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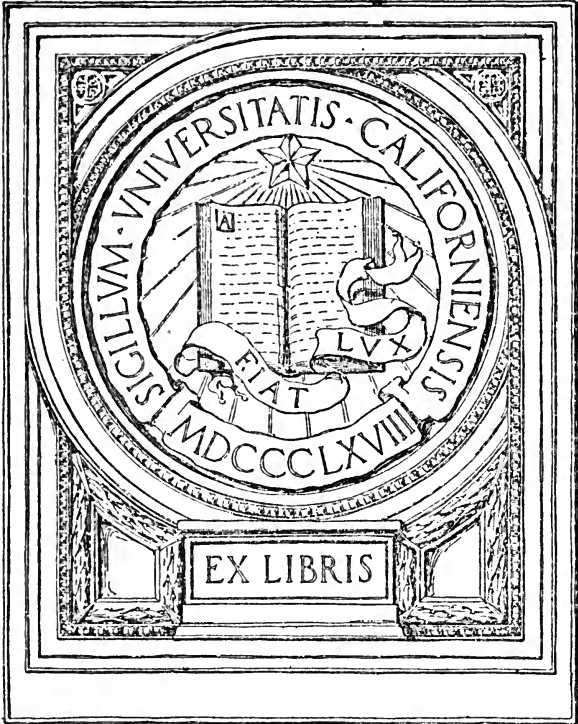


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# RANSACKING THE SCRIPTURES

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BIBLE RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY  
WITH INDEX OF BIBLE  
INCIDENTS



*Third Edition*

By KEITH L. BROOKS

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# RANSACKING THE SCRIPTURES

BIBLE RULES  
FOR  
BIBLE STUDY

By  
KEITH L. BROOKS



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*By Keith L. Brooks*

BIBLE INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES  
536-558 South Hope St.  
Los Angeles California

TO THE  
ADMINISTRATOR

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## **BIBLE RULES for BIBLE STUDY**

### **S-E-A-R-C-H**

The Bible is God's Love Letter to every Christian. It is therefore the Christian's business to "search out" its teachings, or to put it even more literally—"Ransack the Scriptures." (Acts 17:11; Jn. 5:39.) As we would study every word and meditate upon every paragraph of a love letter from one near to our hearts, that we might gather every expression of love and every thought for our good, so we should "explore" the Word of God that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Divine Lover. Yet the Bible is a great feast into which thousands never venture for themselves.

Too many people want their Bible study in capsules, sugared to taste and made to slip down easily, requiring no chewing. No Christian can be what God wants him to be on capsule food.

The Bible is the most inspiring and fascinating book in all the world if you go at it with the help of the Holy Spirit. You can bring it down to every experience of life, and you ought to bring your experiences up to it. The Book you will want for your pillow when you are dying, as Joseph Cook has said, is the Book you ought to study while you are living.

I offer here some general rules for Bible study, grouped under the letters "s-e-a-r-c-h."

**S**YSTEMATICALLY — 2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the Word of Truth." A mechanic would be a failure if not familiar with his tools. A Christian, not familiar with the Word of God, is a wall-flower in the church.

Systematic study is the great need. The grasshopper method of Bible study (jumping here and there) gets nowhere. Were you studying for a professional career, you would not open your book today at Chapter 6 and read a bit; tomorrow hastily read a few paragraphs of the first chapter and next read the index. You would read systematically and seriously to get the author's thought. Be just as intelligent in reading the Bible.

**E**ARNESTLY — Psa. 119:18, "Open mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy Law." You could not get the most from an art gallery without one to lead and explain. Much of interest would be missed by traveling alone. The Bible is a picture gallery of vast extent. To enjoy it and find its richest treasures a guide is needed to enlighten our understanding.

Jno. 16:14 says, "The Holy Spirit shall glorify me, for He shall take of the things of mine and show it unto you." Let the Spirit of God reveal. Take the things hard to understand to Him, and on bended knee, with Bible open before you, see what He will give you. If the

heart is honest in the prayer, and you are willing to walk in the light as He reveals it, marvelous things will break in upon your soul.

**A**NXIOUSLY — Psa. 119:27, “Make me to understand the way of thy precepts, so SHALL I TALK OF THY WONDROUS WORKS.” If you are a Christian, you are going to meet the assaults of the devil’s agents who seek to undermine the faith. The Word of God is the weapon that puts the enemy to silence. If Jesus used it (Matt. 4) and defeated Satan in His face to face encounter, how much more should we use it in dealing with his agents.

The Bible does not need our defense. It needs our study. It will defend itself. It is its own commentary. Seek the answers to all difficulties not from human reasonings, but anxiously from God’s Word. It is not what men think but what God’s Word says that counts.

**R**EGULARLY — Psa. 1:2, 3, “His delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” The man who DAILY meditates on the Word bears the fruit of patience in the time of suffering; faith in the season of trial; a holy joy in seasons of

prosperity—he is never void of fruit.

What he does prospers. There is a blessing concealed in every cross, loss or sorrow that comes his way and he never fails to find it. He is an evergreen tree. The sign of spiritual life is always with him.

You don't try to eat enough on Monday morning to last you for the week. If you did, you would be in a most sickly condition at the end of the week. Those who get mixed up in the prevalent false doctrines, are those who get sickly from irregular feeding on the Word. Be regular. Put it first on your program. Let nothing interfere.

**C**AREFULLY — 2 Tim. 3:16, 17, "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." Then do not be skimming over passages in it that do not at first glance seem to yield food for thought. It is not a question of how many times you have been through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has been through you. If you are looking for chestnuts, and the leaves upon the ground seem to conceal them, you will take a stick and poke over and over again in the same spot. You are surprised that you find so many of the brown nuts in the spots where you had at first thought there were none. Likewise

you will be amazed at what one seemingly unimportant verse will yield when you crack it open.

**H**UMBLY—Jno. 7:17, “If any man will do His will he shall know of the teaching.” Unless we study the Bible wholly purposed to yield our lives to the truth God reveals, His revelations will cease and the Book will become dry. It does not do to evade the truth that God shows us. God cannot give His treasures to disobedient hearts.

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### IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD

1. By it we are begotten.....  
.....1 Pet. 1:23
2. By it we grow.....1 Pet. 2:2
3. By it we are cleansed....Jno. 15:3
4. By it we are built up.....  
.....Acts 20:32
5. By it we are fed.....Jer. 15:16
6. By it we are sanctified.....  
.....Jno. 17:17
7. By it we are protected.....  
.....Psa. 119:11
8. By it we are led.....Psa. 25:5
9. By it we are satisfied.....  
.....Psa. 119:103

## SOME METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY FOR BEGINNERS

1. **Synthetic.** Bible study by books. Take each book of the Bible and read it several times through so as to get the scope of the book. Find the key expressions, key verses, key chapter, its practical teaching, its presentation of Christ, its dispensational setting.

2. **Parallel.** Bible study by references. Using a good reference Bible, look up the marginal references. Better still, get "Treasury of Scripture Knowledge," a book which treats every verse in the Bible by parallel references. There is no better commentary on the Bible than the Bible itself.

3. **Topical.** Bible study by topics. A topical text book will be of help. This groups the important Scripture passages topically. "What the Bible Teaches" (Torey) is a larger and more thorough work of this nature. For instance, take the subject of "Justification" and carefully read every passage containing this word.

4. **Microscopic.** Bible study by concordance. A Cruden's Concordance is good, but the thorough student will want "Strong's Exhaustive Concordance." Take great words of Scripture and look up their use in different passages. This will suggest Bible outlines of a very practical nature. For instance, find the "fear nots" of the Bible, noting the different things we are told we are not to fear, etc.

5. **Explanation.** Bible study by commentary. Reading a chapter in your Bible, read the comments of some good Bible authority with it. Matthew Henry's Commentary is practical for the ordinary student.

6. **Chapter Summary.** Bible study for the purpose of analyzing each chapter. Special note books have been prepared for this kind of work. One by the author of this booklet, is called "Through My Bible, Chapter by Chapter." Blank space is provided for the student to note the principal characters, important events, promises, memory verses, spiritual lesson, how Christ is seen, etc. This is a very helpful method.

## FOUNDATION WORK

As one of the first essentials in Bible study, the memorizing of the books of the Bible in their order, will be found the greatest help. I would also learn the number of chapters in each book, especially in the New Testament. In locating passages, a knowledge of these will be found invaluable, enabling one to turn instantly to the chapter and verse desired. As the next aid, I would suggest learning some of the key chapters of the Bible, so that when ready help is wanted on some important topic, one can immediately turn to a chapter dealing specifically with that subject. Following is a list of some of the more important of these:

Abiding chapter.....	John	15
Addition chapter.....	2 Pet.	1
Admonition chapter.....	Heb.	13
Apostasy chapter.....	2 Thess.	2
Ascension chapter.....	Acts	1
Assurance chapter.....	1 John	5
Atonement chapter.....	Heb.	9
Backslider's chapter.....	Jer.	3
Baptism chapter.....	Matt.	3
Beatitude chapter.....	Matt.	5
Beginning chapters.....	Gen. 1, John	1
Bottomless chapter.....	Eph.	3
Bread chapter.....	John	6
Business Man's chapter.....	Prov.	8
Character chapter.....	Job	29
Chastening chapter.....	Heb.	12
Christian's chapter.....	1 Pet.	2
Commandments chapter.....	Exo.	20
Consecration chapter.....	Rom.	12
Convert's chapter.....	Isa.	12
Courage chapter.....	Josh.	1
Crucifixion chapter.....	John	19
Deacon chapter.....	Acts	5
Death to Sin chapter.....	Rom.	6
Duty chapter.....	Ezek.	33
Excuse chapter.....	Luke	14
Faith chapter.....	Heb.	11
Fear Not chapter.....	Isa.	41
Fisherman's chapter.....	Luke	5

Fool's chapter.....	Prov.	26
Gift chapter.....	1 Cor.	12
Harlot's chapter.....	Prov.	7
Heaven chapter.....	Rev.	21
Holy Spirit chapter.....	John	16
Household chapter.....	Col.	3
Hypocrite chapter.....	Matt.	23
Intemperance chapter.....	Prov.	23
Jew and Gentile chapter.....	Rom.	11
Joyful chapter.....	Psa.	98
Judgment chapter.....	Rom.	14
Light chapter.....	John	8
Lord's Supper chapter.....	John	13
Lost and Found chapter.....	Luke	15
Love chapters.....	1 Cor. 13; 1 Jno.	4
Marriage chapter.....	Eph.	5
Millennium chapter.....	Rev.	20
Minister's chapter.....	Ezek.	34
Moralist's chapter.....	Psa.	14
Mother's chapter.....	Judges	13
Nativity chapter.....	Luke	2
New Birth chapter.....	John	3
Peace and Promise chapter.....	John	14
Pentecost chapter.....	Acts	2
Poor Man's chapter.....	Luke	14
Prayer chapter.....	John	17
Preacher's chapter.....	Isa.	61
Repentance chapter.....	Luke	13
Resurrection chapter.....	1 Cor.	15
Revival chapter.....	Joel	2
Rewards chapter.....	1 Cor.	3
Rich Man's chapter.....	Luke	16
Ruin chapter.....	Rom.	1
Saddest chapter.....	Luke	22
Safety chapter.....	Psa.	91
Saloon Keeper's chapter.....	Psa.	10
Salvation chapter.....	Rom.	10
Scorner's chapter.....	Prov.	1
Self-righteous chapter.....	Rom.	2
Separation chapter.....	2 Cor.	6
Sermon on the Mount.....	Matt. 5, 6,	7
Service chapter.....	Luke	10
Shepherd chapters.....	Psa. 23; Ezek. 34; John	10
Sight chapter.....	John	9
Sinner's chapter.....	Luke	19
Soldier chapter.....	Eph.	6
Soul Saving Psalm.....	Psa.	126
Sower's chapter.....	Luke	8
Sufferer's chapter.....	Is.	53
Temptation chapter.....	Matt.	4
The Believer's Hope chapter.....	1 Thess.	4
The Disciple's Prayer.....	Matt.	6
The Great Psalm.....	Psa.	119
The Seven Great Parables.....	Matt.	13
The Transfiguration.....	Matt.	17
Tithing chapter.....	Mal.	3
Today chapter.....	Heb.	3
Tonic Psalm.....	Psa.	27
Traveler's chapter.....	Psa.	2



Victory chapter.....	Rom.	8
Virgin's chapter.....	Matt.	25
Water chapter.....	John	4
Widow's chapter.....	Isa.	54
Wife's chapter.....	Prov.	31
Wisdom chapter.....	Prov.	3
Wise Man's chapter.....	Prov.	15
Woman's Psalm.....	Psa.	45
Work chapter.....	James	2

## Number of Chapters

The student will find it very helpful to memorize the number of chapters in each book of the Bible. It is an aid, not only in locating Scripture but helps to visualize the books in the mind.

### Old Testament

Genesis .....	50
Exodus .....	40
Leviticus .....	27
Numbers .....	36
Deuteronomy .....	34
Joshua .....	24
Judges .....	21
Ruth .....	4
I. Samuel .....	31
II. Samuel .....	24
I. Kings .....	22
II. Kings .....	25
I. Chronicles .....	29
II. Chronicles .....	36
Ezra .....	10
Nehemiah .....	13
Esther .....	10
Job .....	42
Psalms .....	150
Proverbs .....	31
Ecclesiastes .....	12
Song of Solomon .....	8
Isaiah .....	66
Jeremiah .....	52
Lamentations .....	5
Ezekiel .....	48
Daniel .....	12
Hosea .....	14
Joel .....	3
Amos .....	9
Obadiah .....	1

Jonah .....	4
Micah .....	7
Nahum .....	3
Habakkuk .....	3
Zephaniah .....	3
Haggai .....	2
Zechariah .....	14
Malachi .....	4

### New Testament

Matthew .....	28
Mark .....	16
Luke .....	24
John .....	21
The Acts .....	28
Romans .....	16
I. Corinthians .....	16
II. Corinthians .....	13
Galatians .....	6
Ephesians .....	6
Philippians .....	4
Colossians .....	4
I. Thessalonians .....	5
II. Thessalonians .....	3
I. Timothy .....	6
II. Timothy .....	4
Titus .....	3
Philemon .....	1
Hebrews .....	13
James .....	5
I. Peter .....	5
II. Peter .....	3
I. John .....	5
II. John .....	1
III. John .....	1
Jude .....	1
Revelation .....	22

### WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

1. Because the truth must be published .....Rev. 21:5
2. That we might believe..Jno. 20:31
3. For our learning.....Rom. 15:4
4. For our admonition..1 Cor. 10:11
5. For our assurance....1 Jno. 5:13
6. To make us thoughtful.....  
.....2 Pet. 3:1-2
7. To make our joy full.....  
.....1 Jno. 1:4

## KEY NOTES OF BOOKS

A knowledge of the key notes of all the books of the Bible will also prove most helpful.

### Old Testament

Gen.....	Beginnings
Exod.....	Covenant
Lev.....	Atonement
Numb.....	Discipline
Deut.....	Obedience
Josh.....	Possessions
Judges.....	Failure
Ruth.....	Kinsman
1 and 2 Sam.....	Kingdom
1 and 2 Kings.....	Royalty
1 and 2 Chron.....	Temple
Ezra.....	Restoration
Neh.....	Political
Esther.....	Providence
Job.....	Testing
Psalms.....	Praise
Prov.....	Wisdom
Eccl.....	Vanity
Song of Sol.....	Love
Isa.....	Salvation
Jer.....	Warning
Lam.....	Chastening
Ezek.....	Visions
Dan.....	Kingdom
Hos.....	Return
Joel.....	Judgment
Amos.....	Punishment
Obad.....	Edom
Jonah.....	Repentance
Micah.....	Controversy
Nahum.....	Nineveh
Habak.....	Faith
Zeph.....	Remnant
Hag.....	Build
Zech.....	God's ways
Mal.....	Robbery

### New Testament

Matt.....	Savior of the world
Mark.....	Servant of man
Luke.....	Son of man
John.....	Son of God
Acts.....	Witness
Romans.....	Justification
1 Cor.....	God's Power
2 Cor.....	Our sufficiency
Gal.....	Liberty
Eph.....	In Christ
Phil.....	Gain

Col.....	Fullness
1 and 2 Thess.....	Comfort
1 Tim.....	Church order
2 Tim.....	Doctrine
Titus.....	Ministry
Phile.....	Brotherhood
Heb.....	New Covenant
James.....	Works
1 Pet.....	Christian's Hope
2 Pet.....	Last Days
1 John.....	Assurance
2 John.....	Truth
3 John.....	Fellow Helper
Jude.....	Kept
Rev.....	Overcome

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## KEY VERSES

### Old Testament

Gen. ....	1:1
Exo. ....	12:23
Lev. ....	16:34
Num. ....	33:1
Deut. ....	10:12, 13
Josh. ....	1:3
Judges ....	21:25
Ruth ....	4:14
I. Sam. ....	10:25
II. Sam. ....	I. Sam. 10:25
I. Kings ....	2:12
II. Kings ....	10:10
I. Chron. ....	II. Chron. 15:2
II. Chron. ....	15:2
Ezra ....	1:5
Neh. ....	2:5
Esther ....	4:14
Job ....	1:9
Psalms ....	29:2
Prov. ....	9:10
Eccl. ....	2:11
Song Sol. ....	6:3
Is. ....	53:5
Jer. ....	7:28; 46:1
Lam. ....	2:11
Ezek. ....	1:1
Dan. ....	2:22
Hosea ....	14:9
Joel ....	2:13
Amos ....	4:12
Obad. ....	21
Jonah ....	3:2
Micah ....	1:8, 9
Nah. ....	1:8, 9
Hab. ....	2:4
Zeph. ....	1:4; 3:13

Hag.	1:8
Zech.	8:2
Mal.	3:8

### New Testament

Matt.	27:37
Mark	10:45
Luke	19:10
John	20:31
Acts	1:8
Rom.	1:17
I. Cor.	1:2
II. Cor.	7:6; 12:9
Gal.	3:2
Eph.	1:3
Phil.	3:7, 14; 4:4
Col.	2:10
I. Thess.	1:10
II. Thess.	3:5
I. Tim.	3:9
II. Tim.	1:13
Titus	3:8, 9
Phile.	17
Heb.	11:40
James	2:26
I. Pet.	2:7
II. Pet.	I. Pet. 2:7
I. John	5:13
II. John	3
III. John	8
Jude	4, 18
Rev.	1:1

## WRITERS AND DATES

### Old Testament

Gen.	Moses (About 1500 B. C.)
Exo.	Moses (About 1500 B. C.)
Lev.	Moses (About 1500 B. C.)
Num.	Moses (About 1500 B. C.)
Deut.	Moses (About 1500 B. C.)
Josh.	Joshua (About 1425 B. C.)
Judges	Samuel (About 1410 B. C.)
Ruth	Unknown (About 1300 B. C.)
I. Samuel	Uncertain, Samuel, Nathan or Gad (About 1155 B. C.)
II. Samuel	Uncertain (About 1155 B. C.)
I. Kings	Uncertain (About 560 B. C.)
II. Kings	Uncertain (Ezra) (About 560 B. C.)
I. Chron.	Uncertain (Ezra) (About 1000 B. C.)
II. Chron.	Uncertain (Ezra) (About 530 B. C.)
Ezra	Ezra (About 536 B. C.)
Neh.	Nehemiah (About 445 to 448 B. C.)

Esther.....	Uncertain (Mordecai) (464-434 B. C.)
Job.....	Uncertain (Moses, Elihu or Job) (During times of Abraham. Oldest Book in Bible)
Psalms.....	David, Moses, Asaph, Ethan, Sons of Korah (1500-1000 B. C.)
Prov.....	Solomon (990 to 995 B. C.)
Eccl.....	Solomon (980 to 985 B. C.)
Song Sol.....	Solomon (980-985 B. C.)
Is.....	Isaiah (766 to 679 B. C.)
Jer.....	Jeremiah (About 580 to 600 B. C.)
Lam.....	Jeremiah (About 588 B. C.)
Ezek.....	Ezekiel (About 570-590 B. C.)
Dan.....	Daniel (About 534 B. C.)
Hosea.....	Hosea (790-725 B. C.)
Joel.....	Joel (Either 860-850 B. C. or 400-380 B. C.)
Amos.....	Amos (870-783 B. C.)
Obad.....	Obadiah (900-880 B. C.)
Jonah.....	Jonah (825-790 B. C.)
Micah.....	Micah (758-710 B. C.)
Nahum.....	Nahum (About 660 B. C.)
Hab.....	Habakkuk (608-590 B. C.)
Zeph.....	Zephaniah (639-609 B. C.)
Hag.....	Haggai (About 520 B. C.)
Zech.....	Zechariah (520 B. C.)
Mal.....	Malachi (440-410 B. C.)

### New Testament

Matt.....	Matthew (A. D. 37)
Mark.....	Mark (called John) (A. D. 57-63)
Luke.....	Luke (A. D. 63-68)
John.....	John (the Apostle) (A. D. 85-90)
Acts.....	Luke (A. D. 65)
Rom.....	Paul (About A. D. 60)
I. Cor.....	Paul (A. D. 59)
II. Cor.....	Paul (A. D. 60)
Gal.....	Paul (A. D. 60)
Eph.....	Paul (A. D. 64)
Phil.....	Paul (About A. D. 64)
Col.....	Paul (About A. D. 64)
I. Thess.....	Paul (A. D. 54)
II. Thess.....	Paul (A. D. 54)
I. Tim.....	Paul (About A. D. 63)
II. Tim.....	Paul (About A. D. 64)
Titus.....	Paul (About A. D. 63)
Phile.....	Paul (A. D. 64)
Heb.....	Probably Paul (About A. D. 65)
James.....	James (A. D. 60)
I. Pet.....	Peter (A. D. 60)
II. Pet.....	Peter (A. D. 66)
I. John.....	Apostle John (A. D. 90)
II. John.....	John (A. D. 90)

III. John.....	John (A. D. 90)
Jude.....	Jude (A. D. 66)
Rev.....	Apostle John (A. D. 96)

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## CHRIST AS SEEN IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Gen.—The Seed of Abraham.  
 Exo.—The Lamb of God.  
 Lev.—The High Priest.  
 Num.—The Star of Jacob.  
 Deut.—The Prophet Like Moses.  
 Josh.—Captain of the Lord's Hosts.  
 Judge.—The Messenger of Jehovah.  
 Ruth—Our Kinsman.  
 Kings—King of Kings.  
 Chron.—As God's True King.  
 Ezra—Lord of Heaven and Earth.  
 Neh.—Lord of Heaven and Earth.  
 Esther—Our Mordecai.  
 Job.—Risen Redeemer.  
 Psa.—Son of God.  
 Prov.—Wisdom.  
 Ecc.—As Above the Sun.  
 Song of Sol.—One Altogether Lovely.  
 Isa.—Suffering and Glorified Prophet.  
 Jer.—The Lord of Righteousness.  
 Lam.—The Man of Sorrows.  
 Ezek.—High Priest of God.  
 Dan.—Christ the King.  
 Hos.—Risen Son of God.  
 Joel—The Outpourer of the Spirit.  
 Amos—Thy God, O Israel.  
 Obad.—The Lord is in His Kingdom.  
 Jonah—The Risen Prophet.  
 Micah—The Bethlehemite.  
 Nah.—The Bringer of Good Tidings.  
 Hab.—The Lord in His Holy Temple.  
 Zeph.—The Lord in Israel's Midst.  
 Hag.—The Desire of All Nations.  
 Zech.—Prophet, Priest and King.  
 Mal.—Sun of Righteousness.  
 Matt.—King of the Jews.  
 Mark—Servant of the Lord.  
 Luke—The Perfect Son of God.  
 John—Risen Son of God.  
 Acts—Ascended Lord and Christ.  
 Rom.—Lord our Righteousness.  
 1 Cor.—First Fruits of the Dead.  
 Gal.—Christ our Freedom.  
 Eph.—Head of the Church.  
 Phil.—Ascended Lord Jesus Christ.  
 Col.—Fulness of the Godhead.  
 Thess.—As Coming Lord.  
 Tim.—As the Only Potentate.  
 Titus—As God Our Saviour.  
 Phile.—As Payer of Sin Debt.

Heb.—Great High Priest Passed into the Heavens.

Jas.—The Lord Drawing Nigh.

1 Pet.—The Suffering Lamb.

2 Pet.—The Lord of Glory.

John's Epistles—Coming Son of God.

Jude—The Coming Judge.

Rev.—The Throne Sitter.

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## OUTWARD DIVISIONS

Classification of Scripture for convenience in study has been the rule from earliest times. Luke 24:44 classifies the Old Testament as "Law, Prophets and Psalms." Following are the structural divisions of the Bible:

### Old Testament

PENTATEUCH (Books of Law)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

HISTORICAL

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

POETICAL

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations.

PROPHETICAL

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

### New Testament

HISTORICAL

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts.

DOCTRINAL

Galatians, Romans, Hebrews.

CHURCH ORDER

1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus.

CHURCH TRUTH

Ephesians, Colossians.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon, James, 1 Peter, 1 John.

COURSE OF THE AGE

2 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude.

PROPHETICAL

Revelation.



## CONCLUSIONS OF THE BOOKS

The student will find it helpful to note at the beginning of each book of the Bible, a statement that briefly sums up the spiritual teachings of the book. These conclusions are as follows:

**Genesis**—The failure of man under every condition is met by the salvation of God.

**Exodus**—Redemption is by the blood and that alone.

**Leviticus**—Access of the redeemed to God is only through the blood. Holiness of the redeemed is imperative.

**Numbers**—The redeemed are saved to serve and must be on their guard against unbelief.

**Deuteronomy**—Obedience to God is imperative.

**Joshua**—The faithfulness of Jehovah to His own has been fully demonstrated.

**Judges**—Man is prone to wander from God. God's grace ever pursues and seeks to restore the backslider.

**Ruth**—True rest comes only through redemption and union.

**I. Samuel**—Prayer should have a great place in our lives that the power of God may work for and through us.

**II. Samuel**—Be sure your sin will find you out.

**I. Kings**—Jehovah is the sovereign ruler of Israel, blessing the obedient, punishing the disobedient, and forgiving the penitent.

**II. Kings**—God's Word is certain of fulfillment to saint and sinner.

**I. Chronicles**—Jehovah is the sovereign Lord, blessing the obedient and punishing the disobedient.

**II. Chronicles**—Seeking and serving the Lord is the secret of a vital religion and a life of victory.

**Ezra**—God's Word should have a place and power in the religious, social and civil life of His people.

**Nehemiah**—Prayer, pains and perseverance are the conditions of successful work for God.

**Esther**—The great God takes a real interest in all our affairs and shapes His providences to work out His glory through them.

**Job**—Trial is the school of trust—not always given as chastisement, but sometimes for our education.

**Psalms**—Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and give to Him the glory due His name.

**Proverbs**—The most intensely practical thing in the world is godliness.

**Ecclesiastes**—Apart from God, life is full of weariness and disappointment.

**Song of Solomon**—Christ covets the full communion of His people and blessedness comes to all who walk in His fellowship.

**Isaiah**—Salvation is by the grace of God and through the vicarious suffering of Christ.

**Jeremiah**—Judgment is the certain result of sin. God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish.

**Lamentations**—Sin brings misery. The compassion of Jehovah for the subjects of His wrath, is marvelous.

**Ezekiel**—God is marvelously good to those who show a desire to walk with Him, and terribly severe upon those who persistently rebel against Him.

**Daniel**—God is universal sovereign of all—and is yet to be acknowledged as such by all men.

**Hosea**—God longs for the return of backsliders, pleads with them and makes every inducement for their repentance.

**Joel**—Repentance, a heart broken for sin and from sin, is necessary, if the judgments of God are to be averted.

**Amos**—National sin inevitably spells national judgment.

**Obadiah**—We should take solemn warning against the perils of pride and anti-Semitism.

**Jonah**—God is the God of the Gentiles as well as of the Jew.

**Micah**—God abhors injustice and ritualism. He takes delight in pardoning penitent sinners.

**Nahum**—An awful doom awaits the apostate.

**Habakkuk**—God is perfectly consistent with Himself, even though evil is long permitted.

**Zephaniah**—Our God is a jealous God.

**Haggai**—God demands first place in life and service.

**Zechariah**—The infinite care and love of God is over His people through the centuries.

**Malachi**—Remember Jehovah, repent toward Him, return to Him and render to Him that which is His due.

**Matthew**—Jesus, the Messiah-King, was rejected and killed but His wounding was for our transgression, and He was bruised for our iniquities. He is coming again to rule and judge.

**Mark**—Jesus is the Mighty Worker, who came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister.

**Luke**—Jesus is the Ideal Man, the human-divine One, who came to seek and to save that which was lost.

**John**—Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who came into the world to reveal God in terms of human life.

**Acts**—The work that Jesus “began” to do was, and is, continued by Him through the Holy Spirit.

**Romans**—Justification is by faith without works, and is the righteousness of Christ imputed to the believer, wherein he is made eternally safe.

**I. Corinthians**—Jesus Christ our risen Lord is Head of the Body working through His people by the Holy Spirit.

**II. Corinthians**—The Christian is God’s ambassador, with a spiritual and glorious ministry, finding in Christ consolation in all his sufferings and sufficiency for every testing.

**Galatians**—Christ is the Deliverer from the law and mere externalism and leads into glorious liberty.

**Ephesians**—The Church is the Body of Christ. Each believer has an exalted position through grace and is to have a walk in accordance with that position.

**Philippians**—Christ is the believer’s life, pattern, object, and strength.

**Colossians**—The Godhead was incarnate in Jesus Christ, in whom the believer is complete.

**I. Thessalonians**—The coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent. The hope of His return is the great hope and inspiration and comfort of the true Christian.

**II. Thessalonians**—The Christian is to wait, watch and work for the coming of the Lord Jesus, when He will be glorified in His saints and His saints shall be eternally satisfied in Him.

**I. Timothy**—God would have the minister and the Christian know “how they should behave in the house of God” and how “to hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”

**II. Timothy**—The Christian must be loyal to Christ and to the truth, enduring as a good soldier against all persecution, and in the midst of growing apostasies.

**Titus**—Christ's ministers should follow the divine order as revealed in the Epistles, for the conduct of the Church.

**Philemon**—Wise and good ministers of Jesus Christ will have great and tender care of young converts to encourage and hearten them, and get them received into the fellowship of the saints. There is a spiritual brotherhood between all true believers, however distinguished as to their station of life, and we should therefore seek to strengthen and help those who have been newly united to the Christian family.

**Hebrews**—The cure for faint-heartedness toward the Gospel is a right conception of the glory and work of our Great High Priest who has passed into the heavens.

**James**—The evidence of faith is good works.

**I. Peter**—Those who are walking with Christ will be enabled to suffer patiently, joyously and to the glory of God.

**II. Peter**—The believer must be pure and loyal in the days of corruption and apostasy, and hastening the coming of Christ by every means.

**I. John**—Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ brings a life of fellowship with God, joyfulness, victory, safety and certainty.

**II. John**—The test of our love to God is universal obedience to Him, and we have need to maintain this love, for there are many destroyers of it in the world—those who subvert the faith, denying the person or the work of Jesus Christ. Let such men not be entertained as ministers of Christ, nor given support in any way.

**III. John**—Ministers of Christ should abound in, and joy in hospitality toward fellow helpers in the Lord, and should beware of the peril of a domineering leadership which stands in the way of blessing to the people of God.

**Jude**—Believers must be on their guard lest they be robbed of any essential article of Christian faith by the cunning craftiness or plausible pretenses of ungodly men who pose as teachers and lie in wait to deceive. Our duty in the presence of the apostasy is to earnestly contend for the faith, trusting to be kept from stumbling by walking in the perpetual consciousness of God's love through Christ, looking toward the day when we shall be presented before Him with exceeding joy.

**Revelation**—The Lord Jesus Christ is the gloriously exalted One, the Alpha and Omega. He is the High Priest of His people; the Bridegroom of the Church; the King-Judge of all mankind.

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## **IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE**

**Three Oldest Bibles.** 1. The Alexandrian (called Codex Aleph). Kept at St. Petersburg; owned by the Greek church. In book form, four volumes. Copied in fifth century. Presented to King Charles I. in 1628. In good state of preservation. 2. The Vatican (called Codex B). Kept at Rome by the Roman Church. Book form, 700 leaves. Copied in beginning of fourth century. 3. Sinaitic (called Codex A). Kept in British Museum, owned by Protestant Church. Book form. Nearly as old as the Vatican.

**Old Testament.** The oldest translation we have is called Septuagint. Written in Greek, copied from Hebrew, about 280 B.C. Translated by 70 translators for King Ptolemy for the library at Alexandria, in third century B.C. Our present O. T. came through this channel. The ancient origin of the O. T. is well corroborated by the discoveries of archaeologists. The N. T. shows that the O. T. as we have it was in the hands of Christ and the disciples. (Jno. 5:39; Acts 17:11; Lk. 24:44, 45, etc.) Christ is recorded as having quoted from 22 of the 39 O. T. books. Over 1500 O. T. passages are quoted in the N. T. Christ set His seal of authority to every O. T. book which has since been attacked by critics.

**New Testament.** The ancient origin of the N. T. can now be easily established from the writings of many who lived in the first and second centuries. We find in the works of Origen, two-thirds of the N. T. Tertullian makes 2500 references to it. Irenaeus makes 1200 references, 400 of which are to the Gospels. Clement of Alexandria makes 300 references. Clement of Rome, a disciple of the disciples (died 95 A.D.), wrote a letter to the church at Corinth which is still preserved, quoting copiously from the N. T. Polycarp, disciple of John, wrote a letter to the church at Philippi, still preserved, making many quotations. Papias wrote a work, "The Sayings of Jesus."

Papias was a friend of Polycarp. The N. T. has therefore been possessed since the first Christian era.

**Books in the N. T.** Two of the earliest translations of the N. T. show us what books comprised the N. T. from the beginning. 1. The Peshito, or Syriac Version, completed before 150 A.D.—contained the four Gospels, 14 Epistles of Paul, 1 John, 1 Peter, James. Five books missing but no book not found in our present N. T. is included in it. 2. The Latin Version, made in second century. Contains the Gospels, Acts, 13 Epistles of Paul, 3 of John, 1 Peter, Jude, Revelation. Three missing, but no book not found in our present N. T. is included. These two versions together include all in our N. T. except 2 Peter, and NO OTHERS.

**First Book Printed** was the Bible, between 1450 and 1455 A.D. at Mentz, Germany, by Gutenberg, the reputed inventor of printing.

**First whole Bible in English** printed by Miles Coverdale, 1535.

**First Complete Translation** of whole Bible into English by John Wycliff, 1380.

**First N. T. in English** printed by Wm. Tyndale, 1525.

**Chapter divisions in O. T.** made by Cardinal Hugo, middle 13th century.

**Verse Divisions of O. T.** made by Rabbi Nathan, adopted by Robert Stephens, French printer, in his edition of Vulgate Bible, 1555. They were transferred to the Authorized Version in 1611.

**Apocrypha,** are books contained in some editions of the O. T. They were not originally written in Hebrew. They were not counted as inspired by the Jews and were excluded from the canon at the Reformation. They contain no statements claiming divine inspiration.

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## PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

1. Pray that you may see its treasures.....Psa. 119:18
2. Pray that it may furnish you topics for conversation .....Psa. 119:27
3. Pray that it may guide your life.....Psa. 119:33
4. Pray that it may become the ground of wholehearted service .....Psa. 119:34
5. Pray that it may kindle adoration.....Psa. 119:38
6. \* Pray that it may give you a true education .....Psa. 119:125
7. Pray that it may inspire you to true prayer .....Psa. 119:169

## DISPENSATIONAL DIVISIONS

A careful study of the Bible will show seven great judgments mapped out for human history, some of which have already fallen, others being yet future. Seven times man has or will start a new period under favorable conditions, according to the mercy of God, but each time, he is seen to strive to become independent of God's truth, and judgment from God's hand is necessary. The trial of the Serpent runs over every Garden of Eden man has made. Each dispensation is a new test of the natural man, and each one proves him a failure apart from dependence on God. Five of these unequal periods are past; the sixth is now in progress; the seventh and last is just before us.

### The Seven Periods of Time

1. **Age of Innocence**—From Adam (Gen. 2:7) to expulsion from Eden as result of the fall. The judgment that fell as a result of Adam's disregard of the responsibility placed upon him, is seen in Gen. 2 and 3.

2. **Age of Conscience**—(1656 years). From the expulsion to the flood. Having received knowledge of good and evil, the race came under this measure of responsibility to "do good and eschew evil." Yet eventually "all flesh corrupted His way" and God closed the period with the flood. (Gen. 3:7 to 7:11, 12, 23, etc.)

3. **Age of Authority**—(427 years). Flood to confusion of tongues and dispersion. The race again started with eight persons, entrusted by God with the government. Again we see the attempt to become independent of God on the Plains of Shinar and the visiting of the judgment. (Gen. 9:1, 2; 11:1-8.)

4. **Age of Promise**—(430 years). From dispersion to Egyptian bondage. God entered into covenant with one man, Abram, giving

promises conditional upon obedience. These were all eventually violated and the chosen people are turned over to bondage to the cruel Egyptians. (Gen. 12:1-3 through Exod. 1:13-14.)

5. **Age of Law**—(1524 years). From Israel's regathering to the tragedy of the Cross. The chosen people were redeemed out of the hand of the oppressor and the Law was given to Moses for them. Their history from this point shows their persistent violation of these commands and eventually they are driven into the dispersion which still continues. (Exod. 19; 2 Kings 17:1-18 and 25:1-11; Rom. 10:5; Gal. 3:10.)

6. **Age of Grace**—(19— years). From sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus to the translation of the church. Faith in Christ is the condition of salvation to all. (John 6:29.) The predicted close of this age is an unbelieving world, and church members, who, while they may live morally, deny the Word of God; in fact, a general apostasy. We see the close in 1 Thess. 4:16-17. Then follows the Great Tribulation (seven years—Matt. 24:21-22; Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:5-7). At its close the Lord with His church comes in power and great glory to set up His kingdom on earth.

7. **Millennial Age**—(1000 years). From Christ's return in glory to Judgment of the Great White Throne. This is the thousand year period predicted during which Christ will rule over restored Israel, which has become the central nation of the earth. Satan is bound during this time, but at its close is "loosed for a little season," gathering many to battle against Christ, but being defeated by the "fire which came down from Heaven." After the resurrection of the wicked dead for judgment, we are to have the eternal state, the new heavens and new earth.



## THE BIBLE

How We Know the Bible is a Divine Record:

For two reasons the Christian should be familiar with some of the best arguments in support of the fact that the Bible is a divine record. 1. The firm establishment of his own faith. 2. For the purpose of refuting the arguments of skeptics.

By "inspiration of the Scriptures" is not meant that every act recorded in the Bible is an inspired act, but that the record in the original, is a correct record from start to finish, for the reason that the writers were "borne along by the Holy Ghost."

### OUTLINE

The Bible:

1. Has a **makeup** which is **MYS-TERIOUS**.
2. Has a **unity** that is **MARVEL-OUS**.
3. Has a **depth** that is **MATCH-LESS**.
5. Has an **influence** that is **MIGHTY**.
6. Has a **fulfillment** that is **MAN-IFEST**.
7. Has a **proof** that is **MATUR-ABLE**.

#### 1. A Makeup That Is Mysterious.

Everywhere in the universe we read that God has a **mathematical mind**. Study the stars and you will find many in groups of seven. In the sphere of light, there are seven colors. In the sphere of music there are seven whole tones in the scale. In the sphere of time there are seven days in the week. In the sphere of birth of animals and fowls, seven is seen in many ways: in the hatching

of eggs (hen sits three sevens, pigeon two sevens after the eggs are laid, etc.), the hatching of fish ova. In the sphere of human life, seven is written everywhere: the body is completely renewed every seven years; the seventh, fourteenth and twenty-first days are the critical days in diseases. In fact, wherever we turn we find seven in nature.

**The mathematics of the Bible attract attention.** Over 300 times the number seven is on the surface, and it is always significant, indicating "perfection or completion." It is the perfect number. **The best proofs we have of the divine origin of the Bible, are from accidental details which develop as we study the Bible deeply.** These sevens keep coming to light. Great doctrines will naturally divide under seven points; divine conclusions will come under seven statements; prophetic times will fall into periods of sevens.

No human foresight could have arranged this. It only comes out with deep study.

**Conclusion:—**The God who wrote the perfect number seven all over the universe, must be the God who inspired the writers of Scripture.

## **2. A Unity That Is Marvelous.**

Composed of many separate books; written by many men who lived in many countries; in many centuries; engaged in many walks of life in the midst of many different circumstances; spread over 1500 years in preparation—how shall we account for the marvelous UNITY of the Scriptures as they are assembled?

God's plan of redemption by the blood runs through every book. Without any one of these books the Bible would be incomplete.

Some allege to find discrepancies in the Bible, but always under careful study, these apparent contradictions vanish and perfect unity remains.

Conclusion:—A great master-mind, that of God Himself must have been back of the Bible, inspiring each writer.

### **3. A Depth That Is Matchless.**

Man's books are soon exhausted and tossed aside, for the reason that when the human mind has possessed their contents they are no longer needed. Man's books are ever changing. These are the days of loose-leaf encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

It is said that out of every 1000 publications 600 never pay the cost of printing; 200 just pay, 100 yield slight profit; fewer yet are profitable. Six hundred and fifty books out of 1000 are forgotten within a year; 150 more in three years; less than 50 out of 1000 survive 7 years' publicity. Out of over 50,000 publications of the seventeenth century only about 60 are known to have been maintained and reprinted.

Most libraries are cemeteries of dead books, because man's writings are so soon exhausted and because their statements so soon go out of date or are found to be erroneous.

How is it with the Bible? A lifetime of study cannot exhaust it. Generations of men giving their time to it cannot get to the bottom of its

wisdom. Thousands of volumes are written yearly in comment on Bible themes. Thousands of volumes are written yearly in criticism of the Bible, a fact which in itself proves the Bible has a mysterious quality, that so many intelligent men devote their time to fighting it. But the Bible lives on—in spite of those who are trying to fathom it; in spite of those who write against it; in spite of the fanaticism of many of its friends.

Its promises are still being tested. Its prophecies are still coming to pass. No changes have ever been necessary in it .

Conclusion:—The Bible cannot be a humanly devised book because human beings cannot exhaust it.

#### **4. An Existence That Is Miraculous.**

Men have always fought the Bible because it is the one book that **fight**s them in their sins. It is “The sword of the Spirit.”

Demons and men have employed everything to put the Bible out of commission, and never with such organized force as the present day.

The infidel Voltaire said that it took 12 men to start Christianity, but that one (himself) would destroy it. The very room where he wrote afterward fell into the hands of the Foreign Bible Society and was stored full of Bibles. The very desk on which Ingersoll wrote much of his infidel literature, fell into the hands of a great Bible student who has sent Christian literature throughout the earth.

The more the Bible is fought, the higher it rises. It never had such a mighty hold upon the world as it now has.

Conclusion:—If man wrote the Bible he could get rid of it. "The Word of the Lord abideth forever"—therefore no man can defeat it or destroy it.

## **5. An Influence That Is Mighty.**

The Bible is the only miracle working book in the world. It is an ever-present and everlasting miracle-working power. Its message has picked up thousands from the gutters and given the most helpless human wrecks power to stand victorious over sin and to serve God.

Where there is no Bible, sin runs rampant. No infidel chooses to live in a land where there is no Bible. Where pulpits are untrue to the Bible, Godlessness and worldliness exist to an alarming degree. The greatest nations are what they are because of their attitude to the Bible. Nations that have sunk back into heathenism, and those that are to-day sinking, have everyone of them, turned their backs on the Bible for their self-devised philosophies.

The only reason men do not want the Bible is because it would change their lives. The water in the pipes will rise as high as the level of the reservoir. The Bible is the Book that lifts men to God. From whence then, must it have come?

Conclusion:—A Book which has such mighty power to elevate life toward God must have been inspired by God.

## **6. A Fulfillment That Is Manifest.**

The claims of the Bible are overwhelmingly proven by fulfillment of its prophecies hundreds of years after they were written. So detailed and specific, uttered so long before the events transpired, are its prophecies, that it is certain no human foresight could have anticipated the events.

(a) Some argue that **predictions were written after the events.** But what of the fact that, although nothing has been added to the prophecies, they are still being fulfilled before our eyes and that details of prophecies partly fulfilled years ago are only recently being completed? This is clearly seen in the prophecies concerning the Jews and the events of the closing of the present age.

(b) Some argue that **predictions are mere guesswork.** If the keenest men today who are guiding the destinies of our land, men having perfect knowledge of present conditions and tendencies and dangers, were asked to write what would happen in detail ten years from now, they could not do it. It is the unexpected that happens. The anticipations of the most farseeing are constantly mocked by the bitter irony of events.

(c) Some argue that the **predictions suggested the fulfillment to men.** But prophecies have been, and are being fulfilled by men entirely ignorant of them—or men who have struggled desperately to avert their fulfillment—or by the very elements.

**Conclusion:—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. 2 Pet. 1:21.

## **7. A Proof That Is Maturable.**

(The testimony of personal experience.)

God sets a divine seal of the authority of the Bible in the soul of the believer. Those who accept the salvation it offers are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. The believer who has thus become the "temple of the Holy Ghost" knows of a surety that the Bible is true.

Why do men continue to believe in the Bible in spite of the enmity and scoffing of the world? Because faith has been verified in vital personal experience. When one has been born of the Spirit, they need no argument. (But see 1 Cor. 2:14).

God has provided a way of access to the truth. If a man will put himself right before God, as the Bible demands, his experience will kill all his arguments. The unbeliever has access to thousands of competent witnesses who have experimentally tested the Bible, therefore there is no excuse for unbelief.

Conclusion:—The fact that millions have had the seal of the Holy Spirit placed in their own souls proves that no other than God could have inspired the Bible.

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## HOW TO DETECT HERESIES

There are seven tests in First John four that are useful to test any impression, spirit or doctrine:

1. Does it confess the true humanity of Jesus Christ? I John 4:2.

2. Does it confess the true divinity of Jesus Christ? I John 4:9, 15.

3. Does it confess the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ? I John 4:10, 14.

4. Does it tend to worldliness, and to a love of the outward? I John 4:4, 5.

5. Do the deeply spiritually-minded agree with it? I John 4:6.

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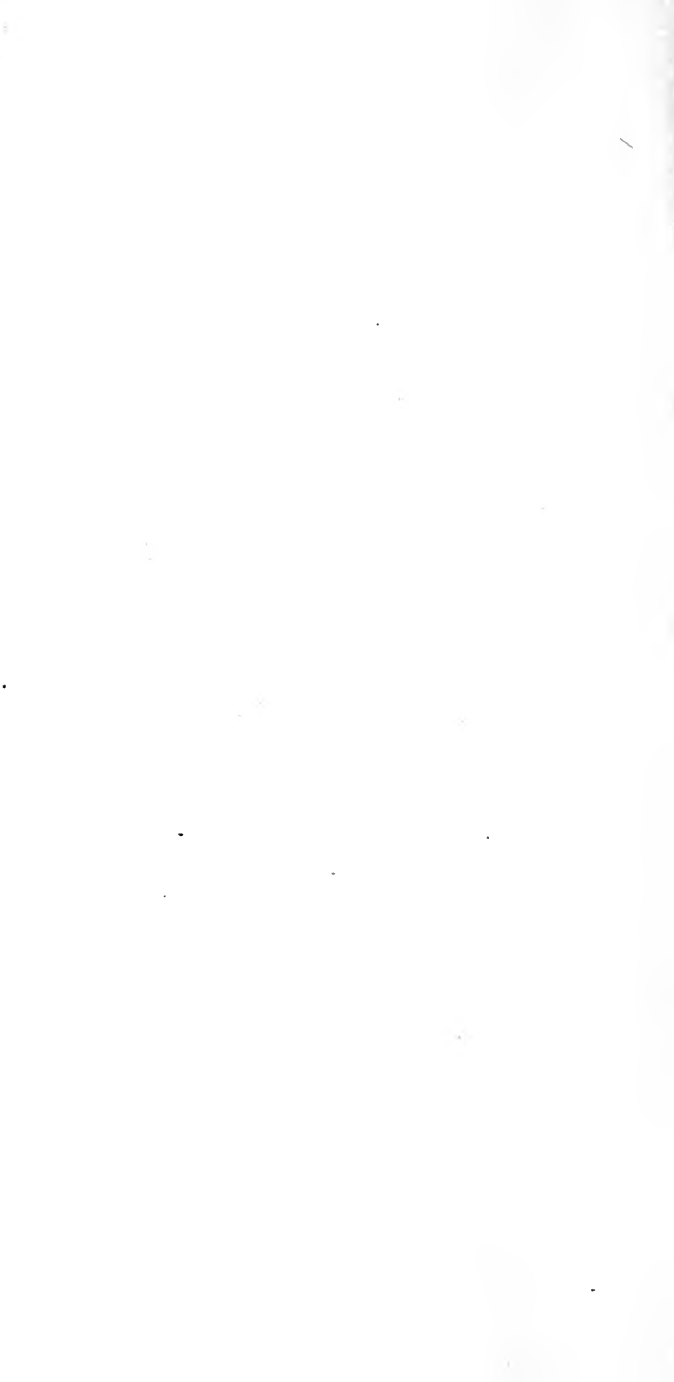
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