

The Literal Bible By SunGrist

Apostles & Prophets

Volume 122, An
Introduction to the complete
edition 1 of 4 parts
Available for \$100!

**The Bible is the Word of God:
Christ and One, Top 1-3 of 12**

THRU THE BIBLE EASILY AND QUICKLY ACCORDING TO THE
INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF QUOTES IN THE NT

apostles, prophets,
and legends

1. Top 12 Topics of the Bible,
if working in the NT

11. High Culture of the Bible,
Original Higher Culture
of the Bible

The Bible is the Word of God: Christ and One, Top 1-3 of 12

The place of this chapter is to outline the whole Bible in brief from the quotations in the New Testament from the Old Testament, and does it surprise you that most of the quotes of the Old Testament in the New Testament come from the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul; and furthermore that it is this chief editor of the New Testament, which more than the Old Testament is a story of Christ—that by much more, by the way, is the same Paul who wrote, “For to me to live is Christ.” For Paul to live was for Christ to live, and for the Bible to live today is for Christ to live through the words and Word of the Bible. (You will see before you finish this volume, if you can since it is large, and if you do not see Christ already in the Bible.)

Unless you still the veil over your eyes which is done away in a personal experience with Christ, or unless “blindness in part is happened to” you as part of the nation of Israel “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in; and in either case all we can do, you and us, is pray that the veil or blindness be removed in order that you can see! Of course, when this happens, world history as we know it is almost over!

Someone tells the story of a certain large Bible so designed that when you stood back to look at any page, you would see outlined around the text an image of Christ. So it is with the story or message of the Bible. Christ is

the Bible, and the Bible is Christ. How appropriately the Apostle John first received in Revelation the proper word of "Word" to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, then later in the writing of the Gospel of John started the story of the Life of Jesus with the "Word made flesh" as a proper label for Jesus. The word "Word" for Jesus and the word "Word" for the Word of God are more closely related than we will ever know this side of eternity. (Karl Barth has made a contribution here in his book on the Word.)

Each of us must interpret Christ for our own generation. The accuracy of that interpretation can be measured in terms of our faithfulness to the Bible as the Word of God. There are many official and un-official interpretations of Christ even as there are many man-made religious organizations which claim to properly interpret Christ for our times. Rather than sling mud about which ones and how many of them are really part of the body of the Christ of the Bible, and incidentally of the presently living Christ who is the only head of the real body of Christ...that is, I say, rather than trying to separate who is and who is not a member of the real body of Christ, the more positive approach is to get back to the Bible with good Bible-based principles of hermeneutics, or Bible interpretation, setting forth the real Christ of the Bible and what it is to Learn the Christ of the Bible.

If forced to select two verses from the Bible to represent a single focus for THE LEARN CHRIST COMMENTARY, it would have to be Ephesians 4:20,21.

"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus..." (Ephesians 4:20,21 NJKV)

Let us face up to realities: Even as some church members in the church at Ephesus, the church where the Apostle Paul had labored the longest, had not really heard Christ and had not really been taught by Christ, even so many more in American religious organizations, having lesser leaders than Paul and Christ, have not heard Christ and have not been taught by Christ. (You will learn more about this focus later.) Right now, we need to relate the "Preview of the Bible", the subject of this first chapter, to that focus. The claim is that the story of the whole Bible is ultimately a story about the learning of Christ. If you look at the outline of the Bible below, you will notice the Gospel of Christ as number 8 of the complete 12 of the subject outline of the Bible. You will also find Christ dominating roman numerals 4,5,10,11,and 12 as well as an integral subject matter of each outline division. The reason is simple: the Bible is a story about the Lord Jesus Christ! And if you don't learn Christ, the Christ of the Bible and the Christ of God the Father, the Creator of the Universe, then you do not learn the Bible!

Subject Outline of the Bible.

I. The Living God of the Living

II. Righteousness of God and Man

III. The Composite Witness of the Bible

IV. God, Man and the Son of Man

V. The Resurrection

VI. Wisdom From God

VII. The Gospel

VIII. Listening More Important Than Sacrifice

IX. What Happened to the Jews as the Chosen nation?

X. The Salvation of God

XI. The New King of Israel

XII. The Living God Wants Others to Live

What is amazing is that the whole Bible of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, can be outlined under 12 major subjects! I will tell you upfront why that is possible: because of the Old Testament quotes in the New Testament, and because the New Testament provides the proper interpretation of those Old Testament quotes.

"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life

to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:1-5)

1. Study Bible for the Approval of God.

"Study to Show Yourself Approved Unto God, a Workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

You must realize that God has put a lot of time and effort over a period of a thousand years and through the writing of over 40 scripture writers to bring up the communication level to you of Bible truth. And beyond that God, through the Holy Spirit, put in internal safeguards to assure that all readers would get the same meaning; which means, in short that the Bible is self interpretative. Put that internal safeguard to work for you by reading through the outline of the Old Testament according to the New Testament. Look at the outline, on the left is the location in the Old Testament of the original quote and to the right is the New Testament location. Carefully go through the Bible reading each location, and read more than the quote itself, read also

the verses on either side; and you will be amazed at your increased Bible perspective.

3. Accept the challenge of a Workman that is a Bible Scholar, not scholastically like those of the hideous Jesus Seminary but like the American Scholar of Ralph Waldo Emerson where he made the plea of long ago for facets of scholarship based on far more than pieces of paper.

The practical and long range implementation here is to enhance your experience with the outline of the OT according to the NT of recommendation #1 by more prolonged study of the same outline in a course format entitled "Top 12 Topics of the Bible". These 12 topics are actually derived from the same Old Testament quotes in the New Testament with a topic actually superimposed on sequential groupings of those quotes. Well, when you experience it you will understand better!

Happy new experiences in Bible reading and Study, just stick with it!

Learn An ALL Scripture Approach and Movement

The ALL Scripture approach of II Timothy 3:16,17 which leads to the individual profits of 'doctrine, reproach, correction, and instruction in righteousness' is: (1) an attitude of respect for the Bible and the Word of God, every word of it being (a) divine in origin, (b) absolute in authority, (c) sufficient for life and living in content, (c) high fidelity in communications, it is alive and talks to the

person with the right attitude, (d) self-interpretation, best seen in the OT quotes in the NT which include explanations, and (e) being based on the character of God, it is a gradual revelation throughout history and in concrete structures of what God is like, of course reaching an eternal climax in the Person and Teachings of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) a program, plan, and approach that overcomes satisfaction with only a few select scriptures of the Bible {how many quotes can you remember in the time of need, or when overwhelmed with the "cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches"}, striving to revel and even work hard, and with prayer meditation to get into the total Bible of 66 books, and in fact to live there while you are not required by necessity to be living by bread, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Luke 4:4); (3) it is a balanced approach and attitude that goes beyond the "wants" of the Falling away (II Timothy 4:3,4) to the needs for doctrine, reproach, correction {even chastisement, see Hebrews 12:3-11}; and (4) It gets Christians, church members, and others out of their spiritual and living {BREAD} comfort zones into more (a) discipline from God like a Father for children, and (b) amazingly yes, "He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness" (Hebrews 12:10).

"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful, nevertheless, afterward it yields

the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11)

NOTE: It is life and calamities, properly interpreted, in the context of Hebrews 12:3-11 and for professed children of God as a training program for "righteousness" and "holiness". Can you imagine the righteousness and holiness of God in your life? And if not, then let the ALL Scripture approach help you! To assist you in this quest, the <http://www.biblecombibleman.com> website and 3 other websites of SunGrist_Bible are offered in all the fullness of its Bible resources that can help in the individual profitability {not to profit some TV evangelists, prideful church or denomination}, and more specifically the Bible resources noted below—

www.biblecombibleman.com

www.sungrist.org

www.sungrist.net

www.sungrist.us

<https://sites.google.com/site/understandbible/home>

Bread and Bible, A Balanced Life!

"But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" (Luke 4:4)

12-1: Jesus, our Master example, faced temptations from Satan based on quotes from the Bible of the Old Testament, and identified the Bible as words straight out of the mouth of God Himself.

There are so many assumed convictions from Jesus, the Son of God, that we fail in a simple reading and hearing to appreciate them: (1) First there is the guarantee of a balanced life if we have enough respect for the Bible as words from God and the Word of God, a balance between first of all making a life by making a living and then supplemented with a diet of life and living that includes all the Bible {"every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"}; (2) an assumed conviction and postulate that the Bible does record words straight from the mouth of God {granted the OT was the only Bible of Jesus' days on earth, but notice that already Jesus continued the tradition of those words and books of the OT containing the words of God Himself, for Jesus quotes in His customary form beginning with "It is written", and we can further our context of understanding by reading it from Deuteronomy 8:3}; (3) the quote assumes a respect and reverence for the Bible not only as words from His Father, but as a guide for life and living.

12-2: Human pride does a funny thing to us in that we develop a false sense of freedom from Satan and our own sins and shortcomings that makes us captive to sin and Satan, and clouds our prideful sense of intellectual honesty and magnified toleration.

For example, many sceptics think they are so tolerant and noble, select among all Americans and intellectuals when they take a false balanced approach toward life and living by claiming an in-between conviction between the two extremes of atheist and belief. It seems to them as if, even if God does not share their lack of commitment to either, history will record them as a very good and likeable and admired individual.

NOTE: The horrors of such a conclusion in the sight of God as recorded in the Bible about His attitude. You see, God looks at all His human creations and labels them as either (1) believers, or (2) unbelievers. And although this is jumping somewhat to the conclusion before the full reasoning about a GOD BLESSED BALANCE BETWEEN BREAD AND BIBLE, THE ULTIMATE BALANCED LIFE, it must be stated up front, and hopefully you have or will read the message and chapter before this, "The Sceptic is Almost Doomed"—primarily because in other words out of the mouth of God through the Apostle Paul,

"He that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Skepticism is like the LIE in that it denies the testimony of the Holy Spirit in every human heart about "sin, righteousness, and judgement", denies the things known of God from nature, the individual conscience, and the

collective social conscience; then there is the Bible, preaching of the Word, so that to hold firm on skepticism is to hold firm on intellectual dishonesty, sin, Satan and pride to the full extent of the LIE.

2. Satan was and continues to be the Father of the Lie. (John 8:43,44) While sceptics and some around them along with the influential toward skepticism may consider themselves intellectual and with a certain status above the less moderate that believe, in the sight of God they have chosen THE LIE over "the truth of God" (Romans 1:25), a foolhardy choice with great detrimental consequences for doom in this life and the next.

3. The supreme, called the LIE in the Bible of Romans, lie is to deny that God wants good for every life, and the beginning of that captivity in the lying process is to deny even the existence of God. How much believing that God is, and the goodness of God to reward all diligent seeking after God, if you are restraining in your sin and pride by the status of a sceptic. {I can not even respect skepticism to put it in capital letters as a Sceptic, and this is out of respect for Our God. I am offended when any slur or race skepticism on His name and character, or of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Bible.}

NOTE: You know these victims of pride and self-glory, even of being a good and likeable person, expect us to roll over and play dead in spite of the conversations in meditation and prayer and Bible we

have with Him every day; and in spite of the equal number of years to the prideful that we have lived with Bible and God. It seems like Satan has them as deceived on Christians as He does on the Lord Jesus Christ.

12-3: And while we are on the subject of the last quote, let us lay up front the real gist of this message for your benefit, a real blessing of Refreshing Evangelism in 2018, or any year, TO DILIGENTLY SEEK GOD.

Perhaps you will not always find Him because of the bad habits, sin, and pride in your life, also used by Satan to cloud your reasoning and heart, and the sad fact that you could have gone beyond the unpardonable sin, or God has not chosen you as a child; however you do have far more chance, than if you do not seek Him because of some false pride of intellectual skepticism, and even more chance if you will simply try DILIGENTLY to see Him, to take the route of pragmatism of William James, that is "test it, try it, and prove it."

12-4: The Old Testament context of the "Bread and Bible" quoted from Jesus on the balance of life; and how it helps to further guide us away from skepticism and for those not inclined to skepticism, to also guide them into a more balanced life that is a God ordained and blessed balance of both making a living and making a life!

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."
(Deuteronomy 8:3)

In the preliminary words from Moses {also words from God which will be explained in terms of "holy men of God as they spoke by inspiration and the will of God} to a balanced life above, it was a reminder to the assembly first people of God of the past 40 years in the wilderness, a time "to humble you, and test you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not." (Deuteronomy 8:1,2)

NOTE: Doesn't that sound like pragmatism except on the part of God. There were a new people of God just out of rescue from Egyptian bondage, and God wanted to know what was in their heart and if they would live a balanced life that keep His commandments.

Of course while it may seem a little drastic that God humbled them by way of first making them humble and hungry out there in the wilderness, and then providing for them in a historical manner, in a manner in which "you did not know and your fathers did not know," while not always as dramatic, except when God does send calamities to chastise and correct His own people, chastisement

through environment and circumstances has always been the New Testament teaching of how God deals with His own children instead of with bastard children (Hebrews 12:8).

1. A few lessons of "instruction in righteousness" that we can learn from the BREAD and Bible balance of life from Jesus, from the original context of the quote; before we come back to the prime lessons of the Balance from Jesus.

(1). You see some difference between the permissive and the directive will of God. This kind of hunger problem is what one might expect during 40 years out in the wilderness between Egypt and Palestine; but although there was no limitations to Gods power and love for the people, in the words of Moses and Deuteronomy, He "allowed them to hunger". In some of the famous sayings, "All sunshine makes a desert" and "When it is dark men see the stars", which we might translate to today on either the permissive or directive will of God, in the final analysis why does it matter which way the calamities come, it wakes people up and gets them out of the normal routines of life where they "eat, drink, marry and give in marriage" and they are totally preoccupied with BREAD over BIBLE, with the "cares of this world" and things and possessions or the "deceitfulness of riches". It could not be made any plainer, evidently not plain enough to those of Sandy Hook and New Orleans and so on, the intentions of God in sending small or large calamities on His own

people by way of another quote {with explanation} from the OT, this time from Proverbs 3:11,12 and as quoted, and explained {remember there is no private interpretation so that the Bible is self-interpretative, and the Apostle Paul explains what the Prophet Solomon originally wrote:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.” (Hebrews 12:6 and Proverbs 3:11,12)

(2). It would help you in the living of a balanced life, if we quickly noted some of the explanations from Paul and in Hebrews 12 about how to deal with the chastisements that chase calamities. {See “Chastisement Chases Calamities” from the BIBLE STUDIES IN JEREMIAH.}; (a) endurance in the Christian race is required in light of the testimonies in Hebrews 11 of the heroes of faith and hope {See the previous message of Refreshing Evangelism on FAITH AND HOPE.}; (b) keep your eyes focused on Jesus as your Prime example who because of the joy of eternity set before Him endured the cross and despised the shame {in other words, He took the long look of the complete story of life, before and after the END}; (c) in particular how Jesus endured the hostility of persecution, and consider that you have not resisted persecution to the extent of bloodshed; (d) then there are the “exhortations” (Hebrews 12:5) of further

instructions in righteousness {II Timothy 3:16,17) such as if you endure God deals with you like sons, whereas if there is no chastening in your life you are bastard children of God, we need to be in more respect of God like a Father correcting His children, and LIVE (Hebrews 12:9), God like our parents only chastened us for our own good for a few days, the end goal of such chastening is that "we may be partakers of His holiness" (Hebrews 12:10, and lastly take with endurance the long look—"no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful, nevertheless, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness in those who have been trained in it." (Hebrews 12)

12-5: You probably never thought of reveling in the Bible as a prime method for the Diligently seeking after God {at least, hopefully you have come to note reveling in the Word as a time of refreshing from the presence of the LORD}; but for some of you across the shores from America, you may find it the only way, coupled with prayer, unless you can listen to good Bible based sermons or read some good, conservative Bible commentaries.

And in this near the END time, also when Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:11-14, the roadblocks to actually hearing properly the word of God like the rapid proliferation of deceptive false prophets, the awesome abounding of sin and lawlessness of the Falling Away; and although we are encouraged to be part of the preaching of the Gospel to

every nation that will usher in the Second Coming and the END, right now as one challenge sufficient for the Falling Away you can diligently revel in the Word of God.

1. One way the false prophets are increasingly deceptive today is in the false teachings, primarily through fiction based on fiction like with the "left-behind" series of a false rapture and millennium, not Bible based words, that happens before the END at the Second Coming.

2. It is deceptive to lead listeners to believe that because they are Christians they will not be in the present Falling Away, nor be in the final tribulation, primarily physical as contrasted to the tribulation of persecution in the great tribulation of the first century.

3. Equally as false is the message of hope of prosperity coupled with Christian faith, called the Gospel of Prosperity and another false gospel to replace the gospel that was delivered by Paul (Galatians 1:6-9). It couples things, "cares of this life", and the "deceitfulness of riches" (Matthew 13:23) with the challenge to increased faith, and of course attendance at their church or support of their TV ministry. There are so many of them, and they are so subtle and deceptive, that they tax American and world credibility to know which are true. {By the way for you confessed sceptics of the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ, this is a recommended type of skepticism from Jesus and the Word of God.} They themselves look so prosperous and well-dressed, even

normal and handsome {or beautiful in the case of ladies as now there are many lady false prophets, riding on the back of woman's lib to preach a message that before about 68 with the beginning of the Falling Away would not have been listened to.}, that we just can not accept that our favorites are really "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Acts 20:29)

12-6: You know you can live Bible as real; as read and prayerfully revel in IT!

There are fundamental ways like "remember the sabbath day", or like a lack of rebellion against God's plan for marriage, or respect for the name of God and for His book; however just as basic and fundamental is the imbalance of life that comes too much "making a living", too many things" or to use the words of the Bible, also from Jesus in the parable of the seed and sower, to allow faith and the seed of faith to be choked completely out of your life by: (1) "cares of this life"; and/or (2) the deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 13:22). Perhaps you didn't notice the living of Bible aspect in the quote from Jesus of Luke 4:4, yet it was hard to miss in the source and context of Deuteronomy 8:3, "...that He might make you to know that man does not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

This implies:

1. Like other Bible says, the implication here of a stronger contrast between living by bread alone and just living by Bible is that God at the same time promises that His own people will not go hungry.

2. It implies that you should not fret for the things of this world, or for tomorrow, for there is enough evil today and God will look out for tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34), and that God knows what you need like the sparrows and leaves of the grass which He knows about and provides for, and God will meet your needs as needed.

3. The needs are met as the needs are encountered. Recall also about the manna in the wilderness, and how those that labored to collect much had nothing left over, and those that were forced by weakness to labor little had plenty. And how Paul explains this is straight from the heart and mind of God, a reflection of His love and character, also of His grace, as He takes care of us according to our needs.

“His grace is sufficient, for His strength is made perfect in weakness.” (II Corinthians 12:7-10)

Last warning note by a practical way of implementation. Do not allow the dominant concerns of making a living, drown out making a life; and in particular a life of hope and faith. Watch those “cares of this life” and the “deceitfulness of riches” lest they rob you of a better life!

5. Also do not let pleasures, even the more righteous ones, lead you into the category of church members to stay away from, like in I Timothy 3:1-5 where they become "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God", and of course the old enemy of "pride" is there also.

6. Your storing up by way of Bible and Bible living may not show immediate results since the storage is in "heaven where neither rust or corruption can affect", certainly not as much as immediate pleasures, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life (I John 2:15-17), your cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches; but a more moderate BALANCE OF BIBLE WITH BREAD will yield those "peaceable fruits of righteousness." (Hebrews 12:11)

The Bible is the Standard for Faith and Practice

In spite of the obvious distortions of the Falling Away from the Bible of traditional denominations, sometimes even worse from new non-denominations groups that cater to the whims of the world, we can sometimes miss their traditions of the past where the Bible in many statements of faith was listed as "the sole criterion of faith and practice". "Listen to what the Spirit says today thru me", taking the quote of Isaiah and departing into all kinds of isogesis (reading meaning into the Bible, instead of exegesis which is reading the meaning out), is a classic example of the bad Bible hermeneutics {just rules in the Bible for proper understanding} of: (1) failure to get

verses and chapters and books of the Bible in the total context of the Bible {quite often the work of amateurs in the Bible with few years of Bible experience and study}; (2) the victims of Special Revelation that have the gall, many each year, to think in the Holy Zinger words of I Corinthians 14 that either the "Word of God came out of them, or the Word came to them only", normally the same people of the rest of I Corinthians 14 which fail to heed Paul on Bible to speak only known tongues in public worship, reserving unknown tongues for private devotionals, and also who consider they alone with their ministry and church must slight and ignore other Christians, missionaries, and missions across the world as if they are nothing, also practicing "sheep-stealing" where other men have labored for years; and (3) do not compare scripture with scripture as advised by Paul, preferring some kind of hunt and peck system that keeps them limited to about 300 verses of the Bible {See the recommended "All Scripture Approach and Movement".}

Above is another classic example, there is nothing new under the sun and we just keep each generation repeating the same follies of Bible interpretation, one of taking one verse out of context and as preacher boys said while learning homiletics and hermeneutics, "going every where preaching". However it is no joke, for this is the way new denominations and divisions in Christianity are started. It is what Bernard Ramm in Christian Bible hermeneutics

would call "special revelations" where some strive to add to the message of the Bible.

This time of the year as the nuts and weirdos come out of the woodwork and strive to increase their self-serving thrusts of the whole year, we must express in Christianity and in the real body of Christ presently on earth our appreciation for the STANDARD, the Bible, for all to believe and practice. Also to express amazement for the wisdom and grace of God to take over 7,000 years and 40 authors from the human side to give us a Book that is a light for our path and a guide for life and living. Even as "a little leaven leaveneth the whole loaf", so is the bad influence of one gone astray with tangents, diversions, and sin centered around Scripture, and sometimes they are even "that sort" of II Timothy that are to be avoided, at all cost, by other Christians

Bible Revelation Is

Sufficient!

The Bible is divine in origin from God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, always up-to-date as LORD God is more modern than modern {How can anyone be out of date that knows the future before it happens, Created all this universe with its many intricacies at the atomic and astronomical size and beauties beyond description, sees all, knows all, and is all powerful-you atheists, agnostics, DOMers, and unbelieving sceptics can criticize only when you really are superior to all that, not when you know just

a puny amount of all the books in the world which the knowledge of God exceeds}; the Bible is absolute in authority, many so called Christians still do not get that connection that when the Supreme and Modern Author of the Bible with knowledge of all science, radar, and computers just to name a few {See "Your God is too Small by J. B. Phillips} , God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit with the ASPI translation of the Word of God, the subject and interpretation is beyond debate {II Peter 1:20,21}; sufficient in message for all guidance and questions of faith and life, and if you do not experience that wisdom and knowledge daily, along with prayer, you are missing out on the Christian View of Life and Living; the Bible is high fidelity in communication {boy, does it communicate}; the Bible is dynamic and alive, with time in It more and more jumping off the page to come out and get you; the Bible is self-interpretative according to the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation {ASPI} of the Bible as clearly declared in II Peter 1:20,21; self-explanatory, setting down in the rules {hermeneutics} of the Bible how to understand the One God One Authorized interpretation; like interlacing rebar in a gigantic door of concrete, God foreordained a structure built around quotes in the NT from the OT during the over 4,000 years of writing from over 40 Apostles and Prophets, the quotes in the NT being not only a divinely ordained and chosen selection of top and best quotes from the OT but also accompanied with the

proper explanation and implementation {like someone in Latin America responded "That is some book"}.

The primary gist of the Bible is Christ the Messiah and salvation for eternal fellowship with God the Father and for His glory. The following portion of the Scriptures best summarizes that gist with the conclusion "that God may be all in all."

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (I Corinthians 15:24-28)

2-1: THE LIVING GOD OF THE LIVING.

I. God, Man, and Marriage.

1. Genesis 1:26,27, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6.

(1). Let US make man in OUR image bespeaks of the plurality of God during the time of creation.

(2). In our image and after our likeness tells of some of the glory of man that during Creation was acquired from God.

(3). The dominion of man over all the other works of Creation tells of the First Commission of man to be a pioneer in the exploration and control of the works of Creation.

(4). The Bible refers to man as male and female so that in marriage male and female becomes a complimenting couple of male and female. That is the way God originally created them; and in marriage that is the way He intends for it to keep going according to Jesus, and absolutely no person is to have any part in the separation of those two which God has joined together.

2. Genesis 2:7,24, I Cor 15:45, Matthew 19:5, I Cor 6:16, and Mark 10:7,8.

(1). From Gen 2:7 we learn that: (a) God created man physically from something that already existed, from the elements of the earth; (b) As far as the actual existence or inward spirit of man that came from God breathing into him the breath of life; and (c) With that spirit of life also man became a living soul.

(2). From Gen 2:24 we learn of the one flesh characteristics of marriage that God still intends and has always intended, that oneness emphasized by Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament.

(3). While Paul in I Cor 15:45 is emphasizing the difference between the first Adam and Christ the second Adam, also the difference between the natural and the spiritual body, the first man from earth and the second from heaven, he also contrasts the living soul and the living spirit.

(4). As a man departs from the household of his mother and father, cleaving to a wife in marriage, the two become in Gods sight as one flesh (Matthew 19:5,6 and Mark 10:7,8).

(5). So serious is this matter of joining with God that the Bible considers when a man has a relationship with a harlot that he becomes one body with her (I Cor 6:16).

3. Genesis 5:1,2, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6.

(1). Genesis 5:1,2 reinforces and builds on previous doctrine as God calls their name, male and female, Adam.

II. God and the Gospel of Christ and the Everlasting Kingdom.

1. Genesis 12:1-3 and Galatians 3:8,9.

(1). With Gods call to Abram to another land, God gave the everlasting covenant of: (a) From Abram's seed God would make the great nation of Israel; (b) Through his seed Christ the name of Abram would be great; and

(c) Through Abram all the families and nations of the earth would be blessed.

(2). Paul writes in *Galatians 3:8,9* that:

a. When God said "In thee shall all nations be blessed" God was preaching the Gospel

to Abraham;

b. This all nations meant the *Gentiles*, or heathen which is the favorite word of the

Bible for Gentiles;

c. This *Gospel* is justification through faith; and

d. All *Gentiles* and *Jews* who believe in Christ become the seed of Abraham through

faith.

2. *Genesis 15:5,6*, *Romans 4:18*, and *James 2:23*.

(1). In *Genesis 15:5* God identifies that the seed of Abram will be as numerous as the stars of the sky, and in *Genesis 15:6* since Abraham believed God will He said this the belief was counted for righteousness.

(2). In quoting "So shall your seed be" from *Genesis* in *Romans 4:18*, Paul emphasizes how Abraham believed in hope against hope that he would indeed be the father of many nations although he had at the time no sons.

(3). The Apostle James in James 2:23 reiterates how the faith of Abraham was counted as righteousness, adding that Abraham was called the friend of God.

3. Genesis 17:5 and Romans 4:17.

(1). As God changes the name of Abram to Abraham, He says "A father of many nations have I made thee".

(2). Paul tells us in Romans 4:17 that this quote from Genesis 17:5 tells us two things about God Himself:

- a. God is a life-giving God; and
- b. God is a God that can call into existence what did not previously exist.

III. God of the Living, our Father in Heaven.

1. Genesis 18:12-14 and Mark 10:27.

(1). God told Abraham and Sarah that though old and stricken in years they would have a son, and when Sarah laughed God said, Is any thing too hard for the LORD?

(2). Jesus in Mark 10:27, not in the same context but with a paraphrase of the same meaning, talks of salvation as all things are possible with God .

2. Genesis 22:18 and Galatians 3:16.

(1). All nations will be blessed with salvation through the seed of Abraham.

(2). That Seed is singular, the Seed is Christ.

3. Genesis 38:8 and Mark 12:19.

(1). Judah told Oman to raise up children to his brother Er whom God had slain.

(2). When the Sadducees brought up the matter of raising children by a died brothers wife and as to whose wife she would be in the resurrection, Jesus told them that what was important was that God was the God of the living, the God of the living Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

4. Exodus 3:6 and Luke 20:37.

(1). God told Moses in the call at the burning bush that He was the God of Moses father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(2). About the dead being raised to life, Jesus quotes Moses and Exodus 3:6 how God is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and with the emphasis on God as each time God with repeated with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

5. Exodus 9:16 and Romans 9:17.

(1). God has Moses tell Pharaoh that he has been put on the throne of Egypt for two reasons: (a) To demonstrate the power of God in securing the freedom of Israel; and (b) That the name of the living God and the God of the living might be declared over all the earth.

(2). In quoting that in Romans 9:17 and in explaining the meaning in Romans 9:16,18, Paul is telling us of how God is in control of world events; and what is important does not depend on the will of man or the competitiveness of man, but rather on the mercy of God, and that ultimately God will have mercy on whom He alone desires.

6. Exodus 12:46 and John 19:36.

(1). The Passover feast in remembrance of Gods rescue of Israel from Egyptian bondage among other things included that the lamb of the feast should not have a bone of the body broken, a direct quote of which we will see later in Psalms.

(2). When the Apostle John in John 19:36 tells of how at the Crucifixion of Jesus, and since Jesus was already dead contrary to custom, not a bone in His body was broken, John is quoting from both Exodus and Psalms 34:20. (Psalms 34:20 is directly quoted, and the reference from Exodus

12:46 is closer to a paraphrase.)

7. Exodus 16:18 and II Corinthians 8:15.

(1). During Gods supply of manna during the 40 years in the wilderness, those who gathered much had nothing left over and those who gathered little were not hungry so that it was completely by the grace of God and according to the individual needs.

(2). Paul quotes this in II Corinthians to illustrate equality among Christians in the churches, or to illustrate the democratic nature of salvation.

Bible Outline Paraphrased, Bible with Quotes and Notes continued,

Top Topic #2: Righteousness of God and Man.

Righteousness of God and Man Outline:

Part I: The Paraphrase of the Top Topic #2

Part II: The Bible Outline of Top Topic #2.

Part I: The Paraphrase of the Top Topic #2

This is Top Topic #2: The Righteousness of God and Man.

Perhaps you should be reminded at this beginning of the second lesson that surveys the total Bible under 12 major subjects, and it called the Top 12 Topics of the Bible of the manner in which these topics have been derived from the Bible. These topics with the outline of the sub-topics originated as all the Old Testament quotes in the New Testament, with the proper interpretation of them as given in the New Testament. {"no Scripture is of any private interpretation so that in the explanations of these quotes by Apostles and Jesus in the New

Testament you therefore have the ASPI, or Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible-you can not beat allowing God through the Holy Spirit in the writing of these Scriptures of the Bible to self-interpret those same Scriptures, alias the Bible is divine in origin, absolute and determinative in authority-that is you can not get any higher or better than God Himself as the ultimate authority; sufficient in message for all of living and eternal life, yes also for the pleasing of God and without faith in the Bible it is impossible to please God; high fidelity in communication, never sell God short as He is able to take these 66 books with the thousands of years of efforts from heaven and in cooperation with dedicated Prophets and Apostles, of course also of His own Son while He was never on earth most fully making known the will of God...and what with taking them has the ability to overcome all obstacles in communicating to man, language or otherwise; and finally the Bible is self-interpretative, and how lost we would be were it not so as almost everyone has an opinion of what is right or of what is justice and righteousness}

Righteousness, you must see, in all ways and always is a major or top topic of the Bible. Not only is a major word of the Bible as you will see by looking it up in any large Concordance of the Bible like YOUNG'S or STRONG'S, but it takes a lot of different words in both the Old Testament and New Testament in order to communicate from God what He has wanted man to know on the subject

for years. {A lot of people out of pride and haughtiness try to generate from the wisdom literature of man a Theology that is adequate to communicate God, but since God completed this task of writing the 66 book of the Bible almost two thousand years ago, it is both foolhardily and irreverent to take the replace it. This is how sin God started in the first place in the Garden of Eden as man and woman with the prompting of Satan attempted to replace the will of God with their own opinions.}

(1). For example from YOUNG'S ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE on "righteous", the source word of course for righteousness, where YOUNG tries to summarize all the distinctness in meaning under "righteous man" or "righteous cause", there are 3 Hebrew words used for righteous in the OT and 1 Greek word in the New Testament.

(a). The Hebrew word "yashar" translated as upright or right, and already we are starting to get at the very heart of righteousness as what is RIGHT. What is right and what is wrong has been an infinite searching of man and promotion of god. At heart the word righteousness seeks to describe rightness as contrasted to wrongness, of course based on the character, concepts, opinions, and value system of the God of the Universe Who created us. Typical of the other 8 usages of this Hebrew word for righteous in Job, Psalms, and Proverbs is the first in Numbers 23:10 where Balaam, when requested by King Balak to put a curse on Israel as

they began to march victoriously into the Promised Land, stated with an oracle from the very mouth of God of how could Balaam denounce or curse whom God had not cursed, a God that Balaam could see from the top of the rocks and behold in the hills, a God who can count the dust of Jacob or Israel, even number one-fourth of them; rather Balaam is prompted to say to Balak, that he be allowed to "die the death of the righteous", to have a life and death like that of Jacob himself.

(b). The most predominant Hebrew word used to describe righteous, and a preliminary to the establishment of righteousness on the earth on the part of God is the Hebrew word "tsaddiq", literally translated "righteous" or "just". It runs from Genesis to Malachi in 22 out of 39 books of the Old Testament, perhaps the most famous of which is the many references in Genesis where God and the angels sought for just 50 righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah before those twin cities were destroyed for their obvious unrighteousness.

(c). As in the nature of all Bible and Bible revelations, where it is a gradual revelation of God Himself and His character and perspective, the concept of right and rightness under the leadership of the Holy Spirit evolves by the time of Psalms {David}, Proverbs {Solomon}, and Isaiah {top among the Writing Prophets} where with the Hebrew word "tsedeq" it takes on a meaning of JUSTICE as well as rightness. By the way with the usage of one such in Isaiah 41:2-"Who in

righteousness called him to His feet"—an obvious reference to the hope during dark years for the nation of Israel, who in the chapter before of Isaiah has been crying as they so often did that God did not even see them anymore, is the real beginning of the positive and real hope for Israel and the world in the future as Christ comes from the east, and who with a new kingdom starts to reign over kings.

(d). Then we come to the peak of the revealed Word of God on RIGHT, RIGHTEOUS and JUST, of course in the NT and primarily from Jesus as we look at the Greek word "dikaios" found 37 times in the New Testament and in 14 of the 27 books of the NT.

Like in so much that Jesus came to earth to teach about God the Father, we learn most from the teachings of Jesus on WHAT IS RIGHT according to God.

(1). We are at first shocked when we read from Jesus in Matthew 9:13 that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance not the righteous already, where Jesus encourages the most religious people that have ever lived, the Pharisees, to go and learn what He meant as He was explaining His quote from Hosea 6:6 about how God "desires mercy not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6 and Matthew 9:13). There is much depth to understand from these passages alone on right, righteousness, and what God expects from man on rightness; but surely if nothing else we must see that as Jesus said later that "righteousness

must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees" (Matthew 5:20); also that salvation is by mercy and grace which eliminates any sacrifice to please God like works of righteousness for salvation.

(2). Jesus tells in Matthew 13:17 of how the people during His lifetime and teachings on earth had the benefit of hearing and seeing what "many prophets and righteous men" before them desired to see and hear, the important truth for our current TOP TOPIC of RIGHTEOUSNESS under Bible discussion and study is that like Prophets there were many other righteous men in the OT.

NOTE: One fear we must get over as church members and Christians in our contemporary society is the fear of sainthood, holiness, and righteousness. For whether you come to describe either the essentials of salvation or of Christian life and living, you must face up to the God-given spiritual realities of the necessity of true rightness of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Like RIGHTEOUS, the derivative word of "righteousness" as many fine points of meaning, 3 in the Hebrew of the Old Testament and 4 in the Greek of the New Testament: "tsedeg" for rightness and justice; "tsedaqah" also for rightness and justice; "tsidqah" for rightness and justice; "dikaiousune" for rightness and justice, used in the NT 9 times by Jesus, in Acts 4 times, and of course al most

innumerable times in Romans by Paul which some commentators like to describe under the title of "The Righteousness of God", and certainly one of the major subjects of that book; however Paul also uses it 30 more times in the writing of 9 other NT books—first and second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, first and second Timothy, Titus and Hebrews, also other Apostles like James, Peter, and John use this same word 13 more times; in Romans and Revelation and with the Greek word "dikaioma" there is the fine point of distinction of A JUDICIAL SENTENCE; in "dikaios of I Corinthians 15:34 there is a call to awaken issued to humanity to a righteous distinction where the meaning is more UPRIGHTLY, JUSTLY, and RIGHTLY with "Awake to righteousness and sin not..."; and finally in Hebrews 1:8 and with the Greek word "euthutes" there is a distinction of STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS with the "specter of righteousness".

NOTE: As a preliminary concept of the meaning of righteousness beyond the RIGHTNESS and JUST and JUSTICE that we have already removed by the Bible by exegesis, we can ass the larger concept of righteousness being the opposite of sin, of course recalling that sin often in the Bible is defined as the opposite of righteousness, or unrighteousness.

2-1: The Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20-Exodus 32)

As you suspected when you read the title of this second top topic of the Bible,

"The Righteousness of God and Man", the Ten Commandments would be a large part of God's demand for righteousness. In fact, you can easily say that this section of the Bible from Exodus and Numbers is dominated by the Ten Commandments as well as the failure of God's own Chosen people, the children of Abraham, Isaac, and of Jacob {Israel} out of Egyptian bondage to keep the covenant with God which the Ten Commandments summarize.

General History of Exodus and Leviticus.

The book of Exodus is dominated by that per se, the Exodus of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt 400 years after the death of Jacob or Israel; the subsequent 40 years of wandering in the desert after the giving of the Law and the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai; the failure of all of God's people over the age of 20 to enter the promised land and heaven, and the 40 more years of wandering of Moses, Joshua, and the next generation of God's people over 20 years of age. {Lest you find it difficult to believe that God went to all the trouble to bring the whole nation of Israel, with some Egyptians, out of bondage with many miracles and signs against Pharaoh and Egypt, then after many times of failed testing of these as the people of God, reject them as His own people-"many are called but few are chosen"-

then you should read the summary of this whole historical happening in the book of Hebrews, especially the summary of this Rebellion in the Wilderness of Hebrews 3:7-11 where God "swore in My wrath", and after 40 years of failed testing in the wilderness that, "they shall not enter My rest, given as an example for us in Hebrews of: (1) how not to harden the heart into rebellion when God brings the inevitable tests of life; (2) how patient God is to test and wait for faith over 40 years; and (3) In the anger of God and after so long a period of testing and lack of faith, there is the inevitable judgment of God on lack of faith; and (4) These first people of God, like many other people of God in this time, according to Hebrews and other NT books, God decides (a) they always go astray in their heart and (b) they have never really learned the Ways of God.}

Sampey {HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT} on "The Law of Moses".

"Law of Moses" is what Sampey calls this period of OT history, chapter 5, after respectively chapters on "The Beginnings", "The Patriarchal Period", Job, and the "Era of Moses and Joshua". Of course, our first Top Topic, "The Living God of the Living" introduced Genesis and the first part of Exodus up to the point where this Living God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" as God first introduced Himself to Moses and man at the burning bush, and this second top topic of "The Righteousness of God and Man" continue with the Pentateuch of the first

five books of the Bible-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, often referred to in the NT by Jesus and the Apostles as "the law of Moses" or "the law given by Moses" (John 1:17; John 7:19; John 5:45-47; and Luke 24:27), much of the very summary of the whole Bible of Old and New Testament, of salvation, and of God's dealings with man throughout history in order to achieve and promote righteousness in John 1:17.

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

Even as it will help you as you read and study the 14 NT books from the Apostle Paul, and the 3 which he sponsored through John Mark and Dr. Luke to realize that previously as a lawyer of the nation of Israel Paul was practiced in the national and religious laws of Israel, one and the same; so also you develop more understanding of the Bible as you comprehend that God all at one time and through Moses gave the laws of the Ten Commandments and the other rules and regulations of Exodus and Leviticus as both moral and the legal and religious laws of the new nation of Israel. And like Sampey writes on page 77 of HEART these "ten words" spoken by Jehovah from Mount Sinai, engraved on tablets of stone and later placed in the Ark of the Covenant, are the very foundation of the laws of Israel.

We will find out much more about them as both: (1) an expression of the very heart of the thoughts and

character of God; and (2) a summary of the expression of the righteousness of God, what He expects and what man can achieve through faith. Please understand: the just or justified of the OT by faith were able to achieve the righteousness of the law of the 10 commandments, legally through their faith in God and to only a certain extent actually in lives of faith and from God. {You may want to read more about these and other teachings from Jesus about the total law and 10 commandments from the books by Charles Allen, former pastor of the First Methodist Church in Houston, and in his books like "God's Psychiatry" and "God's Pattern of Thinking".}

Like Sampey in the same chapter points out, Jesus in general and in particular in the famous Sermon on the Mount of Matthew 5-7 took these 10 commandments "as a text" for His own teachings, taking them all the way into {as Allen also so well re-enforces} thought and feeling, requiring all disciples to see at the heart the original meanings against anger, lust, and foolish swearing. The truth was near all along, as a few in Israel of old knew and understood, but it took Jesus and the Apostles to forcefully bring it out. And something you must know about the 10 Commandments and the revelations of God from the Bible is that "love" as the fulfillment of the Law was there along, and from the beginning in the giving of the Law, not something Jesus added to the 10 commandments as a matter of theological evolution when He came on earth. Granted He added more understanding

of the original, but God intended that the 10 commandments all along be the fulfillment of love, and God clearly stated it as such in part of what He had Moses write down. {Deuteronomy 6:4,5 and Leviticus 19:18}. Many still do not get it that when Jesus answered the question of a scribe about the first and great commandment of the law as recorded in Mark 12:28-34 {by the way also at the very core of this Bible lesson Top Topic of Righteousness} Jesus quoted on (1) love for God out of Deuteronomy 6:4,5 and (2) on love for fellow man out of Leviticus 19:18. This were not new and even different worded summarizes of the 10 commandments and the rest of the law.

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength”. (Deuteronomy 6:4,5 and Mark 12:30)

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Leviticus 19:18)

So many simpleton and superficial Bible teachers today would have you believe that such a summary was never in the Old Testament, only the straightforward statements of the law of the 10 commandments in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 where Moses reviews for Israel these and the other aspects of the covenant with God. {Most of Deuteronomy is a review and rehash of the history of Israel in the wilderness, the covenant and commands of

God, with the promises of blessings or curses on Israel for the future, near the end of the life of Moses and just before Joshua took over to lead them into the Promised Land of Canaan. However this is more a subject for Top Topic #3, "The Composite Witness of the Bible" to come in the next installment which takes a whole separate topic to cover the many quotes in the NT from the book of Deuteronomy.}

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-1: Love of God and neighbor were in the 10 commandments of the law from the very beginning, stated but not fully understood by all, even as today; and when Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount and other places that He came to fulfill the law not destroy, it was to fulfill the love of God and fellow man and of righteousness.

Hester {also HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT} on

The original statement by God of the 10 commandments is given in Exodus 20, and quoted from quite often by Jesus and the Apostles in Luke 18:20, Mark 7:10, Matthew 5:38, Romans 13:8,9, and James 2:11. {You know there certainly are a lot usages of the 10 commandments, and quotes of in the NT, by the Apostles and Jesus for there to be so much ignorance of the deeper meaning of the commandments which were there all along in the original giving. For example, when in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that He "came not to destroy, but to fulfill

the law", He meant that literally as Jesus came to make full and fulfill the full intention and statements of God about the law which were there all along: (1) on love; (2) on the character of God as an expectation for the character of man; and (2) as the fulfillment of grace, truth, and righteousness.}

Granted, as also explained in Hebrews, Romans, and Galatians, the temple worship, the rules and regulations of burnt offerings as well as much of the formality of the law as given in Leviticus was done away with at the Crucifixion of Christ. God through Christ and the Crucifixion "nailed the rules and regulations to the cross". (Colossians 2:14)

Key to Bible understanding #2-2: Certainly while much of the law like the 10 commandments did not change from the OT to the teachings of Jesus and the NT, many of the rules and regulations, temple worship and sacrifices, were nailed to the cross as the temple at the Crucifixion of Christ was rent from top to bottom. By the way also the old covenant and the priesthood was replace by the Priesthood of Christ as the old covenant was obsoleted by God Himself.

However the old covenant with God was superseded with the New Covenant along with a means of man achieving actual as well as legal righteousness through the new birth of the Holy Spirit. {Hebrews 8:7-13}. God through Christ and the Crucifixion for salvation made the old

covenant "obsolete" according to the Word of God. {By the way in Isaiah and Ezekiel, especially at the same time God began through His Word to make it clearer that Christ was the way of salvation and righteousness, giving some future hope to a disheartened and distraught people of God, Israel, He also began to make clear that the shortcoming of the law and covenant would be overcome, fulfilled if you would, by the addition of a law written in the heart and mind, a new birth from the Holy Spirit.}

Key to Bible Understanding #2-3: Except for a few example lives like Moses, David, Abraham, for the most part the history of God's people of Israel is a dark and discouraging story of dismal failure, ups and downs with the breaking of the old covenant between God and man; but starting about midway through the Bible with Psalms, Isaiah, and other of the Prophets, God reveals more fully two great rays of hope for the future: (1) Christ as the Messiah Who will die on the cross for the sins of the world, Jews and Gentiles; and (2) a new way of righteousness legally, through faith in the cross, and actually through the new heart and new mind from the Holy Spirit. {By the way another great ray of hope is of with a new people of Jews and Gentiles, also a New Jerusalem with a new earth and a new heaven, and yes that is also at the end of Isaiah, chapter 66.}

The quote of Exodus 21:17 by Jesus as recorded in Mark 7:10, where the law of Moses, of course not in the 10

commandments, specified that anyone cursing mother or father would be put to death, illustrates one aspect of the law of Israel that did not remain as a rule or regulation after the Crucifixion of Christ.

(1). After the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20 came (a) the Law of the Altar of earth and for burnt offerings, (b) in Exodus 21 first the Law concerning servants, (c) then concerning violence and (d) animal control laws, and so on and on detailed laws for the country to promote justice; in the middle of the laws on violence-first the striking of a man so that he dies {however for the murderer that did not lie in wait, God provided a city of refuge where he could flee, 21:13}, second the punishment of death for premeditated murder, third the punishment of death for those who strike mother or father, fourth death for a man who kidnaps a man and sells him; then in 21:17 the verse quoted in Mark 7:10 by Jesus where "he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death."

(2). Since this non-ten commandment aspect of the law and regulations did not survive past the Crucifixion of Christ into Christianity, as like in America and other countries similar laws were not like in Israel also the law of the land, we do not worry about it; of course, we realize without the penalty of law how serious this disrespect of parents is to God. Yes, as part of the Ten Commandments which remained part of Christianity was the commandment to "honor father and mother". (Exodus

20:12) in order, the full commandment states, "that your days may be long upon the earth."

(3). What Jesus was dealing with as He used the quote of Exodus 21:17 in Mark 7:10 was how the religious leaders of His own day and time to: make the Word of God, like in the original commandment, of no effect by the traditions of man (Mark 7:13), for through the years since the original giving of the Law of Moses, the dominant interpretation of this law was any grown man could say to his parents "Corban", that is what profit you might have received from me is given to God as a gift, thus "then", in the words of Jesus, "you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother" (Mark 7:12); and even these statements by Jesus let's us know that the kind of cursing of mother and father was one such that allowed the children to escape any responsibility for care of mother and father.

(4). The whole teaching passage on this law and the incident with Pharisees and scribes started when they saw some of the disciples eating bread with unwashed {defiled hands, in their opinion}. Notice that there is not a quoting of any law or regulation at this point, but the explanation of John Mark in Mark 7:3 that the tradition of the elders and therefore of the Pharisees was that before any meal the Pharisees would wash their hands in a special way. These Pharisees questioned Jesus not about the Law of Moses, but about the "tradition of the elders" about bread and unwashed hands. (Mark 7:5) Jesus did

quote from Isaiah, Isaiah 7:7, in response to the question from the Pharisees how: (1) the people of God honor God with their lips while the heart is far away from God; (2) they worship God vainly or to no profit; and (3) they teach for doctrines the commandments of men.

Key to Bible Understanding #2-4: Among the most religious of God's people and leaders religious customs and traditions had and do come to replace the commandments and teachings of God, sometimes by interpretations not of the ASPI type and sometimes just by custom and tradition; today and then among the religious of God's people there can be a lot of false and vain worship of lip service that is considered vanity in the sight of God and Christ.

(5). Jesus immediately taught the multitude of how it is the things that come out of a man or women that defile him not the things that come into a man from the outside (Mark 7:15); and later to His disciples, who puzzled on this parable, He explained that "out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness {and surely in these you see the 10 commandments}, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." (Mark 7:21,22)

The quote of Exodus 21:24, about an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth", in Matthew 5:38 is also a quote of the OT from Jesus, of course part of the Sermon on the Mount and a continuation of proper interpretations of the

10 commandments and law for Christians, after discussion of fulfillment of the law, of murder which really starts in the heart with hate, of adultery in the heart, of marriage as sacred and binding, of forbidding of all oaths, and then here as the "second mile" of Christianity. Jesus says do not resist evil with evil, to turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile with the demander, and to give to the person who asks or who would borrow from you.

(Matthew 5:39-42) Once again the laws, rules, and regulations of the law beyond the Ten Commandments ceased with the cross to be part of the covenant between God and man. And once again such actions as the second mile, a fulfillment of the love of the law in the 10 commandments fulfills the love and righteousness of God. Yes, the eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth were part of the Law of Moses, and from God for the national laws of the nation of Israel as part of the old covenant; yet not part of the new covenant, Jesus explained that love was part, always in the 10 commandments, as fulfilled in the extra mile and other cheek.

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-5: Acts of love, love being the fulfillment of the law and righteousness of God, like the extra mile, the other cheek, and giving, are to replace the Law of Moses and of the original nation of Israel where the only sense of justice is "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and a life for a life". Once again the proper interpretation of the 10 commandments as love for God and love for

neighbor, like original written and intended, takes the place of detailed regulations on eye for eye, since the commandments were not properly carried out and interpreted in the first place. If in doubt, go by what Jesus taught, knowing that it came from God where Jesus lived before His short life on earth. Justice and righteousness, of God and of Christ and for Christians, goes far beyond in challenge and in rightness that the simple justice of the law that requires one for one, eye for eye and tooth for a tooth or life for a life.

Idolatry was wrong not because of the command "to have no other gods before Me" or "thou shalt worship the Lord your God and only Him shall you serve", but because it is the natural requirement of a Creature for His Creator as well a reflection of what God is like, alias the character of God; and when I Corinthians 10:7 with a quote from Exodus 32:6 describes the play of the people while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the very commandment against idolatry, in context of Exodus 32 you will see that the creation of the golden calf to worship and around which to play was idolatry.

Key to Bible Understanding 2-6: as Paul explains, the ASPI, the golden calf incident of Exodus 32 we have many understandings of idolatry as committed by the first of God's people and also as by God's people today-(1) Although all of God's people in the wilderness were rescued by way of the sea by God,

also lead by the cloud in the wilderness, and ate the same manna from heaven and spiritual food, and drank of the water from God including the spiritual water of Christ, "with most of them God was not pleased" (I Corinthians 10:5) {that is, God's people who do not please God}; (2) God scattered most of their bodies in the wilderness; (3) in the Bible God gives us these bad examples of His own people as examples not to follow (I Cor 10:6); (4) that we like them "should not lust after evil things" like they lusted, for example when they complained about the manna, quail, and water and coveted those delicacies like watermelon which they had in Egypt; and (5) when they played after eating and drinking the Bible as the Word of God, I Corinthians 10:7, as "idolaters"; (6) some of God's people in the wilderness committed "sexual immorality" and 23,000 of God's own were slain in one day in the wilderness; (7) some tempted Christ, being destroyed by serpents; (8) some of them complained and were destroyed. All of these examples of the Falling Away in the wilderness, and of course the violations of all the righteousness of God and of the commandments, and the consequences thereof with judgment from God are written in the Word "for our admonition"; and for the caution that whoever things that He stands as a chosen of God could still fall and fell.

2-2: The Laws of a Holy and Righteous God.
(Leviticus 4-18)

NOTE: As we have already observed in this study is that the Laws of Moses went beyond the 10 commandments to regulations, civil law which would be the law of the new nation of Israel, and even how to organize. There is no indication that God ever intended for other nations to have the same strict and very holy civil law of Israel, yet on the other hand all the listing of rules and regulations eliminated through Christ and the cross indicate an wiping out of most of them. Yet at heart, we must realize that even as God wanted and demanded a "holy people" like Himself, it never happened not only because of the continued and up and down disobedience toward the old covenant between God and man, but because of the weaknesses of the law (1) without a Christ and the cross, and (2) without the new birth from the Holy Spirit.

Copies of the true, or simulations if you would, should not be confused the true. (Hebrews 9:22-24 and Leviticus 4:18-20) We could concentrate on the copies of the laws and regulations and organizations, but since they are now gone and obsolete, it would be far better to concentrate on the TRUES of Hebrews 9 and the rest of Hebrews.

(1). These laws and regulations such as blood sacrifices were copies of higher things in heaven. (9:23)

(2). The holy of holy of the temple, made with human hands, was a copy of the TRUE heaven itself, which Christ

did in the atonement of the Crucifixion as He appeared in the very presence of God in heaven for us (9:24).

(3). Even as a copy was also the high priest as he entered once every year with other blood, the true was the Crucified Christ who entered once for all with the sacrifice of Himself, putting away "by the sacrifice of Himself" {redemption} has put away sin once for all (9:26).

The requirements for holiness, fulfillment of the law and of righteousness, has remained a constant of the law in Leviticus 11:44 and I Peter 1:16, Word of God from the Apostle Peter. The Apostle Peter concludes admonitions from God the Holy Spirit, and as he was taught by Christ, with this quote in I Peter 1:16 of Leviticus 11:44-by the way more of the law fulfilled in Christ and not destroyed like some of the rules and regulations-"Be holy, for I am holy". This is the bottom line conclusion and what is being written, preceded and followed by implications for Christian behavior: (1) gird up the loins of your mind, another way to say focus on the long range hope of the Second Coming and the new earth; (2) Be sober; (3) rest in your hope of the grace to come in the Second Coming; (4) Be obedient children of God that do not conform to former lusts that possessed you before conversion and while you were still ignorant; (5) The God and Christ who called you are "holy", so also all your conduct is to be holy; (6) call on God the Father who judges all behavior without partiality; and (7) be reminded that you were redeemed

not with silver and gold but with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-7: Christians and church members are to seek to be holy and righteous based on the character of God the Maker, that He is holy. God expects of us, made in the image of God, what He Himself is; and what He originally intended for us to be as made in the image of God.

Do not be among those who say the Ten Commandments is all the religion I need, or do not strive to live by the law and laws of God and Moses as, according to Leviticus 18:5, and 16 and as quoted in Galatians 3:12, anyone who desires to live under the law must find life by keeping all the law.

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-8 in the context of Galatians 3's interpretation of the law and of Leviticus 18:5: (1) absolutely no one is justified by the law in the sight of God (Galatians 3:11); (2) the just, or justified, must live not by law but by faith (3:11 and Habakkuk 2:4); the law is not faith and faith is not the law (3:12 and Leviticus 18:5); (3) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, death and etc., having in the cross become a curse in our place (3:13).

2-3: More from the Bible on the Righteousness of God and Man.

While this second Top Topic of the Bible is based on and centered around the three books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, like with some of the other books of the Bible where quotes overlap and reinforce each other, and in the name of good Bible exegesis and hermeneutics {the science of biblical interpretation with books by Bernard Ramm on THE SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION}, where we keep our understanding of the Bible in the total context of the Bible, we must expand to other Scriptures on Righteousness as we did at the beginning of this chapter.

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-9: Whether you are reading from Leviticus, Proverbs, Psalms, or Matthew, the best explanation of what you find in one book, chapter, and verse is what you find in the rest of the Bible. This is the principle of Bible hermeneutics called keep Bible in the total context, the corollary of which is "Read your Bible, it will throw a lot of light on the commentaries"; or we can say what is in one part of the Bible, since the origin in all cases is the same as from God, will shed light on what is in other parts of the Bible, and vice versa.

The Righteousness of God and Man.

(1). Psalm 111 provides us a good introductory description to the Righteousness of God.

As we quickly skim through Psalm chapter 111, you will notice the connection between works and righteousness.

In fact the phrases are almost interchangeable between "the works of God" which are great in 111:1 and "His righteousness which endures forever" in 111:3. Several things are emphasized about the works of God in this Psalm: (a) The works are great; (b) God's work is honorable (v3); (c) His work is glorious (v3); (d) It is wonderful how "God has made" (v4) His wonderful works to be remembered, and we immediately think of three ways, in the Word of God and in the works of Creation and Salvation; (e) the works of His hands are verity, obvious a derivative of truth; (f) God's works are justice.

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-10: Whether you study the works of man or God, of the righteousness of God or man from the Bible, you will find that works and righteousness are closely connected so that in most cases you are talking about the works of righteousness, man or God.

Manifestations of the works or righteousness of God are given throughout the Psalm: (a) His works manifest themselves in greatness whether you talk about the works of Creation, of salvation, or of the creation and preservation of the Bible; (b) His righteousness and works endure forever, that is they are everlasting, and we must modify the works of Creation in the sense that while the old earth and old heavens will be shaken apart and consumed with fire to make room for the new earth, an earth and heaven the creations of God do remain {and if you read carefully Revelation 21 on the new heaven and

new earth, where first there is no more sea, then you start to realize the possibility except for the New Jerusalem that is lowered to the existing Mount Zion that the new earth will possibly exist where the water of the seas and oceans were melted by the fervent heat}; (c) God's works of righteousness include "graciousness" and "compassion" (v4), in fact they "are full of graciousness and compassion" {by the way all the holiness and righteousness of God is to be emulated by Christians as they were emulated to the very tee by our author and finisher of the Christian faith, the Lord Jesus Christ}; (d) God's works of righteousness are seen in that He gives food to the people who respect Him (v5); (e) We see the works of the righteousness of God in that He always has in mind the covenant and covenants that He makes with His own people (v5); (f) God works righteousness as He declares, primarily through Jesus, the Prophets, and the Bible-alias the Bible-the power that is in those works like salvation, Creation, and creation and preservation of the Bible, specifically however according to verse 6, this power is declared as God's people receive the heritage of the nations, something that will fully happen on the New earth after the Second Coming of Christ; (g) God's works of righteousness are seen in the realization that "all His precepts are sure"(v7), stable and to be relied on more than gravity, inertia, and gravitational attraction; (h) God's works of righteousness are "done in truth and uprightness" (v8); (h) We dare not neglect redemption, another word for salvation with a particular emphasis on

in salvation how God bought us back from sin and servitude to sin even though at Creation we had originally belonged to Him (v9); (i) God is righteous and God works because He has "commanded His {everlasting} covenant forever"-it like God is immutable (v9); and (j) the works of righteousness of God include that all about His character and Name, that He is holy and awesome. {In the previous introduction to holy and holiness from Leviticus, some effort was made to distinguish between holiness and righteousness, but I think that we see that whether we are talking about the holiness and righteousness of God or man, righteousness has the emphasis on the works-more like personality-while holiness has the emphasis on character. The difference is what we do are what we are. And it is hoped that some distinction between actual righteousness and sanctification has been gleaned, recalling that "saints" as a common word in the Bible for Christians is derived from sanctification, and that sanctification is the actual process started with the regeneration of the new birth and finalized when we see Christ as He is. In short, sanctification is becoming holy.}

Key to Bible Understanding #2-11: Sanctification like character is becoming holy while righteousness-actual, not legal and real-like personality and started with the regeneration of the new birth is the works of righteousness. Years ago my habit was to divide righteousness into LEGAL and REAL; but since when

God declares us righteous because of faith in Christ that is as real as an righteousness can be even though more a legal righteousness as described in the atonement, so that the two categories of righteousness for man should be (1) Legal and Real, and (2) Actual {for our continuing Bible study on righteousness, you will find that "actual" is a Bible word and from Romans.

NOTE: The first covenant which God made with Abraham was the "everlasting" covenant, when God Himself preached the Gospel to Abraham and Abraham believed; the second covenant was the Old Covenant of the Old Testament given by God through Moses and between God's original people of Israel; and the new covenant of the New Testament was actually the fulfillment of the Everlasting Covenant, one sealed with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in atonement and crucifixion.

Key to Understanding Bible # 2-12: The Everlasting Covenant with God made with Abraham, that is "God preached the Gospel to Abraham" and Abraham believed, a righteousness by faith was the first covenant of God with man, and which by the way according to Romans included us as Gentiles since Abraham is our father by faith; the second covenant was the old covenant between God and Israel given through Moses, often violated and broken by God's own people, and was inadequate in that it did not include

the reality of the new birth {this became known about Jeremiah and Ezekiel}; and the new covenant of the New Testament based on the atonement and blood of Christ replaced the old covenant; however in reality it was a fulfillment of the everlasting covenant.

(2). We comprehend something of the righteousness of man in Proverbs 12. What we read in Proverbs 12 are some selected thoughts from God on the "righteousness of man". If you were teaching and preaching on this chapter of the Word of God, you might want to entitled it "The Righteousness of Men".

(a) First Proverbs 12:3 established a contrast between righteousness and wickedness, allowing us to quickly see that they are opposites, then presents the first characteristic of a righteous man as "a root that can not be moved" {the wicked can not be established in the sight of God} (v3); (b) The righteous man has "right thoughts", of course consistent with "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he" and the statements from Jesus about it is the things that come out of the heart that defile a man, the opposite also being true (v5); (c) The righteous man has a "house that will stand" while the wicked are overthrown and disappear, of course this speak of end judgment and for eternity (v7); (d) A righteous man is humane and regards the life of animals (v10); (e) the root, and surely we read character here, "of the righteous yields fruit" (v12); (e) the righteous have the characteristics, or resulting personalities, to "come through trouble" as

compared to the wicked that gets trapped in the transgressions of his own lips, again of judgment and eternal judgment (v13); (f) since the righteous man declares truth then it is a work or declaration of righteousness (v17); (g) when you look at the long range and end results of the life of the righteous, you will find that "no grave trouble will overtake" them (v21); (h) the righteous are to choose his friends careful (v26); and (i) "In the way of righteousness is life", where the path does not include death.

NOTE: It behooves us to learn, achieve, and seek the WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which we will continue to do! Does this not remind you of Jesus' statement in the Sermon on the Mount, and a conclusion of several other statements in the Sermon of Matthew 5 and 6, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."

"Righteousness" in the Sermon on the Mount. No doubt you have read, studied, even taught and preached the Sermon on the Mount, or Matthew 5-7 quite often; but have you realized how prominent the word "righteousness" is while still be hidden in all the other teachings of Jesus that have gained lasting impressions.

(1). Jesus with a message and more teachings from God in heaven, where He previously lived, gives a promise of blessing or happiness to those who will hunger and seek after the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God (Matthew 5:6), the

blessing being when God and Christ witness this dedicated effort of hungering and thirsting after righteousness of a promise that "they will be filled"! Later in the Sermon you will find promises that with the proper priority in life of God and righteousness over bread and things, that the bread and things as necessary {not the Gospel of Prosperity} will be added; but here the spiritual bread takes the place of the physical bread and necessities as the guarantee from God and Christ comes that there will be filling. There will be no hunger in the life of any child of God for righteousness when that righteousness is eagerly and seriously sought!

(2). Now with righteous manifestations of good works, there is no immunity from the persecutions of the world. Like Jesus said later, "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you." However again while the promise and guarantee is not from persecution, the guarantee is that the persecuted will inherit the kingdom of heaven. In fact, you would have to say that the kingdom of heaven is especially designed for the persecuted. Of course from the book of Revelation we learn that there are two resurrections: (a) the first immediately after death as with spiritual bodies they go to heaven to be with God and Christ; and (b) the second resurrection where the spirits of just men made perfect finally at the Second Coming of Christ receive their resurrected bodies. (Matthew 5:10)

(3). Christ sets very high standards for the righteousness of man in Matthew 5:20 as he tells the

children of God that "their righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees." Oh yes, these men were the religious leaders of the day, some of the most religious that have ever lived in prayer, worship, and works; but it was and is not enough according to Christ. Later as we come to Romans, the book on Righteousness of Man and God, we will see that they "being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, had not submitted to the righteousness of God" which is by faith.

(4). "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) The priority of life must be for God and righteousness.

Previously we saw in Psalm 111 how the righteousness of God relates, almost synonymously, with the works of God: now we see how in Galatians 5 that the works of man relates to the righteousness of men, of course this is not LEGAL and REAL righteousness but actual.

(1). We have previously looked at Leviticus 19:18 which is quoted by other books of the NT besides in Galatians 5:14, and we will look at it again, including an expanded look at the book of Leviticus with its message of separation from the other peoples in the lands of Egypt and Canaan {separation from other Gentiles and normal Gentile behavior has always been a goal and demand of God for His own people}.

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14 and Leviticus 19:18)

NOTE: Later we will see where the Apostle James in James 2:8 quotes this same verse from Leviticus and calls it "the royal law". Don't take it too lightly because Pastor James is getting at the practice of discrimination based on clothing, status, and money, a common and accepted practice of unrighteousness and sin and wickedness today. {Yes, while it is true that the American Democratic Faith prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, and creed, the Faith of the Lord Jesus Christ prohibits respect of any persons, calling it a sin as serious as murder or adultery.}

A little perspective of the context of Leviticus 18 and 19 is in order here! I would chose to summarize the title of Leviticus 18, "Do not According to the Doings of Egypt and Canaan" while some Bibles like to call it "laws on sexual morality", and that is there also. Several key points of some of the verses helpful for our continued study of righteousness and love are: (1) God spoke to Moses, and Moses spoke to the children of Israel that "I am the LORD your God" {right, sounds like the beginning of the 10 commandments first of Exodus 20 and then the review for the new generation in Deuteronomy 6; and indeed you will find a lot of similarity between the 10 commandments and the subject matter of Leviticus 19 which, in fact, I like to entitle "Commentary on the Ten

Commandments"); (2) God admonished them through Moses (v18:3) not to do according to the doings of the land where they dwelt in Egypt or in the land of Canaan where they were going {stated in another way God told them "not to walk in their ordinances"}; (3) From verse 4 and the context of Leviticus we realize that coming from God were four categories of requirements for righteousness-commandments like in the ten commandments, conditions of the old covenant between God and Israel, "judgments", and "ordinances" {sometimes the word "statutes" is used in the place of ordinances, so that the last two categories of requirements of right or righteousness from God become statutes and ordinances}; (4) Previously under the Laws of a Holy God we looked at Leviticus 18:5,6 {and as quoted in Galatians 3:12}, "My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them", however we did not warn you of the Bible in Romans to come which essentially states that the law and laws came after the everlasting covenant was given to Abraham and the world, that the law of Moses and of God was given later to make sin obvious and promote guilt; (5) God's people of Israel are not to "defile" themselves with any of these things of immorality and lack of rightness mentioned, and as practiced by the other nations around them-God is casting them out before them (v24)-what is happening is that the land is "vomiting out" the inhabitants of the land; (6) The people of Israel are to keep the ordinances of God in order that they will not commit the "abominable customs" of the inhabitants, also

in order that they will not defile themselves, the opposite of course, is to be "holy" like God of character and righteous in the works of personality (v30).

Key to Bible Understanding # 2-13: The argument of Romans 3 is to contrast a righteousness by law and a righteousness apart from the law which we will come to later in a closer look at Romans 3 on righteousness; however now is the time in the study to declare according to the Word of God that the law, alias ten commandments, even statutes, ordinances, and judgment {alias God's character and value system of holiness} in order: (1) that every mouth might be stopped as it claimed innocence from blame, Paul will call it our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ and righteousness by faith; and (2) that the whole world, Jews and Gentiles, might become guilty before God.

"Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." (Romans 3:19)

And as we see from the Galatians 3:12 quote of Leviticus 18:5,6, amplified and explained in the larger context of Romans and Galatians, a miniature of Romans, is that if indeed a man could keep all the laws, statutes, ordinances, and judgments of God to perfect, this would be a way to live eternally; however, it is not possible, and lest you doubt that look at the number of moral Americans and

church members who discriminate against the poor and those of lack of status.

The Description of Righteousness by Faith of Romans 4.

{Hopefully you read the book of Romans as recommended in Top Topic #1, and it should be easy for you to read now only the fourth chapter of Romans.} Due to limitations of time and space, we can only hit some of the highlights of this chapter as relate to a description of Righteousness by Faith. {Recall that the problem with many religious people, even secular, of the world is that they attempt to establish their own righteousness in the sight of God, therefore never get around to a righteousness by faith.}

(1). The original promise of the everlasting covenant to Abraham, and his seed of faith which includes us, was before the law, being a "righteousness of faith" (Romans 4:13).

(2). It is "of faith" and "by grace". (Romans 4:16) Never have the little words of "of" and "by" meant so much.

(3). Righteousness is legally "accounted" to us as it was to Abraham when God sees faith. (Romans 4:22)

(4). Another way to say righteousness is accounted to us, in the words of Romans and the Bible is to say that "righteousness is imputed to us who believe" (Romans 4:23,24). While accounted makes it clear that the necessary legal book keeping in heaven has been done for

us to be declared righteous, it seems in imputed to get to us here on earth. Either way, you know it is by faith and of grace, a gift of righteousness.

(5). In Romans 4:25 you have two great words of salvation, the atonement not stated but implied in the Christ "was delivered up for our offenses" and directly stated in the "justification".

The Gift of Righteousness of Romans 5.

(1). Surely you see "the gift of righteousness" as a Bible phrase as in Romans 5:17.

(2). You also see some definition of the great word of salvation, "justification", in Romans 5:18 where there is by faith a "justification of life" and based on another great act and word of salvation, "atonement" without the use of the word itself, as the contrast is made between original sin of Adam and Eve where the condemnation of God passed on to all humanity because of this one man Adam, and then by the one God-man, Christ, and His one act in crucifixion the atonement passed upon all men, "even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life."

(3). By the obedience of one God-man, Christ, "many will be made righteous" (5:20), the MADE RIGHTEOUS is once again a good phrase to describe the imputation or accounting of righteousness to man. It is legal but it is real as it comes from God and through Christ!

Some of the big words of salvation—such as justification, redemption, propitiation, as related to the righteousness of God and man in Romans 3.

(1). Two of the great words of the great salvation of God are in Romans 3:24, namely justification and redemption, as we read “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”.

(2). God through “propitiation” by the blood of Christ, and through faith

GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS: it was necessary according to Paul and the Bible for God to demonstrate that He was still the very nature of righteousness in spite of the fact that he had overlooked all those sins of all those people in past history, “because in HIS forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed”. In one of the greatest of all statements of the Bible that describes God as “JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER”, in Romans 3:26 God through JESUS’ atonement and “through faith” demonstrates in the present His own righteousness.

(3). There is in Romans 3 a short description of the difference between **RIGHTEOUSNESS BY LAW** and **RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH**. {You will find that difference set out quite often in Romans, especially in Romans 10 where it says that the righteousness by faith does not try to reach up to heaven to be like God by works, etc.}

Righteousness by Law prohibited by: whatever the law says to you or does not say to you, it does say that any and all who chose to be under the law and live under the law do not achieve any righteousness in the sight of God but rather [1] have their mouths of self-justification stopped, and [2] become guilty in the sight of God. (Romans 3:19,20) There is no justification in the sight of God by the "deeds {works} of the law. In fact, just the opposite "by the law is the knowledge of sin".

Righteousness of God apart from law (Romans 3:21-26): [1] this new righteousness of God apart from law is "now revealed" {obviously in the time of Christ where it was fully demonstrated and through Christ and the Apostles made clear}; [2] of course it was witnessed to as the way of salvation and the everlasting covenant by the Prophets in the OT and the Apostles and Jesus in the NT, by the "law and the Prophets"; [3] it is a righteousness of God through faith in Christ; [4] to all and for all who "believe", there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, only a difference between righteousness by law {which is impossible} and righteousness by faith; [4] Justified by the grace of God and through redemption {another great word of salvation which literally means that God bought us back, although we originally belonged to Him by Creation, from bondage to sin and Satan and death} in Christ-you have to watch the little words in the reading of Romans like the "in" which is "in Christ", the "through" in through the justification that is in Christ Jesus and

the "being" and "freely" in "being justified freely by His grace"; and [5] God set forth Christ as a PROPITIATION {another great word of salvation} by His blood {the blood of Christ being another short descriptive word for the atonement}.

Characteristics of Righteousness and Unrighteousness as presented in Romans 1. {Yes, as stated previously Romans has, as some commentators like Dr. Wolber of Ouachita Baptist has entitled his commentary, the Righteousness of God. However once again you must read Romans 1 as in no way can we do justice to the content now.}

(1). In Romans 1:16,17 the "Gospel of Christ" is introduced as: (a) the power of God demonstrated all the way to salvation {you have no doubt that Paul is about to make the greatest treatise of all on the salvation of God as based on the proper interpretation of the OT quotes on the subject, revealed and witnessed but never fully explained or understood until men could see Christ}; (b) for everyone who believes, Jew and Gentile; (c) through it is the "revelation of the righteousness of God" {yes righteousness and salvation is the subject of Romans}; (d) the Gospel is a way of salvation from "faith to faith", as it starts in initial faith and continues in faith; and (e) with a quote from Habakkuk 2:4, "The just {and justified} shall live by faith", we are assured once again that the everlasting covenant by faith was there in the OT all along. It was really there so God could overlook the sins

of the past, being both the just God and the justifier of all who believe .

(2). We can see much about what lived or "actual" righteousness is by what is not, it is not the opposite of "unrighteousness" of Romans 1:29-32. All of these are the very opposite of the nature of God and inspired in men by Satan and the "spirit within us that lusteth to envy" (James 4:5): (a) sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; and with the subsequent description of the character of men where there is unrighteousness: (a) whisperers, (b) backbiters, (c) haters of God, (d) violent, (e) proud, (f) boasters, (g) inventors of evil things, (h) disobedient to parents, (i) undiscerning, (j) untrustworthy, (k) unloving, (l) unforgiving, and (m) unmerciful.

Part II: The Bible Outline of Top Topic #2.

2-2: RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AND MAN

Note: This second topic outlining the Bible is shorter than the first, which of course was largely determined by the number of OT quotes in the NT and the pre-determined amount of the OT to include, in this case it runs from Exodus 20-you got it the Ten Commandments that show the character and righteousness of God, and the righteousness of man that God originally determined for him, now only possible through faith in Christ, both

legally and possible righteousness. Leviticus and Numbers are also included, leaving for topic 3 the greater quoted book of Deuteronomy.

The Ten Commandments. Exodus 20, Luke 18:20, Mark 7:10, Matthew 5:38, Romans 13:8,9, and James 2:11.

(1). These are the Ten Commandments according to Jesus and the Apostles.

Exodus 21:17 and Mark 7:10: speaking evil of mother and father was considered so serious to God that those who did such were to be put to death.

Exodus 21:24 and Matthew 5:38: under the law it was to be life for life, eye for eye, and tooth for tooth s greatly did God respect human life and welfare and desire Israel to do the same.

Exodus 32:6 and I Corinthians 10:7: Paul reminds Christians at Corinth not to be idolaters even as the children of Israel were while Moses was on Mount Sinai getting the Ten Commandments.

The Laws of a Holy God.

Leviticus 4:18-20 and Hebrews 9:22: not a paraphrase or a quote, but rather in Hebrews 9:22 Paul summarizes what blood could do in the laws and ordinances of the Old Testament, the practices of which Leviticus 4:18-20 is typical.

Leviticus 11:44 and I Peter 1:16: God requires that His people be Holy since He Himself is Holy.

Leviticus 18:5,16 and Galatians 3:12: any person who desires to live under the Laws must live by keeping the Laws.

Leviticus 19:12 and Matthew 5:33.

(1). In these just and holy requirements of the Law of Leviticus since "I am the LORD", His name is not be sworn by falsely nor profaned.

(2). With this quotes and as a starting point, Jesus says don't make any oath at all.

How Did the Law Read during the time of Jesus.

Luke 10:26: "And He (Jesus) said to him, `What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" (NASV)

Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:27: (1) To Love God with all the heart, mind, and soul; and (2) To Love your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 18:5 and Luke 10:28: "And He (Jesus) said to him, `You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE." (NASV)

NOTE: If you could really do this, keep these laws, you would live eternally.

IV The Laws Jesus Came to Fulfill, not Destroy.

Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 5:43: You have been told to love your neighbors and hate your enemies?

Be like God (Matthew 5:44,45): "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (NASV)

Galatians 5:14, Romans 13:8,9, and James 2:8: All the Law is fulfilled in Love for Neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 20:9 and Mark 7:10 (with Exodus 20:12 and Deut 5:16): Since in the Law the requirement to "Honor father and mothers has already been established and quoted here, it follows also on the ordinances of the law, or applications, that those who curse mother and father should die.

NOTE: The emphasis of Jesus in Mark 7:13 is that the religious leaders were trying to invalidate the Word of God by their traditions.

Leviticus 28:12 and II Corinthians 6:16: God desires a distinct or special people among whom He can dwell and be their God.

NOTE: In Isaiah 52:11 as quoted in II Corinthians 6:17 this is to be a clean and separate people.

The real way to eternal life, to fulfillment of righteousness and the Laws, is through faith in the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world.

Numbers 9:12 and John 19:36 reminds us that as predicted in the Old Testament not a bone in the body of Christ was broken during Crucifixion.

You as always are welcome to free download this chunk of the Bible outline paraphrased under Thru Bible 2 at <http://www.sungrist.org/ThruBible2.pdf> .

THE BIBLE IS ONE!

Part I: Deuteronomy Bible and It's NT Quotes Introduction.

This section of Bible based on Deuteronomy reminds us that the BIBLE IS ONE. Even as the Trinity is the Godhead of three persons and "God is One", so also the Bible is two major divisions of Old and New Testament with the Bible as One large Book from God of 66 books. We appreciate men like Hester who have given us outstanding Bible study in two semesters with "Heart of Hebrew History" and the "Heart of the New Testament", and the Bible teachers of Ouachita and Baylor who taught us; also Samey's "Heart of the Old Testament" which is a pleasure to read now; however at some point of maturity

in our Christian lives of Bible, we need to bring the Bible back to One. It is noteworthy that historical criticism and so many commentaries today, and study Bibles out of DTS with duplicate Scofield notes, enjoy separating one Bible book from another for study; and that is the way more denominations as man's creations are born, or worse the Scofield Reference Bible movement is enhanced as the DTS graduates are now striving to do with their Study Bible creations and through selling on the Lifeway of the SBC.

This Literal Bible series encourages the understanding of the Bible as ONE, getting it all back together as it should be with One author the Spirit of God. Granted is so hard for sceptics and unbelievers, also those Christian leaders on the outskirts of belief to begin to fathom the Miracle that God generated in a period of one thousand years and many Old Testament Prophets and NT Jesus and Apostles of Jesus, ONE BOOK. It is indeed a marvel of a miracle hard for them to swallow and admit, for one reason because of their failure to see the unity in the Bible of the love of God and the teaching of that love, and to be aware that God worked then and works now continually in the world for the benefit of those believers "chosen from before the foundation of the earth'. The more todays pastors and denominational leaders today strain at the realities of the Trinity at work, the more they fail to practically see the Bible as One; and vice versa.

For example, how few today even of the most studious in the Bible recognize the ROYAL LAW OF LOVE , establish in Leviticus and made evident in the Prophet Messiah in the book of Deuteronomy.

James 2:8 (NKJV)

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well..."

Footnotes:

1. James 2:8 Leviticus 19:18

Deuteronomy 18:18,19

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him."

NOTE: If you look for divisions in the Bible you get them, if you look for the unity and consistency in the

Bible you get that. "If two agree" speaks of two witnesses that agree, also the consistency of the Bible Itself, the OT and the NT agree, the royal law of the OT and the NT and exemplified in Christ and His death on the cross.

Part II: The Outline of the Literal Bible of Deuteronomy and Its NT Quotes and Explanations.

2-3: THE COMPOSITE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE

1. The Importance of Witnesses.
2. Deuteronomy 5:16, Exodus 20:12 and 21:17, Leviticus 20:9, and Mark 7:10 where with Honor to parents and the law of death with dishonor, Jesus teaches that what is inside man rather than what goes inside him is defiling.
3. Importance of knowing the Commandments: Deut 5:16-20 and Mark 10:19.

You know the commandments, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, DO NOT DEFRAUD, HONOR FATHER AND MOTHER.

(Mark 10:19 NASV)

3. What Commandment is Foremost? Mark 10:28-31 and Luke 10:26,27.

(1). First is THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD, Deut 6:4,5 and Mark 10:29,30.

(2). Second is Love Neighbor, Lev 19:18 and Mark 10:31.

4. Worship God only and serve Him: Deuteronomy 6:13 and Luke 4:8.

5. The importance of a special people to bear witness to God begins here and runs throughout the Old Testament: Deut 7:6 and Titus 2:14.

6. Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, and Luke 4:4: Man should not live by bread alone.

7. OKAY, HOW IS MAN TO LIVE?

8. Live by Listening to what Jesus, the Prophet Messiah has to say: Deut 18:15,19, Acts 3:22,23, and Acts 7:37.

Listen to the Apostle Peter as he preaches quoting from the Prophet Moses in Deuteronomy: **Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. (Acts 3:22,23 NASV)**

2. Live by Listening to the testimony of God the Father to God the Son: Mark 9:7, a paraphrase of Deut 18:15,19 except from God Himself, and a direct quote in Psalm 11:7.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is My beloved Son, listen to him! (Mark 9:7 NASV)

3. Live by Listening to other reliable and trustworthy witnesses: Deut 19:15.

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth; at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. (Deut 19:15 KJV)

(1). Deut 19:15 and Matthew 18:16: if your brother sins against you but refuses to listen, take your grievance to him byway of two or three witnesses; and if that does not work take it before the local church.

(2). Deut 19:15 and II Corinthians 13:1: Listen to the Apostle Paul!

This is the third time I am coming to you, EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. (II Cor 13:1)

(3). Deut 19:15 and John 8:17: Listen to Jesus Himself!

“Even in your law it has been written, that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” (John 8:17,18)

(4). Deut 19:15 and I Timothy 5:18: Listen to the elder of any local church (same as the pastor or bishop) right up to the point that any accusation against him has been established in that local church at the mouth of two or three witnesses.

- How Can you Listen to a Common Criminal Like Jesus of Nazareth who was cursed in that

He was hanged or crucified on a tree (cross)? Deut 21:22 and Galatians 3:13

1. Deuteronomy 21:22.

“And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree;

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day:(for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled; which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.” (Deut 21:22,23 KJV)

NOTE: Jesus was very familiar with this portion of the Word of God as He was with all of the Old Testament, and when crying My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me a cry of grief more than questioning He knew that God had to turn His back on such a curse on Christ for the sins of the whole world.

2. Galatians 3:13.

ALL OF GODS WORDS AND WORD IS SERIOUS AND TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY WHETHER WRITTEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OR NEW TESTAMENT! **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us for it is written, ‘Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree.’” (Galatians 3:13 NASV)**

(1). We were cursed by the Law since striving to live by them and therefore keeping them, we knew ourselves to come far short; and therefore without real life!

(2). Jesus in the death on the Cross became a curse in our place.

1. Listen to Jesus seriously on a few other matters.

NOTE: Especially if you think you were not under a curse because of your failures to live up to the Law and therefore did not need for Christ to become a curse in your place!

1. Deuteronomy 24:1, Matthew 5:31, and Mark 10:4.

(1). Deuteronomy 24:1.

“When a man hath taken a wife (this is not necessarily the way you are cursed), and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her; then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another mans wife.” (Deut 24:1,2 KJV)

(2). Matthew 5:31.

“And it was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of dismissal; but I say to you

that every one who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” (Matt 5:31,32 NASV)

(3). Mark 10:4.

“And some Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. And He answered and said to them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away. But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, And the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Mark 10:2-9 NASV)

2. Deuteronomy 25:3-5 , I Corinthians 9:9, and I Timothy 5:18.

(1). Be just in judgment in that the punishment correspond with the violation; don't muzzle the ox as he treads the corn, and let a brother raise up children to his dead brothers wife.

(2). It was written for our sakes more than for oxen in order that the worker may work with hope of reward for his works.

(3). The elder (pastor or bishop) that works hard at preaching and teaching should receive likewise double compensation.

3. Deuteronomy 25:6, Luke 20:28,38, and Mark 12:19.

(1). Your dead brothers name is not to disappear from Israel.

NOTE: Why should the eternal laws of God be so concerned about this one single name of a brother who died before he could have any children. After all the last name of the dead childless and the brother would be the same!

(2). According to Jesus it is more important to realize that in heaven there is no marriage, rather men are like the angels; and that men do not die who believe in God and Christ like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they are still alive with the Living God! (Luke 20:28,38 and Mark 12:19)

NOTE: The real concern is that any mans name, alias himself and his real existence, not disappear from the eternal Israel of Gods real people of believing Jews and Gentiles!

1. Listen also to a few other matters from the Apostle Paul in the Word of God!
2. Deuteronomy 27:26 and Galatians 3:10.

(1). Cursed is every man that does not confirm all the laws of God by doing all of them!

(2). None can truly be justified by the Law, only by faith.

2. Deuteronomy 32:12 and I Corinthians 10:20.

(1). The LORD God led Israel and their was no strange gods among them.

(2). The Gentiles sacrifice to demons not to God, and the Christian is to have no part in this worship of demons.

Part III. The Paraphrase.

Then in Top Topic #3 of the Bible, based on the Literal Bible outline above, we paraphrase this Deuteronomy

section of the OT with its quotes and explanations in the NT as follows__

Top Topic # 3: Listen to the Consistency of Content.

The subject of Top Topic #3, "The Composite Witness of the Bible", can be stated also as "Listen to the Consistency of the Bible." At first, one might think of all the great subjects or topics of the Bible such as the Living God, that men still live after death {the Living God of the Living, Top Topic #1}; the characteristics of God such as holy and righteousness; the one salvation God has provided whereby man can be declared like God righteous and actually achieve a measure of righteousness in this life through the new birth and sanctification; that to pause in this Bible study for such a mundane subject as THE COMPOSITE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE is busy work or space filler; and when you consider so many great subjects or topics still to be considered as "What Happened to the Jews as the People of God" {by the way a subject being used by itching ears Bible teachers today, and perverted}; or the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both the Old and New Testaments, such great subjects as the Day of the LORD {includes the Second Coming of Christ}; the New Earth, even a new people of God of a few Jews and many Gentiles; and a new capability to live up to the righteous demands of God with a new heart and new spirit, alias the new birth and sanctification {the salvation

of the one baptism is a two step process}, then it would seem that such a subject as the consistency of the Bible is just a way to get from Topic # 1 and #2 to Topic #4 and beyond. No, in many ways this Top Topic #3 is more important than all of them; for it helps you develop a concept of consistency for the Bible that can be a helpful, really indispensable, foundation for the study of all the other 12 Topics.

Composite Witness of the Bible: Principle of Witnesses

3-1: The Principle of Two or Three Witnesses.

This "principle of the Bible", from God Himself, will get us down to the very practical level of a little nitty gritty on the composite nature of the Bible. {Hopefully you will come to the point in this Bible study and any time you see the words "composite" or "consistency", you will also think of the "Principles of Two or More Witness" of the Bible. This consistency is the highest level, that is how the Old Testament and New Testament speak with one common voice and message; starts with the very fundamental "principle" or "law" as given by God Himself in the book of Deuteronomy. It continues with I John, along with the second and third epistles of John, and after the writing of Revelation and the Gospel in that order, which is the bottom line of the whole Bible-the last to be written-even as the Apostle John was the last of the long line of

message bringers from God to earth of Jesus, the Prophets, and the Apostles. Even as below we look at Deuteronomy 19:15 and I John 5:6-13, first from a Prophet and the second from an Apostle, the first from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament, you should see a *CONSISTENCY* or *COMPOSITE* nature from the truths and messages of the Bible; one that begs a common source and author, that of God the Father Himself sometimes writing through the Spirit of Christ, sometimes through the Holy Spirit, sometimes through the teachings of Jesus; but always with "oracles of God" {this is an internal Bible word for Bible} written in order to communicate to a certain number of people on the earth with the right attitude.

1. Deuteronomy 19:15.

"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established." (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Do you mean that you are going to use a trite example about a false or true accusation that one man makes about another, and way back there in history as a matter of fact, to describe such a generalization as the *COMPOSITE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE*? Yes, because it is another example of how God is striving to get man to behave after His own character and will. Yes, it is not

trite: (1) it was given by God Himself as a fundamental principle that is echoed and re-echoed many times throughout the Bible, this within itself providing a composite witness on COMPOSITE WITNESS; (2) like all truths of the Bible, it is based on the character of God which He is trying to communicate to man, for example when we say God is obligated to forgive our sins because that is the way it is written in the Bible, what we are really saying is that God forgives sins because that is the very nature of God Himself, and what He has had written in the Bible is a testimony to His own character {in other words, it is so not because simply it is in the Bible; but it is so because that is the way God is!}; (3) and the Bible, far from being a scholarly treatise for intellectual studies, is a unique book that provides a way God can communicate on very practical and realistic levels to man. {"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for....", bespeaks of this profitability to man, and of the desire of God to communicate to man.} Well, this communication of God to man began when God called Abraham out of Iraqi to a new land, after a long time through the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and 400 years in Egypt, the communication emerged as God told Moses in the wilderness that He was "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"; first and simple ways to begin to tell man about Himself; and then continued on Mount Sinai as God Himself first tried to speak to all the people, then as they begged God to talk through Moses, God wrote not only the Ten Commandments down for man with many rules, regulations, both civil and religious, for man to follow. This fundamental principle as it turns out

is both civil and religious, this principle of not allowing any truth to be established as truth without two or three witnesses.

2. And it continues on through the Bible all the way down to the bottom Bible line of I John 5:6-13.
3. The 3 witnesses of Heaven.

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word {notice that John here uses the new word, "Word" for Jesus that he learned in the book of Revelation and applied in the epilogue of the Gospel of John}, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. {We talk about the ONEs of Ephesians 4:4-6 describing the top topics of the Bible, major doctrines and beliefs; and sometimes along with the One Baptism for the One Salvation, the One God the Father and the One Lord Jesus Christ with the One Body, the church, we wonder why there is not a ONE for ONE Bible. Yet the closest for that, and so much more closely related and composite than we think is the "One Faith", which is faith in the sense of not only what we personally believe about Jesus, but is a summary of all that Christians have come to believe and that they were given and believed originally, at the same time being written in the Bible, "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" of Jude 3.}

The 3 witnesses on Earth.

“And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.” (I John 5:8)

4. “THESE THREE AGREE AS ONE”.

If we had to have one text to summarize the gist of THE COMPOSITE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE, it would be this quote, repeated twice in the witnesses of heaven and earth, first in I John 5:7 and then in I John 5:8. And we begin to get composite on composite upon composite; so that you begin to see that not only is this a TOP TOPIC of the Bible, but perhaps the single most important for Bible study and understanding as it describes the very unities of all other top topics of the Bible!

5. Some of the consistencies about COMPOSITE itself is in the revealed truths of the Bible between Deuteronomy and I John, between the law and the grace of Jesus, between the Prophets and the Apostles, between Old and New Testaments.

(1). The “How Can Two Walk Together Unless They Be Agreed” of the Prophet Amos.

(2). The “if any two Christians agree on anything in prayer” they shall receive the request of God of the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18:19.

(3). Discipline in churches and among Christians as requiring two or more witnesses to corroborate an accusation.

Even as Hester and Sampey have written short surveys of the Old Testament, and Hester also on the New Testament, referring to them as "the heart" of the OT, because there is so much to cover, so this Top Topical approach sort of skims the gravy off the top; however the assumption is made that what God the Holy Spirit considered most important in the Old Testament Bible was quoted and explained in the New Testament. Therefore the quotes with explanations and interpretations are the majors of Old and New Testament survey, here in the book of Deuteronomy even as in the other of the 12 top topics of the Bible. We dare not come out of a survey course on the Bible with facts, dates, history, stating that we have failed to LISTEN to the prime message and messages of the Bible. {Do not be fearful, we will strive to get some of it all, history and message, even if supplements are required.}

Whether you read from a Prophet of the Old Testament or an Apostle of the New Testament, the message is the same; whether you read from the law of Moses or from the "grace and truth" of Jesus from John, Matthew, Mark, or Luke the message is the same; whether you read the epistles of the Apostle Paul or the five books of the Apostle John, the two agree on all accounts although they

perhaps never met; and so on and on through the Bible the agreement is so consistent and so large as to first lead one to think of "How can two walk together except they be agreed?"; or the composite witness of the Bible of this section of the Bible in Deuteronomy with teachings on the agreement of two or more witnesses, that you know the source of all 66 books of the Bible must be the same, from God the Father!

Since the world thinks the opposite, that there are so many inconsistencies in the Bible, so much contradiction and differences between for example Paul and John, between the law and grace, between the Old Testament and New Testament, between even the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, that we must labor this "Consistency of Content"; and not because we are apologetic, but because the consistency, integrity, sameness-or whatever you want to call it-are so obvious to those who have met all the conditions of hermeneutics, the science of biblical interpretation which is just another way of saying the rules the Bible itself lays down for understanding and interpretation.

3-2: Introduction to the Dynamic Nature of the Bible, the Word of God.

1. First of all, the Bible is (1) divine in origin, all 66 books of the Bible came from God the Father Himself through

the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit; (2) absolute in authority in that while you might want to bring science, or human wisdom, or even religious authority above the authority of the Word of God as a criterion for understanding and interpretation, it just will not work; (3) sufficient in its message, and if we do not find what we are looking for and need, it is from a lack of effort or of hermeneutics; for the very purpose of the Bible as entrusted to the Hebrews as oracles of God, is that God might in each generation and in each nation of peoples communicate—it is for communication and not simply study or scholarly research; (4) it is high fidelity in communication, what God tries to do in the Bible, God will do with just a little amount of cooperation on your part in proper Bible rules for understanding {hermeneutics}; and (5) the Bible is self-interpretative—why in the world do you think the Apostle Peter told us “no scripture is of any private interpretation”? And let me answer that as it is because what the Prophets said in the OT the Apostles and Jesus explained in the NT, and vice versa, also what the Apostle Paul wrote in his 14 epistles that was hard to understand, and even as “some wrested to their own destruction”, like the Apostle Peter wrote, Peter interprets, and vice versa; and so on and on and on through the 27 books of the NT and the 39 of the OT; and finally (6) the same Spirit of God that wrote these books is the Spirit that explains these books to us.

2. Secondly, you must get into the hermeneutics habit, and if you do you will be surprised how much more open the message and messages of the Bible are to you, which is

to allow some other part of the Bible to explain and interpret a verse or chapter in a place of the Bible where you are puzzling. It is the hermeneutics principle of "Compare Scripture with Scripture". In short, it is to say that the same God who wrote Romans also wrote I John and Jude, etc., so that what God wrote, or had written, one place will not only be consistent with all other places, but will amplify and explain and interpret if you would. And furthermore as you have started your journey through the whole Bible in these TOP 12 TOPICS, a journey originating from the OT quotes in the NT, and since each place such is quoted there is an explanation and interpretation either by Jesus or an Apostle {also the two associates of Paul, Dr. Luke and John Mark}. And furthermore sometimes it is the other way, the usage in the OT makes clear what is in the NT. ISN'T IT MARVELOUS WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US IN BOTH PROVIDING A BOOK FOR GUIDANCE AND LIFE, AND THEN PROVIDING ALL THESE ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL, WITH THE PROPER ATTITUDE, UNDERSTAND IT!

3. The Bible is a book about Jesus. One way to know if you are getting the proper message and messages from God in the Bible is if you (1) learn more about Jesus, (2) Learn Jesus properly for as Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:20 "this is not the way your learned Christ", an obvious indication that Christ can be learned improperly, and (3) get that awareness in the heart that the Bible is "alive and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and

spirit"—yes, the Bible is much larger than leather, and pages, and words as it is the living and active Word of God; that is it is like having God set down in our living room and talk to us, and (4) you get closer to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Always be on the look out for subtle or just plain outright statements, predictions, and understandings about the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1). When in John 1 the Apostle John tells us that Jesus was the Word made flesh, the Word from the beginning with God and was God, and that Jesus was there as the Word in the acts of Creation, this tells us about Genesis chapter one how all members of the godhead, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit were there at Creation.

(2). When in Genesis 3:15 it speaks of, from God, that Satan will bruise the heel of Christ and Christ bruise the head of Satan, it is talking about: (1) how Satan hurt Christ in leading Satan's followers to crucify Christ; and (2) how the crucifixion was really the plan of God all along, and Christ bruised the head of Satan on the cross, freeing with faith on the part of many individuals, those individuals from servitude to Satan, and more which is the long subject of many books in the NT.

(3). You will be surprise when you read and study Deuteronomy, and you should along with a look at this TOP

TOPIC, how much clarity with which Moses speaks of the other Prophet like himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear." (Deuteronomy 18:15)

3-3: Some Historical Background of Deuteronomy.

By the way, has it been mentioned that for an up-to-date {after historical criticism and rising above it unscathed, even showing scholarship on it} and conservative set of detailed exegetical commentaries you can not beat THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARIES of both the Old and New Testament, for which the beloved F. F. Bruce wrote and for a time was chief editor. Peter C. Craigie of the University of Calgary wrote the short {short compared to many of the others in the set} commentary on Deuteronomy; and his very introductory words serve to show you something of the difference between history and the message, between ABOUT the Bible that has become famous lately in our pulpits and in Bible teaching instead of the Bible itself, letting the Bible speak to us.

"Deuteronomy is a book about Israel's preparation for a new life. Hardship and the wilderness lie behind; the conquest of the promised land lies ahead. What remains

at this crucial stage in Israel's history—the end of the Mosaic Age—is a call for a new commitment to God and a fresh understanding of the nature of the community of God's people."

In this age of knowledge explosion and in your lifetime, you will be able to cull only a certain amount of knowledge and message from the Bible; and although background info like this helps, you must count on the fact that is what most important for you to know has been quoted and interpreted in the NT. And it at least helps to know that we are gaining some focus on the historical context of Deuteronomy with such statements as above and with a brief look at the text outline of Craigie.

NOTE: I recall a NT survey course at Baylor in 1953, by the way where the official text was Hester and it was required reading; but the teacher used as the primary text the RSV of the Bible, starting each class with prayer for understanding because it knew and set a good example of how the Bible is not a scholarly treatise, but an alive and dynamic Book through which God speaks, and if we are wise we listen. This along with a similar survey of the book of Acts at the Bible chair of the University Baptist Church in Austin Texas were highlights of my Bible education, that professor also using Scripture itself with the Moffat version.

Outline of Text and Commentary from Craigie on Deuteronomy:

1. *Introduction to Deuteronomy (1:1-5)*
2. *Address of Moses: Historical Prologue (1:6-4:43)*

III. *Address of Moses: The Law (4:44-26:19)*

1. *Address of Moses: Blessings and Curse (27:1-28:69)*
2. *Address of Moses: A Concluding Charge (29:1-30:20)*
3. *Continuity of the Covenant from Moses to Joshua (31:1-34:12)*

Certainly in the Topical, exegetical, and expository outline to follow on this Topic #3 of "Listen to the Consistency of the Bible", you will find like in Craigie's outline: some of the history, about the Law and the 10 commandments which while given in Exodus 20 are rehashed here in different words; yes the choice that God set before this new nation, like He still sets before His own people as a group today, of either a Curse or a Blessing, the charge before his death from Moses and the Covenant, emphasizing in our sweep of the Bible as always the "everlasting covenant" over the other two covenants of the Old and New Testament. {Yes, the book of Hebrews, perhaps with Romans and Galatians, explain primarily the Old and New Covenants with differences.} A quick look at Sampey's outline in THE HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, and we will have the historical perspective we need to proceed. {Of course there will along the way

in our Top Topic #3 outline, some references to both great and helpful works.} Sampey has two of the 14 chapters of his book to cover this historical context: chapter 4 on "The Era of Moses and Joshua" {of course most about Joshua is in the book of Joshua} and chapter 5 on "The Law of Moses".1

Era of Moses and Joshua

- 1. After the death of Joseph and when there was a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph, the family of Jacob now almost a nation, was subjected to rigors of bondage. (Exodus 1:14)*
- 2. Preservation and Education of Moses.*
- 3. The Choice and Call of Moses. (Exodus 3:1-12)*
- 4. Contest Between Moses and Pharaoh.*
- 5. The Passover.*
- 6. Guidance with the Pillars and Deliverance at the Red Sea.*
- 7. Giving of the Law at Mount Sinai.*
- 8. Breach of the Covenant and Its Renewal. (Exodus 32:1-6)*
- 9. Tabernacle Built (Exodus 35-40)*
- 10. From Mount Sinai to Kadesh in the Wilderness. (Numbers 10-12)*
- 11. Years of Wandering and Sin of Moses and Aaron. (Numbers 20)*
- 11. Closing Labors of Moses (Numbers).*
- 12. Deuteronomy.*

"This is one of the great books of the OT. The aged lawgiver pours out his heart in earnest appeals to his people to love Jehovah and keep all His commandments. He reviews all the mighty acts of Jehovah in behalf of Israel {so that you see with a look at Deuteronomy we have much of the history of Israel..." Since with this Top Topic #3 from Deuteronomy, we come to the end of the five books of the Pentateuch, called by Jesus and others in the NT the "Law of Moses" we will want to briefly look at what Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers as well as Deuteronomy are all about. Never forget however like the Apostle John wrote, "while Moses gave the law, grace and truth came through the Lord Jesus Christ." (John 1:17) God's perspective, a summary of much of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers}, and exhorts Israel to be faithful and obedient."

14. Joshua Conquers Canaan.

15. The Destruction of the Canaanites.

16. Settlement of the Tribes of Israel (Joshua 13-21).

17. Joshua's Closing Days.

The Law of Moses

"The uniform teaching of the Bible is that 'the law was given through Moses' (John 1:17; 7:19; 5:45-47; Luke 24:27)."

1. The 10 commandments fundamental.

2. *Christian Attitude Toward Sabbath. {You can see that Sampey does some topical and expository, even textual.}*
3. *Duties to God.*
3. *Duties to our Fellow Man.*
4. *The Law of Love.*
5. *First Draft of the Civil Law.*
6. *The Ritual Law.*
7. *What the Law Could Not Do.*
8. *Lessons from Leviticus.*

(1). *Offerings to God must be without blemish (1:3; 3:1).*

(2). *First-fruits belong to Jehovah (Lev 23:10).*

(3) *Sin unwittingly committed demands atonement as discovered.*

(4). *Sins of rulers demand more expensive offerings.*

(5). *Restitution must be made.*

(6). *A clean life in every respect.*

10. *The Deuteronomic Code.*

"The great lawgiver plies his people with reasons for observing Jehovah's commandments. He does not quote the laws previously given verbatim; but presents them in a popular manner, sometimes enlarging upon the brief code found in Exodus 21-23."

11. *Inferiority of the Mosaic Law to the Gospel of Christ.*

3-4: Importance of Witnesses in Deuteronomy as Background for Consistency Testimonies to the Bible as the Word of God. (Deut 1-17).

1. The Laws of the 10 commandments remained a consistent testimony to the consistency of the Bible, from Jesus, the Apostles, and the Prophets. Jesus uses in Mark 7:10 {with a quote from Deut 5:16, Exodus 20:12 and 21:17, and Leviticus 20:9}, and in answer to the criticisms of the Pharisees about His disciples, the commandment to honor father and mother as an example of how it had become distorted by these religious leaders as they: (a) honored God with their lips and not their hearts; (b) practiced vain worship; and (c) substituted the commandments of God for teaching the doctrines of men.¹

(1). All they had to do was say "Corban", this money is instead used as a gift to God, and they no longer had a responsibility to their parents.

(2). It is important to get Jesus' interpretation of what they were doing on this commandment as well as the others—a process of commandment perversion by interpretation that is also prevalent today, more on other commandments like adultery, murder, and covetousness than this one—as the horror, according to Jesus was, that they by giving a priority to their long standing traditions like this one which was making null and void the Word of God (Mark 7:13)

(3) Then Jesus dealt with the original complaint against His disciples—that they ignored “the traditions of the elders”, they ate bread with unwashed hands; and tried to make clear that it was what came out of the heart of man, not what went into his mouth, that defiled him.

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.” (Mark 7:21-23)

2. The Continuing Importance of the Laws of the 10 Commandments, Deuteronomy 5:16-20 and Mark 10:19.

What we have today on the Ten Commandments is the two extremes of religious practices, where (1) some try to make all of their morality, religion, and sometimes even

Christianity as the Ten Commandments {you have heard it, "all the

1. Here Jesus in the Mark 7:6,7 dispute quotes from Isaiah 29:13 to describe the false worship and religion of the religious leaders of His day. You notice that we make full circle as first Mark 7 and Jesus throw light on the proper interpretation of commandments like to honor father and mother, and then with another quote goes back to the OT in Isaiah to explain the behavior of the Pharisees, a long tradition among them of the nation of Israel that dated back to the time of the Prophet Isaiah.
2. We should briefly look at Sampey's "Inferiority of the Mosaic Law to the Gospel of Christ" here even before we get to the next subsection of "The Continuing Importance of the Laws of the 10 Commandments". The inferiorities, which we will list now and refer to in more detail later, are: (1) the Law was a yoke of bondage; (2) a ministration of condemnations and death; (3) a tutor to lead men to Christ (Galatians 3:24); and (4) typical of the new covenant, that is better than the law and sort of a prototype {please read the book of Hebrews}. religion I need is the 10 commandments}; but in reality like the religious leaders of Jesus day, also a common practice among the people, they have a surface and legalistic interpretation and application of the commandments which ignores all along, and in Deuteronomy and Leviticus itself, were summarized as love for God and love for fellow man; and (5) the other

extreme of thinking that Christ and the Apostles, the teachings of Christ of the Bible, did away with the requirements of the Ten Commandments, the New Covenant and New Testament with the Old Covenant and the Old Testament. Yet Jesus clearly taught that He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. Granted that many of the rules and regulations that were more civil than moral were nailed to the cross with sacrifice and religious rituals, the ten commandments and many principles, such as the principle of consistency, remained.

3. Jesus came not to destroy the law.

Jesus taught and made clear with quotes from Deuteronomy and Leviticus how the 10 commandments all along have been summarized as love for God and love for fellow man. These were not new teachings of Jesus, of the New Testament, and of Christianity: they were there all along. And when we place all this emphasis on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, which by the way is the way God the Father has set it up and ordained it, we are not going past respect for God the Father as given in the first commandments. Without respect for God the Father, there is nothing: no religion, no salvation, no Jesus, no Gospel, and no new birth. The person who takes God's name in vain as a habit of life is defunct: they have nothing, they are nothing in the sight of God, and in the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. This is composite also!

4. Jesus came to Fulfill the law.

What the "law could not do in that it was weak in the flesh", God through Jesus provided a cure for. With the atonement and faith in the atonement a proper attitude is established before God the Father that makes possible the two step salvation process of new birth and sanctification, one can not exist without the other even as "to believe" in John can not exist without the "believing", and vice versa.

3-5: Old and New Testament Consistencies with Quotes from Deuteronomy.

If we make a rapid survey of the many quotes of Deuteronomy throughout the New Testament, you will begin to appreciate somewhat this consistency between the Prophets and the Apostles, between the New and Old Testaments, between even grace and law. {Always keep in mind that while the Bible is a gradual revelation of the nature and character of God Himself, finally shown clearly in the Lord Jesus Christ, God has chosen that the central focus for salvation and the Bible be on the Prophet Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. While we come to see Christ as the Messiah, actually Christ is Greek for the Hebrew word "Messiah" in books like Isaiah, during the divided kingdoms of Israel after David and Solomon, we start right here in Deuteronomy getting a lot of insight on Christ as the top Prophet to be heeded and listened to.}

5. From the quote of Deuteronomy 5:16-20 in Mark 10:19, Mark 10:28-31 and Luke 10:26,27, with the consistency of God is first and love of fellow man is second, a steady theme of truth runs through both Testaments.

2. The "special people" of God theme runs throughout the Bible from Deuteronomy 7:6 to Titus 2:14; and although God gets disgusted with us today like with His original people, God's righteousness today being broken even as the old covenant was done the same in the Old Testament, God's intention then and now remained and remains the same: (1) to get a holy people to the LORD your God, (2) a people for Himself, (3) "a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth" (Deut 7:6) {there has been a lot of broken hearts for God the Father here}, and (4) a people "zealous of good works", (5) redeemed for every lawless deed, and (6) a people "purified for Himself" (Titus 2:14).

NOTE: Sometimes like above in Titus 2:14 while there is not a direct quote, there is so much of the thought and words of a particular OT verse and/or passage, that it is like a precis or paraphrase. More of this consistency or composite nature of the Bible.

3. You probably thought the saying "man shall not live by bread alone" started with the teachings of Jesus as

recorded in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4, but Jesus was actually quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3.

NOTE: And by the way how about the consistency of the Gospel of Matthew with the Gospel of Luke, as well as Mark and John. You can appreciate it more if you will study *A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS* by A.T. Robertson, and keep in mind as one of the outstanding legal authorities on evidence, Simon Greenleaf, formerly of Harvard Law School, wrote, "the testimony of the four evangelists would stand up as a prima facie case in any court of law." And keep in mind about those who find inconsistencies in the Bible because of their own superficial study of the Bible and spiritual immaturity {the Bible is spiritually discerned}, makes such foolish statements as the Bible is inconsistent since one place Jesus feeds 4,000 and another 5,000.

Jesus, the Apostles, and the Prophets in their teachings and writings in the Bible all speak with one voice because God the Father is the one, same source for all their teachings {doctrines}.

4. Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15,19 presented Jesus as the Prophet, albeit less clearly than Peter was able to do in Acts 3:22,23 as he quoted Moses because he just saw in the life and teachings of Jesus how it was so, also the germ and principle of salvation in "destruction from

among the people" {the people of God}, and the overwhelming necessity of listening to this Prophet Jesus.

NOTE: Listen is one of the main messages from God that we should get from Deuteronomy and all its quotes and explanations in the New Testament along with how to listen and what to listen to, also **WHO!** This is also consistency in the Bible as a composite witness, established far more than two or three times.

5. The testimony of God the Father to God the Son is consistent in Old and New Testaments from the transfiguration in Mark 9:7 and same wording from God in Deuteronomy 18:15,19, also in Psalm 11:7.

"Then a cloud formed overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is My Beloved Son, listen to him!'" (Mark 9:7, Deut 18:15,19, and Psalm 11:7)

NOTE: We will not pause to list all the consistent testimonies of the Father to the Son, like this, as listed like in the Gospels in the Baptism of Jesus and as in the quotes from Paul in Hebrews.

- (1). Listen to Jesus is the word directly from God, from the Prophets, and from the Apostles-the consistent message of the Bible; and this is listening to the extent

of believing, for this kind of listening is required for salvation, most generally expressed as the only way "not to be cut off from the people", the people, of course, meaning the people of God.

(2). Immediately after the cloud cleared at the Transfiguration where the Prophets Moses and Elijah disappeared as God spoke, then the Bible said "Jesus remained alone". Just one more way to emphasis as Jesus is alone as a provider of solid teachings and salvation!

6. Matthew 18:16 for Christians and churches, that of taking a grievance to a brother by way of two or three witnesses and then to the local church, is based on the "Principle of two or three witnesses" of Deuteronomy 19:15.
7. When Paul wrote to the church at Corinth (II Corinthians 13:1), quoting from Deuteronomy 19:15 on the Principle of Witnesses, and basing the whole argument for two epistles to Corinth and correcting them 3 times, it was based on that famous principle of consistency of the Bible.
8. When Jesus in John 8:17 speaks of the witness of Himself as Son of God and the witness of God the Father {you know John thought of this as he later wrote near the end of the first century of the 3 witnesses on earth and from heaven}, also an echo of what happened with testimony from the Father both at baptism and transfiguration, He appealed to those schooled in the

Law and the Prophets, and on the well known "Principle of Witnesses" of Deuteronomy 19:15.

9. Likewise the Apostle Paul in I Timothy 5:18, on how not to accept any accusation or gossip about a pastor {bishop}, without two or more witnesses, was quoting from the Principle of Witnesses in Deuteronomy 19:15.

NOTE: Once again the Principle of Witnesses is larger than one verse, Deuteronomy 19:15, as it is as large as the whole book of Deuteronomy, the whole law of the five books of the Pentateuch, called in the Bible "the law of Moses". It is as large as the mind and character of God Himself. This is not only the way God wants man to behave in civil matters, in social matters; but also in the church and in the establishment of all truth, Bible or otherwise.

10. The subject of the cross, like that of the Prophet and Messiah Jesus, is consistent throughout the Bible as in Deuteronomy 21:22 and Galatians, where first of all there is a curse on everyone hanged from a tree, and then second as in the Crucifixion of Christ He was cursed by God for man, once and for all, which we now consistently identify as the atonement, or in the words of the Bible "Christ died on the cross for our sins."

NOTE: This is another example and place where you can learn facts and history of the Bible and not get the message. The message is for you to accept the atonement from God, not simply learn about this

agreement on the Cross and the blood from the Old and New Testaments. It, the Scripture, "is profitable" (II Timothy 3:16,17). It can correct you, it can instruct you, and it can bring you all the way into spiritual maturity. It is a textbook for living, not a scholarly treatise; and God far from trying to hide secret messages in the Bible, had in the writing of the Bible with over 40 human authors over a period of thousands of years, the goal of direct communicate of humans with the right attitude.

11. Granted that Moses granted a writ of divorcement in Deuteronomy 24:1, but that this was not to be an easy way of marriage for those who would seek a younger wife, turning their back on the wife of their youth (Malachi 2:14), Jesus clarified in Matthew 5:31 and Mark 10:4 {more consistency of teachings from Jesus as recorded by the Apostles, the Gospel writers, of course Mark was sponsored by the Apostle Paul, the chief editor with 14 epistles of the New Testament}, how it was always intended that there be only one cause for divorce; where adultery or fornication had been committed, and once again established among two or more witnesses; and the reason Moses even permitted such a writ of divorce {and keep this in mind when you consider divorce, and of course this is old and past stuff for the many who have already asked for and received forgiveness and "cleansing from all unrighteousness" from God in prayer} is because of their hard hearts.

NOTE: In other words divorce is only a last resort when one or more members of the marriage has gone all the way into a hardened heart; and although this wrong and condemned by God and Jesus, it like all sins, if confessed, can receive from God the Father, immediate forgiveness. And if it is from God the Father, you need nothing from anyone else!

12. The Principles from God of Deuteronomy, like in 25:3-5 about not to muzzle the mouth of the ox in order that he can eat as he plows, are as practical to just payment of the pastor of a church (I Timothy 5:18), religious law if you would, as they are to civil and social law. {A notable characteristic of the people of Israel, like God had Moses established it, was that the civil law was the same as the religious law; and Paul who would later write 14 epistles of the NT, being the chief quoter of Old Testament scriptures second to Jesus, was a lawyer of Israel, established in civil and religious law, also whose prime ministry was as chief editor of the New Testament.} The details get juicy in I Timothy from Paul as it is even specified that double compensation should go to any pastor that both teaches and preaches.
13. Deuteronomy 25:6, Luke 20:28,38, and Mark 12:19: the consistent testimony of the Bible is that (1) all like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who died in the Lord are still alive, (2) that there is no marriage in heaven and on the New Earth as living souls {with resurrection bodies} are like the angels; and that (3) that the dead are as living as the Living God Himself.

14. Deuteronomy 27:26 and Galatians 3:10: even as the principle is established in Deuteronomy that every man is cursed, alias guilty and damned, that does not live up to the whole ten commandments and law, it is clarified in Galatians that on one can be justified by the law, only by faith.

NOTE: Paul makes the case very well in Romans how the law, ten commandments and otherwise, is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Only guilt, not morality and justification, can come from the law. We are justified by faith!

15. Deuteronomy 32:12 and I Corinthians 10:20: even as in Deuteronomy God led Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel and who with 12 sons became a nation of the 12 tribes of Israel, preserved and protected until Christ could be born of their lineage, and who "with him was no foreign gods" (32:12), so Paul urges Christians and church members in I Corinthians not to have "fellowship with demons", with Gentiles of idols or gods other than the God of the Bible and of the Universe. Prime loyalty to God the Father, that God of the Universe, the Son of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Great Creator, the One taught in the Bible, is a consistent message of the whole Bible, only the form of idols and secondary gods change from year to year.

3-6: Prophet and Prophets in Deuteronomy and the Bible and Today.

Yes, this is very much a contemporary issue today in this time of "the heaping up" of itching ears Bible teachers and preachers who would expect you to accept them like a Prophet, or Prophets; and who with their special revelations, extracurricular words and concepts and revelations to the Bible, to accept them as a special spokesman for God. (The following outline is based on Deuteronomy 18:15-22.)

1. The Prophet Lord Jesus Christ in Deuteronomy.

If you fail to get salvation from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then learn how to live like Christ, then you miss the message of the Bible.

2. Peter's quote and explanation of the Prophet like Moses of Jesus.
3. Did you get the message of the Transfiguration about Prophets?
4. Establishment of the Office and Work (prophecy) of the Prophet. The Principle of Which Prophet and Prophets to Listen To. {Which ones are you listening to today?}

3-7: The Flavor of Deuteronomy {Selected passages for Exegesis}.

1. Deuteronomy 4:9-24. {Craigie in his commentary likes to call this passage "The Law and the Nature of God", and

about God and how we are to think about Him we will learn some amazing things, even more from the Scripture itself in Deuteronomy than Craigie.}

(1). You can see in Moses {Deuteronomy 4:9-9} much basis for the admonitions and encouragements of the former lawyer Paul in his epistles as Moses tells the people just before his death and their entrance into the Promised land to: (a) guard themselves carefully, (b) guard very carefully your desire {what this word "desire" and "wants" remind us of is II Timothy 4:3,4 about the Falling Away, which of course is a second historical event of our own time based on the very example of what Moses is talking about to the children of Israel as he addresses the second generation in the wilderness to remind them of what happened to the first generation in the wilderness, that is in the second stage of development after "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine", church members and other Christians will be motivated more by their own desires and wants than by Christ and the Holy Spirit, and certainly we see the germ in Warren's Purpose Driven where church member desires are replace the Spirit and Christ for motivation}; (c) do not forget what you have seen and experienced in the wilderness {Paul in Hebrews-"Brethren, beware lest there be in you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the Living God" (Hebrews 4:12)-uses what happened to the first generation in the wilderness-that is, all over 20 years of Age fell from among God's people based on their evil heart of unbelief-as an example of what could happen to any Christians, also as a basis for the final great

Falling Away of II Thessalonians, before the Second Coming of Christ; and (d) make them known to your children and your grandchildren.}

(2). God called the assembly of the congregation. (Deuteronomy 4:10) {Paul as we will look at later in Hebrews 12:18-29 uses Horeb, the coming to Mount Zion, as a stepping stone, with the messages of Moses in Deuteronomy where he rehashes the recent history in the wilderness as an example for contemporary assemblies, never forgetting that sometimes the Greek word for church, "ecclesia", is translated assembly in the Bible.} God gave to Moses at Sinai the reason for the assembly of the whole congregation: (a) so God could cause His own people to hear His own words; (b) and thus God's people would learn "to fear" {see the "Fear and Faith", last chapter of REPORTS TO BELIEVE AND FOR BELIEVING

at <http://www.biblecombibleman.com/WayOfContinuingFaith.html> } God all the days of their lives that they were alive; and (c) lastly to encourage them to teach their children these first two things.

(3). Moses in Deuteronomy 4:11-14 rehearses the exact history of what happened to the congregation of Israel at Mount Sinai: (a) the people approach Mount Sinai and stood below the mountain so as to have a good view, which of course is where they got much more than they wanted, so much so that at the end of this encounter with God

Himself, they essentially said, "no more"; (b) the mountain was a picturesque sight with the sky as a background as it was "burning with fire", the brightness of the mountain itself was contrasted by the darkness that surrounded it from the darkness, cloud, and dense mist {as you will see later one reason that no one saw a "form" for God, and based on which God will tell His people to never make a form or image for Him, for one thing they have never seen one}; (c) However God did speak directly to the people of God {something that had never happened and never has happened since to a whole assembly of God, although many assemblies today try to fake it-see "Fake Worship" from HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS online at http://www.biblecombibleman.com/Hideout_For_Bad_Habits/} out of the midst of the fire, God Himself stressing that while they heard "the sound of words", God repeats the word "sound" twice, they did not see a "form" (Deut 4:12); (d) God declared to them His Covenant, namely the Ten Words {Ten Commandments}, and God Himself with His own finger wrote them on two Tablets of Stone, twice; (e) and at the same time God commanded Moses to teach the people of the assembly "statutes and ordinances" {much of what else you see in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy besides the Covenant of the Ten Commandments}.

.NOTE: Perhaps you have never thought of the Ten Commandments as the Covenant of God with His own people, but according to the words of God Himself that is exactly what it is; of course, Moses repeated

these words and wrote them down so that the people of the second and third generation and the generations to follow up to the present would not forget them. Don't every kid yourself about the fact that the old covenant of the 10 commandments still exist between God and man, like Jesus said He "came not to destroy but to fulfill the commandments"; and check the book of Hebrews on what was nailed to the cross at the same time of the Crucifixion of Christ, it was most of the civil statutes and ordinances with burnt sacrifices and temple worship.

(4). NO IDOLS: Deuteronomy 4:15-19. With first another reminder, an early reminder if you would of the stages of development of the Falling Away, to guard their own desires and wants {"to obey is always better than to sacrifice", and like Pastor James says the personal desires and wants of Christians and church members have to be guarded and watched because "the spirit within us lusteth to envy" and covet}, there are some surprising sounds from God about the dos and don'ts of idols: (a) You didn't see any "form" at Horeb therefore do not "act corruptly by making a form of God {Craigie likes to point out (1) this warning was not so much against the worship of other gods in the form of images, but rather attempts to represent the God of Israel and the Universe in any physical form; and (2) today, even without representations in wood or stone, like in Jeremiah, we are attempted to place God in our mind in such a form as to limit and contain him-remember "Your God Is too Small"

by Phillips and the "God is Greater than Conscience" (I John 3:20) Jerry McMichael}; (b) do not make a statute or image in any form such as in the shape of any male or female, any animal, any beast or bird, or of any fish; (c) and lastly do not look at the host of the heavens, the sun, moon, and stars and with awe "bow down to worship and serve them" {God has given and assigned these host of the heavens to all the peoples of the earth, not exclusively for His own people, so that it makes them sort of secular and of the world.

(5). Moses is about to die, giving final warnings of this address or message of Deuteronomy 4:21-14.

1. Guard against forgetting the covenant of the Ten Commandments that God made with all His people.
2. Do not make an image of God in the shape or "form" of anything on earth and in the heavens that God has forbidden, by the way the subject of the first few commandments of the Ten and the Covenant.
3. Moses provides an ending quote to Hebrews 12 for Paul with the concluding statement about the nature of God, a summary of much of what the congregation saw at Sinai and what God said, "For our God is a consuming fire" (Deut 4:24 and Hebrews 12:29), except Moses in that last verse includes something about God, also a summary of the nature of God in dealing with His own people, which Paul does not add but knew that the Hebrews to whom He wrote would know it from the law

of Moses {the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch}, "He is a jealous God"; and don't you ever forget it! {See "Prime Loyalty" from REPORTS TO BELIEVE AND FOR BELIEVING, a two step salvation process, at http://www.biblecombibleman.com/Reports_for_Believing/ .}

NOTE: Please read the last four passage of Deuteronomy below as we are running out of space and time.

2. Deuteronomy 5:22-33, Craigie Calls it "Moses' Mediatory Role at Horeb".
3. What is Most Important from God Himself, TO LOVE GOD, Deut 6:1-9.
4. The Prophet Like Moses, Jesus, of Deuteronomy 18:15-22.
5. The Blessing and the Curse on God's People and therefore on the nation and the people of Deuteronomy 30 and 11:26-28.

3-8: Five Short Exegetical Messages Based on Deuteronomy.

NOTE: Please also read devotional the five message below from the Apostles Peter, Paul, and John based on Deuteronomy and the Prophet Moses.

1. The Apostle Peter's Second Message in Acts 3:11-26 about Jesus as the Prophet like Moses based on Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19.
2. What Have You As Christians and Church Members Come to? Hebrews 12:18-29 based on the congregation before God at Mount Horeb and the summary of the same by Moses in Deuteronomy 4:9-24. {The exegetical points and flavor of the last section is used for a basis just like it was when Paul originally wrote Hebrews on the Falling Away.}

NOTE: Appreciation is expressed to Craigie with his commentary on Deuteronomy from the New International Series. Note 1

3. Good Prophecy versus Bad Prophecy in I Corinthians 14 based on Deuteronomy 18:20-22.
4. Setting forth of the Curse of disobedience on God's People in Galatians 1:6-10 when even an angel delivers another of a different kind Gospel, like the current Gospel of Health and Wealth {generally called the Gospel of Prosperity}, and the curse of false prophecy and special revelations of Revelation 22:18,19, both based on the true and false prophets passage of Deuteronomy 18:20-22, also the blessings of a National Blessing and the curses of a National Curse on the land and the people, because of a lack of righteousness and effectual, fervent prayer of God's people, Deuteronomy 11:26-28 and Deuteronomy 28 and Deuteronomy 30. {Actually this message although more exegetical in

sections is topical in that it is on "The Curse, not Blessing, on a Nation because of the Shortcomings of God's People".}

5. You have to admire the scholarship and conservative faithfulness to the Bible as the Word of God in spite of the current trends on interpretation and historical criticism. We have to give much credit for this to the late F.F. Bruce with his writing of many helpful and conservative books including a commentary on Luke in the same set of commentaries, and books such as *THE BOOKS AND THE PARCHMENTS*, but mainly because of his work as chief editor of this great set of commentaries that is head and shoulders above any thing else you can read today for a verse by verse exegetical commentary. B. H. Carroll in *AN INTERPRETAION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE* in 17 volumes is more topical and is indispensable for understanding Bible in the total context, and you will appreciate as well as his part in the history of Southern Baptist as President of Baylor and founder of Southwestern Seminary {where by the way the notes from those 17 volumes took students all the way through the Bible}, you will appreciate his examples from life and sermons. As yet the fighting fundamentalists that control the SBC and the Lifeway book stores have not had the nerve to remove Carroll and R. G. Lee from their bookshelves but as the *Falling Away* progresses all the way from (1) intolerance to sound doctrine, (2) to priority for the wants and desires of church members and leaders over Christ and sound doctrine, and (3) to the vast "heaping up" of Bible teachers and preachers

with "itching ears" (II Timothy 4:3,4), that is from these first three stages of Falling Away development to where we are now-(4) turn completely away from truth and (5) turn into fables, then you will see this happen also just like now they are putting certain Gospel magazines under the counter.

6. The Three Witnesses to Jesus of Heaven and Earth, {actually a total of 7 witnesses when you consider the internal witness in believers} the Prophet Messiah or Son of God, in I John 5:6-13 based on the Principle of Witnesses in Deuteronomy and the rest of the Bible, Deuteronomy 19:15-21.

3-9: God the Father.

1. God's stringent requirements about a graven image or likeness are more for His own people not to make "any form" of Himself, since they never saw any form at Mount Sinai or otherwise, than not to make any image like men of women, animals, birds, fish; or even more so than to worship and serve the hosts of the heaven. {Many secular historians and even those of historical criticism like to think high thoughts and concept of God as coming from an evolution in truth from old civilizations, starting with the superficial concepts of a god made like the hosts of heaven, or animals, or birds, or even like some humans, then progression to the high character of God and His works with man like we know from the Bible; but in reality it is the other way around, like Paul makes clear in Revelation 1 and 2 in that even

when the old civilizations knew God with much full truth on God from nature, conscience, and laws of civilization they did not "honor God as God" and they became vain in their hearts and imaginations, making gods out of those forbidden images of God—more a de-evolution from original Creation with Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden than a progressive evolution. However, it was after the experience of God's first nation in Egypt where many images of animals as cows and frogs were worshipped as gods, and just before the Hebrews went into the Promised Land of Canaan where they would find many of the civilizations had evolved into the worship of gods like Baal, Astoreth, and hundreds of others, that God in Deuteronomy, after Egypt and before the Promised Land and for the specific reason of preparation for the Promised Land, as well as a consideration for all the Egyptians, like Jannes and Jambres, that came out of Egypt with them, warned against all these forms of humans, animals, and birds that should not be worshiped; primarily that God's own people since they saw "no form" of God should not try to contain or limit or misrepresent Him any image. Anything they attempted to use to represent a form of the God of the Universe would be too small and too limited to be a high fidelity representation of the Original.}

(1). Moses rehearsed before the new generation of the wilderness and just before Promised Land entrance under Joshua, "the Lord our God has revealed to us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice", but you

never saw a form so do not make any form of God.
(Deuteronomy 5:24)

(2). Obviously any form that God's people would make of Him in photos, statues, or art work would be far short of the "glory" and His "greatness", so God says just do not try! (Deut. 4:15,16) Resist your desires to make a form or image, and "do not act corruptly". (Deut 4:16) **{Just one of the first lacks of the righteousness of God man has experienced, and continues to experience today as God's own people "act corruptly" in making an image or form of God in the mind and heart, if not elsewhere that therefore inevitably "contains and limits" the true God—just like Phillips wrote years ago "Your God is too Small" and Jerry McMichael wrote less years ago in the 1960's when it was so popular to make the Conscience of the Boomers the sole criterion for faith and practice, and which even continues today in our churches as people take the attitude it is right if they feel good about it and bad if they do not, "God is Greater than the American Conscience" based on I John 3:20.}**

(3). Yes, the people were right to say that they were lucky to live the first time they heard the voice of God and lived, not to take a chance any other times; and since when has it ever been heard in the history of mankind that man saw and heard God and still lived?

(4). The wish of God, "would that they were continually of this mind" (Deuteronomy 5:29) to (a) fear God and (b) to keep the commandments {covenant} of God.

2. You should remain aware in this 12 topic Bible Study to get all the major messages and message of the Bible that the truths or fact about the nature of the character and personality of God, including the way God deals with His own creations and in particular His own peculiar people, that this concepts of God came out of historical encounters with God: (1) Moses at the burning bush was told of "The Living God of the Living", that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still were alive and were living with the Living God, and that those three were the beginning of the nation of God's people; (2) although Job with historical encounters with God Himself after so many years of bum advice from friends and foes, we are not sure when the book of Job was recorded as part of the "oracles of God"; in other words how much Moses and Israel in the wilderness knew of the lessons about the power and Creation by God of the book of Job- indeed their "departures from the living God" when times got hard, unlike the faith of Job in God when he suffered for no wrong which he had done, or who failed to blame God for these injustices, indicate they had not heard or at least learned the lessons about God in Job; so that as God tested them for 40 years in the wilderness they instead developed "an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). Likewise the listening to God Himself and what

He told about Himself at Sinai was a historical encounter, a very rare one at that, of an appearance from God Himself to the whole congregation; and surely like they said, they were lucky to listen to God Himself and still live. Other Prophets after Moses would talk to God and listen to God like the Prophet Isaiah, the Prophet Elijah, and Jeremiah; and as instructed, these Prophets would record those messages, primarily with a message for the current people of God and quite often shorter and integrated messages of a predictive nature. Like most of the writers on the Prophets remind us the Writing Prophets, and even the others like Elijah, primarily had a message for their own generation, and the predictive element for generations way out in history was only a small percentage of their total message. Even like in Joel and Amos when some of God's judgments, or curses, were about to immediately come on that living generation, is was of such the prophecy was of such a nature as to be within itself both predictive in a few years and also in the distant future. {You see the main point is not a double nature of prophecy, but that God with the way and ways that He deals with man in any generation, especially about His justice and judgment and even curses and blessings is always the same.} That brings us naturally to consider what God had told Moses about Prophets, including how you are able to identify Prophets by that likeminded with Moses and Jesus, and how to distinguish between true prophets and false prophets.

3. Prophets of God from Moses to Jesus and beyond.

(1). Prophets like Moses and Jesus.

- a. Jesus and Moses were much alike. (Deut 18:18).
- b. These Prophets would come from the "midst of the brethren", in other words from God's own people and be like God's people.

(2). The ministry of these Prophets would be characterized by: (18:18)

- a. The extent to which it was obvious that God Himself had "put my word in his mouth", alias the high fidelity of the message; and
- b. The faithfulness with which that Prophet told all that God, without exception and bias and timidity, had commanded.

NOTE: Although we know the nature of prophecy changed somewhat with the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension, in that it became more democratic or prevalent among all of God's people, and to the extent in I Corinthians 14 that "prophecy" is used as almost all public speaking in the church, we can use the detailed messages of I Corinthians 14 to bring us back to the same original requirements of Deuteronomy 18:18, that is (a) "Is it obvious that the message was placed there by God", and we are fortunate in that we have the objective writings of all 66 books of the Bible to compare against these self-

proclaimed Prophets, and (b) the faithfulness, courage, and consistency with which that so-called Prophet delivers the message from God. {Is it like the barrier between the bad habits of II Timothy 3:1-8 and the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4, that barrier of course is II Timothy 3:16,17 where (1) the sink hole of "ALL SCRIPTURE" must continually be filled, (1) the gap of church administration bridged as Scripture is presented that is profitable for "reproof and correction" as well as doctrine {today very skimpy} and "instruction in righteousness, today much instruction but little righteousness; and (3) the application to Christian living bridge as men, women, youth and children of God are matured and perfected unto all and every good work. That is all that is necessary to keep contemporary churches from slipping from just bad habits into a falling into the falling away with all five of its stages: (1) intolerance toward sound doctrine, (2) a congregation motivated more by their own "desires", pleasures, and "wants" than by Christ and the Holy Spirit and total Word of God; (3) the vast and widespread "heaping up" of Bible teachers and preachers with itching ears and with something new and novel like the Gospel of Prosperity; (4) the turning away from truth, another way to say turning away from sound doctrine, and which also begs the issue that there can be unsound doctrine or teachings if there is a sound doctrine that correlates with the truths of God and Christ; and (5) the turning into fables. Churches have been leaking for years from the bad habits, or follies, to the stages of the

Falling Away; although it would be hard to make a case that especially among southern Baptists that there has as yet been a wholesale departure from truth with the adoption of fables; but there are obviously some leaks, perhaps the greatest of which are (a) the Gospel of Prosperity, (b) special revelations with the attitude that the Word of God came to us only or out of us only, (c) divisions and fights caused like Pastor James wrote by "the spirit within us that lusteth to envy" and covet, (d) the fighting spirit per se that John condemned when he wrote in I John to "test the spirits", a spirit not of Christ and the Christ of peace among Christians {granted it would have been easier for us to distinguish the false from the true prophets and prophecy if John had specified that this bad spirit was a fighting spirit, not a loving spirit; but you see John knew his fellow Apostle and colleague, James, had already connected a fighting spirit like that of the fundamentalists with where wars and divisions come from in the first place, from "the spirit within us that lusteth to envy" and covet, obviously the desire for more status, recognition, and territory where the so-called "moderates" got in the way and had to be destroyed from Seminaries and pulpits, part of the heaping out in order to heap in their own kind and continue the "heaping up" process of the Falling Away}, and (e) the Scofield and Darby false concepts that deny or delay in Christian minds the Falling Away and the real events of last things.

4. What guidance do we get from Moses, God, and Deuteronomy 18 on how to distinguish a true prophet, and true prophecy, for a false prophet and false prophecy besides the details of I Corinthians {please look at the chapter on I Corinthians in HIDEOUT FOR BAD

HABITS, http://www.biblecombibleman.com/Hideout_or_Bad_Habits/ and the two chapters on I Corinthians in the LCC set on the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul, "Believe and Be Baptized", at http://www.biblecombibleman.com/product_LCCvol3/ }, the guidance of the Apostle John in the little epistles of John which are essentially guidelines for how to test the spirits and based on the criterion of the fellowship of the saints; those now recorded in the Bible for our help, the help on the Apostle Jude about "the faith once for all {these doctrines of the faith then and now are complete without any special revelation} delivered to the saints", Jesus on the many false prophets not only that will exist in the "beginning of sorrows" of early and continuous history but also the many more during the Falling Way-Jesus called it "love will wax cold as sin abounds", and even of Paul to the Ephesian elders where savage wolves would come in from outside the church and from the local church bodies that would (a) scatter church members into other groups, and (b) make disciples to themselves? Well the initial guidance we get on how to distinguish at the very time the office of prophecy and Prophets was established, of course you remember the changes Jesus made with the Holy Spirit, are:

(1) First of all the Word must be true and consistent (Deut 18:22); and I hope in this you see "the consistency message" of two or more witnesses where the witnesses are not only the Prophet Moses and Isaiah and Joel and Amos on through the Writing Prophets and the other Prophets like Elijah, but Jesus Himself who came to earth to teach everything that God had taught Him in heaven, and faithfully; and the Apostles like Paul, and John, and James, and Peter, and so on and on through the recorded words of the 39 Old Testament books and the 27 New Testament books, the 66 books from God and Prophets and Apostles of the total Bible. And aren't we fortunate to have something so objective, and consistent, and easy to understand with the proper attitude and enough time as this book now made out of leather and paper and words and ink; but in its dynamic nature, so alive and living, much more than ordinary books.

(2). If there is any predictive element in the message of prophecy, or of the Prophet, then apply the ultimate test of time, that the message comes true. {You know Paul also had this in mind when he told the young minister that in spite of all the bad habits of the perilous times and in spite of the five stages of the Falling Away development, to "make full proof of his ministry". Alias make it true by what you do of what you have said, and make it true what you speak of what you profess!}

NOTE: Perhaps you previously thought that the Consistency and Composite Message of the Bible was more rhetorically or colorful; but you see, based on Deuteronomy and the consistency with the rest of the Word of God by the Prophets and the Apostles, even with "the faith once for all delivered to the saints", and in history, it is not only a TOP TOPIC of the Bible, but perhaps the top topic for any old or young student of the Word of God who would learn even more, and far more, about the Bible. You, the Word of God right here on Consistency and Composite is laying a foundation for the study of the rest of the 12 Topics, the two previous topics of "The Living God of the Living" and "The Righteousness of God and Man", as well as the 9 to follow as we progress from the law of Moses to Malachi, and quote these OT books in the 27 books by Jesus and the Apostles. Isn't it grand! It is hard to tell who is more blessed, the nation of Israel because God chose them and made them to be custodians of the "oracles of God", like Paul writes about in Romans, or we Gentiles because by the grace of God we have been allowed to be wholesale, in the waning time of the "Fulness of the Gentiles" to be recipients of these 66 Oracles of God, the Bible.

5. This third Top Topic grows long, albeit perhaps the chief topic for Bible study, and though we would go away from a short study of Deuteronomy with many helpful applications for our contemporary Christian and church

life, we must hasten to the last of these applications: While you do not hear much in the New Testament about The Curse {actually the word "curse" is found approximately 19 times in the NT, however very few of them apply to the curse on God's own people, more on the people enamored with the works of the law which causes them to ignore righteousness by faith as required by God, and the curses that come out of many mouths} consisting of many curses and many calamities as contrasted to The Blessing of God consisting of many blessings and also over a period of time and history, you do hear from Jesus in John 14 and the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 12, and well as many other places, of the equivalent Group Chastisement which is the same as a short term curse; and also you realize, hopefully, that the two curses of the NT, a curse on those who preach another Gospel and the curse of Revelation on those who take away from or add to the Bible, alias on the Prophets of special revelations, are also Group Chastisements on God's People and as such as like the Curse of the OT and of Deuteronomy where God Himself sets before His own people, and His own people only {like in Hebrews 12 not "bastard children" of God}, a "blessing or a curse", life or death.

NOTE: Please read for yourself Hebrews 12:1-17 as well as the about the congregation before Sinai, and where we stand right now, of Hebrews 12:18-29, the last words of which "For our God is a consuming fire" reminds us that the God the Bible is a God of wrath, jealousy, and judgment as well as a God of love; and

though it will take many sins and a long time, for that judgment to come eternal, He is not beyond chastisement {a curse} right now on you and your group of God's people. To think that God does not work in the now and present is to ignore so much of Deuteronomy and the Bible, so much of the very nature and way of God. And as you do so, please note from Hebrews 12: (1) the group nature of the message to the "we" of Christians and church members, and who all take the same Prophet Jesus as "author and finisher" of the one common faith, that once for all delivered to the saints, of the fellowship of the Apostles, and in the Bible (12:1,2); (2) you as Christians and church members have a guarantee like Job of enduring hostility from sinners to the extent you live consistently the Christian life even if you are not persecuted to bloodshed like those martyrs of the first centuries to now that "will live and reign with Christ for one thousand years" (12:3,4); (3) yes, the OT speaks of this same chastisement of Hebrews and of Deuteronomy in that "whom the LORD loves He chastises" (12:5,6 and Proverbs 3:11,12); and (4) all sons of God {God has special chastisement for His own people, and sometimes as contrasted on the sun that shines on the good and the bad, or the rain and storms, it is only for God's own people-aren't we lucky} are chastened that are not bastard children; (4) it may be a curse for a short time of the "present" (12:11), perhaps the training of a curse or curses or calamities may have gone on for a longer time until with eternity there is "the peaceable fruit of

righteousness” for those who will accept the training of God.

What you will find in the bottom line discussions of Galatians, the curse on those who preach and teach another Gospel than that once delivered, and the bottom line discussions of Revelation 22 where the same curse is on those who add to or take away from Scriptures by special revelations, of course a very common practice today, those curses come on the behavior of some of God's people, basically the only ones who will read and tamper with Scriptures like Galatians and Revelation, because their motivations are to substitute their own works of righteousness for the righteousness by faith as once for all delivered to the saints. You see this same subject of righteousness in Revelation 22 with the let the righteous remain righteous and the filthy remain filthy of 22:11, and in Galatians where the whole discussion of the real Gospel is centered around a righteousness by faith instead of by the works of the law.

This Topic of the Literal Bible is very long, so you will need after first reading to free download a copy for further reading and study at <http://www.sungrist.org/TheBibleOne.pdf>

A short Appendix on Literal Bible on The Thousand Years and First and Second Resurrections.

Revelation 20:1-15 and "a" or "the" thousand years.

There would be no objection to Scofield and followers replacing the words "the thousand" or "a thousand" if they would not make it one thousand and covert it to numbers. If they must use numbers all the time it should be 1000x, since a or the thousand is a variable for the last days, starting with Peter's announcement on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ and ending with the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth.

"Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:4-6)

Why the x in $1000x$, the x is needed since the first resurrection of the martyred dead will take place during all the last days, so you see that if one martyr dies today in the year 2018, and you now it is happening across the world today especially as victims of ISIS and other radical Muslims. What would the x variable have to be if Christ came today, well it would be $1000x = 2018$ years, or $x = 2018/1000 = 2.018$.

It makes sense to concentrate more on the first and second resurrections than on the bad mathematics of 1000 years. The greater reward comes to Christians of martyrdom like the first 12 disciples of Jesus, Hence they have the blessing of immediately going with resurrection bodies to be with Christ. The rest of us, here on earth and in heaven, have to wait patiently here or in heaven for our resurrection bodies which is the second resurrection, at the Second Coming of Christ. How could Scofield and followers make a mess of something that is so simply? For money, Scofield was a scoundrel but an aggressive and , divorced and talented lawyer without formal Bible training, almost criminal who contracted with Oxford Press to change the Bible with Notes to promote the cause of the Zealots. Even the Scofield Memorial Church Congregational Church, formerly the First Congregationalist Church in Dallas of Scofield and Chalmers, has finally admitted the dubious character and behavior of Cyrus Scofield; yet none of that stops the influence of Chalmers at Dallas Theological Seminary, and the graduates with promotion in Lifeway

Bookstore of new Study Bibles based around the Scofield notes. You must decide that today, it is also for the money, or some other profit or personal gain.

On the positive side, may to be recommended to follow the SunGrist Literal Bible on sungrist.net at <https://sungrist.net/category/literal-bible/> .

And clearly you see in this great Revelation 20 chapter the chaining of Satan when the Holy Spirit came in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension, to "convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment" thus thwarting and binding the work of Satan, the period of last days from the coming the Holy Spirit to the withdrawal, and then a little while with final destruction and the intervention of Christ with His Second Coming.

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while." (Revelation 20:1-4)

You Heard (Read) It First Here on
SunGrist_Bible: Before the Complete 5 books
of the Literal Bible series is on Kindle, you can
receive them in a free PDF download.

These 5 small and handy books, reminds one of the paperbacks from Moody Press in the 1950's, in the LITERAL BIBLE series can take you all the way through the Literal Bible according to the Bible with Old Testament quotes in the New Testament. Imagine that it even took the late great B.H. Carroll, founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 17 volumes in his "An Interpretation of the English Bible." Perhaps 5 is easier than 17 because this Literal Bible is the ASPI version for Authorized Semi=Public Interpretation version based on II Peter 1:20,21. Authorized because it comes from God the Father Himself, through Christ, and the Holy Spirit moving Apostles and Prophets (when this Trinity of God moves anything, you can count on the Movement), and based on the internal structure of the Bible Itself, which is hardly noticeable unless you take the time to study it, perhaps with a list of all the OT quotes in the NT arranged in the most probable historical sequence of writing; then from which this total Bible outline is garnered 12 subject titles:

A Topic Outline of the Literal Bible.

The Living God of the Living
Literal Bible series #1

Righteousness of God and Man

The Composite Witness of the Bible

God, Man and the Son of Man
Literal Bible series #2

The Resurrection
Literal Bible series #3

Wisdom From God

The Gospel

Listening More Important Than Sacrifice
Literal Bible series #4

What Happened to the Jews as the Chosen
nation?

The Salvation of God
Literal Bible series #5

The New King of Israel

The Living God Wants Others to Live

Semi-Public in that it can not according to God be a completely Public Book of instructions and information from God as it is classified primarily for God's children, simply stated means you must be born again and then have the guidance of the Holy Spirit for understanding. The Bible is only self-interpretation for those who have the inward spirit of God, that are willing to do His will, and that meet the other rules (hermeneutics) of the Bible for understanding.

NOTE: The goal is large, to get the Literal Word of God out to the world; and as much as possible, in the nature of Jude’s “contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” to replace the onslaught by DTS graduates to duplicate the Scofield Reference Bible notes with new Study Bibles which the SBC Lifeway Book Stores are now eating up and feeding to you as if it is real Bible, and then there is Jimmy Swaggart’s so called Expositors Bibles—this among the top 7 of all U.S. evangelists and gospel musicians has adopted to himself all the gifts. NOT A LITERAL BIBLE EXSPOSITOR EVEN AS SCOFIELD IS NOT. ALSO you are welcome to purchase the five books on Kindle if that is the way you prefer to read them. It has been observed that while many of you visit THE LITERAL BIBLE SERIES on Facebook, you are reluctant to read them in their entirety on WordPress, so you have two routes to go, or both: (1) Download the 5 free PDF downloads; and/or (2) Purchase them on Amazon.com Kindle. They can save you a lot of heartache in your Bible study.

**Free Download from SunGrist on www.sungrist.org.
(Only the first 3 books are available now in PDF and on Amazon.com Kindle.)**

**Free Download in PDF
Kindle on Amazon.com**

www.sungrist.org/LiteralBibleBookOne.pdf
1. [The Bible is the Word of God.](#)

www.sungrist.org/LiteralBibleBookTwo.pdf
2. [Son of God/Son of Man.](#)

www.sungrist.org/LiteralBibleBookThree.pdf
3. [The Resurrection, Wisdom, and the Gospel Literal Bible.](#)

www.sungrist.org/LiteralBibleBookFour.pdf

www.sungrist.org/LiteralBibleBookFive.pdf

You friends of SunGrist and Jerry McMichael were there during the months of the Literal Bible series development: first under Apostles and Prophets, then “Thru the Bible”, and lastly under the “Literal Bible series”; so enjoy them and profit in Bible along the goals stated above.