



a survey of the Bible

Jesus & the gospels

June 16th '19

[If you've decided to get people to research various questions raised as we're going through this survey of the Bible – make sure time's set aside for this each week.]

1. How would you describe the connection between the Old & New Testaments? e.g. The Old Testament predicts a Messiah, and the New Testament reveals who the Messiah is (John 4:25–26). The Old Testament records the giving of God's Law, and the New Testament shows how Jesus the Messiah fulfilled that Law (Matthew 5:17). In the Old Testament, God's dealings are mainly with His chosen people, the Jews; in the New Testament, God's dealings are mainly with His church (1 Peter 2:9,10). Physical blessings promised under the Old Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:9) give way to spiritual blessings under the New Covenant (Ephesians 1:3). In both testaments, God reveals Himself to us and shows us how we are to come to Him through faith (Genesis 15:6; Ephesians 2:8,9). Why do you think it's important that we see each part of the Bible in the light of the whole?

2. Read Luke 2:25-32. As you reflect on this passage, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp? Read Isaiah 42:6,7. Think of incidents in Jesus' life that show how he fulfilled this prophecy. Look up John 8:12. What situations are you involved in right now, or that you are aware of, that need the light of Jesus?

3. Read Matthew 5:1-12. What character qualities does Jesus say will lead to happiness? What contrasts can you see with our culture? Which of these Beatitudes seems most relevant to your life right now, and why? How should these Beatitudes shape our attitudes on a daily basis?

4. Read John 20:30,31. To understand the life and mission of Jesus more fully we need to study the gospels and keep going back to them. They include what we need to know to find eternal life. Many people in our lives don't know the truth they contain. How can we make his word known?

Further study

www.bethinking.org/jesus/the-divinity-of-christ

www.zachariatrust.org/resurrection-hoax-or-history

www.bethinking.org/is-the-bible-reliable/Geography-and-the-Reliability-of-the-Gospels

www.biblegateway.com/blog/2017/06/why-are-there-differences-in-the-gospels-an-interview-with-michael-r-licona/