



How many of us have tried to read through the Bible only to become frustrated (usually at about the book of Numbers- all those genealogies and “begats” typically get us!) and give up?

Perhaps at least part of the problem is that we don't really know how to understand the Bible.

So, let's see if we can learn...



## How to Understand the Bible

# Keys to Understanding the Bible



## #1 - Get the “Big” Picture first.

- The problem of “Picture Window” knowledge-
- Not seeing “between the windows” produces **disconnection...**
- This disconnection, in turn, produces **confusion** and **frustration...**
- Confusion and frustration causes us to decide that **we can't understand the Bible**, or even worse, that **nobody can...**
- And then we **quit** even trying to do so!

# Keys to Understanding the Bible



## #1 - Get the “Big” Picture first.

- How?
- Read the “last page” first (not literally, but the N.T.), [Eph.3:1-6](#).
- If you know where the story is going, it’s easier to follow, [cp. 1Pet.1:10-12](#).
- Eternal salvation through Jesus Christ is that *single thread* that runs from [Gen.1:1](#) to [Rev.22:21](#)...
- and connects everything together into a continuous, understandable, great, and real story.

# Keys to Understanding the Bible



#2- Understand that the Bible was written for us, but not to us.

- Because Rom.15:4 and 1Cor.10:11 say so.
- Having a *myopic (short-sighted)* or *self-centered* view of the Scriptures- that everything was written about or to us, leads quickly to problems of *interpretation*, cf. Gal.1:2 → 4:21-31...
- And therefore also to problems of *application*, Gal. 5:1-4; 6:1ff.

# Keys to Understanding the Bible



## Conclusion:

- Please understand that God provided His Will in words that we can, and should, correctly **interpret**, **understand**, and **apply**.
- These words are **living**, **active**, and **divisive** (even between *thoughts* and *intentions*), **Heb.4:12**.
- So, **“Get the Big Picture”** (understand where the *story* winds up), and know that the Bible was written **“for us” but not “to us”** (that it *pertains* to me, but is not *about* me- the story is much bigger than just “me”), and get busy!

