

How to Study the Bible

(Lesson 13)

Introduction:

1. Although some passages may be challenging to us, the Bible can be understood (Ephesians 3:3-4; 5:17).
2. In this lesson we are pointing out some of the available sources that will help us in our study of the Scriptures.

Discussion:

I. VARIOUS VERSIONS

- A. Lesson 3 contains some information concerning translations.
- B. When studying a passage, comparing a variety of reliable versions can be helpful.

II. CONCORDANCES

- A. A concordance lists the words used in the Bible in conjunction with the verses where they are found.
- B. Concordances are available for different versions.

III. DICTIONARIES

- A. A Bible dictionary provides information relating to words used in the Bible, as well as people and places that are mentioned.
- B. An English dictionary defines words that are not strictly Biblical.

IV. BIBLE BACKGROUND

- A. The Bible was written many years ago in lands and cultures different from ours.
- B. Reference books dealing with geography, culture, and history are available.

V. COMMENTARIES

- A. A commentary explains verses in the Bible.
- B. Single volume commentaries as well as sets are available.

VI. REFERENCE WORKS

- A. Bible encyclopedias contain in-depth articles on Bible subjects.
- B. Religious magazines are also helpful.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Some Bibles contain reference notes that compare additional passages that relate to the one being studied.
- B. Some Bibles contain footnotes that are helpful; however, such notes come from men and are not inspired.
- C. Books are also available that define and explain words from the Bible's original languages.