

Date : 18 June 2017
Theme : **Christian Living** (Lessons on Christian Living Chapter 2 God's Word)
Topic : **God's Word- The Contents in the Bible**
Key Verse : *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. **John 20:31***

Introduction:

Why is the Bible the greatest work of literature, history and theology ever written? Why has it been constantly the world's best-selling non-fiction book and the most widely distributed book? Why did Tyndale hazard his life in 1526 to translate the Bible into English and was put to death for his efforts? In what way is the Bible different from other books?

1. What is the Word of God about?

- The Author and message
 - God is Author... *thus saith the Lord...* about 3,800 times
 - it is God's message to communicate with man
- The central theme is Jesus Christ
- The complete story of the world from beginning to end
- The structure of the Bible
 - 39 Old Testament books (law 5, history 12, poetry 5, prophecy 17)
 - 27 New Testament books (history 5, epistles 21, prophecy 1)

2. Purposes of the Bible

a) What it does

- it is powerful, exposes man's inner hearts *Hebrews 4:12*
- pure, revives man's soul with new life *Psalms 19:7-11*
- permanent, incorruptible, never to pass away *Matthew 5:18*

b) Purposes of God's Word

- to lead us to have eternal life *John 20:31*
- to return us to relationship with God, to know Him *John 17:8*
- to reveal truth in a world of fake news *Psalms 119:89*
- as lamp, gives direction, so we do not stumble *Psalms 119:105*
- as mirror, exposes sin *James 1:23,24*
- as food, feeds soul and spirit, unlike physical food *Matthew 4:4*
- as cleanser, cleans us when we remain in Christ *John 15:3,4*

3a) Overview of the Bible:

Genesis	Four Great Events	Four Great People
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*Book	Key Idea	God's Role	God's Command
Genesis	Beginnings	Creator	"Let there be!"
Exodus	Redemption	Deliverer	"Let My people go!"
Leviticus	Worship	Sanctifier	"Be holy"
Numbers	Wandering	Sustainer	"Go in"
Deuteronomy	Renewed Covenant	Rewarder	"Obey!"

3b) Have a bird's eye-view of the Bible

1. Genesis: God the Creator launches the beginnings, elects people
2. Exodus: God redeems His people because of grace (starting out faith)
3. Leviticus: He sanctifies His people because He is holy
4. Numbers: He leads them because He is trustworthy (going on faith); portrait of Christ (bronze serpent, crucifixion *Numbers 21:4-9*)
5. Deuteronomy: Conditions for the blessings *Beware lest you forget*
 - reminder to hear His instructions (*listen 50 times*)
 - to keep it (177 times)
 - to remember that it is out of love (21 times) that He commanded
 - remember the past
 - their deliverance and judgement on their unbelief
 - His rule, our duties
 - cursings and blessings
6. Joshua: Possessing the land, journey of faith
 - entering, conquering, occupying the land
7. Judges: ... *when all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.*
Judges 2:10
 - 7 cycles of oppression and deliverance because they were disobedient to God and compromised their faith.
8. Ruth: Kinsmen - Redeemer
 - Naomi's bitterness turned to pleasantness
 - Ruth's loyalty... *your God shall be my God ... Ruth 1:16*
- 9-14 Samuel, Kings, Chronicles (6 books) (Samuel, Saul, David)
 - Saul, rejected when he disobeyed God's commands, started well, finished badly
 - David a man after God's heart; accepted by God.

* The Old Testament

Historical (17)		Poetical (5)	Prophetical (17)
Pentateuch (5)	Genesis	Job	Isaiah
	Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah
	Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations
	Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
	Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Daniel
Historical (12)	Joshua		Hosea
	Judges		Joel
	Ruth		Amos
	1 Samuel		Obadiah
	2 Samuel		Jonah
	1 Kings		Micah
	2 Kings		Nahum
	1 Chronicles		Habakkuk
	2 Chronicles		Zephaniah
	Ezra		Haggai
	Nehemiah		Zechariah
	Esther		Malachi
		Major (5)	
		Minor (12)	

Events Past God's Work Narrative Covenant People	Experience Present God's Ways Poetry Covenant Practice	Expectation Future God's Will Prophecy Covenant Preachers
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*Source: *Talk thru the Old Testament* by Kenneth Boa