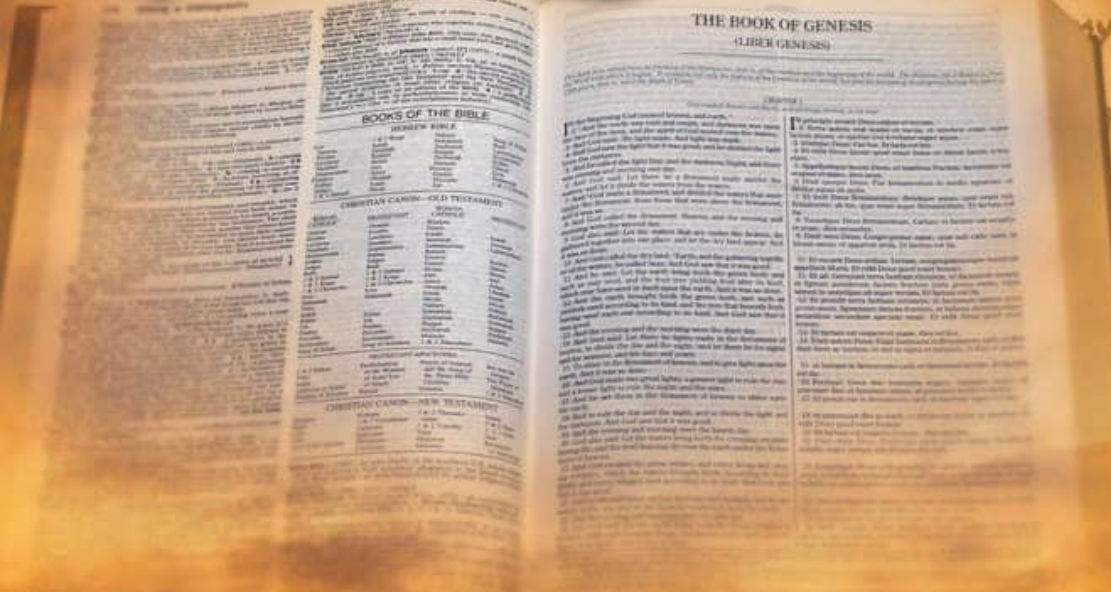


# Understanding The Bible



## The Bible How-To Manual AND The Things We Don't See



**Author:** R. Lindemann

## Author Bio

With over four decades in contract-engineering, this author has worked extended periods in several engineering fields, including chemical, electrical, and mechanical engineering, among others. This experience has offered him unique insight into key aspects of our physical and chemical world. Having also been heavily involved in the detailed data analysis that is required in various engineering fields, he was able to define many core connections between physics, chemistry, our bodies, human behavior, and even how it all affects our beliefs and our decisions.

## Addition Bio Info

After having extensively studied the physical sciences, he began to see irrational theories being consistently spread abroad to the masses, theories which now have become socially accepted as “settled scientific fact”. His position is that when dealing with any of the sciences, accuracy is paramount to having true understanding of any topic. He states that, “People’s desire to push their own agenda, all too often overrides their accuracy and turns into a system of beliefs and denial of actual evidence, rather than accurate evaluation of the information using true science.”

He feels that true human logic is important and that it has been overridden through methods of modern indoctrination. In effort to help others navigate through the fog of misinformation and enhance their own understanding, he has gone through the process of writing many books on some of the most prominently misunderstood topics.

His current bibliography includes the books *Bending the Ruler* about astrophysics, *Dream Thin* a plain language instruction manual to understand weight loss, and his four-book *Life Corner Stone Series* which includes the books *Hot Water*, *Red Hot Marriage*, *Strong Family*, and even *Understanding Prayer* exploring the effectiveness of prayer and its effects on our bodies and whether or not prayer to a higher power is scientifically realistic. He also wrote the five-volume series called *The Science Of God* analyzing the viability of the Genesis Creation account and the Global Biblical flood. To get your own copy of these or his other books, visit [RLindemann.com](http://RLindemann.com) or search “R Lindemann” on your preferred book retailer’s website or wherever books are sold.

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# *Understanding The Bible*

## **Sample Interview Questions**

*For additional discussion points, see the detailed Table Of Contents following this page.*

- 1.) How long have you been writing books, and have you always wanted to be an author?
- 2.) What made you decide to write *Understanding The Bible*?
- 3.) Why specifically did you call the book “*Understanding The Bible*”?
- 4.) Probably a silly question, but have you ever read the Bible cover to cover?
- 5.) When did you first read the Bible?
- 6.) When was The Bible written, and who wrote it?
- 7.) Do you believe The Bible is true?
- 8.) Which Bible version should people read?
- 9.) Why is there such a big difference in the various Bible versions?
- 10.) Since The Bible has been translated so many times, how can it possibly be accurate?
- 11.) Why will people want to read your book *Understanding The Bible*?
- 12.) Is *Understanding The Bible* easy to follow, and was it written to be understood by anyone?

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**When searching, spell the name: “R space L-I-N-D-E-M-A-N-N”**

## Other Books by R. Lindemann

### ***Bending The Ruler***

*Time Travel,  
The Speed of Light,  
Gravity,  
and The Big Bang*

### ***The Science Of God Volume 1***

*The First Four Days*

### ***The Science Of God Volume 2***

*Day Three  
Gravity, Land, Seas,  
and  
Evolution of Plants*

### ***The Science Of God Volume 3***

*Day Five and Day Six  
The Creatures  
Revolution or Evolution*

### ***The Science Of God Volume 4***

*Day Six  
Evolution versus Man  
In Our Image*

### ***The Science Of God Volume 5***

*Boats, Floods, and Noah  
The Deluge*

### ***Understanding The Bible***

*The Bible How-To Manual  
AND  
The Things We Don't See*

### ***Hot Water***

*Your Perceived Identity  
The Life Repair Manual*

### ***Red Hot Marriage***

*Made in Heaven  
Filled with Passion and Joy  
The Marriage Manual*

### ***Strong Family***

*A Foundation of Rock  
The Family Repair Manual*

### ***Understanding Prayer***

*Why Our Prayers Don't Work  
The Prayer How-To Manual*

### ***Thank You GOD***

*Finding Gratitude in Hard Times*

### ***Understanding The Church***

*Upon This Rock  
I Will Build My Church*

### ***Dream Thin***

*The Weight Loss  
Repair Manual  
Lose Weight While Sleeping*



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## ***Introduction***

There are a few different levels of Understanding the Bible depending upon what it is you are trying to get out of Bible. This book helps to clear the fog that blocks us from understanding what is said in the many books that comprise the Bible.

Some readers of the Bible will pick it up and read the first chapter of Genesis and then never read another word from the Bible. Some of this has to do with our busy day-to-day schedules, but all too often it has more to do with the words we read and how we understood those words.

The Bible is perhaps the most intriguing book that any person can read due to its many levels of study. We can study the spiritual side, we can study the science side, we can study the historical side, we can study the meta-physical side, and we can study the theological side. With all of the targeted areas of study, perhaps the most important to most people is that of the basic overall message of Salvation—or the Spiritual.

Most readers of the Bible don't really care to *study* the Bible, but rather, simply want to read it to get the general overall message. But if you lack certain information, then your basic interpretation will be off due the misinformation that you have already heard from other sources before you read the Bible. When we combine the messages about the Bible that we are told by the secular world, together with our own reading of the Bible, it often leads our thinking down a path of interpretation errors from which it is difficult for us to recover. You have likely witnessed this with college students who grew up with a Christian background, but when in class, they were challenged on

their beliefs by their professors and were unable to properly defend their position, causing them to subsequently abandon their faith due to the humiliation they faced at the hand of their professor. It is truly a sad situation when this occurs because there is no reason that any student should lack a sound Biblical base when they have been raised in a Christian environment. But due to their lack of understanding, sadly, there are very few Christians who can stand against secular scrutiny when challenged.

Our inability to properly support the Bible is mostly due to the fact that many of us do not properly grasp the Bible's history and translation nuances seen from translation to translation. There are clear answers that solve most of the issues we encounter when questioning Biblical topics, but all too often those answers are obscured by bad information, or, as is more common, a lack of information.

Getting a grasp on the basic history of the Bible's assembly and its translation trails is really quite easy. If you are doing any studying of the Bible, then it is critically important for you to first understand the major points set forth in this book.

When embarking on a quest to learn about the Bible and whether it is real, or if it is just a bunch of made up stories, you could potentially arrive at an inaccurate conclusion depending upon which Bible version you choose to read. So, in this book you will be guided through the basic history of the assembly of the Bible and offered hints on some things to be kept in mind while reading various Bible versions.

The Bible has been studied for thousands of years and its books have been debated for thousands of years, and yet, we still cannot seem to agree on some of its meaning. That means that each person is responsible, to themselves and for themselves, to undertake understanding the Bible on their own. If you choose to depend upon some preacher or a Bible group, then expect to find flaws in your rationale for why you believe what you believe.

This does not make those who you hear to be incorrect, but if you only repeat their words without properly understanding those words, then you are certain to suffer the perils of the Christian college students spoken of earlier.

It is up to each one of us to properly understand the Bible. It is indifferent regarding this book as to whether or not you choose to believe what you read in the Bible, because that is a choice only you can make and has no bearing on the actual accuracy of the text of the Bible. But I can assure you that the way you interpret the Bible will have an enormous impact on whether or not you will believe it to be accurate and true, or altogether doubt it.

It doesn't matter what you or I think, the Bible text is either true or it is not. And, as we make our decisions regarding our beliefs about the Bible's accuracy, if our decision is based upon faulty information as we begin our quest, then we are certain to end that quest with faulty conclusions.

It can take decades to discover some of the points in the Bible that you will read here in this book *Understanding The Bible*. In Our quest to discover some of these things, we learn a great deal, but often by the time we learn what you are about to read in this book, we have already hardened our beliefs to a point that even though the Truth stands before our very own eyes, we refuse to acknowledge it.

This book will not tell you what to believe, but it will set you on a path of Biblical understanding that is difficult to accomplish without coming to realize the basic information within that has been gleaned from the Bible and a few other sources.

It is my hope that in reading this book you will have a much clearer view of the Bible's text as you begin your quest to understand it. This book is not here to tell you what to believe, it is here to shed some light on aspects of Biblical research that few people know, aspects that can send you on an unforgettable journey of knowledge and understanding.

The Bible's text has been scrutinized for over two-thousand years and still has not been proven to be false. There are some minor discrepancies, but they are few in number and not particularly important. This is quite impressive since in science we frequently prove something to be false in only a matter of a couple of years, causing it to eventually fade away because the science "discovery" is no longer found to be credible.

Never go into a research project with your mind made up. Be prepared to open your mind, for if you do not, then there is little point in reading the Bible at all.

## ***Chapter 1***

### ***The Bible - Basic Concepts***

The Bible—What is it? Is it true? Is it just a bunch of fairytales? Can we trust it? Should we trust it? Who wrote the Bible? And, what does “BIBLE” mean anyway?

If someone says “Bible”, you instantly know exactly what they are referring to. Many people have great reverence for the Bible. In fact, many people have great reverence for the term “bible”, but they generally don’t really understand what that term actually means or from where it comes. Additionally, many of us have an underlying belief that the Bible is a single written work, even though we readily acknowledge that there are many “books” within it. So, what is so special about this particular stack of paper that often stirs up such controversy and contention between those who discuss it? And, just what does the word “Bible” mean?

Before we dive into details about the Bible, we all have to come to each our own understanding about the things that we each choose to read and follow, and therefore believe. Any information that you read becomes information that will be

## **Chapter 2**

### **What Evidence Exists**

What is so special about the Bible? And does evidence exist that can answer the question: “Is the Bible true?” To answer the questions, we must first place our focus on a couple of other questions which are: What is *Truth*? And what exactly do we mean by “Is the Bible true?”

*Pontius Pilot asked Christ “What is Truth?”*

Apparently, this question of “What is Truth?” has been asked for a very long time. According to the Bible, Jesus The Christ said “Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.” To which Pontius Pilot responded “What is Truth?” When you understand Truth, then the question “What is Truth?” sounds like a silly question. Yet there are many of us who simply do not grasp, or maybe admit to, the basic concept of Truth. Some people even go as far as to claim that “truth” is to each of us whatever we choose to believe.

We often confuse the question “What is Truth?” with the question “What is true?”, and there is a very big difference

### **Chapter 3**

## ***Here's Some Good News***

To get a grasp on the Bible, we first have to understand a few things about it. Unless you can grasp some of what you will read here, you are likely to blur many critical aspects of the Bible, making it almost impossible for you to properly understand much of it.

But even if you do not understand the things that are discussed in this book, *Understanding The Bible*, you should still be able to easily extract the most critical aspect of the Bible, which is the message of “Salvation” that we often hear people speak about. In fact, to understand Salvation, you generally only need to read the Gospels. However, reading only the Gospels will not enable you to engage in intelligible discussion with others on most Biblical topics, which is one of Christianity’s most prominent problems.

The term “Gospel” is *God* or *Good* plus the word *Spell*, or to write out or tell. “Gospel” basically means *God-* or *Good-Tell*, and when we *tell* someone something, we often first say “Did you hear the good news?”, and then we proceed to share the story.



## **Chapter 4**

### ***Finding Your Way Through The Bible***

Once we have removed the blinders of our preferred rose or black color glasses, we can then begin an objective journey to see if the Bible is worthy of our time. Why do we even bother with this contentious book? While we might not realize it, the Bible and its contents are deeply interwoven in nearly every part of western culture. There is probably no one over the age of ten who has been raised in western culture that has not at least heard of the Bible at some point. And there is certainly not a single person who has not been affected by it in western culture. In fact, the majority of people on the entire globe who are over the age of ten generally have had at least a minute level of introduction to the Bible, even if only in its name. It is estimated that there have been enough Bibles printed for every adult on Earth to each have one.

The reason we bother with the Bible is because there are those who say that it is all fables, yet here we are in our western culture influenced by this book of supposed “fables” or “myths” in nearly every facet of our lives. We also have countless

## **Chapter 5**

### ***The Inspired Word of God***

A phrase that we frequently hear used by preachers is “Inspired Word Of God”. But what does the “Inspired Word Of God” mean? Generally, it means that the people who wrote the words written in the various books of the Bible were inspired by God as those words were written. “Inspired” could be thought of as *inspired* because the word *spirit* is where the word inspired is derived from. It basically means that the spirit is in you, or more concisely, the Spirit Of **God** is in you.

Some of the people who wrote some the books who are detailed in Bible are said to have been visited by angels or were taken away and were shown various things in visions. If we are to believe these accounts to be true, then it is easy to see how we would assume that they would have been *inspired* or *inspired* by God, and thus that which was recorded by them is considered “inspired”. But is **all** of the Bible inspired in this same way? Yes and no.

## **Chapter 6**

### ***Combining with or Adding to The Bible***

When diving into reading the Bible or studying it, you will often hear “Whoever adds to or takes away from the Bible” will suffer the plagues described in the book of Revelation, or they will have their share taken from the Tree of Life etc. But this is often misunderstood as being in reference to the Bible overall, which it is not. This is a specific reference to something said in the book of Revelation chapter twenty-two, and it pertains specifically to the book of Revelation *only*. Often, people who are from the protestant side of the Reformation divide wrongly apply this statement to the inclusion of the Biblical Apocrypha books that many Bibles, including Catholic Bibles, contain. But again, the statement “Whoever adds to or takes away from the Bible” is not a proper quote and is really from and for the book of Revelation. The Douay Rheims version Chapter 22 puts it this way: “For I testify to everyone that hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If any man shall add to these things, God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from these things that are written in this book.”

## **Chapter 7**

### **Separating the Topics**

What is the benefit of separating topics? When I talk about “separating topics”, I’m referring to being able to create mental divisions between general points of interests. For instance, many people, if not most, connect God and religion, yet God really has nothing to do with religion at all, but religion has a great deal to do with God. The distinction between the two perspectives is really very important for everyone to understand.

Separating issues regarding differences between the standard books included in *all* Bibles, versus those that are extra books as described in the last chapter, is also very important. This is the sort of separation problem that the atheist-myths implying that “the Bible is just a bunch of stories” are borne of. When we ourselves do not understand separations, such as the God-versus-religion issue just mentioned, it can cause us to unfairly project our often-incorrect religious views onto God, thus implying that God is responsible for our foolishness and incorrect conclusions, when in fact God is *not* responsible for *our* errors and misunderstanding.

## **Chapter 8**

### ***Keys to Your Biblical Box***

Versions, versions, versions! How did they all come about? If the Bible is a history of a people, then why isn't that history unambiguous or even perfectly identical in *every* version of the Bible?

The Bible is said to be a history of "God's people" explaining things from the beginning of the Creation of all things and then follows the rocky history of "God's people" all the way through to the promised Salvation through The Christ. This shouldn't be too difficult a task, right? Just record the basics and keep the history safely locked away.

If there is one thing that the Bible has clearly documented, it is the folly of mankind. If we are to believe the accounts listed in the Bible, then it is the folly of man that got Adam and Eve ousted from the Garden of Eden. It is the folly of man that angered God so intensely that God found it necessary to flood the entire globe and erase all but a few. And not long after the flood it is once again the folly of mankind who quickly turned to corruption and worshipping idols.

## **Chapter 9**

### ***Embracing All Those Versions***

The fact that the Bible has so many versions and has been translated so many times is thought to be its biggest flaw. But is it really a flaw? Are multiple translations really a bad thing?

Sure, it would be great to have all of the “*original*” writings that compose the Bible, but since that is unlikely to happen anytime soon, we must work with what we have. And that is where we change from the vast number of versions being the Bible’s biggest flaw, to it being the Bible’s biggest blessing! We must embrace this vast collection of versions and be thankful for it, and in this chapter you’ll find out why.

The *Translations Descendancy list* or *translation trail* from the last chapter is short—very short considering the timespan involved. And since there are copies of the texts in that trail that are still in existence today, the trail is even shorter because we can still go back to an actual printed copy of any version that is on that trail.

## **Chapter 10**

### ***Commit to Having an Open Biblical Box***

The tiny mental boxes that many of us force our Bibles into cost us dearly regarding our own understanding of the Bible. When we are told that there are “just too many translations” in the translation trail leading to any one Bible, it is simply *not* true.

Each key version in Latin, English, and German all point back to the same Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. But if we imagine for a moment that the English and German language Bibles have not been influenced by the Jerome Vulgate, then we are sadly mistaken. The grievances against the Papacy came long after the Jerome Vulgate. As Germany and England did their best to break away from the Papacy in Rome, they were in fact a part of that church up until the Reformation era. This means that everyone was part of the Holy Roman Empire and thus by today’s terminology, *all* were Catholics. At that time the entire church used the Latin Vulgate as its Authorized Bible. This Latin influence and understanding of the text, by the translators, was not erased from their preconceptions of the text.

## **Chapter 11**

### ***The Information Contained In the Bible***

Most of what has been discussed in this book up to this point was not about the *content* of the Bible, other than the part where it was pointed out that Salvation is for all of mankind, therefore, the ***Bible*** is for ***all*** of mankind, even though the Bible follows only “God’s People”. The naming and origins and assembly of the Bible discussed up to this point have little to do with the Bible’s content. Once we understand the basic assembly of the Bible and the high accuracy of most translations and the fact that we can still go back to original source texts and also other texts of antiquity, we can then begin to consider as to whether or not the content of the text is accurate. When looking into the accuracy of the Bible’s *content* we must first ask, why does the Bible follow this particular group of people?



## **Chapter 12**

### ***Let the Words Be Your Guide***

*Words* can be a bit of a complex topic. Words mean things but they can take on a somewhat different meaning than they were originally intended to. We humans think in *lesser* and *greater* concepts, and those concepts are shared with others using words. Words can pack a great deal of information that can go far beyond the basic meanings given in a dictionary. The worst deviations are the perversions of words that have been abused in our modern society, where at the whim of a person using a word as an inappropriate analogy, that word then quickly inherits a new meaning that has no true relevance whatsoever to its original meaning as it is spread throughout the world in a matter of days—We will soon regret that particular rapid fouling of language.

When words take on a somewhat different meaning in typical *normal* conversations, they allow for us to use them as indicators and to accentuate the meaning of a thought, and yet in doing so, they still retain their original meaning but with added information due to the way the word was used.

## **Chapter 24**

### ***Promises Kept***

In the Bible there are many promises made to people. Some promises were directed to all people, and some were exclusively directed to “God’s people”, and some other promises were directed to specific individuals. But out of all of these promises, the most important one was the promise of Salvation which was made to Adam and Eve, and it applies the *all* of their offspring. If the Bible is a true book, then the Salvation commitment made to Adam and Eve applies to *everyone* who has ever lived, to *everyone* who is alive now, and to *everyone* who will ever live in the future, and all we need to do is to accept it and follow God’s simple laws as established in the Bible.

Keeping the Bible’s text as pure and as close to original as possible should always be everyone’s goal. The words of the books in the Bible have actually never changed and they say what they say. However, when subsequent generations attempt to reinterpret the text, things often go wayward allowing for erroneous theories to arise. We can only hope to fully understand the promises made by the Creator if we are able grasp the basics