

“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.” 1 John 2:25. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10.

5. ITS TRANSFORMING POWER

Its transforming power has been experienced by millions of people who through the Bible have found “the Voice of God speaking to their soul” and whose lives have been completely transformed. Women who were living in sin found the path to true happiness; thieves discovered the joy of giving; murderers realized the value of life; and drug addicts found a purpose for their life, as well as strength to overcome evil vices.

“For 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.” Romans 1:16.

HOW TO APPROACH THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE

• WITH INTELLECTUAL HONESTY:

The Apostle Paul, when speaking of the inhabitants of the city of Berea, reports: ***“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*** Acts 17:11. Jesus said, ***“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”*** John 7:17.

• ANALYTICALLY:

An effective method is to analyze it by topic, studying and comparing Bible passages: ***“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...”*** Isaiah 28:10. Jesus sent His disciples to teach His Word. Matthew 28:20. How wonderful it is to have the help of someone who truly loves God and helps us understand His word!

• ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM THROUGH PRAYER:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5.

Yes, the Bible is not just another book. It is THE BOOK OF GOD, a letter from our heavenly Father that helps us live a life of true joy; for it answers our questions, shows us our mistakes, encourages us, strengthens us, and shows us the path to eternal life.

Through its message, we come to know our Creator and achieve a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as our friend and Savior. That is why this Holy Book is a treasure of priceless value. He himself said:

“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, FOR IN THEM YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: AND THEY ARE THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME.”

JOHN 5:39.

And at the end of this divine book, we are exhorted: ***“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”*** Revelation 1:3.

May we allow the light of God to enlighten our lives, and may we allow Him to speak to us every day! Then we will be able to answer Him through prayer.

If you want to know more about this beautiful book, request the next topic: *“In Search of Inner Peace in a Turbulent World”*; as well as other topics, which you can receive completely free of charge.

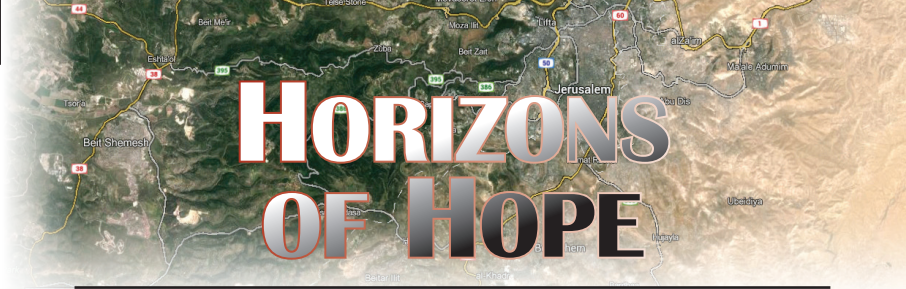
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THIRD MILLENNIUM BIBLE COURSE

1

International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement



Q Are you satisfied with the current situation of the world? The family circle, the basic cell of society, is falling apart.

Divorce rates and a remarkable increase in immorality point out this fact. Families are facing a frontal attack. We are worried about the scourge of drug addiction, for it is a tremendous threat to our youth. Our children are programmed by the influence of television shows that are filled with sex and violence, producing insecurity, complexes, anarchy, indifference, unbelief, and corruption.

There is less and less concern regarding health care. People increasingly live with artificiality. “Junk food” (deficient in nutritional value) is in fashion and we are overcome by a lack of time and stress. The consequences are countless psychosomatic diseases. This is not a lifestyle formula that works!

There is also an attack on faith in God. Indifference is the worst sin of our day, along with a Christianity in name only.

Where are we headed? Are you content in a society that is encompassed by violence; beset by crises at every facet of life: political, social, economic, work, health and ecological?

Voracious hurricanes and alarming climate trends are components directly linked to global warming; a signet of man’s persistent recklessness in global responsibility. What awaits us in this millennium? Can we do something to change course and protect our children?





THE SEARCH FOR GUIDANCE

The world looks for answers but cannot find them. The solutions presented are mere theories that quickly lose momentum.

The Bible confirms this situation and presents the cause of man's failure: **"For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water"** Jeremiah 2:13.

How many feel as empty as a broken cistern! God is set aside and replaced by consumer ambition, love of pleasure, and easy gain. People look for emotions through drugs or an answer through suicide, encouraged by the utopia of a life beyond death.

Isaiah mentions another cause: **"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate..."** Isaiah 24:5, 6.

What can we do? Respect God; the perfect legislator, Creator of nature, and Giver of life. He deserves to be taken into account when planning our life.

What will happen in the third millennium? How will the economic and labor situation present itself? Will insecurity increase due to violence?

Or has God foretold another solution for human problems?

A RELIABLE GUIDE

God has the answer. He has left us the greatest evidence of His care for us; something more than a road map. He has written us a great love letter, a manual to advise us regarding all our problems. It provides the exact anticipation of the events that concern us today. God has given us all this through the Bible.

This Holy Book contains valuable advice for the home, laws for harmonious coexistence. The family is not simply a legal association, but an association of love; the Bible gives both fathers and mothers guidelines for a happy home. A child living in such a home will be safe. This child will not practice violence, but instead will respect authority, have values, and strive for them.

The Bible speaks of all topics, but most importantly it helps us understand God's point of view. How important it is to have a reliable guide in the third millennium and know the way to peace, happiness, and a full, triumphant life! Jeremiah 29:11.

WHY TRUST THE BIBLE?

Along the centuries, it has been the most persecuted, attacked, defamed, criticized, and despised book. In fact, the Roman Empire wanted to suppress it by force. In the Middle Ages, it was hidden from the people. The French Revolution burned and despised it, but today it is the most beloved and widespread book in the world. Its prophecies have been fulfilled with mathematical accuracy. Why? **Because of its divine origin:**

- The Apostle Paul wrote: **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."** 2 Timothy 3:16.
- In 2 Peter 1:21 we are told: **"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**
- How was the Bible inspired? The prophets were God's instruments, who wrote down the thoughts He placed in their minds. Jeremiah 1:9, **"Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."**

EVIDENCE OF ITS DIVINE ORIGIN

1. TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

A) The unity of its message. Despite having been written by almost 40 authors throughout a period of 1,600 years (1500 B.C. – A.D. 100); and by **persons of the most varied social positions:** kings, generals, a prime minister, doctors, shepherds, fishermen, prophets, etc., it contains one united message.

B) Conservation of its writings. Numerous ancient manuscripts that have been found, such as the ancient writings of Qumran near the Dead Sea, which date back to the first and second centuries B.C., show that the original text has been preserved intact throughout the centuries.

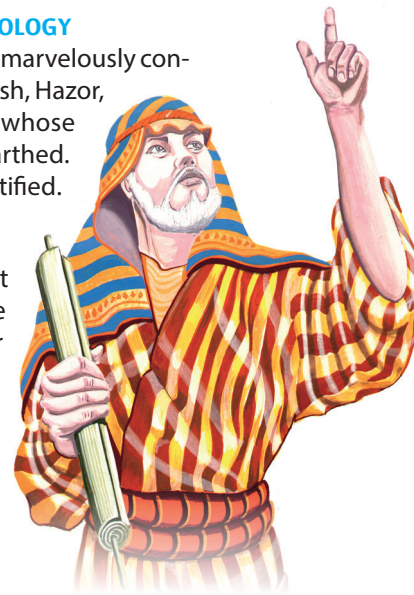
2. HISTORICAL EVIDENCE PROVEN BY ARCHEOLOGY

- Numerous excavations in the Middle East marvelously confirm the Biblical accounts. Cities like Lachish, Hazor, Megiddo, Nineveh, and many others, whose locations were unknown, have been unearthed. Some 2,500 biblical places have been identified.

3. PROPHETIC EVIDENCE

The Bible has some 2,300 prophecies that reveal the future; and these prophecies have continually been confirmed by history. For example, prophecies regarding:

- Cities, towns, nations, and kingdoms.
- World and ecclesiastical history.
- The life of men, mentioned before their birth.



- Events with accurate detail, including time, year and day.
- Discoveries of our century that were mentioned millennia ago.
- With many details, it describes current events that show us that we are living at the end of earth's history.

Prophecy helps us understand God's timing and helps us understand the time that we are living in.

Prophecies that have been fulfilled, give us certainty in the future fulfillment of prophecies regarding globalization, economy, the new political world order, and the great divine solution to our human problems.

4. CHRIST, THE GREATEST EVIDENCE

Centuries before His birth, 333 prophecies regarding the details of His life were written; and these prophecies, which were wonderfully fulfilled, are recorded in the Gospels. The greatest evidence of His Divinity is found in His life, death, and resurrection; but the most important is that He came to earth to reveal God to humanity.

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." John 14:9.

He has shown us:

- **His love:** **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** John 3:16.
- **His protective care:** **"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."** Isaiah 41:10.
- **His great and complete forgiveness:** **"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage?... Because He delighteth in mercy... He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."** Micah 7:18, 19.
- **His plan for the eternal happiness of man.** The thousands of promises found in the Bible are the constant encouragement we need to face the future with hope.

