

The Bible Ark Bible Study Program

The Bible Ark Bible Study program follows Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Thru the Bible Bible Study, which is also a five-year study of the Bible. Dr. McGee began the first five-year cycle of the Thru the Bible in 1967. As of last Friday, the program is now in its eleventh five-year cycle. It is still broadcasting 33 years after Dr. McGee has gone home to be with the Lord.

Why two Bible studies you ask? The key difference between this Bible study and the TTB broadcast (Thru the Bible) is that the Bible Ark Bible Study is firstly a Bible reading. Therefore, this Bible Ark Bible study is a companion to the Thru the Bible, as we cover a great many details of the Bible that Dr. McGee does not cover in his five-year study.

A Word About the KJV and the Scofield Bible

Since this Bible study program is meant to be a companion to the Thru the Bible study program, it only makes sense to use the Bible that Dr. McGee uses. The Bible that Dr. McGee uses is the King James Standard Version, also known as the Authorized Version. However, Dr. McGee does not use a plain version of the King James. He reads from a copy of the Scofield Study Bible, which is built upon the King James.

The Scofield Study Bible is the first Bible of its kind ever published, and it began a publishing trend for the type of Bibles known today as reference Bibles. Today, there are thousands of reference Bibles, but the Scofield Study Bible is still the most prevalent of them all and still enjoys steady sales. The unique features of the Scofield Study Bible, and all reference Bibles, is that they include Bible commentary alongside the text of the Bible itself. It affords the reader instant access to information that is helpful to the understanding what they are reading in the Bible.

Fortunately, the original Scofield Study Bible is no longer protected by copyright here in the United States and most of the world. Therefore, I am able to read it without too much fear of the publisher coming after me. Nonetheless, it is still safeguarded by the Crown copyright in the UK, and the Oxford University Press is yet zealous about protecting its asset. For this reason, it is not possible to find a free copy of the original Scofield Bible online in its printed format, such as a clean professionally edited PDF document. The notes in the Scofield Bible can be found in many places for free, but the notes apart from the Bible text are much more difficult to use.

I am working on a solution to this problem; however, it is not an easy problem to solve. My plate is much too full as it is. Therefore, it is quite possible that it simply is not God's will for me to solve this problem. Only time will tell.

I have two more introductory matters concerning this program that I would like to address, before we start talking about the Bible itself.

My Philosophy Regarding Differing Opinions and Interpretations from Dr. McGee and Dr. Scofield

I have a great respect and admiration for Dr. McGee and the work that he did when he was still here on this Earth. I can say the same thing about Dr. Scofield. Nevertheless, I do not always agree with their

positions on certain matters of interpretation. Fortunately, I agree with them in all the core beliefs of Christian faith.

I believe that there is one and only one triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are one. I believe that God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. I believe in the inerrancy of the Word of God. I believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Scriptures. I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus was virgin born, and that He died on the cross for the redemption and payment of the sins for all who do nothing more or less than simply believe on the name Jesus Christ, that believe that God has accepted Jesus' sacrifice for the payment for the sins of all who trust in His work of salvation ... His shed blood upon the cross. I believe that Jesus was buried, rose bodily on third day, and ascended back into heaven where He is waiting until His enemy is made His footstool. And I believe that Jesus will return; He will call His church out of the world, and then He will return to the Earth and that in judgement He will establish the kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

I am confident that you will find that both Dr. McGee and Dr. Scofield both hold and teach the same core beliefs. These are all the important aspects of the Christian faith and they are all the basic tenants of teaching of the Apostles and the early church. They have never changed.

Yet, as I stated, there are certain matters of much lesser importance (or of no particular importance at all) where I differ in my interpretation of the Word of God from the way that Dr. McGee or Dr. Scofield interpret the Scriptures. Moreover, you can be sure that I will voice my opinion when I feel it is an important matter, and I warn you now that I will do that very thing when we get to the second verse of the Bible, Genesis chapter one, verse two. However, after we get through chapter one of Genesis you will see that it will be a long time before we get to another passage in Bible where I disagree with Dr. McGee. Even with Dr. Scofield, you will find that I will not voice my disagreement with him very often.

I must make it very clear that I am not an expositor of the Word of God. Both of these men have far more expository training and experience than I do. I will always defer to their expertise, unless I strongly feel that I have sufficient grounds for disagreement or to set forth a warning or a matter to be aware of. It is not my aim to be critical of their work. The reason why I am building on their work is that I believe their work is of great integrity and of immense value to anyone that truly wants to grow in their understanding of the Bible, and more importantly, to grow closer in their relationship to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Need Your Prayers

God has put me into a very unique position. It is God's plan to take the most unlikely individual that one could imagine to send on a conquest to circumnavigate the Earth by the most difficult and impossible means that there is. There is absolutely nothing that is easy or straightforward about any portion of my errand, and the further I get into the journey the more difficult it gets. As if things did not seem to be impossible and difficult enough, God had me go on a four-week fast, so that now I have twenty some odd pounds less muscle mass that I started with. If I manage to make it all the way from Singapore to Australia, it will be no small miracle. If I manage to make it to the continent of Antarctica, it is going to get some attention for sure.

God cannot send a Bible expositor on such an errand. He must use someone like myself, a jack of all trades. Therefore, God is using this MacGyver to preach the Word of God from every corner of the

Earth that nobody ever expected the preaching of the Word to come from. It is God's way of telling the world that it is His will and His doing; because, God is the only one that could make it happen.

Therefore, I need your prayers. I am completely inadequate for any aspect of this whole journey, most of all for the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. There is not a ghost of a chance that I can teach and preach the Word of God unless the Spirit of God is leading me every single step of the way. There is no possible way that I can hear and follow the Spirit of God unless I remain faithful and true to God. Let me say it again! I truly do need your prayers! Even if it is if for no other reason than keep from bringing God's name into disrepute! I can do nothing without your prayers my friends.

I realize that I have spent quite some time going over these introductory matters, but we are going to be at this for the next five years, and it is important to lay the groundwork that we need.

Why the King James Bible and the Scofield Study Bible

I am sure that there are people that are listening and wondering in themselves, "why are we using the King James Bible and why are we using Scofield Study Bible?" "Why is it that Dr. McGee choose these Bibles?" It is a good question, but a complete answer is far more involved than we could ever hope to explore in this Bible Study. There is no shortage of books on the subject of the King James Bible that would give us many clues if we took the time to analyze them. Moreover, there are several books on the Scofield Bible that try to do the same, but in my experience these all come short of doing the topic any justice.

However, we can boil it all down to one overriding cause, "the providence of God." I mean that with all sincerity. The history of how the King James Bible came into existence and how it has been established as the tower of Bible reference that it has become, is a most remarkable story. It is no accident there is no other Bible translation ever written in any language that enjoys more scholarly attention than the King James Bible. I can tell you without reservation that it was God's hand at work that brought the King James Bible into the position that it is in today. Just one simple observation can help us understand this truth. The overwhelming majority of the most valuable Bible reference materials available are all based on the King James Bible. Pick up any notable Bible concordance or Bible dictionary and you will find that it is based on the King James Bible. Certainly, you can use a standard Strong's concordance with a different translation of the Bible, but not without a significant disadvantage.

In like manner, the Scofield Study Bible was established in its place of prominence by the providence of God. As I stated before, it was the first Bible of its kind (the first true reference Bible) ever published in significant quantities. What is interesting, is that despite many criticisms from Bible scholars in Dr. Scofield's day, it was only a matter of a few short years, before the majority of Bible scholars were using the Scofield Study Bible, despite their theological positions. There were many Bible expositors that did not agree with many of the teachings of the Scofield Bible that used it anyway. They used it because it is practical and a useful tool. The bottom line is that the Scofield Bible has changed the way that the entire world reads and studies the Bible. Even the non-English speaking world has been affected by it, because reference Bibles can now be found in many other languages, including the Scofield Bible itself.

I really do want to delve into this topic further, but we are running a little short on time for the program today. I do not want to start peeling back the layers now and then do it all again tomorrow. Thus, in the program tomorrow, we will begin taking a closer look at the King James Bible, and we will look at some

of the reasons why it became the Bible translation that it is and why it was God's pleasure to give it the prominence that it has.

Closing Remarks

As we close, I would like to reiterate what I stated in our Friday lesson. I believe that it is important for everyone to understand that this Bible Study program, the Bible Ark, is meant to be a complement to the Thru the Bible Bible Study program. It is in not meant to be a replacement. It is true that if you listen to this Bible study, you will hear every word of the Bible, after five years. Even the Thru the Bible program cannot make that claim. However, this program is not a substitute for reading the Bible on your own. I would rather have you read the Bible for yourself than anything else. If you then find it to be beneficial to listen to the Thru the Bible program, that is even better.

My hope and my prayer is that you will sit down with me with your Bible open and that you will read the Bible with me as I speak. Then go listen to the Thru the Bible broadcast. If you follow that method, you will grow tremendously in your understanding of the Word of God. It will bring you many and great blessings that you never imagined possible.

You can find out everything that you need to know about the Thru the Bible program by visiting the ttb.org Website. You can also download the Thru the Bible app to your smartphone. All of the TTB broadcasts are available free of charge from many different sources. You can access the broadcasts from the TTB Website, from the TTB app, from Podcast, from YouTube, from Whatsapp, from the YouVersion Bible app, or from terrestrial radio broadcasts. There is a video version of the program aired in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish that is available on satellite television and YouTube. The TTB audio broadcast is available in over 120 languages, so if you speak a different language as your heart language, they probably have a broadcast of TTB in your mother tongue. Just go to ttb.org for more info.

Dale Trussell, April 4th, 2021