

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

The Journey of the Text

UNIT Challenge: We will be memorizing the Books of the Bible! Because God's word is His Love letter to us and our Battle plan in this life, this Unit will help us better understand the origin, authorship, accuracy, and enduring power of this book we call the Bible! May you grow leaps and bounds in your knowledge of God's power and intention for you throughout this study.

Many have wanted an explanation for the origin of the scriptures. The deep search and study of how this collection of writings came together have led many to invest their whole lives and all of their resources in search of the answer. Have you ever wanted to know something so much you were willing to give all your time and savings to figure out the answer? [Read 1 Peter 1:10-13]

Peter mentions these men made careful searches. In other words, they were searching for a treasure, and they didn't want to miss a single detail. The question is: **WHERE** did they search? and **WHAT** did they find? In order to completely understand this study and the process by which these men searched we need to establish a known ground rule. Our first ground rule is: Oral history came from an eyewitness, was passed down from generation to generation, and then the stories were written down and recorded.



An eyewitness bears the greatest authority in any legal situation. In our modern legal system, an eyewitness can determine a criminal's fate by testifying to what they saw with their own eyes. Then, the Jury takes that testimony and determines the actions of correction. Life and death are determined by the tongue of the Eyewitness. In terms of the Bible, we see the book of Genesis being spoken from the eyewitness account of Adam and Eve to their children, then to their children, all the way down to Moses and Aaron at the time of the Exodus. At that point, Moses wrote down Genesis through Deuteronomy and we have this writing preserved for us today in the Bible. Did you know the Bible's first **FIVE** books are called the **TORAH**? [Torah is the Hebrew word meaning Instruction. Also, take a moment to talk about the modern-day scribe in the picture above who for 10 hours a day is hand copying ancient and modern texts.]

You experience the power of Oral history whenever you sit with your grandmother or grandfather and listen to a story from their childhood. These stories will eventually be

shared with your children and many others, and some of you may even write down these stories into a book for more people to enjoy and learn from for years to come.

Much of the Old Testament and some of the New Testament were shared through **Oral History** before they were written down. Once these stories of how God interacted with His people were recorded, they became Irreplaceable! Their value was so great, and they were prized so **HIGHLY** that only very specific people were allowed to take care of them. These people were known as scribes.

Scribes dedicated their lives to copying ancient texts. They were required to keep the strictest level of excellence and accuracy. By the light of a candle, with a feather pen, and without eyeglasses, these scribes worked word-perfect page after page in order to not lose any part of the story. 900 years after Yeshua lived, there was a group of scribes known as the Masoretes. They preserved much of the Old Testament, specifically the book of Isaiah. The Masoretic text was the oldest ancient text we had until 1946.

In 1946, a young boy was tending to his sheep in the Judean wilderness just north of the Dead Sea. He looked up and saw a cave in the rock walls and decided to throw a stone into the cave. When the stone landed, he heard the sound of a clay pot breaking. This young boy, around 12 years old, had just found one of the most precious treasures of ALL time. He found what we call the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are the most complete and extensive Bible discovery of the last 2000 years! What is more exciting is that the Masoretic Text from 900 AD matched word for word the Dead Sea Scroll copy of the Book of Isaiah with 95% accuracy! However, the Book of Isaiah was not the only book found in the cave; more than 15,000 ancient books and writing fragments were found in the caves. Scholars have used this discovery to prove the integrity of this Powerful and God-given book called the Bible!

Rev 22:18-19, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

Write the first five books of the Bible: 1. _____, 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

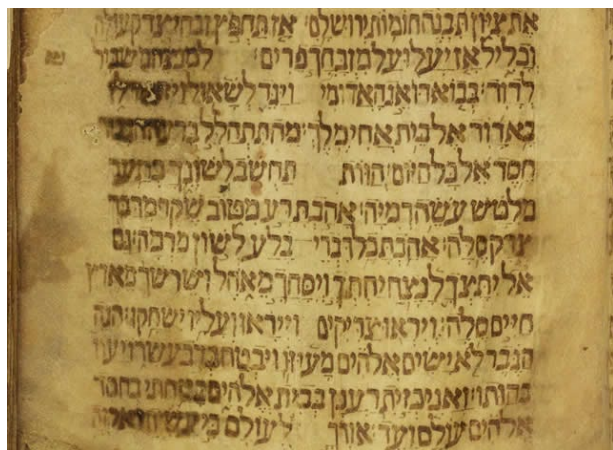
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Eyewitnesses provide the Testimony

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Last week, we learned how the Oral history of the World was communicated down the generations. These stories were then written down and recorded with the utmost accuracy so the generations after would know this priceless Truth. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1946, have provided us with thousands of ancient documents that prove the consistency and accuracy of this Truth. **2 Timothy 3:16**, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training** in righteousness."

Today, we will talk about how important eyewitnesses are to the collection of Scripture. Did you know that all four of the Gospels were written by people who received eyewitness testimonies of Yeshua's ministry? This means people who walked and talked with Yeshua shared their stories with someone who then wrote them down. [Q: When was the 4th cen?]



In the 4th century, a group of religious men were compelled by the Holy Spirit to compile eyewitness accounts of Yeshua into one collection of books. These leaders created what we call the "Canon" of scripture. Canon is a Greek word meaning "measuring stick." Whenever we do anything significant, we need to know the expectation of quality. In other words, if you are going to produce something of quality, you need to measure your work against specific

standards of excellence. For the 4th century leaders, the most important and preeminent requirement of this collection was each writing had to be an eyewitness account taken from credible sources that did not contradict each other.

The work of these 4th Century leaders brought us the New Testament! The Jewish leadership already had their "**MEASURING STICK**" or Canon created from the writings of Moses to the last Prophet, Malachi, and the Old Testament writings were unanimously accepted by the 4th-century counsel, completing what we know today as the Bible.

1 Peter 1:10-12, "As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look."

Careful searches were made by righteous men who held the highest of standards for our benefit. If there was an account that did not agree with other eyewitness accounts, it was deemed as unreliable and untrustworthy. If there were teachings that arose and began to be shared in the 1st and 2nd centuries, they were quickly silenced and deemed unreliable because they contradicted the eyewitness accounts of Yeshua. By following this important system of credibility, the Word of God has been preserved in its purest form to this day.

Here is a list of the dates and authorship of the Gospels:

1. 65 AD The Gospel of Mark was written by Mark. However, the account and events of what happened were the eyewitness accounts of Peter, the Apostle of Yeshua.
2. 75 AD Matthew wrote the gospel of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple of Yeshua. Do you remember when Yeshua called Matthew to be His disciple?
3. 75 AD Luke wrote the account of the ministry of Yeshua based upon Eyewitness accounts and previously written documentation. Luke was Apostle Paul's personal doctor.
4. 90 AD The gospel of John was written by the Apostle John. John was the disciple who was very near and close, like best friends, with Yeshua.

Are you beginning to see the importance of eyewitness accounts? Children in the first century were not distracted by video games or television. They listened to stories from their parents and families. These stories were of great significance and were held tightly so they could be shared with children and families to come.

Revelation 22:18-19, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

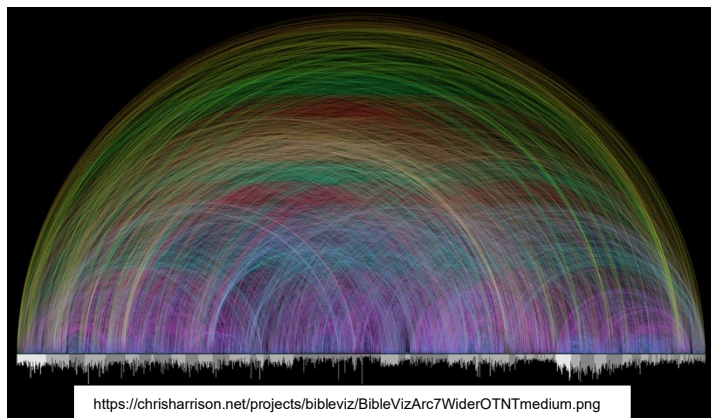
Write the first four books of the New Testament: 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

The Word is the SUM of Truth

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The word SUM is a Latin word originating from Summus, meaning: "the total amount resulting from the addition of two or more numbers, amounts, or items," -definition taken from the Oxford Dictionary. We find a sum by taking ALL the known numbers and adding them together to get the TOTAL number. Example: Mom gave five apples, dad gave three apples, brother gave two apples. How many apples altogether? 10 In terms of information, we calculate the **TOTALITY** of information based on the many details that make up the whole story.



Did you know that the Bible cross-references itself 63,779 times? This means that many authors who lived over 1,000 years apart wrote about the same events. From Genesis to Revelation, there are connections with very detailed descriptions, giving us a clear picture of the Heart of God. Remember, the Bible is a love letter that has come from God. The

words we read, the stories, the victories and the defeats show us about ourselves and the faithful God who has called us to know Him. Let's take a look at some of these cross references.

The prophet Isaiah wrote the book of Isaiah around 740-700 BC. 700 hundred years before the coming of Messiah. Check out this verse.

Isaiah 12:2, "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

Take note of the words strength, defense, and salvation. Isaiah is speaking from the utterance of the Spirit of God and from his personal hope in Yahweh. Now, take a look at what Moses wrote.

Exodus 15:2, "The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him."

Notice the same words, and not only the same words but the same thread of knowledge being communicated through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and through Moses' hope in the Lord. What you just witnessed is called a cross-reference and the Bible is **FULL** of them. This is important to note because we see many authors who were not connected to each other giving details about the same story. The story is of the character and nature of our God. Here is another verse written by David.

Ps 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?"

Again, do you see the thread of reference? David is proclaiming the same story of God's character and his personal hope in Yahweh! Three men shared the same story about the character of God, although they never had coffee or shared notes and lived hundreds of years apart is pretty amazing, wouldn't you say? I would have a hard time believing the testimony of one man but not three. Check this out.

The resurrection of the Messiah is one of the most documented events in all of history, and for good reason. A man was crucified, committed to the grave, and then rose ALIVE to walk again. [Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8] **Focus on the eyewitness accounts and the power of the resurrection.**

Verse 6 states that Yeshua appeared to more than five hundred men at one time! Meaning after the resurrection 500 brethren saw that Yeshua, who was dead was ALIVE. This is a highly believable testimony one that many, religious and non-religious authors write about. The resurrection had at one event 500 eyewitnesses, while the entirety of scripture has 63,779 cross-referencing testimonies. The sum of God's word equals itself and we see this through the beautiful consistency from the Old Testament to the New! This is another reason why we can trust the word of GOD!

Ps 119:160, "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting."

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

This week, record yourself reading the books of the Bible. Use this recording to help you memorize each book in order and prepare for the Unit challenge!

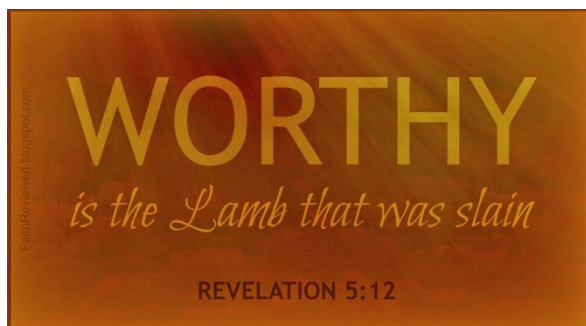
God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

A Consistent Message

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Last week, we looked at the fantastic number of cross-references found in God's word, 63,779, to be exact! This number of references comes from many men writing about the same God at many different times throughout history. Through the Totality of information received from the writers, we can see the character of Yahweh and His plan determined from the very beginning. Today, we will look at the timeline of events recorded in scriptures from Genesis to Revelation to see the clear and continual story God has written for us.

Revelation 13:8, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."



This verse teaches us an interesting truth about Yeshua and His plan. First, John, the disciple who leaned upon Yeshua, wrote this letter in his latter years, and it is the last letter to be added to the Bible as we know it. Yeshua commanded John at the beginning of Revelation to record all that he saw and witnessed. In verse 8, he records the "Lamb was slain from the foundation of the

world." The work of God's redemption through the lamb of God who was slain is the theme of the GOOD News throughout the entire Bible. Below, you will find a list of Gospel passages written by different men at different times, yet all pointing us to the picture of Yeshua being slain from the beginning. Take some notes on what you learn! **[Below is a list of Scriptures. Use these scriptures to show the Class the theme of the Gospel within every book of the Bible. *CR denotes a cross-reference]**

Gen 3:21 They were clothed by Yeshua in Righteousness (CR Eph 4:24)

Ex 12:29 The firstborns were taken. CR [Read Col 1:13-23]

Numbers 35:25 When the High Priest/YESHUA dies the sinner goes away free (CR Heb 10:10-12)

Jer 23:4 The Lord will rise Up Shepherds to care for the flock. (CR John 10:14-15)

Zechariah 12:10 People understand they had killed the Messiah (CR Luke 23:47-49)

Can you see how the Bible has been written by the Holy Spirit through God fearing men? Can you see how the Lord has preserved and assured us of the integrity of the Bible through the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the scribes who gave their lives to ensure contextual accuracy? Can you see that the Bible was written by eyewitnesses, not some storywriter looking for a good story? Now we can also see how the Bible was written by different authors at different times, and the same story was written from many different perspectives. This should only strengthen the reliability of God's word to the world.

After the baptism of Yeshua, John the Baptist testified, John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". John's testimony of Yeshua adds to the Biblical narrative of the Power and Love of our Salvation. The fact is the Bible is consistent, congruent, and an accurate Love letter preserved by the Hand of God through many years and by many people so that you will know the Height, the Depth, the Breadth, and the Width of God's love for you! From the fall of Adam and Eve to the return of the King in Revelation, we read about Yeshua's faithfulness and His redemptive work toward us. Like an instructional manual for a Huge Lego set, the Bible makes known to us the way of relationship with our Creator and King. Do you know Him today? **[Engage with the class on their personal relationship with the Lord.]**

1 Peter 2:2-3, "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord."

The Apostle Peter writes to us that we would LONG for the word of God! This very word you are holding in your hand, this very word that has come from the mouth of our Lord. Think about all the times Peter was calmed by the words of Yeshua. There was the time when he walked on water, cut the ear off of the priest's guard, and then Yeshua appeared before the disciples while they were fishing before He ascended. Peter was personally encouraged and inspired by the word countless times. As long as you continue to read and live by God's word, you will also be encouraged.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

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This week, record yourself reading the books of the Bible. Use this recording to help you memorize each book in order and prepare for the Unit challenge!

The Bible and its authorship

Who wrote the Bible? This question has been asked by many, many people. Oftentimes, people run into what seems to be a “faith roadblock” as they try to understand how imperfect men could write a book inspired by a Perfect God. With imperfect men writing the Bible, is the Bible credible? Can we trust men to communicate the Truths of a Perfect and Holy God? Let's dive into the Journey of Understanding the Bible.

2 Peter 1:20-21, “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**”

Over and over and time and time again, we see how a perfect God uses imperfect people to accomplish GREAT things. Below, you will find the writers of the Books of the Bible and some interesting facts about them. For some books, the human authors are quite clear, while others are less clear. Ultimately, God receives the glory for His word being communicated from Generation to Generation and studied by you and me!

Old Testament Writers

Writer	Book(s)	Interesting facts
<u>Moses</u>	<u>Genesis</u> <u>Exodus</u> <u>Leviticus</u> <u>Numbers</u> <u>Deuteronomy</u>	Moses was spared from murder as a baby and then raised by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses was God's leader who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. God revealed the beginning of time through Creation. He recorded the beginning of the Family of Israel from the call of Abraham, the life stories of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. He was the writer of Torah.
Joshua	<u>Joshua</u>	He was a descendant of Joseph and was a personal attendant to Moses during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. After Moses died, he led the children of Israel into the Promised Land. He was a great captain and led God's people in many battles as they conquered the Land. He was their leader for 25 years.
Samuel	I Samuel	He may have helped write I Samuel. His mother brought him as a young boy to serve in the Temple and to be trained by the priest, Eli. Samuel anointed the Kings of Israel. After the death of Eli, Samuel became the last judge of Israel and began the Prophet age.
Ezra	<u>Ezra</u>	He was a descendent of Aaron, the high priest. He also became a priest and scribe. When the people of Israel were captives in Babylon, he was chosen to take the first group of people back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. He had the honor of reading the scroll when the walls of Jerusalem were dedicated to the Lord.
<u>Nehemiah</u>	Nehemiah	He was a Jewish captive and the cup bearer for King Artaxerxes of Persia. He was given permission to return to Jerusalem to direct the rebuilding of the walls.

<u>David</u>	Psalms (many of them)	David wrote most of the book of Psalms in Hebrew poetry. He is remembered as the shepherd boy who killed Goliath. He was also a soldier. He made Jerusalem Israel's capital city. He was chosen to be the king of Israel after King Saul. Through King David comes our Messiah, Yeshua.
<u>Solomon</u>	Some <u>Proverbs</u> , <u>Ecclesiastes</u> , <u>Song of Solomon</u>	King David's son, he was the most powerful king of his day. He asked God for wisdom, and he was not only given wisdom but great wealth. He was not only a politician, but also a scientist and a business man. During his time as king, the great Temple was built. He is given credit for 3000 proverbs and words of wisdom.
Isaiah	Isaiah	He was a prophet of Judah. His book is called the Messianic Prophecy because he foretells the coming of Messiah, Yeshua. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, they found this scroll in its entirety.
Jeremiah	Jeremiah <u>Lamentations</u>	He was from a priestly family. He began prophesying when he was a young man. A wicked king tried to kill him. While Daniel was warning the people in Babylon, Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem to warn them.
<u>Ezekiel</u>	Ezekiel	He preached to the captives in Babylon, telling them of their return to Jerusalem. He was a powerful teacher for 22 years.
Daniel	Daniel	Daniel was born into a noble family. When he was taken captive, he became the servant of the king. Because God helped him to interpret dreams, he was made a ruler of the land. God gave to him some very exact prophecies, and some of them are still being fulfilled today. Daniel died in Babylon an old man, never to return to Jerusalem.
Hosea	Hosea	He wrote this minor prophecy (minor means short). He wrote about God's love to a people who had forgotten God and became worshipers of idols and pagan gods.
Joel	<u>Joel</u>	He wrote prophecies about the Holy Spirit and future blessing on Israel.
<u>Amos</u>	Amos	He was a keeper of sycamore trees. He was also a shepherd, coming from a city south of Jerusalem. He warned about the judgment of idolatry.
Obadiah	Obadiah	Obadiah and Amos were friends. Obadiah wrote his prophecy to the Edomites, the descendants of Esau, who hated the Jews.
<u>Jonah</u>	Jonah	This book is the story of Jonah's life. God told him to go to Ninevah with a message of repentance, he was swallowed by a big fish, and finally was obedient to God. We read this account during Yom Kippur to demonstrate the importance of repentance. Jonah gives us a mirror picture of the 3 days in the belly of a fish and the 3 days Yeshua was in the grave.
Micah	<u>Micah</u>	Micah was a simple farmer and evangelist. While Isaiah was prophesying as a court poet, Micah was speaking to the common people. God gave him the prophecy of the messiah being born in Bethlehem.
Nahum	<u>Nahum</u>	"Capernaum" means "City of Nahum." He may have been this city's founder. Yeshua visited this city often during his ministry. God gave Nahum a message for Ninevah, just like Jonah. Only this time it was a message of destruction.

Habakkuk	Habakkuk	Very little is known about Habakkuk. This book presents God as a Holy God.
Haggai	Haggai	He was one of the 3 prophets who wrote after the captivity in Babylon, when they came back to rebuild Jerusalem.
<u>Zechariah</u>	Zechariah	He prophesied after the captivity in Babylon and foretold of the coming of Yeshua and His kingdom.
Malachi	Malachi	Prophesied after the captivity in Babylon, wrote about the coming messiah, John the Baptist, and the second coming of Yeshua.

The writers are uncertain for: Judges, Ruth, II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Esther, and Job; yet these books have been accepted by Jewish scholars for thousands of years.

New Testament Writers

There were 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament begins with the record of Yeshua's life, told by 4 of his followers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These are called the Gospels or "Good News."

Writer Book(s) Interesting Facts

Matthew	Matthew	He wrote the gospel of Matthew. He was also called Levi the Publican. He was a tax collector and was disliked by the people. Yeshua called him to be one of His 12 apostles.
<u>Mark</u>	Mark	He was also known as John Mark. Paul took him on his first missionary journey. He wrote the shortest gospel and he was not an apostle. Mark wrote the Apostle Peter's account of Yeshua's life.
<u>Luke</u>	Luke <u>Acts</u>	Luke was a doctor and was called "beloved physician." He recorded more healings than the other gospels and he was not one of the 12 apostles.
John	<u>John</u> <u>I John</u> II John III John <u>Revelation</u>	John and his brother, James, were fishermen when Yeshua called them to be apostles. He was called the "Beloved Disciple." When he was an old man he was exiled to the island of Patmos where God gave him the prophecies of Revelation.

<u>Paul</u>	<u>Romans</u> I Corinthians II Corinthians <u>Galatians</u> Ephesians Philippians <u>Colossians</u> I Thessalonians II Thessalonians <u>I Timothy</u> II Timothy Titus <u>Philemon</u> Hebrews ?	Paul was once known as Saul of Tarsus who hated and persecuted Christians. After Yeshua appeared to him on the road to Damascus, He called him to be an apostle to the gentiles. He became the first great missionary taking 3 journeys to Asia and finally to Rome where he was martyred. The author of Hebrews is a widely debated and discussed question. Hebrew is widely considered to be written by Paul, but some scholars disagree.
Peter	<u>I Peter</u> <u>II Peter</u>	Peter and his brother, Andrew, were fishermen when Yeshua called them to be apostles. He is remembered for his great faith, by walking on the water, and his human weakness when he denied Yeshua 3 times. He preached a great sermon at Pentecost (Shavuot) and he traveled and witnessed until he was martyred.
<u>James</u>	James	He was the half-brother of Yeshua and he was called James the Just because of his goodness. He was Overseer of the Jerusalem church. History says he was pushed from a high place and was stoned and beaten to death.
Jude	Jude	He was the half-brother of Yeshua. He wrote to warn people of the dangers of false teachers in the church.

Learning about the authorship of scripture gives us a look into what kind of men these writers were. Through the Bible, we can see how the Holy Spirit inspired each of them. God chose men with personalities just like yours and your friends to prepare the work of His word for each generation to read and know. Understanding how the Holy Spirit spoke through each of these men should inspire you to listen more intently for the voice of the Lord. He has a lot to share with you, so listen closely!

Weekly Challenge: Take time to look up when these men lived. Create a timeline and plot each author in their proper time. When you are done, step back and take a look at how our God orchestrated His plan through Faithful men!

2 Timothy 2:2, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

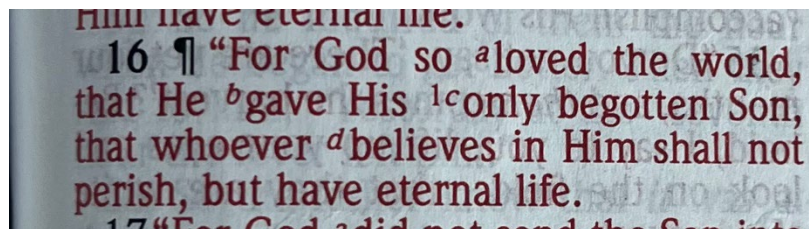
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The message that changes US

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Is your understanding and love of God's word growing as you learn just how amazing and intentional He has been in writing this love letter for us? Receiving a letter in the mail is **EXCITING!** You walk out to the mailbox, open the door, reach in, and pull the mail out; immediately, you start reading the addresses, seeing if there is anything in there for you from a loved one or friend. What do you do when you find that you have received a letter? Do you put it on a shelf for a rainy day? Do you stuff it in a box and forget about it? **NO!** You open it up and cherish every word written. Right?

Yeshua's letter of love has been written to every single person, declaring both a universal and personal expression of God's ultimate **Love** and **plan** for His creation. This letter contains instructions for living, finding love, having happy friendships, and resolving conflicts between friends and enemies alike. Yet, many people place this love letter in a box or on a shelf, far away from their grasp. The value and power of God's words are discarded and rejected. Could you imagine treating a friend's letter to you in such a way?



The apostle Paul could not believe that his own people would disregard God's letters. He wrote to the believers in Romans from chapters 9 to 11

about God's plan for both the people of God who believe and those who do not believe.

[READ Romans 9:1-6 focusing on the last verse "the word has not failed"]

Romans 10:1-2, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge."

Paul desires for his people to obtain salvation. Even though they have zeal (passion and hunger), they do not have the proper **KNOWLEDGE** of God. Paul identifies that a person cannot be saved without a true knowledge of Salvation. Here's an example: James 2:19 says, "You do well to believe; the demons also believe, and they shudder." Demons believe in God and know His power more than we do. They absolutely believe, but they are not

filled with the right knowledge of God. In fact, they **FIGHT** against Him! Belief alone does not save a person. You need to believe in the right knowledge as well. Paul continues with

Romans 10:8b-10, "the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Notice how Paul says, "the **WORD** of **FAITH**," which is the knowledge of Yeshua's life, death, and resurrection, preached to the listeners. This word that Paul preached, if accepted, would lead to confession from a person's mouth proclaiming that Yeshua is the **LORD** and **SALVATION**, establish belief in their hearts, and ultimately lead to salvation.

The problem Paul faced was although many prophets and preachers were sent to the people, the people would not listen to the message. In fact, most of the people rejected the message.

Romans 10:16, "However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

The passage cited from Isaiah comes from chapter 53:1, which is one of the OT chapters that shows how the Messiah would suffer for us. Who has considered the love God has prepared for all through the kindness of Messiah? All of us are in a place where we have the opportunity to hear and believe this message. But do we? Are we the kind of people who take God's love letter, put it on a shelf, and forget about it? Are we the kind of people who place His words in a box, neglecting the Love and direction He gives?

Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Daily, be diligent to read this love letter that has been so intentionally preserved and prepared for us by a loving and faithful, God. Hide these words within your heart and believe the instructions through your actions.

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

This week, write a letter to a friend from class. Make sure you get their address and don't forget the stamp! Be ready to share with the class next week how excited you were to read your letter received!

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

The message that changes US (pt 2)

UNIT Challenge: We will be memorizing the Books of the Bible! Because God's word is His Love letter to us and our Battle plan in this life, this Unit will help us better understand the origin, authorship, accuracy, and enduring power of this book we call the Bible!

Today, we are going to look at specific ways in which the Message of God's Holy word changes our hearts. In order to truly understand the power of the Scriptures we need to understand that the **WORD OF GOD** became flesh. [Read John 1:1-5] **Talk to the class about Yeshua being the word, Yeshua being God (The hand of God), and Yeshua shining light into the darkness of this world. For your reference, check out Col 1 & Heb 4:12**

According to the writings of the Biblical Prophets, Yeshua, the Son of God, was going to come to dwell among His creation, revealing the Heart and Character of God, the Father, in human form. Previously, we looked at all the references from the Scriptures that match each other. There are 63,779 in all! Well, one more **VERY** powerful proof was given to you and me. It was Yeshua coming, in the flesh, to declare the Righteousness of God.

John 1:18, "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."



In the verse above, John wrote that Yeshua Explained God, the Father. How Yeshua showed **compassion**, brought **healing** to the sick and lame, and **removed** Sin from the sinner, are all ways He showed the Heart of God in every act He committed. John also wrote that Yeshua did not do His own will He did the will of His Father. [See John 5:19-21; 6:38]

Yeshua is the complete and total example of our Amazing, ALL-Powerful God in living form. All of the Scriptures have been written for the purpose of **POINTING** each of us to the Messiah so that we would know Him and know His ways. [Read Acts 17:10-12] **Point out how the men of Berea searched the Scriptures and then believed. The Scriptures Prove Yeshua is our God and our Salvation.**

Do you read the Scriptures looking for the character of God through the Life of Messiah Yeshua? Do you live your life in a way that you believe with your actions that Yeshua is your Salvation?

Psalms 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

We are going to take a look at specific ways the Word of God has been designed to help each of us walk in faith and obedience to Yeshua. [Read Psalm 19:7-11]

WRITE DOWN AND RECORD THE SOURCE AND THE RESULT

Source:	Result:
1. God's perfect law	Our Soul is restored
2. The Lord's Testimony	We become wise!
3. God's righteous Precepts	We have a heart of Praise
4. Pure Commandments	Our Eyes are open to Truth!
5. Fearing God in purity	Eternal Salvation
6. True Judgments	The Definition of Righteousness

Our Response: They are more desirable than?

GOLD! And the sweetness of Honey and ALL the Things of this world.

How are we Protected by the Word?

The Word protects us from harmful ways of the world and brings us blessing/reward

The Scriptures tell us exactly what it means to be in a saving relationship with the Messiah. When we **HIDE/TREASURE** the Holy Scriptures in our heart we draw near to the Lord by clinging to and relying upon every word that has come from His mouth.

Deut 8:3, "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord."

Do you now see even more so why our God has gone to such great lengths to preserve and prepare His word for you? He wants you to know your very life is sustained, not through this world or the things in this world, but by the Word of the Lord! Therefore, Treasure the Word of God in your heart and read His word **EVERYDAY!** So that you will be wise, strong and courageous, full of Faith, and in goodness for the Lord and all His creation to enjoy!

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

This week, read a chapter of Scripture EVERYDAY! Next week, be ready to share what you read about and what you learned with your class!

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

Can I trust my Translation?

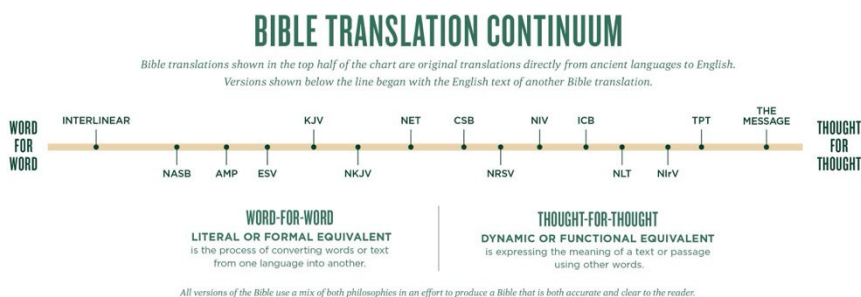
UNIT Challenge: We will be memorizing the Books of the Bible! Because God's word is His Love letter to us and our Battle plan in this life, this Unit will help us better understand the origin, authorship, accuracy, and enduring power of this book we call the Bible!

We've studied how the ancient texts were copied and preserved with the greatest of care, but what about the different translations we have around us today? How do we know if the Bible we are reading is true and accurate to the original language? This week, we are going to look into the history of translation from the original text into the language used today.

Before Starting: Translating the Word is a serious task and translators are warned before they even start the translation process by God the Father Himself.

Rev 22:19, "and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

<https://www.mardel.com/bibletranslationguide>



[CFM suggests a NASB or NKJV for the most accurate Word for Word translation.]

Yahweh wrote this strong warning to anyone who thinks altering and adding to His word is a good idea. His word is just that—His! Translators

are called to have the highest value for the Word and to protect the intended meaning and accuracy of the original manuscripts. It is incredible that God would have warned everyone to think twice about changing His Word. Check out this warning found in the Torah.

Deut 18:20, "But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

God's word is **HIS**, and He gave His word to us as stewards of it. Anyone who takes away from the intent and content of His word is looking at serious consequences. Why is God's desire to protect His word for our sake so important?

[Talk with the class about the security they can feel knowing that Yeshua will hold everyone accountable for twisting His words. Talk about this curse God will bring upon those who commit this sin.]

What They Used: Bible translators used several ancient texts to translate into our modern tongue. For the OT, the Masoretic text written in Hebrew is used. For the NT, there are three main texts used: *ALEXANDRIAN*, *BYZANTINE*, and *WESTERN* Texts. Interestingly, the NT was written during a time when Aramaic, Greek, and Latin languages were used. Hence, the three different texts.

How did they do it? Once translators have these documents in front of them, they begin to break down the original languages, looking for the content and intent of the Scriptures. [Content is word for word, and intent is thought for thought #see the chart above] The translators go verse by verse, writing their first draft into the new language. Next, they utilize a Hebrew and Greek scholar to check the accuracy and clarity. Then, they share the translation with a community that determines the readability, practical communication for application, and critical accuracy for the reader. Before publishing, there is one more expert who looks over the work, and then it's off to the press for the Word of God to go into the nation and be shared with **ALL**!

Matt 24:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Before our King's return, He wants everyone to know who He is, what He has done, and the Great Love He has for His creation. Translating His words into the languages of this world is an important work. This is one more way in which Yeshua is bringing this world back to Himself. Cherish your Bible, for it is the Word of God written for YOU! Read His word daily and Trust in His word every day of your life. Know You are **LOVED** by Your Heavenly Father!

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

This week, use the chart above to determine if your Bible is word for word or thought for thought. Also, Look through your Bible and write the reference of your favorite verse:_____

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

Are those footnotes contrary to God's desires?

UNIT Challenge: We will be memorizing the Books of the Bible! Because God's word is His Love letter to us and our Battle plan in this life, this Unit will help us better understand the origin, authorship, accuracy, and enduring power of this book we call the Bible!

Matt 15:6b, "And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition."

[Read Matt 15:1-6]

What was the problem that was brought to Yeshua? [Discuss] [Yeshua rebuked the group for exalting their traditions over the written/desired word of God. When the word says Honor your Mother and Father, you make ways for a man NOT to honor them on a technicality (CORBAN = Offering to God that was allowed and nullified the ability for a person to care for their aged parents. The resources were dedicated to the priesthood instead.)]

Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

[Read Matt 15:7-14] Throughout biblical history, men have been doing what is right in their minds and leading in their wisdom and **NOT** in Yeshua's. Can you hear the frustration in Yeshua's words toward these men who were CALLED and APPOINTED to lead the people of Israel into righteousness? He is angry with them for speaking contrary to His desires and His will for the people.

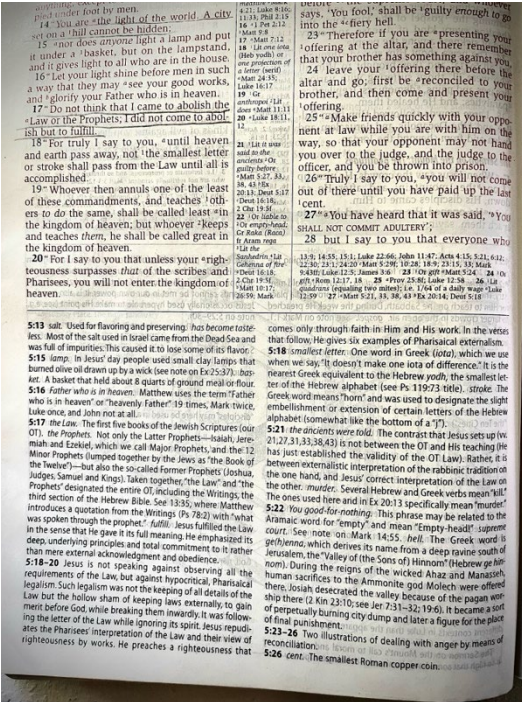
Matt 15:14, "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

One of the major problems we face when we follow after the wrong voice speaking the wrong word is becoming as blind as that person. Did you know that much of Judaism in Israel is built around the wisdom of men/Rabbi's and not in the truth that **Yeshua** is **Messiah**? In fact, much of Judaism acknowledges that Yeshua was on earth, but was merely a man who blasphemed the Name of God.

In Matthew 15, Yeshua was standing before these men in person and became very frustrated because, through their unbelief, many of His people would be blinded in unbelief and not experience salvation. In addition to what Yeshua experienced that day, the Rabbi have written thousands of pages of thought and personal insight based upon the Scriptures, the writings of other Rabbi, and team writings in the works of the Talmud and Mishna. The Talmud is man's commentary of the Scripture, and the Mishna defines practices for keeping God's commandments (Much like the Corban mentioned above).

James 3:1, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment."

When you speak of the Lord and His truth, each of us has the BIG responsibility of communicating the Wisdom GOD has given us through His word, and NOT through the wisdom of MAN. It is through the wisdom of God that men are saved, not the other way around. God will hold a teacher to a higher standard because many will be impacted by the words and messages of teachers. As sons and daughters of God the Father, we all



have a responsibility to live our lives according to His word accurately. When we do this, the **WHOLE** world will see who He is through our love for one another.

The Jewish people have the ancient Talmud and the Mishna. Do New Testament Christians, like us, have something similar? Many Bibles come with what are called "footnotes." A footnote is designed to clarify a phrase and help the reader understand the Biblical text more clearly. This can be a super helpful thing, like asking your mentor to explain what a scripture means. But it can also be as damaging and confusing as the Pharisees were to the people of Israel when they led the people astray.

[Take a look at this picture. Can you see where the Scripture is and where the Footnotes are? Remember these words can be edifying and helpful in understanding the Truth of God, but they can also be distracting and simply WRONG.]

Remember, Footnotes are NOT scripture. Scripture is Scripture. And Only Scripture has the **AUTHORITY** to Teach, Correct, and Train in Righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). Always be alert and test **EVERYTHING** using the Word of God. His word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path, and it is through His word you will be BLESSED!

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

Does your Bible have footnotes? Spend some time with your Mom or Dad reading a chapter of Scripture. When you come to a place where a question arises, read the footnote and talk through the Scripture and the footnote explanation with your parents. Determine whether the footnote matches with the truth of the Word.

God's Love Letter and Our Battle Plan

His WORD is ETERNAL-That means Forever

UNIT Challenge: We will be memorizing the Books of the Bible! Because God's word is His Love letter to us and our Battle plan in this life, this Unit will help us better understand the origin, authorship, accuracy, and enduring power of this book we call the Bible!

Psalms 117:2, "For His lovingkindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord is everlasting. Praise the Lord!"

We all enjoy the warmth of summer for the beach's fun days and the beautiful scenes and smells of summer. Summer is a great time, but sadly, summer doesn't last. It comes with spring and departs with cooler weather and the beauty of fall colors. Take grass as an example: it grows so quickly in the spring. With a deep green color and the promise of summer, it grows, exciting everyone! But sadly, it is very short-lived. Before long, the grass withers and turns brown as autumn arrives. The days get shorter and colder as autumn turns to winter. Then the grass is no more.

The word of the Lord is NOT like this. His word endures FOREVER! There is no end to His Truth. It goes on and on and on. [Read Isaiah 40:5-8] Isaiah spoke these words to a people who didn't have an understanding of the Eternal Nature of God's word. Isaiah wanted them to understand the nature of God's word so they would be able to identify the Word that was to become flesh and dwell among them. **It is essential to note this is the message of John the Baptist (Matt 3:3). Take some time to talk through the life of J the B. Make points of how John stood on the eternal nature of the word as He declared who the Messiah was!**



God is Forever. Scripture declares He has no end or beginning. His word matches His eternal character, and through His word, we understand His nature.

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Think about this. Yeshua came to do the WILL of His Father, right? Yeshua is eternal, right? If Yeshua is God/Eternal and He is the Word, then the Word is eternal, right? RIGHT! **(Chance for questions here)** When reading the Word of the Lord, it is important to understand that you are reading the very **CHARACTER** and **NATURE** of the Eternal Father.

Heb 1:3, "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

In Genesis, we learn that this world and all it contains was created through God's spoken word. In other words, God spoke the word, and it was accomplished according to His plans and desires. From the passage above, we learn that **ALL** things are held together by the Power of His Word! This includes you and me, our dogs and cats, our things, Everything! Check out this verse!

Isaiah 55:11, "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

Rejoice in the Lord, for His word is Eternal. Every plan and purpose of the Lord will be accomplished through His eternal word. This is also true for you. His words for you endure **FOREVER**. They will not change; they are the same and will always be the same. This means every word He has spoken concerning His love for you, His protection over you, His plans for your future, His desire for your blessing, for your healing, and for strength and perseverance through times will be accomplished. His word does not FAIL. You can trust the Word of God.

May you never stop reading His word. May you never stop learning from Him. May you Hide His word as a treasure in your heart and do not depart from it. Psalm 119:11 May His blessings be upon you and all your generations! Yeshua loves you!

Unit challenge: Memorize the books of the Bible!

Yeshua wrote the entire Bible to you, declaring His plans and purposes for your life. This week, we are going to write Him a love letter back! Write to Him, thanking Him for His kindness and for all the blessings you have received. Share your struggles and pains, and write about how much you want to trust Him through the difficulty. Put the letter in a sealed envelope and place it in a special place for safekeeping. In 3 years, open up the letter and see how much the Word of God has matured you!