

# A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

## **PREFACE:**

The Bible is a remarkable book. It covers the history of mankind from creation to approximately 100 years after Christ. Its prophecies cover the history of mankind to the end of time. It contains 66 books that tell one story. Those books were written by about 40 men over a period of 1,500 years. The 66 books present God's will for mankind through examples from history and through direct teachings. They reveal the heart of God and his plan of salvation for mankind.

The Bible is the most widely read, the most widely sold and the most widely used book in the world. However, it may be the most misunderstood and the most misused book as well. Some look at it as a charm or talisman with power of its own. However, the power of the Bible is in understanding what it can teach us about pleasing God. Others consider it to be only interesting literature. They miss the real value and purpose of this amazing book.

Christians misunderstand the Bible for two basic reasons. First, some do not understand its history. They do not know the circumstances under which the books were written nor why they were written. They do not know why the books are arranged in the Bible as they are. They do not understand how God was involved in the writing of the books.

Secondly, some Christians approach the Bible in a wrong way. They search the scriptures to prove their own opinions. In the process, they ignore passages that disagree with their opinions. Others submit themselves to the Bible too easily. They open the Bible to any passage and take it as a necessary teaching in their life. They do not consider the circumstances of the passage nor its relationship with the overall plan of God. They do not look for other teachings on the same subject.

The purpose of this survey course is to help the student understand and properly use the Bible in a way that will lead him to the important truths which God has revealed.

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We give God the glory for all good things that may come through this book. We just pray that we have been faithful and submissive servants to Him.

In Christian Love,  
Bob Sheffler

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## NOTE FOR SEMINAR LEADERS AND STUDENTS:

This theological education by extension course is intended to be covered in two terms of ten weeks each with an exam at the end of each term. Below is an outline of how the lessons are to be divided for weekly study and discussion.

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