

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

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1. Claim the promises.

"If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak of myself" (*John 7:17*).

The Spirit will guide you into all truth (*John 16:13*).

2. Prove it by the Word.

"To the Law and to the Testimony, if they speak not according to these it is because there is no light in them" (*Isaiah 8:20*).

3. The Counterfeit Principle.

For every true gift, Satan has a counterfeit. For every genuine blessing that God has given to man, there is a perversion of that blessing which leads to pain and death. For every truth there is a clever falsehood. For the true Christ there is anti-Christ. Before Christ returns there will be a counterfeit second coming of the "Messiah."

Remember: **The counterfeit closely resembles the true.**

Satan mixes a lot of truth with just a little falsehood. No one would accept the counterfeit, unless it looked like or felt like the real thing. If Satan is to "deceive the very elect" then He must develop a very subtle counterfeit. The "wine of Babylon" (*Rev. 18:3*) is a mixture of truth (grape juice) + error (alcohol).

4. Great themes demonstrated.

Elohiym has demonstrated, on a small scale, how He governs. He has shown us His great love, His mercy, His justice, and His truth. We see how He has dealt with those who rebel against Him, and with those who question His trustworthiness. He tells us how He will one day resolve the sin problem. He tells us who will, and who will NOT belong to Him.

Folks have told me that they avoid the Book of Revelation, because it is all symbolism. These people don't seem to realize that the entire Bible is FULL of symbols. They are called "types."

| TYPE (SYMBOL) | ANTITYPE (FULFILLMENT) |
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| The serpent | Satan (the Devil) |
| The sacrificial lamb (or goat, ram, bull) | Jesus Christ who died for us (<i>John 1:29</i>). |
| The sacrifice: killed then burned on the alter | The sinner who refuses covenant healing. They will die, and THEN be consumed in fire. |
| Cain (first born) kills Able (second "born") | Satan kills Christ out of jealous anger. |

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| Tower of Babel | Satan's first attempt at a one world government. Man's efforts to save himself. |
| The story of Abraham and Sodom's destruction (<i>Gen. 19</i>). | God's fairness, God's warning, The destruction of the earth to end this age. |
| Lot's wife | Those who are judged and left behind at the Second Coming. Their hearts are in Sodom. |
| Abraham offers Isaac | The Father offers His Son - Christ. |
| Jacob who wrestled with the angel. | The sinner who wrestles with Christ - not recognizing his Savior. |
| Joseph - rejected by his brothers (<i>Gen. 37:28</i>) - sold for 30 pieces of silver - became prime minister of Egypt | Christ - rejected by his "brothers" - sold for 30 pieces of silver - became the Mediator between man and God |
| Moses - leading the people like a shepherd | Christ - leading his people through the wilderness of sin. |
| Moses who died. Elijah - translated without death (<i>2 Ki. 2:11</i>) These two stood with Christ on the mountain. Enoch - God took him (<i>Gen. 5:24</i>). | Saints who die - will be resurrected. Saints who will be translated without death. Together represent those saved from the 1 st age. Those who enter the City during The 8 th Day. |
| Earthly Sanctuary in the wilderness. Later the Temple in Jerusalem. | Heaven, God's throne, the ministry of Christ for us in Heaven. (The Book of Hebrews) |
| Egypt to Canaan | Journey through wilderness of Sin to the promised land - Kingdom. |
| Mt. Sinai | The first Covenant with Israel. |
| Korah + 250 Princes rebel against Moses The glory of God consumes the rebels. | Satan's rebellion against Elohiym (<i>Gen. 16:32,35</i>) Annihilation in the lake of fire. |
| David vs Goliath | Christ vs Satan |
| Saul (first king) hunts David (king forever) | Satan hunts and kills Christ |
| David and Absalom | Jesus and Lucifer |
| Elijah in the wilderness for 3.5 years. | The Saints during the Time of Trouble hunted by the Beast power (<i>Malachi 4:5</i>). |
| The confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel. | Armageddon - the battle between Christ and the Beast power. |
| Jezebel - Princess of Sidon High Priestess of Baal. Married King of Israel. | False religious systems seeking to infiltrate and deceive the congregation of Elohiym. |
| King of Tyre (Baal worshipers) | Satan |
| Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, & Rome | Powers used by Satan to persecute God's people. False religious systems. |
| Jerusalem & Israel | The City, and the people of Elohiym. |

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| The Flood | The end of this age (<i>2 Peter 3:6-7</i>). |
| Noah's Ark | Protection in Christ = our Sanctuary |
| Leprosy (renders nerve endings numb). | We are rotted by sin, and do not sense it. |
| Job's Test | Christ, "forsaken of God" yet "obedient unto death." Also our test - esp. in the last days. |
| Shadrach, Mishack, Abednego in the fiery furnace. | Persecution of God's people who refuse to worship the image of the Beast in the last days. |

"Now all these things happened unto them for our examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (*1 Corinthians 10:11*).

Far from throwing out the "Old" Testament (Covenant) - these are the "things" given "for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come."

5. **Always return to the model** - the Sanctuary, the sacrifices, the cycle of Feasts. They reveal God's master plan.

- 6 **God's character is revealed.**

God's character has been challenged by Lucifer the highest created being. Satan has called God a liar. Who is telling the truth? God's word is a revelation of His character. Ask yourself as you study a portion of Scripture, "What does this say about the character of God?"

7. **The controversy between good and evil.**

In the Scriptures the events portrayed, and the events foretold deal exclusively with the controversy between good and evil, between Christ and Satan, between the people of God and their enemies.

8. **God is love, as revealed in Christ.**

Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father" (*John 14:9*).

9. **Never study without prayer.**

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Only through the illumination of the Holy Spirit can we truly understand His word.

10. **Remain open minded.**

Avoid arrogance like the plague. It shuts off dialogue. It closes doors. You can say, "This is what I believe based upon my study of the Bible." But never imply that another Christian is stupid, or sinful because he/she does not understand a passage the same way you do.

Read commentaries from many different writers, of different denominations, of different philosophies. The questions generated by your reading will help you to clarify your beliefs. Some of the best studies I have done were originally begun to find answers to questions asked by students in my classes.

11. **Question everything!** Do not assume something is right just because it was told to you by an admired teacher, or a priest, pope, bishop, elder, president or any other human being. Human beings are fallible.

12. **Be patient with fellow Christians.** We grow at different rates. Influences great and small push us in different directions. We are all seeking to know HIM.

There is only one salvation issue: covenant relationship. Entry into covenant with Elohiym requires a personal response to the Spirit of Christ.

Remember. Just because a person does not follow all of the rules in your rule book, or believe every doctrine which you believe to be true, does not mean that he has no part in the kingdom of God.

13. **Do the word studies.**

Look up individual words in Strong's Concordance or in other word study helps. (See book store at this site.) Read the text in several different translations. See how the same word Hebrew or Greek word was translated in other verses.

14. **Read the context.**

When searching for answers to larger questions ("Once saved - always saved," for instance) take the time to read through the entire New Testament with this one question in mind. It will take some time, but it's well worth the effort.

15. **Read the references** in the "reference column" if your Bible has this helpful feature. If not - look for a reference study Bible.

16. **Build a good library of Bible study helps and commentaries.** (See book store at this web site.)

And don't just buy those works which validate your own view. You will never be able to defend your beliefs if you are never challenged.

17. **Never assume you know enough.** Keep searching. Keep growing.

*We pray the blessing of Elohiym will come to you always.
Prophecy Viewpoint*

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