

Some 2750 years ago, God said through the prophet Hosea, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,”* 4:6.

He wasn't speaking of industrial, scientific, geographic, medicinal, or military knowledge- He was talking about the knowledge of God, His ways, and specifically, His **WORD**.



How to Understand the Bible

Part 3

While on earth, Jesus said of the multitude that followed Him,



“while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand,” Matt.13:13.

Will this generation- the people of the twenty-first century, *“hear”* and *“see”* and *“understand”* God’s Word?

Or will we be like the Judeans of whom God said, *“They are destroyed for lack of knowledge”*?

One of the biggest hurdles to understanding the Bible is



Simply realizing that it can be done- that such isn't an insurmountable task.

Think through this for a moment:

- God wants mankind to be saved, [1Tim.2:4](#);
- God gave His Son that we could be saved, [John 3:16](#);
- And God told us how we could be saved by or through Jesus, [Titus 2:11-14](#). So then,
- What sense does it make for God to tell us all of these things in a book we can't understand?

NONE! And God didn't do that- we can understand the Bible!

Keys to Understanding the Bible previously covered:



#1 - Get the “Big” Picture first.

**#2- Understand that the Bible was written 4 us,
but not 2 us.**

#3- Context is critical.

#4- It's not all figurative- but some parts are.

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#5- *Many writers, one Author.*

- Reading multiple books by the same author gives you a sense of *familiarity* that leads to *understanding*- think **J.K. Rowling** (*Harry Potter* series), or **John R. Erickson** (*Hank the Cowdog*), or **John Grisham** (*The Pelican Brief / Runaway Jury / Chamber / Rainmaker, etc.*), or **Dr. Suess!**
- Multiple books by the same author provide continuity.
- Similarly, if we understand that “The Bible” is a collection of individual books *written* by **over 40 different men**, spanning a time period of **over 1600 years**, then we understand that the only way this singular story can be told throughout its pages is a **single author- God Himself!**

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#5- *Many writers, one Author.*

- These **66 books** (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) are **written** by men, but **authored** by God, [2Tim.3:16](#).
- Such is the only way a *singular* story could be told by that many men of various languages, cultures, countries, and times!
- Thus, the words which make up the story came from God, not men, [1Cor.2:9-13](#).
- Why is this so important?

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#5- *Many writers, one Author.*

The *single and divine authorship* of the Bible means:

- One passage does not contradict another, [1Cor.14:33](#); therefore, our interpretation of one passage must agree with all others; there are no “trump” passages- [Eph.2:8-9](#) must be understood so that it agrees with [Jas.2:24](#)!
- The *incidental* knowledge contained is correct, whether man understood it at the time it was written or not. For instance, [Ps.8:8](#) speaks of “*the paths of the sea,*” but man did not know about the ocean currents until Matthew Maury studied and found them in the 1800’s. He did so because of the words written by David, but authored by God, some 2800 years earlier!

Keys to Understanding the Bible



#5- Many writers, one Author.

But most importantly, the *single and divine authorship* of the Bible means:

- That it can be understood, **Eph.3:3-4**; and,
- That it can be depended upon as accurate and true, **Rom.3:4**; and,
- That it can, when properly understood and applied, fulfill God's purpose of providing salvation to man, **John 1:1-14** → **12:36-50** → **20:30-31**.

Keys to Understanding the Bible



Conclusion:

- In our next lesson, we'll consider Key #6, *Rightly Dividing the Word*.
- But for now, please know that God provided His Will in words that we can, and should, correctly **interpret**, **understand**, and **apply**.
- So, "**Get the Big Picture**," know that the Bible was written "**4 us**" but not "**2 us**," then "**Get the Context**," understand that "**it is not all, but does contain, figurative language**," and that it has "**many writers, but just one Author**"!

