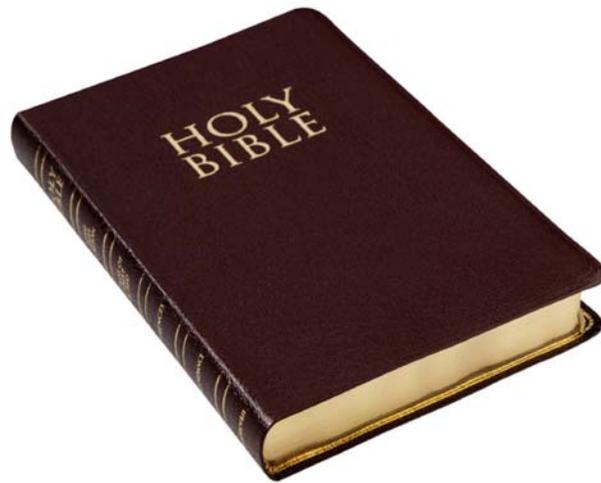


**2008 Winter Newsletter**  
**Detroit Bible Students**  
**P.O. Box 51, Southfield, MI 48037-0051**

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not  
to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.”  
2 Timothy 2:15*



## **THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD!**

We have entered another new year—this one being an election year. The news media are full of the assurances given by each of the hopeful candidates that, if elected, their proposed programs will heal the ills of society. But, upon reflection, one realizes that this song has been sung before and still the country has poverty, crime, unemployment, sickness and death. And, on the world scene, terrorism and war rage. Is there any reason to hope that all this could end?—that there will ever be peace and plenty for all?

It is the position of the publishers of this paper that, yes, the time is coming when the desires of all men will be

fulfilled: that in the Bible we have the only real road map for peace and happiness. We believe that the Bible, when rightly understood, reveals a “Divine plan” (Ephesians 3:11, *Wilson’s Diaglott translation*) for mankind that has been unfolding in an orderly progression, foreknown to our God, which will ultimately result in the peace, prosperity, and happiness of our race. Furthermore, we believe that the teachings of Divine revelation can be seen to be both beautiful and harmonious with themselves and fully in agreement with true science and historical record—and, in fact, both scientific findings and archeology confirm the Bible’s testimony.

The present period in which sin is permitted to reign has been a dark night for humanity, never to be forgotten; but the glorious day of righteousness and divine favor to be ushered in by Christ at his second advent will more than counterbalance the dreadful night of weeping, sighing, pain, sickness and death. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5) The great Creator is preparing a "feast of fat things" (Isaiah 25:6-8) which will astound his creatures, and be exceedingly, abundantly beyond what they could reasonably ask or expect.

Since skepticism is rife, the very foundation of true religion, and the foundation of truth, is questioned often, even by the sincere. Believing that the Scriptures reveal a consistent and harmonious plan is far from the common view. Certainly, none of this present day's agnostics would accept the Bible as an authentic authority, nor would the millions who embrace non-Christian religions. Even those who consider themselves to be Christians, have little confidence in the Bible and its testimony, treating it more as a book of good moral homilies than of true prophecy. Instead of making it the center of their hopes and aspirations, they put it in a category apart from the practical affairs of life, and for understandable reasons.

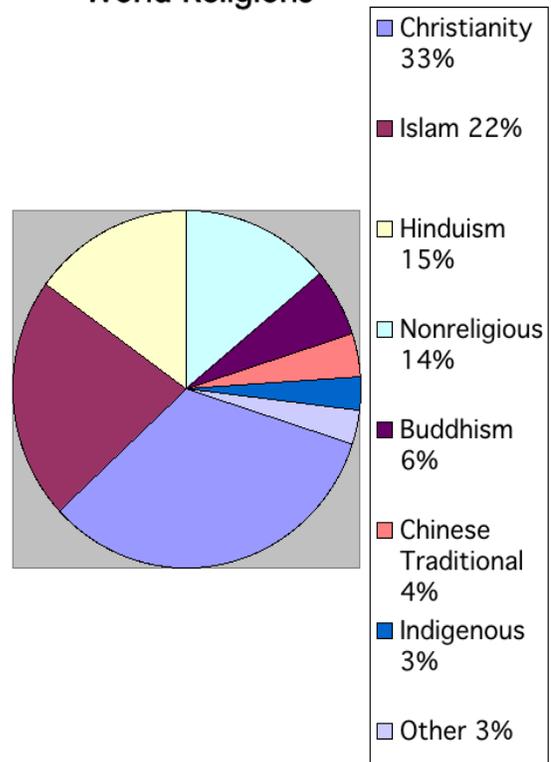
The Bible's message has been blurred and distorted by centuries of superstition and ignorance during which ambitious men have twisted its words to their own purposes. Doctrines which have been handed down from the Dark Ages have discredited the Bible. Excessive ideas of the wrath of God and literal interpretations of its symbolic presentations, have made God appear cruel and vengeful—an impotent deity, unable to save any but a few of his own creation.

Extreme Fundamentalism, with its literal interpretation of Scriptural imagery, has made the Bible appear foolish and incredible, so that theories such as evolution have had an opportunity to supplant belief in the existence of a Creator, even amongst avowed Christians. No wonder modern thinkers relegate the Bible to the status of ancient myth only worth studying for its literary value. No wonder it is not recognized as a living revelation of God's plan for man.

Ignorance of God's plan for the recovery of the world from sin and its consequences, and the belief that the church in its present condition was commissioned to convert the world, has led to the awakening of serious

doubts in every thoughtful mind so misinformed. To all such, one of two things must be apparent. Either the church has made a great mistake in supposing that her office has been to convert the world, or else God's plan has been a miserable failure. Which horn of the dilemma should one choose? Many have accepted the latter, swelling the ranks of infidelity, either openly or covertly. The diagram below illustrates just how great a failure world conversion has been.

**World Religions**



But as dismal as this picture appears, it is not the darkest picture that fallen humanity presents. The above chart represents only the present living generations. When we consider the fact that century after century of the six thousand years of man's history has swept away other vast multitudes, nearly all enveloped in ignorance of the one name under Heaven by which we may be saved, the picture is truly awful.

To all who believe the Bible to be the revealed Word of God, it is imperative to realize that as such it has a consistent and harmonious message. That as the revelation of the Creator, its teachings must, when taken as a whole, reveal a plan harmonious and consistent

with itself and with the character of its Divine Author. But how can one sort through the conflicting claims of the various creeds to find the truth of God's Word?

It would, of course, be possible to examine all the divergent views suggested by the various sects of Christendom and take from each that element which we might consider truth. The difficulty we would meet by this method would be that our own prejudices—and we all have them—might warp our judgment and lead us to accept the error and reject the truth. Perhaps we might be inclined to accept an idea because it is the most widely held and reject another because it is not the traditional view, just the Pharisees challenged the belief of some in the teachings of Jesus saying, "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" (John 7:48)

The saying that "the Bible is a fiddle upon which any tune can be played" is the result of a failure to consider the whole testimony of the Bible. Single scriptures have frequently been used to support doctrines, and symbolic passages have been interpreted literally to present thoughts that large numbers of other scriptures repudiate. For this reason, the Bible has often been viewed as a book of contradictions, better not be to studied too closely.

However, no work is more noble and ennobling than the reverent study of the revealed purposes of God—"which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Peter 1:12) To do this, however, we must divest our minds of all prejudice, and, remembering that none can know more about the plans of God than he has revealed in his Word, embark upon a thorough and orderly study of the Divine revelation. As it is necessary in science and in every other area of knowledge to pursue one's investigations with an honest and sincere desire to learn the truth, so also the study of the Bible must be approached. Scripture must be allowed to interpret Scripture and all views taken must be supported by the combined testimony of the scriptures as a whole. The fact that God

has provided prophecies of the future, as well as statements regarding the present and the past, is reason enough for us to appreciate his great favor in revealing them to us, and to make diligent effort to learn from them.

To those who will turn away from the mere speculations of men and devote time to searching the Scriptures, not excluding reason, which God invites us to use (Isa.1:18), the Bible offers a lamp whose light dispels all gloom and lights the Christian's pathway. We need not remain in darkness, but we may see the present unfoldings of God's plan and also things to come. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

However, it is a mistake to suppose that those without faith can comprehend the workings of God's plan. It is not for such now. "The light [truth] is sown for the righteous." (Psalm. 97:11) The Lord told his disciples "It is given unto *you* to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is *not* given," and assured them that after his death the Spirit of Truth would come and guide them into all truth. (Matt. 13:11; John 16:13)

But, while it is still true that "darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people," the world will not always remain in this condition. The day is coming in which "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14) As now God causes the natural sun to shine upon the just and the unjust, so, with the establishment of His promised kingdom, the Sun of Righteousness will shine for the benefit of all the world and "bring to light the hidden things of darkness." (1 Corinthians 4:5) It will dispel the noxious vapors of evil, and bring life, health, peace and joy forevermore.

*"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good"*  
*2 Thessalonians 5:21*

*The Detroit Bible Students is a group devoted to the study of God's Word in the search for Biblical truth. We offer a wide assortment of study materials to help in the pursuit of Scriptural understanding. These materials are guides only and intended to help the reader become more acquainted with the scriptures to which they point. Their topical arrangement helps to bring out the harmony of the Bible by culling the whole body of writ to find the consistent teaching of all its writers.*

*We invite your questions and comments.*

