

BIBLE STUDY SYLLABUS – For webcast 09/23/17

- INTRODUCTION
 - BIBLE STUDY METHODS
 - There are MANY ways to study the Bible. It may be studied by:
 1. Book by Book
 2. Character Studies
 3. Original Language Studies
 4. Background and Cultural Studies related to Bible times
 - The method that we will be using is TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY.
 - TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY
 - The Concepts of Topical Bible Study

TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

Collect



Compare (CLASSIFY)



Construct

- I. VEGETABLES
 - A. BEANS
 - B. POTATOES
 - C. PUMPKINS
 - II. FRUIT
 - A. CHERRIES
 - B. APPLES
- (GRADUATED ACCORDING TO SIZE IN THIS CASE)

1. The concept of topical Bible study can be compared to the work of a gardener at the time of harvest.
 2. This gardener has multiple fruits and vegetables that need to be harvested. (Individual Bible Verses)
 3. He must go through his garden and find what fruits and vegetables are ripe and ready for harvest (These are the Bible verses that he wants to include in his study).
 4. Therefore, he must do three things.
 - COLLECT – He must gather all the fruits and vegetables in his garden. Remember that he has everything in his garden from apples to zucchini and must check every tree and every plant.
 - COMPARE (Classify) – He must separate the fruits and vegetables into groups.
 - Typically, the gardener would classify apples with apples, oranges with oranges, and so on. What if the gardener changed the classification (i.e. color, size, shape)
 - Just as fruits and vegetables may be categorized in different ways, Scripture verses can be categorized in different ways. Cf. 1Cor 1:30; The classification is determined by YOU and the Holy Spirit working together.
 - CONDENSE – Summarize or outline the harvest – ten bushels of apples, 5 bushels of lemons, 7 bushels of yellow fruit, etc).
- The Tools
 1. Thompson Chain Reference (TCR) – NKJV
 2. Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (TSK) or other cross reference resources
 - THOMPSON CHAIN REFERENCE BIBLE
 - The TCR is based on the concept outlined above.
 - History
 1. **Dr. Frank Charles Thompson** was a young preacher in the late 1800s when he became disappointed with the reference Bibles being sold to preachers. Dr. Thompson believed the Bible should be presented in a simple, but scholarly way. He saw the need for a well-organized reference Bible that would be of practical use to the layman as well as a minister.
 2. **In 1890**, Dr. Thompson began the work he would continue for the rest of his life. He completed the "thought suggestions" opposite the verses throughout the Bible. These are what became the "chain-links" that are the heart of the Thompson system. Some of the men in Dr. Thompson's

church saw his Bible and told him this would be a great help to them in their Bible study too. They encouraged Dr. Thompson to have his Bible, with marginal references, published so that everyone could enjoy the blessing of this helpful study tool.

3. **In 1908**, the first edition of the *Thompson Chain-Reference Bible®* was printed by Methodists Book Concern of Dobbs Ferry, New York. It became known as the most helpful, trustworthy and unbiased study Bible available. The *Thompson® Bible* continues to have that reputation today.
4. **In 1913**, Dr. Thompson joined with B.B. Kirkbride in Indianapolis, Indiana to form the Kirkbride Bible Company. This was to assure the constant improvement of this remarkable study tool, and the widest distribution possible.
5. **Today**, the *Thompson® Chain-Reference Bible* offers you a complete study library in one volume. With over 78 practical features for in depth Scriptural appreciation and understanding, nothing can match what the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible offers:
 - Over 100,000 topical references
 - Over 8,000 Chain Topics
 - Updated Archaeological Supplement with photos and maps
 - Outline studies of each book of the Bible
 - Journey maps and Bible harmonies
 - Biblical Atlas
 - Bible Book Outlines
 - Over 4,000,000 Thompson Chain-Reference Bibles sold!



- The objective of Dr. Thompson was to COLLECT, COMPARE, and CONDENSE scripture verses into CHAIN REFERENCES that would allow the Bible student to follow a CHAIN OF THOUGHT through the Scriptures.
 - TREASURY OF SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE
 - History
 1. The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge was, and still is, a Bible reference work first published around 1830, created by the London publisher Samuel Bagster (1772-1851). It is a set of cross-references. That is, it consists entirely of a book-length listing of cross-references, showing only the chapter and verse citations with no accompanying text. About the size of a complete Bible, the TSK is also organized like a Bible, beginning at Genesis and ending at Revelation. Each verse of the Bible is cross-referenced to several others to enable the reader to gain a true sense of each word and phrase as it is used in the Bible.
 - 800,000 cross-references, listing verses that illustrate how words and phrases are used elsewhere in the Bible.
 - Helps the reader interpret Scripture with Scripture.
 - Brief chapter summaries.
 - Dates and other notes.
 2. But the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge is usually described as being the work of R. A. Torrey. Most editions you can buy these days have Torrey's name on the cover, and sometimes in the title: R. A. Torrey's Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. According to common knowledge, Torrey did not specifically try to claim authorship of the reference book, but he did become one of its chief promoters, and as his own fame rose, his endorsement of the book mattered to more and more people. Inevitably his name ended up on the cover. But if you read his introduction to the book, often printed inside, you see that he describes having first encountered it "some twenty years ago."
 - The objective of the TSK is to provide CROSS REFERENCES that permit the Bible student to interpret scripture with scripture. It is not designed to trace a topic from Genesis to Revelation, but to allow the Bible to be its' own interpreter, thus taking the student "backwards and forwards" through the Scriptures to bring light on the subject at hand.
- THE METHOD
 - THE GOAL – Build Your Own Chain Reference System
 - THE PROCESS – COLLECT, COMPARE, and CONDENSE Bible verses.
 - Advantages of this Method
 - You can begin ANYWHERE in Scripture and use this method.
 - You can use this method to study ANY subject of Scripture.
 - This is TOTALLY SELF DIRECTED BIBLE STUDY! (Read the card in the back of the TCR).
 - There are no "right or wrong" choices in the method, itself.
 - It is not influenced by other people or even other scholars. This is Bible Study with the Holy Spirit as your instructor.
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- PREPARATION

- We will begin with Gen 1:1 – Your paper should look like this

01. Gen 1:1
God Created All Things,

- COLLECT AND COMPARE – Running and Selecting References

- Preliminary Thoughts

1. Never use a reference more than once in your chain
2. Don't over analyze. Don't try to make a verse "fit" in your chain of references when it does not.
3. KEEP SEARCHING! KEEP READING! KEEP MOVING FORWARD
4. Expect the Holy Spirit to quicken verses to you as you run references.
5. The majority of references that you read will NOT fit your chain (The "Stephen Jauchen" Effect)
6. If you have more than one reference that you want in your chain, choose the one that "stands out" to you. This is usually the direction of the Lord.

- Running And Selecting References

1. Turn to Gen 1:1
2. Dr. Thompson has determined that Gen 1:1 could fit in one of three categories. Cf. Our "garden" illustration above.
 - 884 Creator
 - 1550 Heaven
 - 1090 Earth.
3. As you go to the back of the TCR and look at each of the three verse listings.
 - Find the verse you are studying in the list.
 - Run the references FROM THE VERSE YOU ARE STUDYING to the next **BOLD REFERENCE** in the list.
 - The **BOLD REFERENCES** are the **ORIGINAL REFERENCES BY DR. THOMPSON**.
 - For example, under "884 Creator" you would run references from Gen 1:1 to Gen 2:3. Under "1550 Heaven" you would run references from Gen 1:1 to 1Chr 16:26. Under "1090 Earth" you would run references from Gen 1:1 to Gen 8:22.
 - F – I – L – E - Find Information Let it Explain - Let the Bible be its' own interpreter

- Lets' select Gen 1:20 as the next verse in our chain.

1. Our paper should look like this

01 Gen 1:1
God Created All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life

2. In Gen 1:20, we now have three options to consider. “884 Creator”. pp Ps 104:24; “450 Birds”
3. Look in the back of the TCR and run references from Gen 1:20 to the next **BOLD REFERENCE** in each list.
 - Lets’ choose Gen 1:26 as the next verse in our chain.
 1. Our paper should look like this

01 Gen 1:1
God Created All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life
03 Gen 1:26
God Created Man by His Word

2. In Gen 1:26, we now have five options to consider
3. Look in the back of the TCR and run references from Gen 1:26 to the next **BOLD REFERENCE** in each list.
 - Lets’ choose Gen 2:7 as the next verse in our list
 1. Our paper should look like this

01 Gen 1:1
God Creator Of All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life
03 Gen 1:26
God Created Man by His Word
04 Gen 2:7 01
God Created Man

2. Note the “01” beside Gen 2:7. This is how we link personal notes to our chain reference.

3. On a separate sheet of paper, we are going to make our first note. We will include the verse # (01) and the reference (Gen 2:7) Our paper should look like this.

01. Gen 2:7 – In Gen 1:26, we have record of God creating man. In Gen 2:7, we have more detail. It involved three things. God formed man from the dust of the earth. God breathed into him the breath of life. Man became a living soul.

4. In Gen 2:7, we have six options to consider.
5. Look in the back of the TCR and run references from Gen 2:7 to the next **BOLD REFERENCE** in each list.
 - Look carefully at “2242 Spirit of Man”. Job 32:8 mentions the breath of (inspiration) the Almighty. This coincides with Gen 2:7. However, there is no mention of a “spirit” in man in Gen 2:7. This requires more RESEARCH.
 1. If a question arises, as you are running references, DO RESEARCH – Use extra-biblical resources if needed to determine if a reference belongs in your chain. REMEMBER: F – I – L – E
 2. In BIBLE STUDY, we let Scripture interpret Scripture. In RESEARCH, we extend our study to original language tools, commentaries, etc. to find answers.
 - After doing RESEARCH in Strongs’ Concordance, we see a “connection” between Gen 2:7 and Job 32:8 and add it to our chain reference.

01 Gen 1:1
God Creator Of All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life
03 Gen 1:26
God Created Man by His Word
04 Gen 2:7 01, 02
God Created Man
05 Job 32:8 02
There is a spirit in man received by the breath of God

- Notice that I put (02) beside Job 32:8 AND Gen 2:7. This links the note to both verses. This is especially helpful if you decide to put your note #s in the margin of your Bible for reference.
- Our note sheet should look like this.

01. Gen 2:7 – In Gen 1:26, we have record of God creating man. In Gen 2:7, we have more detail. It involved three things. God formed man from the dust of the earth. God breathed into him the breath of life. Man became a living soul.
02. Job 32:8 The Hebrew word translated “spirit” in this verse is the same Hebrew translated “breath” in Gen 2:7. God breathed into man the “spirit” of life and man became a living soul. This same breath that breathed spirit into Adam also gave him (and us) understanding. Although operated on 100% mental capacity, he accomplished what he did in naming the animals and other mental feats because he lived by his spirit which gave him superior wisdom and understanding. The same is available to us.

- Some important observations
 1. Notice that this verse is a “left turn” by the Holy Spirit, as He takes a different direction from where we started. Let the Holy Spirit drive while you enjoy the scenery.
 2. With this type of study, I do not choose what topic to study. It chooses me.
 3. These notes are the “seeds” of what I preach and teach. Consequently, I try to write them with enough detail that I can recall the revelation that I received when I read them at a later time.
 4. Returning to Job 32:8, we now have six options to consider. Look in the back of the TCR and run references from Gen 2:7 to the next **BOLD REFERENCE** in each list.
- Lets’ choose Pro 20:27 as the next verse in our list.

01 Gen 1:1
God Creator Of All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life
03 Gen 1:26
God Created Man by His Word
04 Gen 2:7 01, 02
God Created Man
05 Job 32:8 02
There is a spirit in man received by the breath of God
06. Pro 20:27

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord

- You now have two options with this verse. Where would you go from here?
 - Connect –
 1. Parallels of Words – “love”, “faith”, “temptation”, etc
 2. Parallels of ideas (or incidents) For example:
 - Trust and faith, love and compassion, warfare and stand,
 - Feeding of the 5,000 (Found in all four gospels)
 3. Parallels of concepts - Salvation is of faith not of works; God is all-powerful; etc;
 - When you hit a “dead end” in TCR, then consult TSK. The TSK allows you to “backtrack” and “fill in the gaps” with verses that you may have not encountered in the TCR.
 - If I “backup” using TSK, I like to leave a blank space in my notes to show there was a divergence in the forward motion of my chain. My paper would look like this.

01 Gen 1:1
God Creator Of All Things
02 Gen 1:20
God Created All Animal Life
03 Gen 1:26
God Created Man by His Word
04 Gen 2:7 01, 02
God Created Man
05 Job 32:8 02
There is a spirit in man received by the breath of God
06. Pro 20:27
The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord
07. Ps 18:28
The Lord will light my candle

- I would then go to TCR and continue my forward progress as before.
- If references in TCR and TSK are depleted, you may have a “favorite” study Bible you wish to consult or some other resource to make sure you

have thoroughly gone down every avenue of study. However, between these two resources, there will be little left.

- At some point, you will find no more references that “fit” your chain. At that point, you are finished with that chain. Some chains may take days or weeks. Some chains take half an hour. It is up to the leading of the Lord. When the chain is done, it is time to condense your work either by summary or outline.
- CONDENSE
 - Your paper may look like this. The way you summarize or outline is up to you.

I. God: Creator

- A. Of All Things Gen 1:1
- B. Of Animals Gen 1:20
- C. Of Man
 - 1. By His Word Gen 1:26
 - 2. By His Breath Gen 2:7

II. Creation And Value Of The Human Spirit Gen 2:7; Job 32:8; Ps 18:28; Pro 20:27

NOTES: Gen 2:7; Job 32:8

- To begin another chain, start with the LAST VERSE in the previous chain. Look at the marginal list in the TCR. In our example, it is Ps 18:28. We have three verse lists available
 - In this verse, we can begin a new chain with either “2170 Light Promised”, “636 Lamp”, or “2175 Enlightenment” A new chain can begin with the **FIRST BOLD REFERENCE** in the list OR any reference that precedes it. For example, a new chain could begin with:
 - “2170 Light Promised” – Job 11:17 or Job 22:28
 - “636 Lamp” – Job 18:6
 - “2175 Enlightenment” – Num 24:3 or 2Sam 22:29 or Ezra 9:8 or Job 32:8 or Job 33:30
 - Considering the notes in our present chain, I would begin with Job 32:8 in order to continue along the same line of thought.
 - While this method may not work for everyone, there are perhaps some pointers you can use in your own Bible study. Blessings!

