



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **11th Grade | Unit 10**

BIBLE 1110

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God, His Word, and the Christian

Introduction

Second Timothy 3:16 and 17 declares that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” These words tell us of the benefits of God’s Word its importance for living a true and victorious Christian life. Through your study of this Bible LIFE PAC® curriculum, you have learned that the Bible, the inspired Word of God, is unique not only in its content, but in its formation. You have also read that the Bible testifies of God’s faithfulness and righteousness. Psalm 89 is a testimony of God’s faithfulness, whereas Paul’s letter to the Romans is a testimony of his righteousness. In Romans 1:16 and 17, Paul expresses his own convictions concerning the Word of God by saying, “... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

You have also studied the person and work of Jesus Christ and have learned that he was both God and man. You have discovered that God’s faithfulness was extended to the nation of Israel and to Abraham, the faithful patriarch. Your knowledge and understanding of the information and of the Scriptures in this LIFE PAC will prove to be invaluable and will help prepare you to live for the Lord Jesus Christ now and in the future. In this LIFE PAC you will review information about how the Bible was prepared and formed and how God has revealed himself to man. You will also review Paul’s letter to the Romans, the history of Israel, God’s faithfulness and righteousness, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the book of Ecclesiastes, and principles for living and for defending the Christian faith.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC®. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. List the doctrines that relate to bibliology.
2. Explain the reason for written revelation.
3. Describe the formation of the Old and New Testaments.
4. Describe the process by which God’s written revelation became recognized by man.
5. Identify major literary discoveries and archaeological findings related to the Old and New Testaments.
6. Briefly describe the historical circumstances surrounding Paul’s letter to the Romans.
7. Describe the purpose, theme, and fundamental doctrines of salvation in the book of Romans.
8. Briefly outline each chapter of Romans.
9. Tell key verses found in Romans.
10. Define *covenant* and explain the promises and conditions involved in the Abrahamic Covenant and how it was given.
11. Describe the main events of the Jewish nation and its history from the time of Abraham through the New Testament.
12. Explain the influence and significance that Israel has played in the world and the example that Old Testament leaders have left to the world.

1. THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE

One of the ways that God has presented himself to man is through his Word, the Bible. God used more than forty men over a period of fifteen hundred years to record in the sixty-six books of the Bible his dealings with man.

The Bible consists of various writings that cover such areas as history, poetry, and prophecy in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the midst of the various minor themes of the Bible flows the major theme of the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. People who have put their personal trust in Jesus Christ also claim that the Bible is the

Word of God. Others, however, regard the Bible as another ancient book. Many people agree that the Bible contains valuable history and literature, but they refuse to acknowledge it as the Word of God. Knowing how the Bible was formed and why God revealed himself to man will help you to defend its **authenticity** and reliability.

In this section you will review the doctrines of bibliology: revelation, inspiration, authority, illumination, interpretation, and canonicity. You will also study some major literary discoveries that will increase your understanding of the Old and New Testaments.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List the doctrines that relate to bibliology.
2. Explain the reason for written revelation.
3. Describe the formation of the Old and New Testaments.
4. Describe the process by which God's written revelation became recognized by man.
5. Identify major literary discoveries and archaeological findings related to the Old and New Testaments.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

Apocrypha atonement authenticity cuneiform demotic exegesis hermeneutics
hieroglyphic ideographs Incarnation inerrant martyrdom Pentateuch
phonograms pictographic Pseudepigrapha Septuagint theophanies Torah

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.



The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Isaiah 40:8



Read John 20:31 and 1 Corinthians 2:7-13

THE MEANS AND PURPOSE OF REVELATION

Because God is holy and man is sinful, man has difficulty obtaining a clear understanding of God. God chose to make himself known to man through both specific and natural means. Through divine revelation God has “unveiled” himself to man.

Natural revelation. God has revealed himself to man in three ways: through nature, in man’s conscience, and through his Word that reveals the Lord Jesus Christ. In Romans 1:20 the apostle Paul recorded how nature reveals God: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

David, the psalmist, wrote about the power and majesty of God in nature (Psalm 19:1), “The heavens

declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” The creative power and sovereignty of God can be witnessed by all mankind through nature. This form of revelation can bring man to an awareness of the existence of God, but it does not reveal how man can enter into an eternal relationship with God.

Another means that God has used to reveal himself is through man’s conscience. Man intuitively knows what is right and what is wrong. Paul stated in Romans 2:15 that even men who have not heard about the law “... shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.”

Answer true or false.

- 1.1 _____ The Bible contains sixty books written over a period of four hundred years.
- 1.2 _____ The central theme of the Bible is man’s sinfulness and corruption.
- 1.3 _____ Man has been able to obtain a clear understanding of God through his own efforts.
- 1.4 _____ God has revealed himself to man in three ways.
- 1.5 _____ A Christian needs to know how the Bible was formed.

Complete these statements.

- 1.6 God has made himself known to man through a. _____ and
b. _____ means.
- 1.7 Man has great difficulty understanding God clearly because of God’s a. _____
and man’s b. _____.
- 1.8 The natural means of revelation can only bring man to an _____ of
the existence of God.

Complete these activities.

1.9 List the three ways that God has revealed himself to man.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.10 Give two scriptural references that describe God's revelation through nature.

- a. _____
- b. _____

1.11 Explain why God made himself known to man by revelation.

Specific revelation. Man may know *about* God through nature; or he may understand that an absolute standard of right and wrong exists; but, until he realizes that he needs Jesus Christ, he cannot obtain eternal life. The Bible tells us of the life and work of Christ; the written Word of God states that man can have a personal relationship with God.

Before the **Incarnation** of Christ, God continued to reveal himself to man. The Messiah was promised to man by God at the time of the Fall (Genesis 3:15), and since that time God has used supernatural or specific means to make himself known. The Old Testament contains numerous accounts of God's appearance before men through an angel or through man himself. Through these **theophanies**, God reinforced the promise of the coming Messiah.

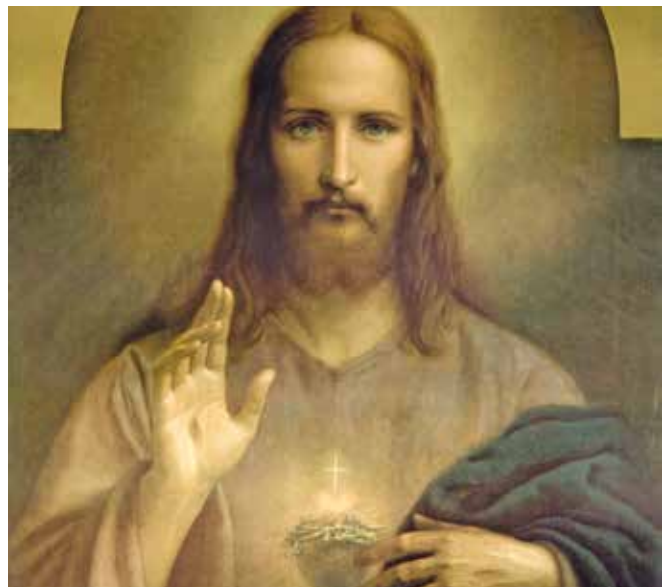
In 1 Kings 19, God appeared as the angel of the Lord to bring comfort to Elijah who was fleeing from Jezebel. In Genesis 17:1–22, God appeared to Abram to seal his covenant with him. In Genesis 18, God appeared as a man to Abram and his wife Sarai to confirm his covenant.

The angel of the Lord was the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, appearing before men. This fact is reinforced in John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

The purpose behind the various specific revelations culminated with the birth of Christ. The fulfillment of God's promise to man concerning the Savior is recorded in Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this

day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." The Word of God became flesh. The Lord Jesus Christ came to dwell with men, and through his death and Resurrection he made an **atonement** for man's sin.

God communicated to man through natural and specific means and has made things known about himself that would otherwise be unclear. Man can gain an understanding of God by looking at creation and by the convictions of his conscience. However, a personal relationship with God will come only when man looks at Jesus Christ and accepts him as Savior and Lord.



Match these items.

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-----------------------|----|--|
| 1.12 | _____ | the angel of the Lord | a. | saw the Lord as a man |
| 1.13 | _____ | Elijah | b. | natural revelation |
| 1.14 | _____ | birth of Christ | c. | promised to man at the Fall |
| 1.15 | _____ | Abram | d. | appearance by God as an angel or man |
| 1.16 | _____ | the Messiah | e. | made an atonement for man's sin |
| 1.17 | _____ | Jesus Christ | f. | fled from Jezebel |
| | | | g. | fulfillment of God's promise of the Savior |

Complete this activity.

- 1.18 Explain why God used specific revelation to reveal himself to man.

Inspiration. By examining the Bible, man can learn the message of salvation. God moved faithful men to record his Word so man could be brought to redemption in Christ. The character and nature of God has been revealed within the pages of God's **inerrant** Word, the Bible. The Bible is varied in form and authorship but is the complete and final message of salvation in Christ.

The content of God's written revelation is the concern of the doctrine of inspiration. The translation of the Greek word for inspiration, *theopneustos*, literally means *God-breathed*. God chose to use human writers and their distinct personalities to record his revelation to man. These faithful men, moved by the Holy Spirit, wrote and recorded without error the original manuscripts of the Bible.

Both the Old and New Testaments make claims about their own inspiration. Jesus and his disciples accepted the Old Testament as being the Scriptures (Matthew 21:42). In Mark 12:26, Luke 16:31, and Luke 24:44 Jesus also referred to the Old Testament and recognized it as being inspired. The Old Testament speaks of its own inspiration in Exodus 20:1, Judges 1:2, Jeremiah 1:1 and 2, and many other places. Almost three hundred New Testament citations of the Old Testament indicate the

authenticity that the New Testament writers saw in the Old Testament.

The revelation of the doctrines of Christ in the New Testament confirms the inspiration of these Scriptures. The testimony given by Peter in 2 Peter 3:15–16 tells of the inspiration of Paul's Epistles. Paul's letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 5:18) attests to the inspiration of Luke's writing in Luke 10:7.

God did not directly dictate the writing of his Word, but he did control and move human writers in what should be recorded. Through the influence and overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, the Bible was recorded without error.

Authority. Since the Bible is God's Word to man, it is also the final authority upon which man should base his life. The book of Genesis records the fact that God established the order in which creation would function and grow. For the Christian the Bible must be the rule of faith and practice in every area of life. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 reminds us that the Bible is profitable in all areas of the Christian life and that it will equip the man of God for every good work.

Illumination. Another concept that is important for understanding the Bible is illumination. The term *illumination* pertains to the meaning of the biblical record. Through the work of God the Holy Spirit,

Christians can learn from the Bible and grow. John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. The things that Christians have learned about God through the Bible have come as a result of the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Another aspect of the Holy Spirit's work, taught in John 16:8–10, is one of convicting the world of sin and bringing unbelievers unto a proper understanding of the decision they must make concerning Christ and salvation. The Holy Spirit works in the world, not only to bring Christians to maturity in the Word, but also to bring unbelievers to salvation.

Without the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit, unbelievers would remain in their present state of blindness and darkness (John 1:5 and 1 Corinthians 4:3–4). The Christian would also be unable to grow in the knowledge of Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:13). These examples stress the importance of the ministry of illumination and the fact that Christians have not received the spirit of the world, but the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity.

Interpretation. The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit does not provide immediate understanding of the Bible for every Christian. Through interpretation of the Scriptures, man is able to learn God's truth and can then teach this truth to others.

Proper interpretation of the Bible takes certain skills and good study methods. You have learned that the study of the doctrine of interpretation, **hermeneutics**, is not only a science but is also an art. You also learned that the critical analysis and explanation of a word within a biblical passage is called **exegesis**. The proper application of the skills of interpretation will allow any Bible student to arrive at a correct understanding of the Scriptures.

The two methods of Bible interpretation are the allegorical method and the literal method. The allegorical approach to the Bible considers the supposed hidden meaning of a passage. The allegorist may attempt to locate analogies, types, or extended figures rather than concentrating on the literal meaning of a passage. The literalist, however, is concerned with the literal meaning of a passage. The literalists view the inspiration of the Bible in the sense that the Scriptures are without error, not contrary to fact, and accurate in their entirety.

You will need to apply discipline, wisdom, and diligence to your study of the Bible. You must remember that, although a passage may have many applications, it has only one true interpretation. All passages should be studied in relation to their contexts. Introductory studies, or isogogics, must also be done to place a passage in its proper historical setting. Each individual writer, his character, and his intended audience should also be studied.

Answer true or false.

- 1.19 _____ The doctrine of inspiration is concerned with the content of the written revelation of God.
- 1.20 _____ The Bible is both inerrant and authentic.
- 1.21 _____ Illumination refers to the meaning of the record of the Bible.
- 1.22 _____ The literalist believes the words of the Bible were dictated to the writers by God.

Complete these statements.

- 1.23 The apostle who wrote of the inspiration of Paul's Epistles was _____ .
- 1.24 The Greek word *theopneustos* literally means _____ .
- 1.25 God did not a. _____ the writing of his Word but did b. _____ what was recorded.
- 1.26 The proper placement of a biblical passage in its historical setting is known as _____ .



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