

FRESH NEW PLANS

**GRASPING
GOD'S WORD**

STUDY BY TOPICS

STUDY BY BOOKS

Warren Myers

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REFRESHING NEW BIBLE STUDIES

Just think! Ways to study the Bible that are rich and refreshing for those who have studied it for years. Yet simple enough for new Christians with no previous knowledge of God's Word.

Plans that need few printed materials—or none. A way to study key topics in bite-sized portions, then a simple plan for studying a book.

Inexpensive. Easy to pass on. No ordering or waiting. Great tools for your own spiritual growth and for discipling others.

Ideal for closed or developing countries—no need to smuggle in materials; little to translate; easy to hand copy if necessary.

These simple tools put the riches of God's Word at your fingertips.

Become Mature and Effective for Christ

God longs to see people saved, and He longs to see saved people become mature and effective. To fulfill His longings, we must be strong in His Word. We must know it well, live it, and use it in helping others.

God uses His Word to make us overcomers who live mature and godly lives:

You are strong, and the Word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one (1 John 2:14).

Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:14).

To be mature in any skill—football, computers, music—takes time and practice. It means learning the principles and putting them to work.

In God's Word you will find the exciting principles of Christian living and serving. This booklet will help you discover them.

Study God's Word by Topics and Books

Dawson Trotman often said, "Thoughts untangle themselves passing over the lips and out through the pencil tips."

Bible study means more than just careful reading and thinking. It also means writing. Writing down your discoveries and thoughts helps you think more clearly; and it helps you review and remember what you learned.

This booklet shows you how to study vital biblical topics using the Three-Point Bible Study. As you study the carefully selected passages you will get a new grasp of wonderful truths about God and Christ and life—truths basic for growing in Christ and for discipling others. These studies will take about 30 minutes each.

These topics lay the foundation for another rich and exciting way to get a grasp of God's Word—the Brief Book Study with its three plans. These will help you dig into God's Word as it is written—by books, rather than just a bite here and a bite there. You'll be able to complete a 6-chapter book in about three hours.

Our loving God totally approves of you as His child, just as you are. But He longs for you to become more than you are. He wants you to be mature and skillful in the way you understand and use His Word. And He wants you to know and enjoy Him more and more. That's why Paul wrote:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord (Philippians 3:8).

HOW TO DO THE THREE POINT BIBLE STUDY

Helping a person begin this study is simple.

If you and I could sit down together, I would write down the three questions for you, or dictate them, then explain them.

- 1. What are some main truths in this passage? (Some main points, facts, statements?)*
- 2. What are some insights and lessons in this passage? (Some fresh understandings, some words or statements that you can explain or expand to make them more clear?)*
- 3. What is most helpful to me in this passage? (What is one way I can apply this passage personally?)*

Then I would probably turn to John 3:16 and use it as an example. We would pray briefly, and read the verse together. Then I would ask you to tell me what you think are some main truths of the verse (some main points, some main facts). You might answer, "Well, God loves the world. Because of this He sent His Son to the earth. Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't believe will perish."

"Good. Those are some of the main truths in the verse."

"Now let's discuss any lessons or insights, any fresh understanding that you got from going over the verse. Is there any word in the verse that you could explain to make it more clear?"

I have had some people answer, "Well, God loves everyone on earth, and wants them all to have eternal life. He loves them so much that He sent Christ to earth to die for people's sins." "Good. You've explained how God showed His love." "Is there any thing else?" "What do you think eternal life is?" A fairly mature Christian might say, "Eternal life? That means having your sins forgiven and having new, spiritual life now and forever."

These are good answers. They add insights and explain words in the verse to make its meaning clear.

Sometimes I ask the person to explain what the verse means by the word "God." Or what "perish" means, or who "God's Son" is. Not everyone is clear about these things. So I like to ask questions to help the person think a bit harder about what God is saying.

When it seems that we have talked enough about Question 2, we go on to Question 3, "What was most helpful to you in thinking and talking about this verse?" Sometimes the person's answer is quite meaningful, even though it's a familiar verse and the time to think about it was short.

After studying this verse together, I would show you the passage that I had chosen for our personal study. Sometimes Acts 17:24-27; sometimes (for a mature Christian) Hebrews 12:1-2. I would check to see if you understood the three questions and the differences between them. "Do you think you're ready to write out answers to these questions on your own for this longer passage?" If so, good. But even then, we might sit and do the longer passage together right then. You would write out your, answers, and I would do the same—even if I had done the passage before, perhaps many times. This could take 20 to 30 minutes. I never show a beginner the whole list of passages—or the sample study

on John 1:9-13 — just the three questions. Then I give him the reference of the first passage we're going to study and discuss. I don't want to overwhelm him or her at the beginning with a long list of verses. If possible, we make plans to meet again and discuss what each of us has learned. After we have done quite a number of passages (perhaps those listed on page 6) I may give the person the Complete List of Passages (pages 7-9). From them we can discuss together what passages to do next.

If I'm getting a person started by mail, I give him or her just a few passages at a time to do. Sometimes I have people mail me their studies, so I can see how they are doing and encourage them on their progress.

Why all this caution? To help people actually use the study. It's so easy for me personally to be impressed with some new idea, then file it away for the future. I've done this for years. But if I actually begin to use something new, I understand it better and am more likely to continue. I've gotten over the struggle of starting something unfamiliar. It's easier for me to continue doing what I've already done than to get started on something I've merely been told about. The goal is not to get this Three-Point Study into a lot of people's desk drawers or file folders. The goal is to help both understand and use the study —so they can grow and then help others.

Even with mature believers, I like to introduce the study by giving just the three questions, and then actually doing the first study together with them. They then find it easier to help others in the same way. It's a true idiom, "Monkey see, monkey do." We copy what we've seen done, not just what we have heard about.

In a number of countries, this Three-Point Study has proved to be a great discipling tool to use with young, growing Christians.

The next page summarizes how to do this Three-Point Study. Page 6 lists the passages to begin with.

Three-Point Bible Study

1. **What are *some main truths* in this passage?** (Some main points, facts, statements?)
2. **What are *some insights and lessons* in this passage?** (Some fresh understandings, some words or statements that you can explain or expand to make them more clear?)
3. **What is *most helpful to me* in this passage?** (What is one way I can apply this passage personally?)

*Happy are those who...
love the Lord's teachings,
and they think about those teachings
day and night.
They are strong, like a tree planted by a
river.
The tree produces fruit in season,
and its leaves don't die.
Everything they do will succeed.
(Psalm 1:1-3, New Century Version).*

If you study two, or even three, passages each week, you will make good progress in better knowing the Lord and His will for you.

Try to *find two or three others* who would also like to study the Bible in this way. After you have each completed your three-point studies *meet for discussion of your studies and for prayer*. Such sharing together provides fresh understanding and blessing.

For those working in restricted countries or languages other than English you can translate just the three questions. That's enough. It isn't necessary to translate the description of each passage in the *Initial List of Passages*, page 6. Ideally, give those you are helping only one or two passages at a time to study. This can go on for months. When it becomes necessary, let them copy the references of the *Initial List of Passages*. Following the *Initial List* is a *Complete List of Passages*, (pages 7-9), which includes additional rich passages.

***Initial List of Passages
for the Three-Point Bible Study***

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Acts 17:24-27 | God made and controls all |
| 2. Luke 7:11-17 | Jesus raises widow's son |
| 3. Luke 8:22-25 | Jesus calms the storm |
| 4. Romans 5:6-9 | Christ died for our sins and to save from wrath |
| 5. 1 Cor. 15:3-8 | Jesus rose and appeared. |
| 6. John 3:16-21 | Eternal life or loving darkness |
| 7. John 5:21-24, 28-29 | Honor Christ, believe, and be sure |
| 8. Heb. 1:1-3 | Christ, the Creator, cleanses from sin |
| 9. Eph. 2:1-5, 8-10 | Saved by grace and faith |
| 10. 1 John 5:9-13 | Great assurance |
| 11. 2 Pet. 1:2-4 | Know Christ and the Word |
| 12. Col. 2:6-7 | Be built up in the faith |
| 13. Phil. 4:6-7 | Prayer and peace |
| 14. Rom. 12:1-2 | Surrender, and resist conforming |
| 15. Heb. 12:1-2 | Run hard, and focus on Jesus |
| 16. Rom. 8:35-39 | No separation, and overwhelming victors |
| 17. Matt. 22:36-40 | Christ's two great commandments |
| 18. Eph. 3:16-19 | The Spirit's strength to know Christ's love |
| 19. Acts 4:12-13 | No other name for salvation, bold witnessing |
| 20. 2 Cor. 5:18-20 | We're ambassadors to proclaim peace with God |
| 21. Matt. 28:18-20 | Make and teach disciples |
| 22. Col. 1:28-29 | Admonish and teach everyone |
| 23. John 14:21, 23-24 | Obedience proves love |
| 24. Heb. 10:24-25 | Motivate and encourage others |
| 25. 2 Cor. 9:6-8 | Generosity pays |
| 26. Gal. 5:16-17 | Live by the Spirit, not the flesh |
| 27. Gal. 5:22-26 | The Spirit's fruit |
| 28. 1 John 2:15-17 | Don't love the world |
| 29. 1 Pet. 2:9-12 | Avoid lusts, and show Christ |
| 30. Phil. 3:7-14 | Count everything loss to know Christ better |
| 31. Psalm 1:1-3 | Avoid sin, and meditate on God's Word |
| 32. Col. 1:9-11 | Pray for discernment and righteousness |
| 33. James 1:2-5 | Be joyful in trials |
| 34. 1 Pet. 4:12-16 | Rejoice in sufferings |
| 35. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 | Christ is coming again |
| 36. Psalm 23 | The Good Shepherd's sufficiency |

Now select passages from the *Complete List*, pages 7-9, and continue your *Three-Point* studies. Or begin the *Brief Book Study*, pages 11-14.

**Complete List of Passages
for the Three-Point Bible Study**
Old Testament verses are in ()

A. Know Jesus Christ

1. God is Great and Loving

Acts 17:24-27
Revelation 15:3-4
Romans 11:33-36
(Jeremiah 10:6-12)
(Psalm 23)

2. Jesus Christ is God

Luke 7:11-17 – Raises widow's son
Luke 8:22-25 – Calms wind and sea
Mark 1:21-28 – Expels demons
John 5:20-26 – Powerful claims

3. Jesus' Birth and Humanity

Luke 1:26-38
Luke 2:1-7
Luke 2:8-20
Luke 2:21-40
Matthew 2:1-12

4. Christ Died

Romans 5:6-9
Matthew 27:1-26
Matthew 27:27-44
Matthew 27:45-66

5. Christ Rose

1 Corinthians 15:3-8
Matthew 28:1-15
John 20:19-31
Acts 2:22-24

6. We are Saved and Assured by Faith

John 3:16-17
John 10:27-30
1 John 5:9-13
Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10
Titus 3:4-8

B. Grow in Jesus Christ

7. Grow in God's Word

(Psalm 119:9-11)
2 Peter 1:2-4
2 Peter 3:17-18
Colossians 2:6-7
Luke 8:11-15

8. Grow in Prayer

Philippians 4:4-7
Philippians 1:9-11
1 John 1:9-10
Matthew 26:41
Luke 11:5-10

9. Keep Christ As Your Lord, and Live Victoriously

Romans 12:1-2
Luke 9:23-25
Romans 8:12-17
Hebrews 12:1-2
Romans 8:35-39

10. Depend on God's Spirit

John 7:37-39
John 14:15-18, 25-26
Ephesians 3:16-19
John 16:7-11
Acts 1:8

11. Tell People About Christ

Acts 4:12-13
2 Corinthians 5:18-20
1 Peter 3:15-18
2 Timothy 4:1-5

12. Live Obediently

Matthew 7:24-27
John 14:21, 23-24
1 John 2:1-6
James 1:22-25
Ephesians 4:1-3

13. Fellowship with Others

1 John 1:3-7
Acts 2:42
Hebrews 10:23-25
Romans 15:5-7

14. Grow in Christlikeness

Matthew 22:36-40
Colossians 3:12-17
Titus 2:11-14
Philippians 2:3-4

15. Be Generous

Matthew 6:19-21, 24
2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 11
Luke 6:38
(Proverbs 11:24-25)

C. Be Effective for Christ

16. Let God's Spirit Control You

1 Corinthians 2:12-14
Ephesians 5:17-18
Galatians 5:16-17
Galatians 5:22-26

17. Flee From Sin

1 John 2:15-17
2 Timothy 3:1-4
Romans 1:21-27
Romans 1:28-32

18. Be An Example

1 Peter 2:9-12
1 Peter 2:13-17
1 Timothy 4:12
John 13:34-35
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

19. See the World and Win Converts

Matthew 28:18-20
Luke 24:45-48
Revelation 7:9-10
2 Corinthians 5:18-20
Matthew 9:36-38

20. Help Young Christians Grow

1 Thessalonians 2:9-12
Colossians 1:28-29
Acts 14:21-22
Ephesians 4:11-15

D. Keep Christ Central in Your Life

21. Focus on Jesus

Philippians 2:5-11
Colossians 1:13-17
Colossians 1:18-20
Hebrews 1:1-3
Philippians 3:7-10

22. Be Strong in the Word

2 Timothy 2:15
2 Timothy 3:14-17
James 1:22-25
(Psalm 1:1-3)
(Psalm 19:7-11)

23. Be Strong in Prayer

Mark 1:35
Colossians 4:2, 12
Colossians 1:9-12
1 Timothy 2:1-4
1 John 5:14-15

24. Focus on God

(Jeremiah 9:23-24)
(Lamentations 3:22-25)
(Daniel 4:34-35)
(Isaiah 40:26-31)
(Psalm 145:17-21)

25. Expect Trials and Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-16
James 1:2-4
Hebrews 10:32-35
Hebrews 12:7-11
1 Peter 2:20-23

26. Defeat the Devil

1 Peter 5:8-9
Revelation 12:9-11
John 8:43-44
Ephesians 6:10-13
Ephesians 6:14-18

E. Pursue Godliness

- 27. Be Loving**
Mark 12:28-31
Ephesians 5:1-2
- 28. Be Humble**
Luke 14:7-11
1 Peter 5:5-7
- 29. Live By Faith**
Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 32-34
Romans 4:18-21
- 30. Do Good**
Matthew 5:14-16
Galatians 6:9-10
- 31. Serve Others**
Mark 10:42-45
1 Peter 4:9-11
- 32. Be Pure**
2 Timothy 2:22-23
Ephesians 4:17-24
1 Thess 4:3-8
- 33. Be Honest**
Ephesians 4:25-28
2 Corinthians 8:20-21
- 34. Be Diligent and Disciplined**
Colossians 3:23-24
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- 35. Guard Your Tongue**
Ephesians 4:29-32
James 3:2, 6-10
- 36. Guard Your Thoughts**
Colossians 3:1-2
Philippians 4:8

F. Trust God's Great Purposes

- 37. Expect Christ's Return**
Acts 1:9-11
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
John 14:1-3
Titus 2:11-14
- 38. God Judges and Punishes**
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
Luke 16:19-26
Romans 2:5-9
Hebrews 9:27,28
Revelation 20:11-15
Revelation 21:6-8
- 39. Expect Rewards**
Hebrews 11:24-26
Matthew 5:10-12
1 Corinthians 3:10-15
2 Timothy 4:7-8
Revelation 22:11-12

Sample Three-Point Study—John 1:9-13

Some Main Truths

1. The true light to every person in the world (verse 9).
2. He created the world and its people (verse 10).
3. The people He had made did not recognize Him (verse 10).
4. Everyone who received Him became a child of God (verse 12).
5. We receive Him when we put our trust in Him (verse 12).
6. Those who trust and receive Him are born of God (verse 13).
7. This birth is a spiritual birth, not a natural birth (verse 13).

Some Insights and Lessons

1. The person being spoken of in these verses is Jesus Christ (see verses 14-18). He is called "the Word" in verse 1.
2. He gives light to each person in the world, but only those who receive Him become God's children (verses 9,12).
3. Most people do not realize who Jesus Christ is. This is a little surprising, for He is the One who made them, and who wants to be known by them. Yet this ignorance is by choice, partly because people love the darkness of sin (verse 10, and John 3:19).
4. "Believing" and "receiving" Jesus Christ are the same things. We become a child of God with eternal life when we fully trust Jesus Christ as Savior and receive Him into our hearts (verse 12).
5. Verse 13 says that our spiritual birth doesn't depend on our *trying* to be child of God. We also cannot receive it through our parents. No human being can make us God's child. Only God can do it. He does it when we trust and receive His Son Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Most Helpful Truth

This passage gives me assurance that I am a child of God. He says that He made me his child when I personally trusted and received Jesus Christ. My assurance depends on what God says. And God never lies.

HOW TO DO THE BRIEF BOOK STUDY

I find this Brief Book Study a fresh way to study books or selected chapters of God's Word. In recent months, I have studied Luke, John, Romans, 1 Corinthians and three shorter books; and I've been refreshed and newly motivated to keep digging into the Word. This method is a fast way to get a broad picture of a book, without spending as much time as longer methods of chapter analysis require. The longer methods are good; they give more depth. But they also take more time. As you do brief book studies, you can make a note of the chapters or sections of a book you want to study later by deeper methods.

There's another exciting thing about this brief method of studying books. It will help you get a grasp on parts of God's Word that you may never get to with in-depth studies. Imagine studying the whole Gospel of John in 16 hours or less (I've done it). Or all 50 chapters of Genesis in 38 hours (I haven't done it yet). If you followed only Plans I and II, you could do John in less than 9 hours, and Genesis in about 21 hours. Isaiah would probably be tougher. But here is a way to make real strides in grasping the message of many rich books of the Bible, in getting a clearer picture of what they're all about. They are just waiting for you to understand them better and to end up with some notes you can use later—for your own review or for explaining a book to others.

For people who are newer to written Bible Study, and for those who want to deepen their knowledge of important doctrines, the Three-Point Bible Study is the place to start. After you or you and the person you're helping, have done a number of the Three-Point passages, you may want to get into this brief and rewarding way to study a book.

Begin with the fresh little book of Philippians, "Live Godly and Christlike." Then study 1 Thessalonians, "Live Godly and Expectantly," before you dig into Luke's great "Life, Miracles and Teachings of Jesus Christ."

You can study Philippians in about three hours, and 1 Thessalonians in less than four hours. You can complete all of Luke-24 chapters—in 6, 10 or 18 hours, depending on which of the following plans you choose.

Brief Book Study—Three Plans

With some books you may want to do all three plans. With other books you may decide to do only Plan I, or Plans I and H.

PLAN I will average about 20 minutes per chapter (about two hours for a six-chapter book).

1. Pray for understanding and blessing as you study this book.
2. As you read the book, mark or underline in your Bible the truths or verses that are especially important Christian truths — what God wants us to know and how He wants us to live. (Whether or not they challenge or help you personally). Some people like to underline these truths, some like to put a line at the side of them, others prefer to check () them.
3. As you read, also mark in your Bible the truths or verses that seem helpful to you personally—that most challenge you, or that give you fresh insights. Mark them in the margin with a "C" (Challenge) or an "I" (Insight); or just a "P" (Personal). Some of these statements may also be ones you mark as especially important in point 2.
4. Review the "important" verses you marked in the book (number 2 above), and record in your notebook the truth or verse that seems the most outstanding.
5. Review all the things you marked in number 3 above and select the truth or verse that meant the most to you personally. Record this in your notebook and pray about it for a few days.

Note: On longer books, it is helpful to do numbers 1-5 about every five or six chapters, rather than to wait until you complete the whole book.

PLAN II will average another 10 minutes or less per chapter (that is, 60 minutes for a six-chapter book, less than 10 minutes per chapter for longer books).

6. Find and record in your Bible one cross reference for each of the special truths or verses you selected in numbers 4 and 5 above. (A cross-reference is a verse from somewhere else in the Bible that adds to your understanding of some word or statement in the chapters you are studying).
7. Think again about the important truth you recorded in number 4. In your notebook explain or expand on this truth in a few sentences or more. This will give you greater understanding.
8. Review the truth or verse you selected in number 5. Write in your notebook how it helped you and what God would have you do about it.

PLAN III will average an additional 15 minutes/chapter for numbers 9 and 10, (1 1/2 hours for a six-chapter book).

9. Write a title (a very brief summary) for each chapter in the book. 5-25 words is about right for each title-summary. Record these titles in your Bible or in your notebook.
10. Review what you wrote in Plan 1111. What's the most important thing you could share with someone else about this book? Write it out in a few sentences.
11. *Optional:* Write a title (a very brief summary) for the whole book—perhaps 10-30 words, (and maybe a shorter one of just a few words).

Sample Brief Book Study-2 Peter

This is the way I did Plan I (It took me 59 minutes.)

1. I prayed for the Lord to give me new understanding and blessing.
2. These are some of the important verses that I marked in my Bible. I underlined some, I put a line down the side of others.

| | | |
|---------|------|------|
| 1:3 | 2:14 | 3:16 |
| 1:8 | 2:19 | 3:17 |
| 1:20-21 | 3:9 | 3:18 |

3. These were my challenge and insight verses:

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|---|---------|---|
| 1:2 C | 1:11 | I | 3:2 | |
| 1:3 C | 1:15 | I | 3:8 | I |
| 1:4 C | 1:20-21 | I | 3:15 | I |
| 1:6 C | 2:9 | I | 3:17-18 | C |

4. I chose 1:3 as the most important, and wrote in my notebook:
2 Pet. 1:3 As we learn of Christ, He gives us everything we need for our lives and for godly living.
5. I chose 3:17-18 as my challenge verse, and wrote:
2 Pet. 3:17-18 To guard against falling, I must keep growing in grace and in knowing Christ better.

This is how I did Plan II (It took me 47 minutes.)

6. The cross reference for my most important verse (1:3) was: Matt. 11:29, Learning of Jesus gives inner rest and peace (Or I could have chosen 2 Peter 1:8 or 3:18, on knowing Him better.). The cross reference for my challenge verse (3:17-18) was: Col. 1:10, Live a worthy, fruitful life and grow in knowing Him.

7. Best Insight

Christ gives us His completely undeserved favor and favors (grace), as well as His peace, by knowing Him through His Word and in experience. He also gives us abundant life—life in all its fullness—as we get to know Him and His Father better and better. And as Matthew 11:29 says, this includes His wonderful peace.

8. Personal challenge

Peter warns us that it's possible to fall from our strong convictions about Christ and His Word—to become unsteady.

This challenges me to pray against going off-track in not maintaining close fellowship with Him. I need to guard against getting too busy to spend adequate time with Him daily. It also challenges me to pray about not going off-track, through immorality or through false teaching.

I have prayed about these things, and will also pray with my wife about these things after dinner tonight.

Here's my Plan III (It took me 38 minutes—a total of 2:24 for 2 Peter.)

9. Chapter titles

1. Know God's Son and His Word. This equips us to live godly and fruitfully. Peter saw Christ's transfiguration and glory.
2. God will punish false teachers and greedy, evil people, even as He judged angels, the first earth and Sodom.
3. God will destroy the earth and universe someday, so be godly, be careful and grow.

10. Most important thing to share

God wants us to know His priceless Word and His dearly loved Son better and better. The Word tells us about His Son; and keeping close fellowship with Christ and living godly lives helps us know Him in a full way. If we are not growing in grace and life, we might end up with only empty and useless head knowledge (1:8).

11. Optional Book Title

Know Jesus and His Word, and be Christlike and fruitful. God will punish false teachers and evil people, and Christ's day will destroy the universe. So be godly and grow. (30 words) Brief title : Know, Beware, Expect.

SUGGESTED ORDER

For Studying the Books of the New Testament

This order mixes long and short books, easy and difficult books.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Philippians | Hebrews |
| 1 Thessalonians | 2 Peter |
| Luke's Gospel | 1 Corinthians |
| (Now some further three-point studies?) | 2 Corinthians |
| Colossians | (Further three-point studies?) |
| Galatians | James |
| Romans | Matthew's Gospel |
| 1 Peter | Titus |
| (Some further three- point studies?) | (Further three point studies?) |
| 1 John | 2 Thessalonians |
| John's Gospel | Mark's Gospel |
| 1 Timothy | Revelation |
| Acts 1-12 | 2 John |
| Ephesians | 3 John |
| Acts 13-28 | Philemon |
| 2 Timothy | Jude |

After you finish a book, you may want to study more deeply a short passage that stood out. Use your familiar three-point study method for this.

SUGGESTED ORDER

For Studying or Reading the Books of the Old Testament

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Genesis | Nehemiah | Song of Solomon |
| Exodus | Deuteronomy | Ecclesiastes |
| Psalms 1-24 | Esther | Ezekiel |
| Psalms 25-41 | Psalms 90-106 | 1 Chronicles |
| Proverbs 1-9 | Proverbs 25-31 | 2 Chronicles |
| Joshua | Daniel | Obadiah |
| 1 Samuel | Psalms 107-119 | Micah |
| Psalms 42-72 | Job | Habbabuk |
| Proverbs 10-22:16 | Jonah | Zephaniah |
| 2 Samuel | Jeremiah | Nahum |
| 1 Kings | Psalms 120-150 | Lamentations |
| 2 Kings | Judges | Haggai |
| Psalms 73-89 | Ruth | Zechariah |
| Proverbs 22:17-24:34 | Joel | Malachi |
| Isaiah | Amos | Leviticus |
| Ezra | Hosea | Numbers |

GOLDEN CHAPTERS
For Meditative Reading and Eventual Study

The following rich chapters are among the most important in the Bible. Some give light for daily living, some reveal important truths, some show turning points in Bible History. They will give you a brief-but-rich view of God's heart for people and His great power and wisdom.

Become familiar with these great chapters. Each is well worth reading several times with prayer and meditation. As the Lord speaks to you in a special way from any passage, pause in His presence to absorb the truth more deeply, or to quietly enjoy Him.

You can use these chapters for your daily quiet time, or for a longer time alone with God now and then.

For an occasional change of pace as you do the Brief Book Studies, you may want to study a Golden Chapter more deeply. You could use your Brief Book Study plans for this.

Golden Chapters of the New Testament

Here are 60 of the 260 chapters in the New Testament. Let them bless and enrich you.

John 1, 3, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20
Matthew 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 27, 28
Mark 7
Luke 1, 2, 11, 15, 21
Acts 2, 9, 13, 16, 26
Romans 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12
Ephesians 1, 5, 6
Hebrews 1, 11, 12
Philippians 2, 3
Colossians 1, 3
Revelation 1, 21
1 Thessalonians 4
2 Corinthians 4, 8, 9
Galatians 5
1 Corinthians 1, 12, 13, 15
1 Timothy 6
James 1
2 Peter 1
2 Timothy 2
1 Peter 4
1 John 4

Golden Chapters of the Old Testament

There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament. Below are 75 selected ones in which to soak. They will help you fix your eyes on God's wonderful power and loving plans.

| | | | <i>Date Studied</i> |
|---------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| <i>List 1</i> | | | |
| 1. Isaiah | 52:13-53:12 | The suffering Savior | |
| 2. Exodus | 20 | Ten Commandments | |
| 3. Genesis | 3 | The beginning of sin and its consequences | |
| 4. Exodus | 12 | The Passover and escape from Egypt | |
| 5. 1 Samuel | 17 | David defeats Goliath | |
| 6. Genesis | 22 | Abraham offers Isaac, and God provides a substitute and makes an eternal promise | |
| 7. Isaiah | 40 | God's great love and help | |
| 8. Numbers | 14 | The sad failure at Kadesh Barnea | |
| 9. Joshua | 1 | Joshua is commissioned to lead | |
| 10. Psalm | 1 | The godly prosper; the ungodly fail | |
| 11. Psalm | 2 | The nations oppose Christ, but He triumphs | |
| 12. Psalm | 23 | Our Good Shepherd | |
| 13. Psalm | 37 | Trust God: He rewards and judges | |
| 14. Psalm | 19 | God is revealed in creation and His Word | |
| 15. Judges | 7 | Gideon delivers Israel | |
| 16. 2 Samuel | 7 | God's promises to David | |
| 17. 1 Kings | 18 | Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal | |
| 18. 2 Kings | 17 | Assyria captures and deports Israel | |
| 19. Psalm | 78 | Israel's history: continual ups and downs | |
| 20. Psalm | 33 | God's mighty Word, sovereign plans and loving help | |
| 21. Proverbs | 2 | Godly wisdom | |
| 22. Psalm | 145 | Praise for God's greatness, glory and goodness | |
| 23. Isaiah | 55 | God's abundant supply and exalted purposes | |
| 24. Psalm | 119 | The wonders of God's Word | |
| 25. Psalm | 84 | Multiplied blessings and help as we seek God | |

List 2

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|--|
| 26. Genesis | 1 | God creates the universe, the world and man | |
| 27. Genesis | 12 | Abraham's call and God's covenant with him | |
| 28. Daniel | 3 | Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego delivered from the fire | |
| 29. Daniel | 6 | Daniel's faithfulness and deliverance from the lions | |
| 30. Job | 1 | Satan tempts righteous Job | |
| 31. Job | 2 | Job's comforters in his affliction | |
| 32. Deuteronomy | 4 | Review of God's guidance and demands | |
| 33. Joshua | 3 | Crossing the Jordan into the promised land | |
| 34. 2 Samuel | 12 | David repents | |
| 35. Psalm | 22 | The suffering and exalted Christ | |
| 36. Psalm | 24 | The King of Glory | |
| 37. 1 Kings | 11 | Solomon's apostasy and judgment | |
| 38. 1 Kings | 12 | The kingdom divided | |

Date
Studied

List 2 (continued)

| | | | |
|-----|--------------|----|--|
| 39. | 2 Kings | 5 | Naaman the leper cleansed |
| 40. | 2 Chronicles | 20 | God's delivers Jehoshaphat and Israel through praise |
| 41. | 2 Kings | 18 | Assyria captures Israel and invades Judah |
| 42. | 2 Kings | 19 | God encourages Hezekiah and defeats the Assyrians |
| 43. | 2 Kings | 25 | The Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and deport Judah |
| 44. | Isaiah | 58 | Counterfeit and true worship |
| 45. | Proverbs | 3 | Trust in God brings great reward |
| 46. | Proverbs | 31 | The virtuous woman |
| 47. | Nehemiah | 4 | Nehemiah defends Jerusalem and rebuilds the wall |
| 48. | Psalms | 72 | David's prayer for Solomon |
| 49. | Psalms | 90 | People, so temporary; God, so eternal |
| 50. | Psalms | 91 | God our Dwelling Place and Protector |

List 3

| | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----|--|
| 51. | Psalms | 40 | Joyful praise for God's rescuing |
| 52. | Isaiah | 41 | The infinite God's care for His own |
| 53. | Isaiah | 42 | Christ's ministry on earth |
| 54. | Isaiah | 43 | The Lord, Savior, Redeemer, King |
| 55. | Jeremiah | 1 | Jeremiah's commission and orders |
| 56. | 2 Kings | 4 | Five miracles of Elisha |
| 57. | 1 Chronicles | 29 | David's gifts for the temple, and death |
| 58. | 1 Kings | 3 | Solomon's prayer |
| 59. | 2 Chronicles | 29 | Hezekiah's good reign |
| 60. | 2 Chronicles | 34 | Josiah's good reign (the law of Moses found) |
| 61. | Psalms | 27 | Deep confidence and delight in God |
| 62. | Psalms | 45 | A love song concerning Christ and His kingdom |
| 63. | Psalms | 68 | Praise for God's mercies |
| 64. | Psalms | 73 | Confusion resolved by God's sufficiency |
| 65. | Psalms | 66 | Praise for awesome deliverance and answers to prayer |
| 66. | Job | 42 | Job's conclusions and reinstatement |
| 67. | Isaiah | 1 | Judah's rebellion-repentance urged |
| 68. | Isaiah | 49 | The Lord's loving care for His children |
| 69. | Jonah | 1 | Jonah's disobedience and the result |
| 70. | Malachi | 3 | Christ and His true servants |
| 71. | Psalms | 25 | Prayer for protection, guidance and pardon |
| 72. | Psalms | 63 | Thirst for God satisfied |
| 73. | Psalms | 139 | Fully known and wonderfully made |
| 74. | Psalms | 89 | Praise for God's favor |
| 75. | Psalms | 103 | Bless the Lord for His mercy |

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