



## How to understand the bible

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The Bible is certainly the most widely read book since very long, and at the same time the book the less well understood. It sometimes follows more or less serious errors. From this fact, some people will make their life much complicated, frustrating, or even will generate unnecessary suffering in their own lives, but also in those of their entourage. Others, due to a misunderstanding will reject this book, because they will have heard interpretations errors which will generate inconsistencies. And then there are those who have grasped the meaning and applying it in their daily lives. These are very easy to recognize. Just to see them living will show that there is something different in them. Most of the individuals in these three categories of persons claim themselves to be Christians, which means followers of Jesus Christ, people who follow the teaching of Jesus Christ. But often the result is not here, despite that they are, for the majority, used or even resigned to a life where the essential is well mediocre.

Of course I do not have the pretention to be better than everyone else. But I think I can help you to understand the Bible, help you check if you have well understood it. If you have never read it, then you have a serious advantage over those who did poorly understood it and put into practice ideas or absurd rituals in their lives. Indeed, you won't have to backtrack in order to readjust your way of thinking on some biblical subjects.

The Bible is composed of a succession of books, which are not all placed in the chronological order. Many people have a poor vision of the whole of the Bible because of this fact. It is very important to have a global vision of the Bible, to have this clear timeline within us. It would be very easy to put things back in a time order if it was only a question of books order, but the problem is that in a same book several periods can be invoked.

There are therefore two chronological orders:

- The order in which the books have been written by their authors.
- The order in which things are held in the writings.

Let's take for example the beginning of things in the order where they have been happened. Here are three verses that come from three different books, but which are all three linked in their execution. I don't talk about time because in this context time did not exist in the form where we know it today as the planetary system had not yet been created.

***John 1: 1-2*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

***Psalms 90: 2*** *Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

***Genesis 1: 1*** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

This is therefore an example where three passages from books very distant from each other are yet linked in the sequence of their execution. So, we know now that when we read the Bible, the events are not necessarily all linked.

It is therefore very important to have the frame of the chronology of the Bible in its different periods. It is necessary to find a balance in this, as the more I will have a detailed description of these different periods, the more this same description will be difficult to remember because it will be very long. I recommend you to stay in the broad lines of these periods. Here's a balanced detail of it:

- Book of Genesis:
  - God command the creation
  - The man and woman are created
  - Fall of satan
  - Fall of man
  - Revocation of man, flood, Noah's Ark. (2320 BC)
  - Man loses the knowledge of his God
  - Abraham meets God
  - Men lose their relationship with God - Tower of Babel (2140 BC)
  - Story of Job (1965 BC)
  - Abraham arrives in Egypt

- Joseph arrives in Egypt (1990 BC)
- Book of exodus
  - Moses, departure from Egypt to the exodus (1460 BC) – The Law: taking of sin to account
  - Arrival in the promised land, Canaan (1422 BC)
- 1st book of Kings / 2 Samuel / 1 Chronicles
  - Reign of David (1000 BC)
- 2sec book of the Kings
  - People in captivity (550 BC)
- Gospels
  - The grace of Christ
  - The Kingdom of God on Earth
  - Death of Christ on the cross, forgiveness of sins
- Epistles
  - Powerful lives of Christians by the Word, Jesus Christ.

This list helps us to have a somewhat clearer vision of the main events.

Some tools are required in order to well study the Bible. The ideal is to have all the major versions of your language. There are about more than 30 versions in English. All will not necessarily be reliable in their interpretations, but it is important to have them in order to compare the different translations. In my opinion, there is not a perfect interpretation; this is why it is very interesting to have them all.

However, a problem will quickly arise. If you must have 30 Bibles, a chronological Bible, various comments, it will constitute a large enough volume, and especially an important financial cost.

If you must make a choice of a study Bible, I recommend the Thompson Bible which is in my opinion one of the most extensive sources of information.

This is why the computer is very convenient to study the Bible. If you have a computer, this is a huge advantage. It will allow you to save huge time, notably through the automatic searches of verses or passages. A good basic Bible

software about 150USD. Usually it includes all the versions of Bible in your language, a Bible Dictionary, and sometimes Bible comments.

Please note that all comments are not necessarily reliable. The simple fact to see some commentators are contradict one another or do not have the same opinion on a passage shows that one or the other is wrong, or sometimes even both! So well remember that a comment will always be only the opinion of a human being, yes sometimes inspired by the Holy Spirit, but a comment will never be the Word of God.

If you don't have a computer, this does not mean that you cannot study the Bible, quite the contrary. But it simply means that you will spend a little more time studying in some cases. Biblical software are from about the year 2000. Prior to this, all Christians who wanted to study the Bible did it well without a computer! So it's better if you have one, but not dramatic if you haven't.

Today there are many software to study the Bible; you will have a great choice by logging on the internet in order to see the different solutions proposed. The great advantage of a biblical software will be first to be able to select a word in several passages in a quick time. For example if you want to know all the passages of the New Testament where the word "soul" is used, you will have this result in less than 10 seconds. But a biblical concordance on paper will practically do the same job, maybe a little less precisely depending on the edition you'll have.

The software will have the advantage of being fast and less expensive than if you had to buy all the books that are included in the software.

Indeed, a quick calculation shows us that a used computer, as well as the purchase of biblical software will cost you almost cheaper than to buy 30 different versions of Bibles, a standard Strong concordance, a few Bible comments, and a Bible Dictionary. We will talk about the Strong concordance a bit later.

Of course this represents a certain financial investment if we want to study the Bible in depth. I also understand that this investment will be much more or less heavy, depending the country where you live and in which social situation you are. A person in France can more easily acquire this material rather than another person in a small town in the Democratic Republic of Congo for example. But a parameter will always remain the same between these two examples, God is the same everywhere, He act the same way with all His children regardless of the country. If you are in a situation where you do not

have the finance to buy this material to study the Bible in more depth, God will be more than happy to allow you to receive money or directly a gift of this material, or a job in order to have the necessary finance. (For more details on this subject see my study: "... And I see it come to pass").

Choose the comments in which you will take your information's. A comment is the explanation of a biblical passage by a person who is usually renowned for his life, his Ministry, his teachings. But as we said earlier, all comments are not good to take into account. To this regard, I choose the comments of people who have been "chewing their work", which means the ones who have borne fruit in their lives and who are still baring fruits, for commentators who are contemporary to me. It happens to me to adhere to some of the comments of a person but of not adhering to other of his comments about another passage. Then you will say: "*but Franck if you cannot rely on biblical commentaries, this is an upside down world*". Yes, this is the case sometimes. What must be remembered, is that a comment is not the Word of God, and do not take it as such. A comment is simply there to help me understand a passage and in no case to become itself a divine word.

There is a parameter that will take precedence over all the others in the study of the Bible:

- Listening to the Holy Spirit.

Often we mistakenly believed that the Holy Spirit is the one who will comfort me when I'm sad, or encourage me. These things are only a small part of the action of the Holy Spirit in me.

***John 14:26*** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach** you all things, and bring to your **remembrance** all things that I said to you.*

The first thing that the Holy Spirit does in my life is teaching me. Not only the Bible, but all things. When you are born again, you have understood that Jesus Christ is the only one who can give you access to eternal life with God. If so you have understood this, it is because the Holy Spirit has taught it to you.

***1 Corinthians 12:3*** *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except **by the Holy Spirit.***

If the Holy Spirit did not taught you that you will have never understood this by yourself. He teaches that to all human beings without any exception, but all do not listen to this teaching.

The Holy Spirit is the person who above all will teach you the Bible in depth. If I had to choose to keep one thing to understand the Bible, it would be without hesitation, the team that we make the Holy Spirit and me. Often I hear people who say they would have liked to live at the time with Jesus to hear His teachings. But we have much better today. The Holy Spirit does not speak to me in parables; He lives inside of me with my spirit. He is the perfect teacher. All the Christians who lived at the time of the book of acts had for the unique source of teaching the Holy Spirit. It is most of the time to a mature age that the authors of the various Epistles have written their stories.

So for us today, it is still an added advantage to have all these tools to study, in addition to the relationship with our dear Holy Spirit. He is a spirit who is Holy, it is something that I often tell Him: "You are a spirit who is Holy". And because He is Holy, He is perfect, He is God, He is Jesus. He does not have any problem to be at billions of places at the same time to help understand, teach those who want to learn more about the Bible and understand it better. The Holy Spirit is, and will always be my main teacher. (For more details on this subject see my study named the Holy Spirit).

Before giving you the method that I use to study the Bible, let's see the context of each of the 66 books who are composing the Bible together. When were they been written, by whom, under which circumstances, etc...

All the books of the Old Testament were written in Aramaic language. Aramaic is a word that refers to a group of languages. Some books have been written in various Jewish dialects of the Middle East, however many were in ancient Hebrew.

***Book of Genesis:***

Written by Moses.

We don't know if Moses wrote the book of Genesis during his exile from 40 years in the land of Midian, or during the exodus of 40 years in the desert with the people of Israel.

This book is designed to introduce the origins of man, then the origins of the chosen people by God. It marks the beginning of things, lays the Foundations to move forward in a well understanding.

***Book of exodus:***

Written by Moses.

This book tells the story of the people of Israel after the death of Joseph until the establishment of the tabernacle by Moses.

Many believe that God has chosen the Hebrew people because they were the most holy people, most turned unto God than others. With the respect that I owe to those who are part of the Hebrew people, this people had nothing more spiritual than another. When God spoke to Abraham, it was about all the peoples whom God spoke, not only of the chosen people. History shows us that the members of the people of God had nothing to envy to other peoples. They have committed mistakes as bad as other peoples; some members were sometimes just as perverted as or even worse than some other peoples. If God has chosen a people it was to be the guardian of the law. They would be the people who were going to continue this law for 1400 years, until the coming of the grace through Jesus Christ.

It would have been easy for satan and his demons to sow a big confusion over this law if all the peoples of the Earth were to be the guarantors. After a few hundred years, it would have been a total confusion, and Christ could not have come to fulfill a law that would have distorted and perverted with the time. However, this law has nevertheless been denatured by the Pharisees, although it has been entrusted only to a small amount of the human beings: the Hebrews. Then it is easy to imagine the derivatives that will be followed if God had not chosen a people aside to share to keep this law for about 1400 years.

***Book of Leviticus:***

Written by Moses.

This book includes all orders, practices according to the law given to Moses by God. It is a book very regulatory-sounding, because it exposes laws. The proper of a law is to not make feelings, very contrasting with the teachings of the Grace of Christ.

***Book of numbers:***

Written by Moses.

The name of this book comes from the enumeration of the people of Israel. This book brings together all the discontent of the people, all the impatience, etc... This attitude has prevented the people to go forward.

***Book of Deuteronomy:***

Written by Moses.

The people of God had just gone round and round for 40 years in the desert. The generation who had fled Egypt had disappeared. Another generation came up, therefore we could get the impression in this book that Moses repeats the law given 40 years earlier. But there was the need to like "reposition" this particular law so that it continues in all its truth. Moses gives again the outline of this law before the people crossed the Jordan. Moses exhorts the people to take into account the unfortunate experiences of the first generation to not repeat the same mistakes.

***Book of Joshua:***

Written by Samuel but not officially.

The new generation is there!

This book is a succession of several peoples falls in the period of the judges.

The main people are: Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson.

***Book of Ruth:***

As for the book of Joshua, it is possible that it has been written by Samuel, but nobody can prove it.

This book is a great proof of the will of God for all men to be saved, that God is the God of all human beings without any exception.

The story of Ruth is for me a beautiful window on God's love for all human beings and at the same time a clarification on the fact that the Hebrew people was nothing in "holier" than other peoples. Ruth, a young Moabites that was not part of the Hebrew people, sees her life directed by God and becomes one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ!



***First book of Samuel:***

The author is unknown.

In this book ends the period of judges in Israel. Another period begins, the one of the Kings. We can follow the story of Samuel who is the last judge in Israel, then the story of Saul the first of the Kings until his depravation, followed by the crowning of King David's.

***Second book of Samuel:***

The author is unknown.

This book mainly tells about King David's reign, his decisions, his attitudes.

***First and second book of Kings:***

The author is unknown.

These two books form originally a single book. It would seem that it was divided into two books later.

It says here the history of the reign of Solomon, and then division of the people into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah.

***First and second book of Chronicles:***

Some believe that Ezra is the author, but there is no certainty.

These books include the history of the Kings from the book of Samuel to the books of Kings. Many passages are similar to the books of Samuel, 1kings and 2 Kings.

The second book of Chronicles is more focused on the Kingdom of Judah and its errors. One sees the story of Josiah who handed back in order the orders of God (which had been totally forgotten) through the book of the law find by Hilkiah the priest, in the ruins of the temple.

***Book of Ezra:***

Written in part by Ezra.

This book tells the end of the captivity of the Jews in Babylon. Their return to their country. Followed by the reconstruction of cities and the temple; new rules are put in place.

***Book of Nehemiah:***

This book was before included in the book of Ezra, both were one book. It also covers the reconstruction of the temple after the deportation, and the rules implemented in the people.

***Book of Esther:***

The author is unknown.

This book speaks about Queen Esther who delivers the Jewish people doomed to be exterminated. This book shows in a clear way the protection of God on His people at this time.

***Book of Job:***

Some believe that Moses is the author.

Job was a contemporary of Abraham. He lived in the period from the end of the life of Abraham.

The book of Job is not access as many believe on the theme of suffering. It is nothing of the sort, this book speaks of scientific realities of our earth, like the weather, the various phenomena of the elements, but also an open window on the person of God. And of course the main element is the battle between God and satan. Job is not as a pawn which God would use to fight against satan. Many use this book to explain a tolerance of God to allow suffering among Christians, but this theory is totally absurd. (For more details see my study the personality of God).

***Book of Psalms:***

This book is like a collection of songs with the theme of praise and prayer mainly. Several wrote their lyrics of songs such as: David, Asaph, Agee, Zechariah, etc...

***Book of proverbs:***

Written by King Salomon.

This man King of Israel was renowned for his wisdom. People came running from several countries to listen to him. The book of proverbs is a succession of morality, advice and truths that show how to live a right life of wisdom. These maxims are valuable lighting.

***Book of the song of songs:***

Written by King Salomon.

This book is an oriental poem. It shows the relationship between the Church and Jesus Christ. Many passages are imaged, but it gives an idea of the intense relationship that the Church must have with Christ.

***Book of the Prophet Isaiah:***

Author (supposed) Isaiah.

He lived about in 770 BC.

He was the Prophet who gave the most words in relation to the coming of the grace on Earth by Jesus Christ.

***Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:***

Author (supposed) Jeremiah.

He lived about in 670 before the coming of Jesus Christ, 100 years after Isaiah.

This book contains warnings, reminders about the right way to act with God.

Jeremiah ceased not to warn, to denounce the bad behaviors and judgments that will follow in. The book of Lamentations is the continuation.

***Book of the prophet Ezekiel:***

Author (supposed) Ezekiel.

This book is nearly the most mysterious with the revelation one. It brings together a range of earthly and heavenly events that are described in a very imaged way. This book is at the same time one of those who teach us the most about things of the spiritual realm. Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah, he lived approximately in 650 BC.

***Book of the Prophet Daniel:***

Written by Daniel.

Daniel has lived almost his entire life in captivity. He has therefore not really known his people in freedom when they lived in the Promised Land.

This book is to my opinion in two parts, the first shows Daniel as a person very integrates to God, he does never compromise.

The second part gives prophecies associated with the book of revelation and that were not all completed today.

Daniel lived as deported to Babylon in 630 BC.

***Book of the Prophet Hosea:***

Author Hosea.

This short book encompasses for its majority, warnings against the idolatry of Israel. Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah.

***Book of the Prophet Joel:***

(Assumed) author Joel.

James leads the people to repent of their wicked ways by showing them all the things that should be rectified, and also the blessings resulting on the part of God.

***Book of the prophet Amos:***

(Assumed) author Amos.

Like his brothers prophets, Amos warns the people on the urgency to change his ways. All these prophets have lived in this same period, where the people of God and the right way to live was away. We see that God sent a quantity of prophets for the people to return to the practice of the precepts of the law, as about 600 years later, Jesus had to come on Earth. Because there were big chances that this people had forget that a Messiah would have to come. If we consider the silence of about 400 years between the two alliances, it remained only to 200 years to the people to return to the obedience of God's law and especially waiting for the Messiah.

***Book of Obadiah:***

Author unknown.

This book tells and reminds primarily the history of the people of Edom which denied the people of God the passage on his land. This is followed by the ruin of the Edomite people. Pictured here is the protection of God on His people.

***Book of Jonah:***

Written by Jonas.

He lived about in 760 Jesus BC.

Jonas has learned from God to accept His orders. Jonas was initially a bit grumpy, but he eventually accepts, after some time in the belly of a fish, to go to Nineveh to preach the repentance. Nineveh was a huge city because it took more than two days of walking to cross it.

***Book of the Prophet Micah:***

Written by Micah.

Micah lived approximately in 750 BC. Micah is one more prophet who by his prophecies tries to reposition the people in a good way of thinking before the coming of the Grace through Jesus Christ.

***Book of the Prophet Nahum:***

Author Nahum.

Nahum prophesies on the fall of the city of Nineveh. This city would receive, after warnings of Jonah, judgment for those who had not listened to the message of repentance of Jonah, and who preferred to continue their violence and their killings.

***Book of the Prophet Habakkuk:***

Author: Habakkuk.

He lived at the time of Babylon the great. He gave prophecies about the providence of God.

***Book of the Prophet Zephaniah:***

Author Zephaniah.

Zephaniah was a Prophet who lived approximately in 630 BC. The contents of his prophecy mainly concerns some judgments of God, always of course in the period of the law. In these judgments, there was always a way out. God did not judge to punish. The law has to be respected because it gave sin its existence, and without the existence of sin no salvation could take place.

### ***Book of the Prophet Haggai:***

Author Haggai.

Haggai was born during the captivity of the Jewish people to Babylon. He lived about 500 BC. He lived the end of this deportation. Haggai was a friend with Zechariah the Prophet. His prophecy concerns mainly the reconstruction of the temple, and a warning to those who were not really motivated to rebuild the temple.

If has God so insisted for a reconstruction, it is that because this people should receive his Messiah, the son of God, Jesus Christ who would revolutionize the habits of His time: He would bring eternal salvation by grace. How could this people welcome his Messiah if they were abandoning the law? How could they join the grace of Christ if the temple was not rebuilt?

It would have been great evidence that during this period of more than 400 years, Jews would have completely forgotten the law and what it contained, if the temple was not rebuilt. It is easy to understand with this light that this is not a "fad" of God, an excess of authority or complacency than to ensure that the temple was absolutely rebuilt.

### ***Book of the prophet Zechariah:***

As I said in the previous book of Haggai, Zechariah was a contemporary of the Prophet Haggai.

As his friend Haggai, Zechariah has without lies, prophesied that the temple will have to be rebuilt.

Zechariah has included prophecies about the Messiah which should come. His writings are much longer than those of Haggai.

### ***Book of the prophet Malachi:***

Author unknown.

It was adult in 450 BC. He is part of the last prophets of the old Covenant. Of course there were other prophets from in the time of Jesus. But I consider this period of the life of Jesus as a period of overlap because, although the law was still there and in force, but grace was also beginning to be active.

This last book marks the end of what is called the old Covenant or the Old Testament. The old or New Testament or (alliance) marks the end of an era and the beginning of another.

This period of end and beginning of alliance is very important. Unfortunately very few Christians have understood how to live today.

Some are those so called “legalistic”, which means that they mainly apply the Law of Moses in their everyday lives. This makes these are people very attached to rules that they can never reach anyway. This attachment to the law produces a life of frustration or of hypocrisy because one side or the other, they see that they are not able to (and will never be) put into practice what they preach. Often they take only the passages of the law which suit them. Most of them have the impression that they have to merit all with God, getting everything by works.

There are also those who think that the law is not at all in force today. These have fully integrated the grace of Christ in their daily lives. They believe that Jesus came to remove the law and that it no longer exists today. The result that they get is a life where everything is permitted because they think that because God has forgiven our sins past, present and future, they can then take advantage of the situation. The truth is that many of them believe to be born again, but they are not. I don't position myself here as a judge at all, but I simply do a statement. Most of the time their lives is never satisfied, they live for some in the sin in a conscious manner, without making any effort. These people are characterized by a laxity that transforms the teachings of Jesus: for them all is about grace.

The truth lies between these two ways of living.

The old Covenant which is the law given to Moses is still valid and in force today, as it remains the standard of God, it remains His law. The totally new fact in the new Covenant is that Jesus Christ has fully accomplished this law, He followed it to the comma, during His life on Earth. And it is because He agreed to become a sacrifice for all those who will validate it in their lives, that each born again person is regarded as someone who has also accomplish this same law. This is what the Bible calls the Grace, which means that we have received something that was not only inaccessible for us, but also that we did not deserve at all.

The new covenant thus marks the end of the period of the law. (For more details on these topics to see my two named studies: *“the personality of God”*, and *“the person of Jesus Christ”*).

There was a period called “silence” between the end of the old Covenant and the beginning of the new. This period lasted for about 400 years during this period God did not talk to His people.

Several theories have been issued on this subject. In my opinion, there is nothing complicated in it. This is exactly as when a person must speak before an audience, there is very often a time of silence, so that everyone can be silent. This time of silence indicates that a person is going to speak to the public about an important subject.

It happened exactly the same thing during these 400 years of silence, God marked the entrance of the teaching of Jesus Christ by a silence of 400 years.

The new Covenant begins with the book of Matthew.

The first important information for understanding the writings of the new Covenant, is that all the New Testament was written in ancient Greek language. I'm not an expert in ancient Greek, but I know that there is no punctuation in this language. This is a very important fact, because when the first translators of the Bible have taken the original writings, they had to add punctuation to it. This is very important because this punctuation is not always respected, and induces us in errors sometimes to well understand a passage.

Let's take some example passages.

This first passage is found in the Gospel of mark. We are here in the passage where Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John on the mountain. Then Jesus is transfigured.

**Mark. 9: 4-7** *And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”*



If we read this passage with the punctuation that is printed in most of our Bibles today, we can think that Peter said to Jesus that it would be a good thing to stay on this mountain, setting up a tent for each of the three, Jesus, Moses and Isaiah, so that they do not face the rain or the cold. Then God arrives, looking at the scene and telling the Apostles that Jesus is His son and that they must listen to His teachings.

Now let us look at exactly the same text, but with a different punctuation.

**Mark. 9: 4-7** *And Elijah appeared to them with Moses {no comma} and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" because he did not know what to say {full stop instead of comma}. For they were greatly afraid, {comma instead of full stop} and a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"*

With this amended punctuation, the text has not the same meaning at all. I would like to once again say that the fact of changing this punctuation has for nothing changed the word of God, because the original text was written without any punctuation.

What therefore really happened on this mountain?

When Peter speaks about tent, he does not mention it for him and his two companions James and John.

Why?

Was Peter considering that he should remain in cold and rain and that tents were simply for Jesus, Moses and Isaiah?

Not at all!

If we look at the original word "Skene" which has been translated in the French Bibles and some English one by "tent" this word means actually a tent but in the sense of a tabernacle as it says in most English versions. This in the sense of the mobile tent (tabernacle) which was mounted and dismounted in the desert.

In light of this we understand a little better the thought of Peter. Peter had not yet understood the grace that Jesus came to bring. He had not understood that Jesus came to fulfill the law of Moses.

Why?

Simply because Peter wanted to make three tabernacles in order to continue to refer to Moses (for the law), Isaiah (to consult God and receive guidelines) and Jesus (in order to continue to receive His teachings about grace). Peter had not understood that Jesus came to give a personal access to God, to anyone who would wish it. He had not understood that Jesus came to fulfill the law in our place, which is that we would not need this law of Moses with these sacrifices, to be forgiven of our sins anymore.

Notice in the punctuation that I propose that Peter didn't know what to say when he spoke to Jesus about setting up three tabernacles. He said that because he did not know what else to say. But just after talking, Peter and his companions were greatly afraid. The original Word for afraid here is the Greek word "Ekphobos". This word means a great fear, being terrified. Note that this happened immediately after that Peter has spoken. A great fear gripped our three Apostles.

Where could a great fright come from?

In fact Pierre just said a huge stupidity. It was no question at all that the people who would enter into the grace of Christ may continue in the same time to comply with the law of Moses by following all these rituals and precepts. It was also no question that the people would continue to consult prophets in order to speak to God when they needed it. Only Jesus the son of God would now be the unique access to God. Jesus is now more than enough to enter into the eternal life, no more need for the law of Moses, no need for prophets to maintain a relationship with God.

This is why when Peter spoke that way God as like "Cut him off" by saying: "This is my beloved son: listen to Him!" In other words God said: "Jesus who is now next to you, is my son whom I love. It is only Him that you must listen to. No more law, no more prophets. It is only Him and Him alone that you should listen because He came to accomplish all.

At the same time, when Peter spoke to say that it would be good to setup three tents, God sent His cloud to cover them, what has for effect to fill them with a great fear. Not that God has wanted to punish Peter by making them fear, but simply because Peter and his companions not having never experienced something like this, were seized from a great fright.

Do you think that God after that talked with a big serious and authoritative voice telling them: "This is my beloved son: listen to Him!"?

No I do not think so at all.

God has simply remained equal to Himself speaking quite normally and without any anger. He also could have said: "No, Peter you are not in the right idea of it. This is not how I have planned things. My beloved son Jesus came to take everything on Him, all your sins. It is only Him that you must listen to and follow, the time of the law is now over".

Consider a second example now.

**Luke 23:43** *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

With this punctuation which is located in our Bibles, we think that in that same day when Jesus speaks, He said that the thief will be with Him in paradise.

Yet once again this doesn't "match".

Why?

Because we know that before going to heaven, Jesus must go for three days in hell, not to suffer there as a prisoner of satan, but to submit satan and all his demons. But also to be able to control access to the gates of hell, so that all those who will validate the sacrifice of Jesus in their lives will never come in.

So how this thief can could be, that same day, with Jesus in heaven?

Do you think that Jesus would do an express round-trip to heaven, for after saying to this thief. "Ok I let you here now, I have to quickly go to hell!

This is ridiculous!

Let's look at this same passage with another punctuation.

**Luke 23:43** *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you {no comma} today {comma} you will be with Me in Paradise."*

Here in this example I've simply moved the comma who was after the word "you" and I put it right after the word "today".

That changes everything, because now we understand that Jesus said to him: "Assuredly, I say to you today (or I tell you now), you'll be in paradise with me" Now it has not notion of time anymore as to when this thief will be in heaven with Jesus, this can be in a few days or a few years.

Things are now much clearer, because we know that as long as Jesus has not returned, there is no one in hell or in paradise, each will take the place that has been prepared, during the judgment for some, and during the rewards for the other.

This is here another view that it is good to take into account, to better understand the Bible.

Here's another thing that it is very important to not and up in wacky interpretations.

It is a practice that I apply for years in all of my research and my studies on the Bible. Whenever I have to enter in an interpretation, it must always respect several facts that remain immutable.

- God shows us His unconditional love throughout the Bible.
- The acts described in the old Covenant are there to serve me as examples to follow or not to follow.
- In the period of grace, nothing can be achieved according to merit.
- Today God does not send or never allows suffering.
- God never do any favoritism.
- God does not change.
- God is self-sufficient.
- God wants all to be in good health.

With these few truths that must always apply to my interpretation of His word, I'll avoid errors when I will try to understand a passage from the Bible. If one of these facts in the list above doesn't "stick" with my interpretation, then I consider that my thought is not good. Without that I will sometimes, without noticing it, enter in incorrect practice layouts of the Bible in my life. This is why it is more than important to always match this list above to the thought I want to develop.

Let's now enter in the books of the new alliance in order to better understand them in their contexts.

### ***Gospel of Matthew.***

It would appear that Matthew was at least 80 years old when he wrote the story of the life of Jesus.

This Gospel contains at least 60 references to the Old Testament which speak about prophecies about the Messiah who was to come.

Matthew in his Gospel puts a very strong emphasis on the fact that Jesus is the Messiah awaited by the Jewish people, the Son of God.

I think we can say that this Gospel that Matthew wrote was mainly addressed to the Jews at that time, so that they can recognize their Messiah.

Of course this is not because Matthew greatly made reference to the fact that Jesus is the son of God, the Messiah, that this Gospel is not also intended to all people.

### ***Gospel of Mark.***

Marc would have written his Gospel significantly at the same time as Matthew. This is the same Marc, called John-Marc which is found in the book of Acts of the Apostles.

***Acts 12: 12*** *So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*

It is also the same mark which separates from Paul and his team in:

***Acts 13: 13*** *Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.*

Then a few years later, we see that Marc, who had not yet written his Gospel, resumed with Paul in:

***2 Timothy 4: 11*** *Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.*

This Gospel is the shortest of the four. Marc wrote this Gospel to non-Jews. It appears strongly that his purpose was to show Jesus in His acts of His everyday life. Few references are given, to prophecies such as the one of Matthew. Marc has focused on the dedication of Jesus, His commitment, His character, His human qualities, all this to show His love for others as the Son of God.

The Gospel of mark shows a Jesus who puts others before Himself. He was not looking at fatigue, sometimes even He had no time to eat.

### ***Gospel of Luke:***

Luke is the author of this Gospel, but also of the book of acts. He wrote his Gospel only a few years after that the ones of Matthew and mark. Luke was a doctor's in medicine. His Gospel as well as the book of acts are both addressed

to the same person, a certain Theophilus. Some argue the fact that this Theophilus could be the lawyer who handled the court of Paul in Rome. This is why Luke would have been careful to write the life of Jesus as well as the purpose of His coming to Earth; but also the lifetime and the commitment of Paul in the book of acts. This theory seems to me not being out of sense at all, because Luke was the best placed to talk about the life of Paul. Luke traveled with Paul, he saw, he heard, he was very well placed to talk about the commitment of Paul to announce the grace of Christ.

The purpose of this Gospel was to demonstrate point by point the facts that have been significant in the life of Jesus which many are supported by eyewitness accounts. Luke reveals to us some situations which are only written in his Gospel. Hence the advantage to have the four Gospels. This gives us a vision and a much more complete understanding of the life of Jesus.

### ***The Gospel of John.***

It is the one who has been written in last. About 4 or 5 years after Luke.

In this Gospel we find many situations that we can't find in the other Gospels.

For example, the wedding of Cana, or Jesus washing the feet of His disciples.

John insists on the fact that Jesus is the Word of God. This Word incarnated in a man, Jesus Christ.

It seems that this John is the same as the John who was part of the twelve apostles, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

We see, therefore, that having four Gospels is a very important "plus". This gives us the view and appreciation of four different people, four different feelings, four different goals.

These four Gospels are therefore a very valuable source to know the life of Jesus and His teaching on grace.

### ***The book of acts.***

As we said earlier, it is our brother Luke who also wrote this book. It seems also that this book, as the Gospel of Luke gives a lot of eye details of stories about the lives of the Apostles. It is therefore not impossible that this book of acts would have been related to the Gospel of Luke, to give to Theophilus, his lawyer, a very clear vision of the reason for the commitment of Paul in the teaching of the grace of Christ, so that he could properly defend Paul.

This book recounts the beginnings of the Church of Christ, its establishment, the establishment of its stature. The Church was in need of foundations. We are therefore witnessing the “establishment” of the first Church of Jesus Christ.

It is also the first manifestations of the Holy Spirit on the Christians, as well as life with the Holy Spirit. We see the practical effects of life with the Holy Spirit.

The first persecution is also documented in this book.

This book describes also the history of the missionary journeys of Paul. Here are maps of his four trips to give us a little clearer idea.

***Paul's first journey. About in the year 45 after Jesus Christ.***

This trip is in acts 13: 2 → acts 14:28.

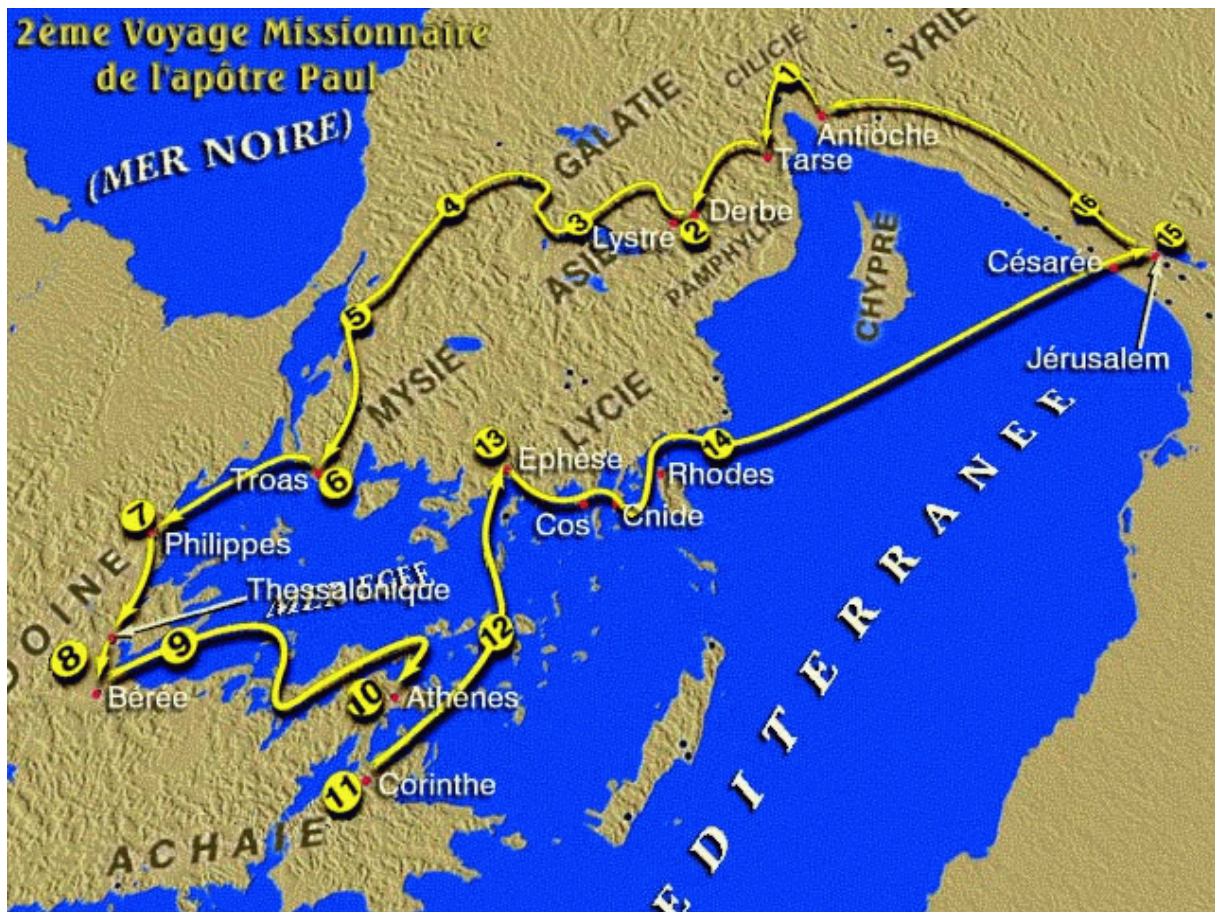
It last two years to cover a distance of 2400 kms.



**Second journey of Paul about five years after the first one.**

This trip is Acts 15: 40 → Acts 18:22.

This time Paul leaves for three years and covered a distance of 5500 kms.

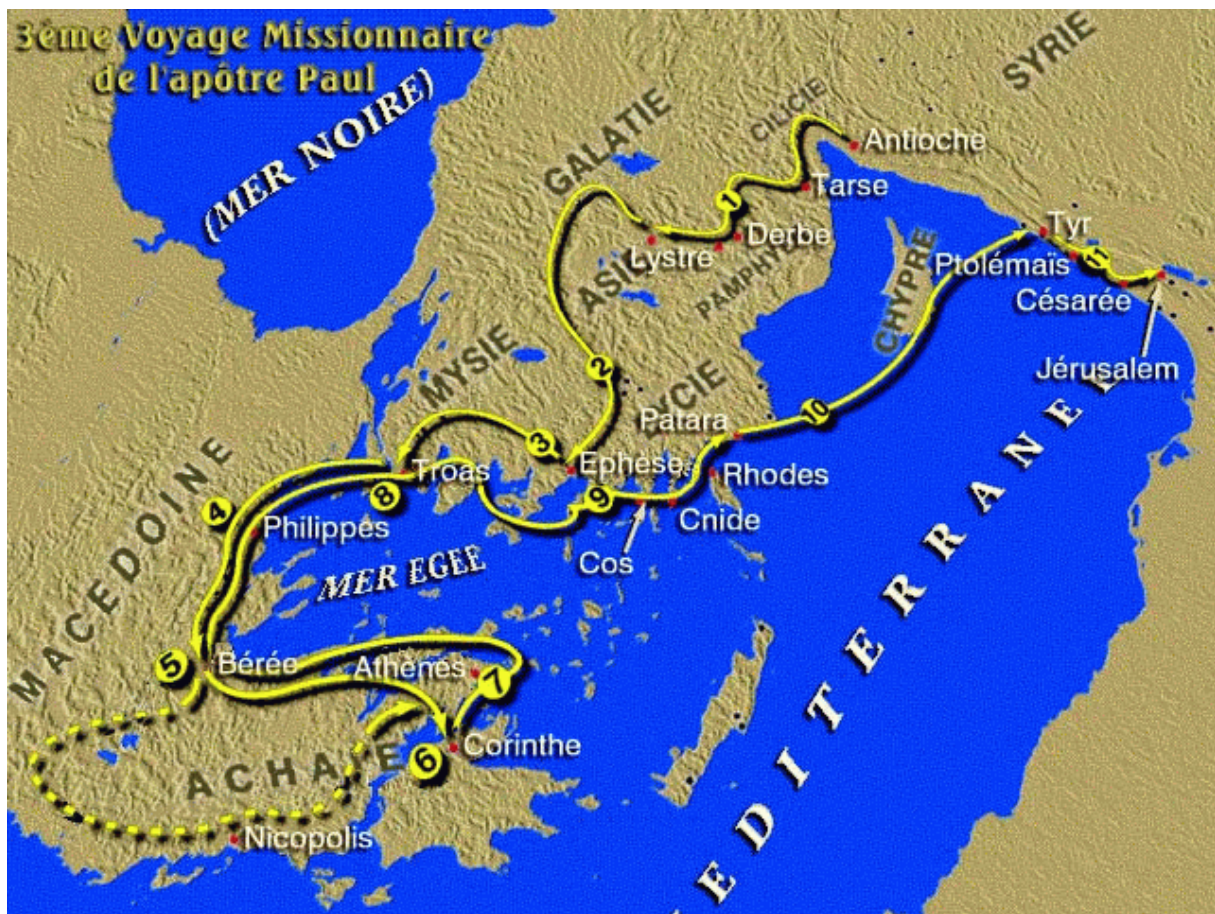




**Third journey of Paul about two years after the second one.**

The trip corresponds to acts 18: 23 → Acts 21:17.

This time Paul leaves for four years because he will stop for several months in some places. He covers a total distance of approximately 5500 kms.



**Fourth journey of Paul about a year after the third trip.**

This trip is acts 23: 31 → Acts 28: 16.

This time Paul leaves for his last trip because he will stop to Rome to no longer leave. It is estimated that Paul died by decapitation (but this is not written in the biblical texts) approximately in the year 65 after Jesus Christ.



**Epistles to the Romans:**

Author Paul the apostle.

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians of Rome. Many believe that this letter was written when Paul was in prison in Rome, but Paul wrote this letter to the Romans from Corinth town approximately 50 years after Jesus Christ.

In my opinion, this book is the basis foundation for the Christian.

Paul speaks about the grace that we get through faith in Jesus Christ. The first part perfectly explains the plan of salvation in Christ.

The second part explains to us the duties and practical life of a born again and a Holy Spirit filled Christian.

We are now entering in the letters that Paul has written to various Christian communities, different groups or local churches from various cities. Among which is the city of Corinth, the region of Galatia, the city of Ephesus and the town of Philippi, and the city of Colossae.

Most of the time when Paul wrote these letters, this is because serious problems were found in the churches of these cities or regions. It is therefore important to keep in memory that he does not write to ask news of his friends, or out of politeness. Paul is sad at certain times, and firmer on other passages. Of course he talks also about good things toward his brothers and sisters to whom he wrote to raise their qualities in order to encourage them to abandon their evil deeds or thoughts.

***First Epistle to the Corinthians. Written from Ephesus.***

Author Paul the apostle. Approximately in the year 57 after Jesus Christ.

This church was divided between those who were for Paul's teaching, and the other who had adopted the teachings of a certain Apollos who arrived in this Church after the departure of Paul.

Paul was known to have a talks without artifice, but his teachings were very deep, and his words were simple.

The city of Corinth was from a Greek influence, with everything that comes with it. The Greeks of the time were very fond of beautiful phrases and philosophy. It would seem that this Apollos arrived in this church, and that with his verbal ease has diverted a large part of the Christians of that Church in harmful ways and outside Jesus Christ's teachings.

***Second Epistle to the Corinthians. Written from Macedonia.***

Author Paul the apostle. Approximately in the year 57 after Jesus Christ.

Apparently the Church of Corinth remained several months in harmful practices and outside the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Things are worsened because now it is Paul who is challenged in his Ministry by some of the Corinthians.

This letter will be for Paul the opportunity to defend himself and prove that his call actually comes from God.

### ***Epistle to the Galatians.***

This letter, written by the Apostle Paul from Corinth has been written some 6 or 8 months after the two Epistles to the Corinthians.

Paul does not write here to one community or one local church, he wrote at a set of Christians living in Galatia, which included many churches.

It would seem that the Christians of the region tended to return to the practice of the law of Moses, which often resulted in a "salvation by works". Paul teaches in this letter mainly the justification by faith and not by works.

### ***Epistle to the Ephesians.***

Always written by the Apostle Paul about 4 or 5 years after the one of the Galatians approximately in the year 60 after Jesus Christ. It would seem that Paul wrote this letter from Rome.

This time Paul wrote to the Christians living in this city of Ephesus.

This church was composed of Christians from non-Jewish peoples, and in the same time from Christians from the Jewish people background. Cohabitation happening not always very well. Some "ex-Jews" thought that they had rights to certain preferential treatments compared to their brothers and sisters from other people than the Jews background. Paul therefore stress in this letter on unity among brothers and sisters from different background, on the fact that Christians formed now only one people, and that there are more Jews or Greeks, but only Christians who are brothers and sisters.

### ***Epistle to the Philippians.***

Written by the Apostle Paul significantly at the same time as the one to the Ephesians. Still written from Rome, seems.

This is here the first example where Paul wrote a letter to a local church without glaring problem. He is in prison in Rome when he wrote his words. Paul has a great satisfaction with his brothers and sisters of Philippi. This church began with Lydia merchant of purple, which surely was followed by other women who began to gather near the River, then later by the jailer and his family. We can find this story in the book of ***acts 16: 12-40***

### ***Epistle to the Colossians.***

Significantly written at the same time as the previous two, in this letter Paul addresses the Christians with the aim to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the only solution, that only in Him is the fullness.

### ***First Epistle to the Thessalonians.***

Author: the Apostle Paul written in the city of Corinth in the year 53 after Jesus Christ.

Paul is here helped with Timothy: he sent Timothy to teach the Church. After a while Timothy made his report to Paul. Which probably inspired Paul to write to the Thessalonians.

Here again we are dealing with a church without problems, and Paul takes a pleasure to write to them.

### ***Second Epistle to the Thessalonians.***

This letter is in a continuation of the first one, somewhat like a “next part” in the same context.

### ***First Epistle to Timothy.***

Author Paul. Approximately in the year 64 after Jesus Christ.

Timothy is a young Christian who Paul taught the basics and methods of teaching of the grace of Christ. Timothy will have to teach, rebuke, and guide his brothers and sisters in need. It would seem that Timothy would be called to a great work. The Bible does not say if he will have to practice the 5 ministries in order to teach, but in any case the Bible shows that Timothy must learn to teach. Paul says that he has been established preacher and apostle, there is thus likely that Timothy has at least these two tasks to accomplish also. We find also in this letter a number of practical examples for the everyday life of a Christian.

### ***Second Epistle to Timothy.***

This is apparently the last writings of our brother Paul from his prison in Rome. He continues to teach Timothy, as a statement that he will have to take after Paul. It seems that Paul has a great need to see Timothy, perhaps to give him some last recommendations, but also to be comforted by the presence of his younger brother Timothy.

### ***Epistle to Titus.***

Written by Paul approximately in the year 64 after Jesus Christ.

Titus is like a man of trust for Paul. He loved people, he was selfless. Paul here focuses on the good works of the life of a Christian.

### ***Epistle to Philemon.***

It is still Paul who wrote this letter to Philemon, who is a member of the Church of colossus. This man is surely wealthy because Paul asked him a housing for a certain Onesimus who was his slave. This letter is more personal one because it concerns a request of Paul. Onesimus was in the service of Philemon and fled by stealing his master. Then Onesimus converted and remained with Paul in Rome. Then after some time Paul sees from a good thing for Onesimus to return to his master and brother in Christ, Philemon.

### ***Epistle to the Hebrews.***

Author uncertain. Written in the year 65 after Jesus Christ.

This letter is addressed to Christians from a Jewish background. There is a bunch of information's on the difference between the law of Moses and the grace of Christ. Many Christians had some bad habits by returning to the old Covenant practices while remaining Christian. But the author shows that this is not possible. This teaching shows the fulfillment of the law by Jesus Christ.

### ***Epistle of James.***

Author James the brother of Jesus. Written in the 45 year after Jesus Christ.

James wrote to Christians from a Jewish origin who lived outside Israel.

James is teaching here on the fact that our Christian life must have good works.

He also addresses the attitude between brothers and sisters, towards to those who have experience the persecution.

### ***First Epistle of Peter.***

Written by the Apostle Peter in the year 64 after Jesus Christ.

This is not the Peter we know in the Gospels that we see here. He must have been about 80 years old and a lifetime of learning with the Holy Spirit.

Peter talks to the Christians of Asia minor. He teaches, encourages, and strengthens, according to what Jesus had said about him.

This letter speaks primarily of the victory over the suffering as a Christian.

### ***Second epistle of Peter.***

Written by the Apostle Peter 3 years after the first letter.

Peter now goes against false doctrines and false teachers. This letter contains a full series of very useful warnings still very up to date for us today.

### ***First Epistle of John.***

Author the apostle John.

This letter was written about in the year 95 after Jesus Christ. John was very old, and also very mature.

John here puts a strong emphasis on the love of God. He is talking to all Christians in general, and from every periods. He teaches how to live a life in God, have a perfect joy, refrain from sin, pay attention to the false teachings, and activate his faith.

### ***Second Epistle of John.***

John wrote this letter to Kyria, a woman, and her family. The content is intended to warn against false teachers. Some people think that Kyria can be a local church, but there is absolutely no evidence, and this does not alter the teaching of this letter to us today anyway.

### ***Third Epistle of John.***

The three letters that John has written have been substantially at the same time.

This time John writes to a certain Gaius.

The main theme is the hospitality that Christians should practice.

### ***Epistle of Jude.***

There are great chances that Jude is one of the brothers of Jesus.

Jude had not adhered to the teaching of Jesus in his youth, it was that although later that he became Christian.

This letter puts us even once again warned against false teaching.

### ***Book of Revelation.***

Author: the apostle John. Written in the year 96 after Jesus Christ.

It would appear that John wrote this book about one year after these three letters, but this is only speculation on my part.

This book of Revelation is for me a wonderful book that shows the love of God, in my opinion, but also a great book of evangelization.

I often compare it with the book of Job for his comprehension. Often people see the book of Revelation as the great destruction of our world and the judgment of God on humans.

But there is nothing of the sort. This book of Revelation shows that God gives grace that He loves, that He is patient.

We have thus completed this quick introduction to each of the books of the Bible. Of course we have not entered into details, because this study has the goal to give you a comprehension method of the Bible and not an explanation of the Bible.

This presentation will help you to better understand the context in which each of the books of the Bible was written, which will allow you to avoid erroneous interpretations.

I've often noticed that most bad interpretations comes from a bad teaching or a bad work method.

I do not claim that this method is the best one, but in any cases it is the one that I have used for many years, and it works very well. However, this is not the only good method that works thankfully. I would say that this one has been showing good evidence in my life and in the ones of many.

The first things for a good understanding of the Bible, is to make a strong team with the Holy Spirit.

Why?

Because the Holy Spirit is the one and the only one who will give me a perfect teaching. Not only He is the only one who does that for me, but it is His job, His first vocation among many other things.

***Luke 12:12*** *For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*



**John 14:26** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

The teaching that the Holy Spirit will give me is by far the best thing I could receive in order to better understand the Bible.

Of course this also means some long moments with Him, to meet Him first and then by more intimate moments where I'll learn to hear His voice. (For more details see my study named "The Holy Spirit").

We are not going to enter here into a study on how to make a team with the Holy Spirit because this isn't our subject. However to start this team, talk to Him exactly like you speak to God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God, don't hesitate to praise Him, worship Him, ask Him questions, and pray to Him. Of course the Holy Spirit will never be as another human being that you hear with your own physical ears, this is why you need to learn how to develop your spirit. (For more details on this subject see my study named "Managing all my being with my spirit"). He will have several ways to teach you:

- In prayer
- When you read a passage
- In a dream
- By another person

Feel free to pray Him when you need explanation on a passage from the Bible. Often I stop, I remain on my office chair or I lay down to pray the Holy Spirit over a topic or a passage that I am currently studying. I ask Him to give me the exact explanation, and often the answer comes in the form of a strong thought in me which comes from my spirit. Sometimes it comes after a few dozen minutes, or other times after a few days, but the answer always comes.

During this moment where I pray with Him, I talk to Him exactly as if I saw Him with my own eyes, if He was just next to me. Then I think back to my subject or my passage, I try to remember me other passages of the Bible that are related to my question. It's a bit as if I had a large cardboard box near me with inside all answers, all topics explained, and it is my how has to go to seek, to search. Then when right thinking, the correct explanation is there in me, and then the Holy Spirit said: "*Yes, there you go my boy, you have it!*". This works much like the things that God has given to us by grace, but we can get them only through our faith. It is my responsibility to read the Bible, knowing some passages by heart, knowing the contexts, having understood how God operates in His

character. It is kind of, like a mixture of intellectual (when I read and I study) and of spiritual when I pray to get to know the explanation.

Often I see Christians who try one without the other, but it does not work. I can read and study for years, without the help of the Holy Spirit nothing much interesting will arise in me. In the same way I can spend hours to pray to the Holy Spirit, but if I haven't read and studied the Word before, how could He give me an explanation according to the character of God, or even on a part of the grace of Christ, if I do not know the Word.

It is therefore, a combination of the two that is the "recipe" to understand well the Bible.

Alternatively, you can be reading a passage, and the Holy Spirit can make a new idea or perspective comes out of this reading. I don't count the times where I was reading a passage I had read yet of dozens of times, where the Holy Spirit has highlighted a new approach, an additional vision that allowed me to better understand.

The Holy Spirit also teaches you in some of your dreams. It happened to me a few times to meditate on a topic for a few days. I was thinking about it again and again throughout my day when I had the opportunity to do it. Then the Holy Spirit has allowed me to have a dream which helped me to understand the explanation I was looking for.

This way is almost the most comfortable or the easiest one: to receive an explanation by someone else, that the Holy Spirit will put on your path. This may very well be a person that you know, who is part of your entourage, or a person you have just met, or even a person you will hear during a teaching.

The Holy Spirit is therefore the best one to teach the Bible, and to help us understanding it.

The second thing that must be understood to understand the Bible is a clear view of all the books that composes it. This is why I wrote this contexts book by book, in order to make things much clearer.

You see, know each context is exactly like the first time you came in your school for example, or the first time you've arrived in the place where you work, or the first time where you came in a city. This first time at a common point to all these examples I quote you, this first faith, we were all a bit like "lost"

. We couldn't seem to remember places where we had to go, we all looked our way, whether at school, at work, or in our city. For the Bible this is exactly like that, I remember the first time I started to read, everything seemed so long, so huge, with so many details to remember, it was a job that seemed almost impossible. But by more of reading, by more of hearing, by more of talking with other Christians about the Bible, I was like used to these 66 books put one after the other. I entered into the history of the Bible and many things have become natural. This is why this list of all the books of the Bible will be a great help. You can download it on our website and print it in order to keep it under the eyes to be able to return from time to time to be familiar with all of these contexts and information which are listed in.

It is very important to have a clear view of the history of the Bible. This becomes even easier when we understand that all these stories are interlinked together.

I stayed many years without understanding this, nobody had taught it to me, yet today I have understood that all the books of the Bible are linked together for a common goal to be achieved.

Of course this is the story of humanity, but God pursues a goal since the fall of Adam and Eve. This goal is to give back to the humans the condition that they had before the fall, and it passes through several distinct stages such as:

- The fall of man. **Genesis 3: 6**
- God keeps His relationship with humans despite the fall. **Genesis 4: 7**
- The man almost forgotten God, except Noah. **Genesis 6: 5**
- The man finds his communion back with God. **Genesis 17: 9**
- Valuable information's about the spiritual situation. **(Book of Job)**
- God must set a people who can keep the law. **Exodus 3: 7**
- God calls His people. **Exodus 6: 7**
- God gives the law to give life to sin. **Exodus 20: 1**
- The people almost forgot God. **2 Kings 22: 3**
- King David, ancestor of Jesus. **Matthew 1: 1**
- Ruth, ancestor of Jesus. **Matthew 1: 5**
- The people bit by bit turns away from God. **Judges 3: 7**
- The people are deported. **2 Kings 24: 12**
- End of the deportation and awareness of the people. **Nehemiah 7: 6**
- Jesus establishes the Grace. **John 1: 12**
- God takes His family with Him for eternity. **Revelation 22: 17**

This list is simply here to give us a quick overview of the thread throughout the Bible. It is deliberately that we won't go into the details because this would require writing a whole book. Once again the purpose of this study is to provide a method and not elements explaining the Bible.

While keeping this thread between these different books composing the Bible, some rules are to be applied. When I study a passage, these rules are to me a great help because they will help to keep me in balance. Without these rules, any interpretation would be hazardous, and it is quite possible that this could lead one day or the other on a theory or a wrong interpretation. I see so many teachings based on such theories that produce bad fruits, this is why it is imperative to maintain and comply with these rules as those described above. They are as follows. This time, some concern more specifically the new alliance:

- God loves us unconditionally
- Hatred and wickedness does not comes from God
- God does not change
- No disease comes from God
- God is not self-centered
- God always wants our good
- In no case there must be a person between God and me

Whenever I draw an explanation for a passage mainly in the new Covenant in the Bible, this same explanation must not conflict with any of these rules. It would be easy to extend this list, but my goal is that everyone who reads this study can memorize this list in order to refer to it at any time, this is why it must remain concise.

You can also use this list to check if a comment that you read is reliable or not. Unfortunately as we said above, all commentaries are not reliable. I would even say that for some subjects, I find more unreliable comments than reliable ones.

As we said at the beginning of this study, please feel free to inspire yourself of the life of the commentator, and seek what were the fruits in his life? Or even what kind of Ministry has this person, if he is still alive? Remember that the favorite weapon of satan is the false teaching. He started from the beginning by saying to Eve: "*Does God as actually said...?*".

The subject that comes up most often in the old Covenant is the people who turn away from God because of the false teachings of the peoples of the

surroundings and their influences. Guess what is the subject that comes up most in the new Covenant? False teachers, the false teachings!

Today 2000 years later, it is always the same quarrels compared to any particular interpretation of the Bible, who occupy the largest part of the discussions, resulting in an increasing number of Christian denominations. This is why you must be very careful when you study the Bible to remain balanced in your interpretations.

Personally, I apply a rule in my life when I have to issue an opinion on a local church or on any Christian denomination. This rule is more than simple:

I watch the fruits!

Obviously I understand that no denomination can claim to be perfect, but the fruits must be there. If there are no good fruits as the Bible teaches, then do you not invest yourself in this name or this local church.

These fruits are many, but they can be summed up in one passage that Jesus gave just before His departure to heaven. It is a bit for me as like if He was summarizing all the teaching he gave during these almost 4 years.

***Mark 16: 17-18*** *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will **cast out demons**; they will **speak with new tongues**; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will **lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.***"

These two verses are on all our t shirt of the "TRGN acts" school t-shirts, because it is the fruit that we apply across our Ministry LVBN / TRGN. There is nothing complicated in it. To my opinion, any denomination or local Church must teach these things like:

- Proclaiming the Gospel anywhere and to anyone
- Heal all the sick without exception
- Cast all demons
- Speak new languages by the Holy Spirit

If the Church to which you belong does not teach these things, then go to see at its head or its officials, and share about this gap in their teachings. If they modify their teaching in order to produce these fruits, it is that they are listening to the Holy Spirit. However if they don't want to hear you, I advise you

to change you're the place you go if you want to grow spiritually. Moreover you'll be as unfortunately of the tens of thousands of born-again Christians who are some from 2, 5, 15, or more than 20 years in the same place which does not teach these things that Jesus taught. These same Christians will always be the same spiritual level several years after, and will always have this feeling of deserving everything that comes from God. This is not what God has planned for us, on the contrary.

If all Christians were following the path that I have just described, what will happen?

Well, all the places where what Jesus said is not taught will disappear one after the other, due to lack of people. And in one sense, all places where what Jesus said is taught would explode in number and quality. In my opinion, this would be a very good thing. But it all depends on the attitude of Christians and so your attitude and mine.

So here is to finish an example in detail this time of my actions to study a passage from the Bible.

The first thing I do when I need to understand a passage is to memorize this passage by heart, in order to be able to repeat it to myself at any time, wherever I am. I impregnate myself of it, I try to turn around the sentence other way retaining all the words and the meaning of course. Then I search who wrote it, in which context and at what time. It happens to me to pray in this regard and to use my imagination to try to see the scene. The Holy Spirit in this case helps us to see other things that fall under the common sense.

For example, consider this passage:

**Matthew 3: 4-6** *Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.*

If I memorize this passage by heart in my memory and I use my imagination to visualize the scene, some images of common sense will appear.

I'm going to see John with a tunic or a camel hair coat, a belt at the waist, probably alone in a desert feeding himself. He may be struggling to feed

himself sometimes, catching grasshoppers or not being stung by collecting wild honey. Maybe sometimes he was cold at night.

Then when he was Baptizing in the river many people would be there, everyone was not necessarily in single file to await his baptism. Clothes wet, John should not necessarily smell very good either, because a wet camel skin smells not very good in general.

People in turn had to be baptized, or be talking with John to confess their sins, which means to put their thoughts in accordance with the teaching of Grace. These things falls under the meaning, but thanks to this scene that I have in my imagination, the Holy Spirit can also show other things detailed in this example scene.

This will help you to better understand a passage because you will as integrate yourself in, you will experience or live it.

When I study a passage, it is also important that I can read it in all versions. This is here, as we said earlier, that the use of a biblical software is important, because in a few clicks I'll be able to read all available versions in my own language. If you manage several languages do not hesitate to read the passage also in these languages. It is important to be able to read all versions as this will help us to better understand the precise meaning of some verses, and thus some errors in translation that can be sometimes. There are also versions of free Bibles for smartphones that you can install if you do not have a computer.

Then if you are 'stuck" on a Word, a Strong concordance will help you to understand this word.

The Strong concordance will give me the original Hebrew or Greek word with its definition in English. Here is an example on the ' *saved* ' word found in several passages.

***John 3:17*** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be ***saved***.

***Acts 2:21*** And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be ***saved***.

***Matthew 9:22*** But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you ***well***." And the woman was made well from that hour.

**Luke 8:36** *They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was **healed**.*

In these four verses we have two times the word 'saved' and two other times the word "healed or well". If we stay with this reading without deepen things, anyone would think that it is about salvation on one side and the healing of the other side, and that these things are very distinct from one another. Yet with the help of a Strong concordance, we find that these four words in bold in these four verses are in fact one and the same word. It comes from the Greek word "Sozo".

Here is what gives a search in a Strong concordance on this word "Sozo".

**Greek Strong's Number: 4982**

**Greek Word:** σωζω

**Transliteration:** sōzō

**Phonetic Pronunciation:** [sode'-zo](#)

**Root:** from a primary sos (contraction for obsolete saos, "safe")

**Cross Reference:** TDNT - 7:965,1132

**Part of Speech:** v

**Vine's Words:** [Heal](#), [Healing](#), [Recover](#), [Save](#), [Saving](#), [Whole](#), [Wholly](#), [Wholesome](#)

**Usage Notes:**

*English Words used in KJV:*

*save 93*

*make whole 9*

*heal 3*

*be whole 2*

*miscellaneous translations 3*

*[Total Count: 110]*

*from a primary **sos** (contracted for obsolete **saos**, "safe"); to save, i.e. deliver or protect (literal or figurative) :- heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.*

*Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.*



This is the information that this Strong concordance will give you. Not only have we learned that it is a single word (sozo) which has been translated into English by two different words: saved and healed. However, we see that the fact of being saved included many more things than what we might think.

We can therefore with this tool affirm that healing is an integral part of salvation, and thereby even say that God's will is that every saved person is also healed, regardless of his sickness or disability. Therefore, we can also say in addition to this that God cannot therefore under any circumstances send or even allow a disease in a person for any reason whatsoever.

We have only approached the saved and healed part of the word "sozo", but if you look more closely, the Strong research shows us yet other facets of the salvation in Christ.

Then you can help yourself with commentaries. Personally, I use comments only in the last part of my seek. Not that I am against the commentaries, but as we said earlier it is only the thought of a human being. It happens that this thought is not always in agreement with what the author of the biblical passage wanted to express. However with a few years of practice we can discern the good from the not so good in a commentary and therefore to pop out a positive element of it.

One thus realizes with the time that we can take some of the passages of a biblical commentator and that we do not take into account certain other passages of this same commentator. We could almost say that no commentary is 100% reliable in its entirety, because in this case it would mean that the commentator is perfect in all these interpretations.

The rule to apply in this case is to never take a comment for granted, nor take it as coming from the word of God.

In the study of the Bible, I'll realize that everything is linked and that the more I advance in the understanding of biblical passages, the more this will be easy because my knowledge will grow.

This study has been offer to you by “***The Real Good News***” Ministry.

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