

Effective Bible Study III

(By The Chapter)

The average student will often derive the most benefit from their study by working through a chapter at a time. The chapter divisions of the Bible generally provide just the right amount of material to cover in the time allowed for a single study period. In about twenty minutes you should be able to read a chapter, outline its parts, note the key words or phrases, highlight verses of special importance and write a brief summary that includes an application for your life.

How To Proceed

After pigeonholing, x-raying and coming to terms with the author you should return to the opening chapter and study a chapter each day until you reach the end of the book.

Keep a notebook on each book of the Bible you study. Write down your outline, key words, key verses and chapter summaries. You should also write down words you don't understand as well as any questions that you want to follow up later.

What To Look For

All good reading is _____ reading.

Questions to ask upon reading a chapter of the Bible:

What is the principle subject of this chapter?

Who are the principle persons in the chapter?

How does this chapter fit into the greater theme of the book?

Are there any key verses to note?

Is there any example for me to follow?

Is there any sin to renounce?

Is there any duty for me to perform?

Is there any promise to claim?

Is there any prayer I can echo?

Sample Chapters:

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

- I. Introduction (vv. 1-2).
 - A. The apostle Paul writing to the saints at Ephesus
 - B. Pronounces a blessing of peace and grace upon them
- II. God is to be praised because he has chosen us in Christ (vv. 3-6)
 - A. He determined to do this before the foundation of the world (v. 4)
 - B. He has appointed us to sonship through adoption (v. 5)
 - C. He has done this in order that we might praise the glory of His grace (v. 6)
- III. God is to be praised because He has dealt with us according to the riches of His grace (vv. 7-12)
 - A. He has forgiven our sins through the blood of Christ (v. 7).
 - B. He has given us wisdom to understand the mystery of His will (vv. 8-10)
 - A. His will is to reconcile all things in Heaven and on earth in Christ (v. 10)
 - B. We have obtained an inheritance as adopted children in Christ (v. 11)
- IV. God is to be praised because He has sealed us with the Holy Spirit until we receive the full possession of our inheritance (vv. 13-14).
 - A. Upon hearing the gospel and trusting in Christ we were sealed by Spirit (v. 13).
 - B. The Holy Spirit is the down payment, who guarantees that we will receive the full inheritance (v. 14).

Key Verse: Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

Key Phrase: *To the praise of His glory* (vv. 6,12,14)

Summary: From before the foundation of the world, God has had a plan to unite all things in heaven and earth in Jesus Christ. The disintegrating power of sin is being overwhelmed by the gravitational center of God's love expressed in Jesus Christ. We, who have trusted in Christ, have been adopted as God's children, forgiven of our sins and promised a full inheritance. The guarantee for this is the Holy Spirit with which we have been sealed. All of this is being accomplished in order that we might praise God for His glorious grace.

Application: As a recipient of God's grace and as an adopted son in Christ, I should live a life of praise and devotion to God my savior. Ultimately, my life is not about me, I am here to bring glory to my Maker and Redeemer.

MATTHEW 1

- I. The Royal Ancestry Of Christ (VV. 1-17)
- II. The Miraculous Conception Of Jesus By The Holy Spirit (VV. 18,19)
- III. The Angel's Announcement Of Christ's Coming (VV. 20,21)
- IV. The Fulfillment Of Prophecy In The Coming Of Christ (VV. 22-25)

Key Verse: Matt 1:23 "*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*"-- which means, "*God with us.*" (NIV)

Key word: Jesus - *Savior: He shall save His people from their sins.*

Summary: This chapter describes the ancestry and birth of Jesus the Christ. He descended from key figures: Abraham, David, Josiah and Zerubbabel. He was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and Mary, a virgin. His birth was announced by an Angel of the Lord and in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. This chapter affirms the deity and humanity of Jesus and reveals Him to be the hope and salvation of all.

Application: Jesus is worthy of my utmost praise and adoration as my Savior who came from above and yet humbled himself to live as a man.

JOSHUA 1

- I. The Word Of God To Joshua (VV. 1-9)
 - A. I will be with you
 - B. Be strong and courageous
 - C. Obey my law
 - D. You will succeed
- II. The Word Of God Through Joshua To The Israelites (VV. 10-15)
 - A. Prepare to conquer Canaan
 - B. God is giving us this land
 - C. Reubenites, Gadites & Manasseh to fulfill their duty
- III. The Israelites Declare Their Allegiance To Joshua (VV. 16-18)
 - A. We will follow you as we have followed Moses
 - B. Be strong and courageous

Key Verse: Josh 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* (NIV)

Key Word: Courage - *Overcoming our fears and doubts to do what must be done.*

Summary: Here is a leader who only speaks to the people after he has himself learned

of God's will and committed to it. When God has spoken to him he goes before the people with courage and confidence. The people respond to him favorably and declare themselves loyal to God and to Joshua's leadership.

Application: True strength and courage are the result of obedience to God's word. When I know for certain that I am standing in the will of God, I can be unafraid. I should verbally support those who God has called to lead me.

PSALM 1

- I. The Blessed Man (1:1-3)
 - A. The company he rejects (v. 1)
 - B. That in which he takes pleasure (v.2)
 - C. The Lord's blessing on his life (v. 3)
- II. The wicked (vv. 4-5)
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
- III. Summary / Conclusion
 - A. The Lord knows (watches over) the righteous
 - B. The wicked shall perish

Key Verse:

Key Word:

Summary:

Personal Application: