses and into the land promised by God. In verse 15, it says, "bless thy people Israel and the land which thou hast given us"... It cannot apply to anyone on earth today. It continues, "and the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people as he hath promised thee and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments.

Deuteronomy 28:1,8-9

And it shall come to pass, **if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God**

will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ⁸The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

Then God gets very specific about what He is going to do to them if they do not hearken to His voice and observe all His commandments. (Again, just a few verses will give you an idea of how terrible things will be for them if they do not obey God.)

Deuteronomy 28:15, 20-22

But it shall come to pass, **if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day;** that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

²⁰The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

There are strict dietary protocols as part of God's covenant with the children of Israel. They are much different than the simple laws that had been given to Adam and Eve, and the ones given to Noah and his sons.

Again, the changes in what God has told Moses and the children of Israel do not contradict what God told Adam and Eve or what God told Noah and his sons—for the very reason that God is talking to different people in a different time

under different circumstances. It is a different dispensation.

Now there are clean and unclean animals and God describes how they can tell the difference. The children of Israel are to eat only clean animals. God told Moses and Aaron to tell this to the children of Israel.

Leviticus 11:1-4

And the **LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron**, saying unto them, speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are **the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.** Nevertheless these shall **ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof;** he is unclean unto you.

All of the 613 laws given to Moses for the children of Israel are considered one Law. That includes the 10 Commandments. James explains

why. If any part of the Law is not kept, a person was considered guilty of the entire Law.

James 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

The Bible even tells us why God does what He does. We find out from Paul, in the verse below, that God added the Law to make man aware of just how sinful man was, and how much he needed a savior (the seed that was first promised to Eve, Jesus Christ.)

The Law was added until the seed (Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman) should come. Paul also tells us that to emphasize the Law's importance, it was given to Moses (a mediator) by angels!

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

#7 The Davidic Covenant

God gave Abraham circumcision as a national identity. God dispensed information to Moses about the Law that the people were to live by. Finally, in another dispensation from God, David, king of Israel, was told that the kingdom of Israel would be ruled by David's house. David's kingdom and his throne would be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:8-17

Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, And as since the time that I commanded judges to be

over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, **I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.** I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. **And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.** According to all these words, and according to all this vision, **so did Nathan speak unto David.**

Today, we know that God was telling David about His son, Jesus Christ, who would be on David's throne, ruling the kingdom forever. Jesus would be of David's seed and from his line so He would really be David's son, too.