

WHY TEACH CHRONOLOGICALLY?—BOOK 1

I. INTRODUCTION

-If you grew up as a Christian, or if you have been studying the Bible for some time, then you know at least some of that which is on the inside.

-For most of the rest of the world, however, the Bible is a huge question—like outer space.

II. THE BIBLE IS A BIG BOOK

-There are 66 books in the Bible. That is many books in just one book.

-In some Bibles, there are almost 2,000 pages. That is many pages in just one book.

-Most people have never read all of the Bible because it is so big.

-How can we even begin to understand all that is in it?

III. THE BIBLE IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

-Without God's help, the Bible is difficult to understand.

-Why is the story of Israel in the Bible?

-What are all of the prophets saying, and to whom are they even talking?

-What is the book of Job all about?

-Why is the Old Testament even necessary?

-Can we even begin to understand Revelation?

-Why don't people start at the beginning, and read through to the end?

-Why do most people start with the life of Christ, and do not read the rest of the Bible?

IV. BIBLE BEST TAUGHT IN SIMPLEST FORM

-The Bible is best taught in its most simple form.

-The Bible is best understood in its most simple form.

-When we begin to teach mathematics, we teach simply, beginning with addition.

-When we begin to teach building a home, we teach simply, beginning with the foundation.

-When we begin to teach the Bible, we should teach simply, beginning with the foundation.

-If we teach the Bible in its most simple form, we will see that its truths are the most profound.

-This is why the teaching of Jesus was very simple, yet very profound.

-Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."

-This is an extremely simple statement, yet at the same time, extremely profound.

-This is why we must teach biblical truths in their most simple form.

-We teach simply, and then, allow our God to take our teaching and apply it to the people's hearts **according to their needs.**

V. BIBLE BEST TAUGHT USING STORIES

-How do people best understand truth?

-Using stories.

-How are the truths of the Bible best taught?

-Using stories.

-The Bible is best taught and understood when we teach using stories.

-This is why there are many stories in the Old Testament.

-This is why Jesus taught in parables.

-Because truth is best taught using stories, God teaches us His truths using stories.

-We best understand the holiness of God when this truth is taught using stories.

-We best understand the sin of man when this truth is taught using stories.

-We best understand that God alone can save us when this truth is taught using stories.

-If God is the best Teacher, and if God teaches using stories, we should also teach using stories.

VI. BIBLE BEST TAUGHT CHRONOLOGICALLY

-To teach chronologically means to start at the beginning.

-Whenever you tell a story, you start at the beginning.

-Otherwise, people will not understand.

-No one tells a story by starting at the middle or the end of the story.

-Otherwise, people will not understand.

-Here is an example of telling a story, but beginning at the end:

-You will not understand this story because I will begin at the end.

-A man ran into the house, grabbed his wife's hand, and pulled her out of bed, screaming at her, "Get out of the house!"

-To understand this story, we must start at the beginning, and the beginning is this:

-This man's wife was sleeping in bed, and the house was on fire.

-If the man had not done this, his wife would have burned to death.

-Now, you understand the importance of starting a story at the beginning.

-Who is the best story teller in the world?

-God.

-Who is the best teacher in the world?

-God.

-When God told His story in the Bible, where did He begin?

-At the beginning.

-In Genesis 1:1, we read this:

-“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

-If God began His story at the beginning, then where should we begin teaching God's story?

-At the beginning.

VII. JESUS IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY

-In the Bible, Jesus is not the beginning of the story.

-In the Bible, when did Jesus arrive on the earth?

-At the beginning of the New Testament.

-At the beginning of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

-Even though we hear of the Savior in the Old Testament, the Lord Jesus is not introduced to the world until the beginning of the New Testament.

-This is because Jesus is the **END** of the story.

-We will learn more of this later.

VIII. IMPORTANCE OF OLD TESTAMENT

-What is before the New Testament?

-All of the Old Testament.

-Compared to the New Testament, how big is the Old Testament?

-The Old Testament is approximately four times as large as the New Testament.

-Why is the Old Testament so much bigger than the New Testament?

-Why did God write so much in the Old Testament instead of in the New Testament?

-Is it because the Old Testament is important?

-Yes.

-Is it because God wants us to teach the Old Testament?

-Yes.

-Is it because the Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament?

-Yes.

-Is it because the Old Testament is the foundation for all of eternity?

-Yes.

-This truth is extremely important:

- The Old Testament is the foundation for all of eternity.

IX. NO PROPER FOUNDATION

-Without the Old Testament as a foundation, our understanding of God is wrong.

-Without the Old Testament as a foundation, our understanding of sin is wrong.

-Without the Old Testament as a foundation, our understanding of our need for a Savior is wrong.

-Except for true Christianity, all of the world's religions, including those which call themselves Christian, do not have a proper foundation of the Old Testament.

-To help to understand this, we will first look at world religions that are not Christian.

X. NON CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

-First, we will look at three religions which are not Christian.

-According to the Muslim religion, how are people saved?

-They must keep the laws of Islam.

-They must pray the shahada, wash and pray five times a day, give to the poor, fast during Ramadan, and go to Mecca.

-While Muslims know of Abraham and others in the Old Testament, they have no foundation about the one true God.

-Otherwise, they would understand that our God is so holy that we can do nothing to save ourselves.

- According to the Hindu religion, how are people saved?
- Hindus have some 330,000 gods, and they must pray to the god that they choose in order to be saved.
- With all of their gods, Hindus have no foundation about the one true God.
- Otherwise, they would understand that there is only one God, and that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
- According to the Jewish religion, how are people saved?
- They must keep the laws of Moses.
- While the Jews have the Old Testament, they have no foundation about the one true God.
- Otherwise, they would understand that God gave us the ten commandments to teach us that there is nothing we can do to be saved.
- To this day, there are Jews who still think that they can keep the ten commandments and make themselves acceptable to God.
- As you can see, these three major non Christian religions and all others have no foundation about the one true God.

XI. "CHRISTIAN" RELIGIONS–NOT CHRISTIAN.

- Now, we will look at some religions which call themselves Christian, but are not:
- Have you heard of the Jesus Only religion?
- The Jesus Only people say that they are Christian, but they are not.
- The Jesus Only religion says this:
- God in the Old Testament is very angry, and Jesus in the New Testament is very nice.
- Therefore, God in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament are not the same God, and they worship Jesus only.
- The Jesus Only religion is from Satan.
- The Jesus Only religion has no proper foundation from the Old Testament about the one true God.
- Have you heard of the Jehovah's Witnesses religion?
- Jehovah Witnesses say that they are Christian, but they are not.

-Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus is a good teacher, and the son of God, but that He is not God.

-Jehovah's Witnesses also say that you are saved because of your good works.

-Jehovah's Witnesses have also changed parts of the Bible, including John 1:1, saying that Jesus was a god, but not God.

-The Jehovah's Witnesses religion is from Satan.

-The Jehovah's Witnesses religion has no proper foundation from the Old Testament about the one true God.

-Have you heard of the Mormon religion?

-Mormons say that they are Christian, but they are not.

-Mormons believe that people will become gods.

-Mormons also believe that Jesus and Satan are brothers.

-Mormons also believe that we must work in order to be saved.

-The Mormon religion is from Satan.

-The Mormon religion has no proper foundation from the Old Testament about the one true God.

-Another religion that says it is Christian, but it is not, is the Catholic religion.

-Catholics say that they are Christian, but they are not.

-Catholics pray to Mary instead of to God.

-Catholics also believe that it is the Catholic church and their good works which save them.

-The Catholic religion is from Satan.

-The Catholic religion has no proper foundation from the Old Testament about the one true God.

-All of the world's religions except for true Christianity have no proper foundation from the Old Testament.

-I hope you can see the importance of having a proper foundation from the Old Testament about the one true God.

-Without a proper foundation from the Old Testament, you only have false religion.

-This is why we teach chronologically, starting with the Old Testament.