

Preface · Section One · Section Two

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament | Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament is a Sunday School curriculum by Keith Blades / Enjoy the Bible Ministries® designed to equip children with a foundational, doctrinally grounded understanding of the Bible and God’s “time past” program with Israel. The series opens with a Preface establishing the purpose of the curriculum and the four cornerstones of a child’s biblical edification. Section One (4 lessons) builds the essential foundation: what the Bible is, why it can be trusted, what God intends us to do with it, and how to handle it by “rightly dividing the word of truth.” Section Two introduces an 80-lesson running survey from Genesis through the early ministry of the Lord, tracking the outworking of God’s plan and purpose with the nation of Israel. Together these opening sections give children the tools and doctrinal framework to engage God’s word with understanding and confidence.



At a Glance

Section	Core Focus
Preface	The four cornerstones of a child’s edification — purpose and scope of the series
Section 1, Part A	The Bible Is the Word of God — God’s supernatural, God-breathed book
Section 1, Part B	The Bible Is the “Word of Truth” — the reliable testimony of what is really going on
Section 1, Part C	What God Wants You to Do with the Bible — education in the truth (2 Tim. 3:16–17)
Section 1, Part D	“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” — dispensational handling of Scripture (2 Tim. 2:15)
Section 2	Doctrinal Survey of the Bible — overview and introduction to 80 lessons through the Old Testament

Lesson Summaries

P

Preface *Purpose & Scope of the Series*

- This series surveys God's "time past" program with Israel — a running survey from Genesis through the early ministry of the Lord, taught rightly divided
- The goal is to give children a better understanding and backdrop for God's "now" time program and His dealings with us today in this dispensation of grace
- God's design for edification is a building process founded on four cornerstones:
 - Cornerstone 1 — Justification by grace through faith (Romans 1–5)
 - Cornerstone 2 — Sanctification and the Christian life (Romans 6–8)
 - Cornerstone 3 — Dispensational understanding: Time Past, But Now, and To Come (Romans 9–11)
 - Cornerstone 4 — God's standard of values and righteous living (Romans 12–16)
- The local church is designed by God to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" — a school for the teaching of His word, the "word of truth"
- Edification of children is the primary purpose of a Sunday School program; both children and Christian adults are to benefit from this educational process

Section One — The Bible Itself

S1-A

The Bible Is the Word of God *Section One — The Bible Itself*

- Of all books ever written, the Bible alone is uniquely distinct: it is "the word of God" — God's own communication to us, not merely the product of human creativity
- 2 Timothy 3:16 — "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" — literally "God-breathed"; the Bible was produced by God breathing out His words through the men He used
- 2 Peter 1:21 — "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" — the Holy Spirit both prompted and directed them
- The Bible is a supernatural book — it exists solely because God desired to communicate with us and worked to produce it
- Fulfilled prophecy is compelling evidence of the Bible's supernatural character:
 - Micah 5:2 — Christ's birthplace foretold 600+ years in advance (cf. Matthew 2:1–6)
 - Daniel 9:25 — The precise timing of Christ's coming foretold ~400 years in advance
 - Psalm 22 — David prophesied the crucifixion and Christ's very words on the cross ~1,000 years before
 - Isaiah 44:24–45:3 — Cyrus named as the ruler who would rebuild Jerusalem 200+ years before he did it

S1-B

The Bible Is the “Word of Truth” *Section One — The Bible Itself*

- The Bible does not guess, theorize, or speculate — as the communication from the One who created everything and knows the truth, it IS the “word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15; John 17:17)
- The Bible sets forth the truth of what is really going on — past, present, and future — against the ever-changing opinions and limited knowledge of men
- Scientific discoveries repeatedly confirm what Scripture had long declared:
 - Isaiah 40:22 — “the circle of the earth” — the spherical earth declared long before men as a whole accepted it
 - Job 26:7 — God “hangeth the earth upon nothing” — earth suspended in space, declared 3,500 years ago
 - Ecclesiastes 1:6–7 — Wind circuits and evaporation recognized in Scripture millennia before modern science
 - Job 25:5 — “The moon, it shineth not” — the moon’s reflective nature stated before modern astronomy
- The Bible stands as the truthful testimony against evolutionism, atheism, and all competing philosophies about creation, sin, death, and what is really going on in this world
- Children must be established in the Bible as the “word of truth” so they can stand upon it regardless of public opinion or what they encounter in school

S1-C

What God Wants You to Do with the Bible *Section One — The Bible Itself*

- God gave us the Bible to educate us in the things He wants us to know — what He is doing, what is really going on, and all He has done for us by grace through Christ
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 — Scripture is profitable for four educational purposes:
 - “Doctrine” — authoritative teaching that produces understanding
 - “Reproof” — exposing wrong ideas and thinking we may hold
 - “Correction” — setting straight what has been shown to be wrong
 - “Instruction in righteousness” — education in how to live for God
- 1 Corinthians 2:12 — God gave us His Holy Spirit “that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God” — God’s purpose is our education
- 1 Timothy 3:15 — The local church is designed to be “the pillar and ground of the truth” — a school for teaching God’s word
- A pastor is to be “apt to teach” and give himself wholly to the reading, exhortation, and teaching of the word of God — Christians go to church to be educated in the truth

S1-D

“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” *Section One — The Bible Itself*

- 2 Timothy 2:15 — God instructs us to “rightly divide the word of truth” — correctly recognizing the different dispensations or programs God’s word records
- The Bible records ALL of God’s programs, but they are not all going on at the same time and not all written to us today — the dispensational breakdown:
 - Time Past — Genesis through Malachi, Matthew–John, and Acts 1–8 (God’s

- program with Israel)
- But Now — Romans through Philemon (God’s program with Gentiles in this dispensation of grace)
- To Come — Hebrews through Revelation (the resumption and fulfillment of Israel’s program)
- Failure to rightly divide produces confusion and apparent contradictions in Scripture:
 - Leviticus 11 (dietary laws for Israel) vs. 1 Timothy 4:1–5 (all foods clean for us today)
 - Exodus 20:8–11 (Sabbath keeping commanded to Israel) vs. Colossians 2:16–17 (not binding for us today)
- When the Bible is rightly divided, confusion disappears — each portion applies to its proper audience and dispensation
- All of the Bible is “for” us and God wants us to learn from all of it — but not all of it is written “to” us as our direct instructions today

Section Two — Doctrinal Survey of the Bible

S2

Doctrinal Survey of the Bible *Section Two — Introduction & Overview*

- Section Two conducts an 80-lesson “running survey” from Genesis through the early ministry of the Lord — tracking the outworking of God’s plan and purpose with Israel
- The emphasis throughout is doctrinal comprehension — not just the facts of each account, but understanding what God is doing and why events took place as they did
- Lessons are organized into 10 blocks of 8 lessons each; each block opens with a synopsis serving as a “road map” for both teacher and children to keep the flow of God’s program in view
- The survey follows the ©Betty Lukens “Through the Bible in Felt” visual-aid outline, with adaptations:
 - Dispensationally inappropriate memory verses are set aside in favor of key verses in context
 - Additional lessons may be inserted and/or Betty Lukens lessons deleted — each description notes any alterations
- Children will come to understand and appreciate the logical structure of the Bible as it moves through Time Past (Genesis–Acts 8), But Now (Romans–Philemon), and To Come (Hebrews–Revelation)
- The survey equips children to appreciate Israel’s “time past” program as the essential backdrop to the grandeur of this present dispensation of the grace of God

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

The Bible as God’s Word vs. Mere Human Literature

Of all books ever written, the Bible alone is “the word of God” — God-breathed, produced by God Himself through men He moved by His Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). It is not the product of human creativity or imagination but God’s own communication to us. This foundational distinction must be established in children from the outset: the Bible is not merely a religious book or collection of stories — it is the supernatural word of the living God, and that reality ought to always grip our hearts.

The “Word of Truth” vs. the Speculations of Men

The Bible is not a guess, theory, or philosophy about what is going on. Being the word of God, it is the “word of truth” (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:15) — the authoritative testimony of the One who created everything and knows the truth from beginning to end. Against the ever-changing opinions of men and the prevailing atheistic theories of our day, the Bible stands as the reliable source for knowing THE TRUTH. Children must be established in this so they can stand upon the “word of truth” regardless of what they encounter in school or public life.

Right Division — Time Past, But Now, and To Come

The Bible records ALL of God’s programs, but not all at the same time. 2 Timothy 2:15 instructs us to “rightly divide the word of truth” — recognizing God’s “time past” dealings with Israel (Genesis through Acts 8), His “but now” program for us in this dispensation of Gentile grace (Romans through Philemon), and what is “yet to come” when He resumes His program with Israel (Hebrews through Revelation). Failure to rightly divide is responsible for most of the confusion, contradiction, and denominational disagreement that exists among Christians today.

The Whole Bible “For” Us vs. Paul’s Epistles Written “To” Us

All of the Bible is “for” us in the sense that God wants us to learn from it all. But not all of the Bible is written “to” us as our direct instructions today. The portion written expressly “to” us as members of the Body of Christ in this dispensation of grace is Romans through Philemon — the epistles of the apostle Paul, our apostle. The “time past” program with Israel and the “yet to come” program (Hebrews–Revelation) are for our benefit and understanding, but they do not contain our direct instructions. Confusing this distinction results in Christians either putting themselves under Israel’s Law or missing the unique grace-based instructions God has given us through Paul.

Key Scripture References

2 Timothy 3:16–17	All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness — establishes the Bible’s divine origin and educational purpose
2 Timothy 2:15	“Rightly divide the word of truth” — the foundational command for proper dispensational Bible handling
2 Peter 1:21	“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” — the divine inspiration of Scripture
John 17:17	“Thy word is truth” — the Lord’s own affirmation of the Bible as the word of truth
Isaiah 40:22	“He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth” — the spherical earth declared long before scientific consensus
Job 26:7	“He hangeth the earth upon nothing” — the earth suspended in space, declared ~3,500 years before modern science confirmed it
Daniel 9:25	The precise timing of the Messiah’s coming foretold ~400 years in advance — evidence of Scripture’s supernatural character
Psalms 22	David’s prophecy of the crucifixion — Christ’s very words, His enemies’ actions, and the casting of lots for His garments, all foretold ~1,000 years before
1 Timothy 3:15	“The pillar and ground of the truth” — God’s design for the local church as an educational institution for His word
1 Corinthians 2:12	“That we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God” — God’s purpose in giving us His Holy Spirit

For further study visit www.enjoythebible.org

“TIME PAST”

(Ephesians 2:11-12)

Creation
Flood
Abraham
Moses
LAW
Crossing Jordan
1
Davidic Cov.
2
Elijah
3
Elisha
4
5
Assy/Baby Captivity

“TO COME”

(Ephesians 2:7)

Christ Returns to Israel
The Lord's Day of Wrath
5
Kingdom of Heaven is Set Up

ISRAEL — “The Circumcision” “nigh unto God”

GENTILES — “Uncircumcision” “far off” “without God in the world”

THE LAW serves as a “middle wall of partition.”

Genesis	Josh. Jud. Ruth 1 Sam 1-16	1 Sam 16 to 1Kgs 12	2 Kgs 12 to 10:31	2 Kgs 10:32 to 16:20	2 Kgs 17:1 to 25:30	Ezr Neh Est	The Silence of God	Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus and Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude The Revelation
				1 and 2 Chronicles	Isa., Jer., Lam, Ezk., Dan, Hos., Joel, Amos, Obad., Jon., Mic, Hab., Zeph, Hag., Zec., Mal.		Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon				

“BUT NOW”
(Ephesians 2:13)

DISPENSATION of the GRACE OF GOD

“Mystery of Christ” is Revealed

“BOTH ONE”

“ONE NEW MAN” now being formed

Christ Reappears to Paul
The Day of Pentecost
The Lord Jesus Christ
John the Baptist
The 12 Apostles
Christ Raptures Church

“TO COME”
(Ephesians 2:7)

Christ Returns to Israel
The Lord's Day of Wrath
5
Kingdom of Heaven is Set Up

Israel's Program is Resumed and Fulfilled

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