Discovering The Bible, God’s Word

Introduction: There was a time when the children of Israel received the word of God and said they would obey it, **Exodus 19.8.** But after a while they drifted away from that Word and even got to the point it was lost, **2 Kings 22.8; 2 Chronicles 34.4.** Upon reading it the King was upset because they, due to ignorance, had neglected to do what God commanded, **2 Kings 22.11-13**. Reading on down one finds the King repentant of neglecting God’s word and a “revival” ensued. But that revival was short lived as the next king went back to his idolatry and God’s word was again lost. Later on, after the captivity and the Jews coming back to the land of Canaan the Law of God was read to the people, **Nehemiah 8.14.**

**I) Discovering God’s Word, the Bible**

**A) The Bible contains the very oracles of God.**

1. Contains 66 Books, written over a 4,000 year time period, covering 6000 years of time.

2. Written by 40 different people during that time period.

3. Divided into the Old Testament and New Testament

**B) Discover- 1) to see, get knowledge of, learn of, find or find out, 2) to notice or recognize**

1. Columbus is credited with “discovering” America—it existed before he came but now he and Europe knew about its existence.

2. Sometimes I lose my keys or something else and I have to find it, often more than one time.

**II) Discovering (learning about) The Bible**

**A) Many people know the Bible exist but they do not know the Bible.**

1. Our nation no longer knows God’s word and many who do no longer respect it.

2. Their view of the Bible is skewed, warped. Most people fall into the following categories.

a. Biblically illiterate – not stupid but lack the most basic Bible knowledge.

i) This group accept movie versions of the Bible instead of the Bible.

ii) The movie version is often wrong! They are not true to the Bible.

 \* Noah about environmentalism

 \*\* Moses a terrorist

 \*\*\* Jesus a spiritual leader

b. People who do not believe the Bible to be ***the*** word of God. **2 Timothy 3.16-17**

i) They see the Bible as a collection of stories and myths woven together in a narrative.

ii) They see some value in the general themes and stories but very little Bible authority.

iii) To them the Bible has value but not as the inspired word of God; once you diminish the inspiration you diminish its authority. “God said” becomes meaningless.

iv) They speak of spiritual authority and not Bible authority.

c) Those who deny the teachings of the Bible and even see it as being harmful.

**B) The Bible is a written document (book). Jeremiah 30.2**

1.God always communicated with man through words, **Genesis 1** “God said”; **Genesis 2** God said let us make man in our image according to our likeness”; **Genesis 3** God said what have you done, etc.

2. God had His word written down and preserved for all mankind to read it.

a. How? By inspiration, **2 Timothy 3.16**. Inspiration means *God breathed or the breath of God*. Just as God breathed into Adam and he became a living being, so God breathed and we have the living Word, **Hebrews 4.12.**

b. God used different means of revealing His word, **Hebrews 1.1.**

c. But the words recorded by inspired men were the words of God, **1 Peter 4.10-11**.

d. Every book, every word recorded came from God.

3. **Psalm 119** speaks of the greatness and purpose of God’s word.

**C) The Bible contains**

1.Facts – the creation account, about people, places, and events

2. Commands—what God says we must and must not do.

3. Promises- eternal life.

**III) Discovering the Bible, What That Means?**

**A) Recognizing the power of God’s word, John 6.63.**

1. It is authoritative, it will judge us, **John 12.48.**

2. Read it and seek to understand what it says and means, **Ephesians 3.1-6.**

3. It is to be obeyed, **1 John 5.3.**

**B) We cannot know God or what He wants us to do without knowing the Bible, Ephesians 5.17.**

1. Bible ignorance will cause us to be lost, **Hosea 4.6.**

2. Bible knowledge will enable us to know God.

3. Bible obedience will lead us to heaven.