

# THE BIBLE— WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

JAMES T. DYET



*Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

*The Bible—What's In It For You?*

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# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

**T**he Bible. Many people talk about this best-selling book, but what’s it all about? More specifically, what’s in it *for you*? This course will introduce you to the Bible—how it came into being, its contents, its main characters and events—in the hope that you will want to study it, get to know its ultimate author, and discover the important message that it has for you personally.

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## **Course Components**

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

## **How To Study**

This study has ten chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

## **Exams**

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

## **How Your Exams Are Graded**

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

## 1

## NOT JUST ANOTHER BOOK

“**H**oly Bible”—It’s a strange name for a book, isn’t it? But don’t let the name intimidate you. The word *Bible* comes from a Greek word that just means “book,” and the word *holy* simply means “set apart.” Some people may feel unworthy or unprepared to read something called “holy,” but look at it this way: the Bible is set apart from all other books because it is in a class by itself. It is special, one-of-a-kind. Let’s find out why.

**The Bible Is God’s Book**

To begin, we’ll simply define the Bible as *God’s words to men written by men using their individual personalities*. The Bible is God’s Book. In the Bible we learn about our Creator, the one true God, and what our relationship can be with Him both now and for eternity. Over a period of about 1,500 years, forty men from three continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe) wrote the Bible. God gave these men the words He wanted in the Bible, and He made sure they didn’t put any words in that weren’t meant to be there.

You might think that a book written over that lengthy a period by forty men from different walks of life would not “hang together.” Instead, we see a remarkable unity in the Bible. Its main theme is *God’s plan of redemption*, which we’ll illustrate by the following story.

There was once a boy who carved a sailboat out of wood all by himself. Feeling very proud of his workmanship, he carefully set the boat down into the water at the edge of the lake and let out the string. But a few minutes later a strong gust of wind whipped the string out of his hand and carried the little boat away out of sight. The boy was heartbroken. Some weeks later, however, he noticed in the window of a local pawn shop a little wooden sailboat—it was *his* boat! Its paint was scratched,

and the sail mast was broken, but he would have recognized it anywhere. Immediately he went in and asked the shopkeeper to return it to him, explaining how he had lost it. “Ah, but it’s my boat now,” said the shopkeeper. “You will need to pay me for it if you want it back.”

The boy ran home and emptied his piggy-bank. He had just enough to buy the boat back. He raced back to the shop and exchanged his hard-earned savings for his battered boat. As he retraced his steps home, he whispered to the boat carefully cradled in his arms, “You are mine twice over now, little boat: first, because I made you, and second, because I redeemed you.”

That simple story pictures what God has done for us. Mankind is “twice-owned” by God. First, we rightfully belong to Him because He created us. But we became separated from Him because of sin (that is, all the wrong things we do, say, or even think, that are offensive to a holy and sinless God). Like the little sailboat, we were helpless—helpless to free ourselves from sin’s power. God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, willingly paid the price for our sin when He was crucified. From the first book of the Bible (Genesis) to the last book (Revelation) God reveals His plan to redeem, or buy back, humankind, and to create a wonderful kingdom for those who choose to believe in Him and be freed (saved) from sin’s penalty and power.

Many people who revere the Bible believe the greatest statement in it is found in the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16. Maybe you have seen this verse displayed on a poster or banner held high by a spectator at a sporting event. The verse summarizes the good news (gospel) of salvation from the eternal penalty of sin:

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

That *is* good news. The verse tells us that God loves all mankind. That includes *you*. Furthermore, He proved His love for you by giving His Son for you. By “giving” we mean that when Jesus died on the cross, He was dying for you. He took the punishment for your sins. When a person places his complete trust in the fact that Jesus died for his or her own personal sins, God promises to save that person from eternal punishment for sin. And instead of being punished, that person will experience joyful everlasting life with God in His eternal kingdom. What a marvelous salvation!

God's offer of salvation to individuals makes the Bible personal. But the good news of salvation isn't the only thing that's in the Bible for you. There's plenty more, as you will discover as you read on in this course.

## **The Bible Is Priceless**

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, commented that the Bible "is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book; but for this book, we could not know right from wrong. All things desirable to man are contained in the Bible."

Historians credit the Bible's influence with saving England from the anarchy that swept across France during the French Revolution. Western nations founded their systems of government and laws on the teachings of the Bible. And in America, its teachings inspired patriots to cherish life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Ten Commandments form the framework for western civilization's belief in the value of human life, the sanctity of marriage and the family, and the right to own personal property. It isn't by accident that the inscription on the Liberty Bell includes these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." You can find this declaration in the third book of the Bible, Leviticus, chapter 25, verse 10.

The American Declaration of Independence affirms that "All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we read that God created human beings, and that human life is precious. In every country that honors the Bible, human rights are valued.

Another word of praise for the Bible comes from Patrick Henry, an eighteenth century American statesman. He said, "The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed." Just think for a minute about that statement. Picture yourself with calculator in hand and assigned the task of totaling the cost of all the books ever printed. You would be looking at a figure running into billions of dollars. The Bible is certainly worth billions, yet it usually costs between \$3 and \$60, depending on paper quality and binding.

For those who accept that it is our Creator's communication to man and who recognize its authority in their lives, the Bible is their greatest

treasure. It does what no other book can do: It shows the way to God. It shows the way to live. It soothes life's hurts. It comforts those who mourn. It gives hope in hopeless situations. It gives wisdom about how not to bring trouble on yourself! It teaches us how to avoid temptation to sin. It delivers God's promises. It nourishes the soul. It stimulates the mind. It reveals the future of the earth. And much more! No wonder the Bible is the best seller of all time! It has been translated into more than a thousand languages and dialects, and every year more than 100 million copies are sold world-wide.



The middle verse of the whole Bible is Psalm 118:8. It's a short verse, but it makes a powerful statement: "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." Where is *your* confidence? Is it in man and this world or in God and His wisdom and ways? People—even unintentionally—let us down in the end. But the God who created us and sent His Son to die for us can be trusted. It is not in His nature to fail, betray, or disappoint. The counsel He gives in His Word, the Bible, is reliable—and it is for your own personal good, both now and for eternity.



# THE BIBLE— WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

## EXAM BOOKLET AK '07 (1 UNIT) BWFY

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STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS

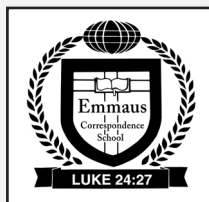
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CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTRUCTOR



*Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

## A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

### TRUE / FALSE

For these questions, circle the correct answer.

T  F

### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

### NOW I HAVE A QUESTION . . .

In this section you are encouraged to ask any question you have related to the chapter you have just studied. Your instructor will respond to your questions as best as he or she can.

### RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES**

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## CHAPTER 1 EXAM

### NOT JUST ANOTHER BOOK

#### EXAM GRADE

*Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.*

*Directions: Read each question carefully and circle the letter of the correct answer: T—if true, or F—if false. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. There is nothing special about the Bible. T F
2. In the Bible, we learn how we can have a relationship with God, our Creator. T F
3. Forty men wrote the Bible over a period of 1,500 years. T F
4. The Bible's main theme is "Love your neighbor as yourself." T F
5. Mankind is "twice-owned" by God. T F
6. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. T F
7. The word *gospel* means "good news." T F
8. God's offer of eternal salvation described in the Bible makes the book personal. T F
9. The Bible has had no impact on the way civilization has developed. T F
10. We can trust the God of the Bible. T F

#### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What has been your attitude/view of the Bible and its contents up to this point in time?

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#### NOW I HAVE A QUESTION . . .

Turn to page E13 and ask any question you have related to this chapter.