

The **Bible** Unpacked

Foundations Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching
for believers consolidating their faith

paul mallison

The Bible Unpacked™

Foundations Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching
for believers consolidating their faith

Part B. God and the World: Basics

Composed by Paul Mallison

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A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible's teachings in a clear and readable order. There are eight booklets in the series, based on the eight parts of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Foundations Edition*. Each booklet has five chapters, with questions added.

See *Topics in This Series* towards the end of this booklet for a full listing of all the topics. Note that studying booklets alternatively from the two major sections (*What to Know* and *What to Do*) would add variety.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics*. The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who led the Israelites out of Egypt and taught them God's laws;
- David – Israel's greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God's behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

For free downloads and information on other study series based on editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, go to: www.thebibleunpacked.net.

Paul Mallison

Suggestions for Study Groups

Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments.** Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.

General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
 - (a) how you relate to God and/or to other people; or
 - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?

6. God's Creation

God Makes Everything	2
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The formation of the universe – including the world and everything in it – is the most astonishing thing that has ever occurred. If we accept the following teaching about God and creation, then we should have little trouble in accepting the other claims that the Bible makes about God.

God Makes Everything

God made the heavens, the earth and everything in them

You are the only LORD. *You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, with all the stars. You made the earth and everything on it, the seas and everything in them; you give life to everything.*

NEHEMIAH 9:6A NCV™

All that God made is very good

God saw all that he had made – and it was very good! GENESIS 1:31A NET

Because he made everything, all things belong to God

The heavens and the earth belong to you. And so does the world with all its people because you created them ¹²and everything else.

PSALMS 89:11–12A CEV

Creation is evidence of God and what he is like, to all people

[PAUL, REFERRING TO WICKED PEOPLE:] *They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. ²⁰God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made. That's why those people don't have any excuse.* ROMANS 1:19–20 CEV

God Sustains Everything

Every creature's life is dependent on God

The life of every living creature and the spirit in every human body are in his hands. JOB 12:10 GW

God maintains nature

[GOD:] *“While the earth continues to exist, planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.”*

GENESIS 8:22

God continues to maintain these aspects of nature.

God made and sustains all things through Jesus Christ

Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. JOHN 1:3 GNT

God created the universe by his Son, and everything will someday belong to the Son. ³God's Son has all the brightness of God's own glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty word, he holds the universe together. HEBREWS 1:2B–3A CEV

God's Creation of People

God has made people with a spirit

The LORD – he who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth, *who forms the human spirit within a person* – says, ... ZECHARIAH 12:1B NET

God has made people in his own image

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness. Let them rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the domestic animals all over the earth, and all the animals that crawl on the earth."
²⁷*So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.* GENESIS 1:26–27 GW

That God has made people in his own image is evident in that they reflect such things as his personal traits – e.g. aspects of his character and intellect – and that they have a spirit (as discussed in the previous subsection). Additionally, it is noteworthy that although God essentially is spirit, some descriptions of visions or "appearances" of God speak of him in terms of a human-like form (cf. Ezekiel 1:26–28; Daniel 7:9).

People are to care for and act responsibly towards creation

Good people take care of their animals, but even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. PROVERBS 12:10 NCV™

[GOD, TO THE BABYLONIANS:] *For you will pay in full for your violent acts against Lebanon; terrifying judgment will come upon you*

because of the way you destroyed the wild animals living there.

HABAKKUK 2:17A NET

The Babylonians' devastation of the forests of Lebanon (cf. CEV, GNT, NLT) and their destruction of animals violated humankind's responsibility towards nature – and they would be punished for it.

People and Death

Every person will die

It is better to go to a funeral than a feast. For *death is the destiny of every person, and the living should take this to heart.* ECCLESIASTES 7:2 NET

People's spirits exist after death

As they [Jews] continued to stone Stephen, he kept praying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ACTS 7:59 ISV

Here also are the spirits of those good people who have been made perfect. HEBREWS 12:23B CEV

The reference is to the spirits of righteous people who had died, and are now linked with the heavenly Jerusalem (cf. v. 22; NLT).

Do you believe that God created the world? Why or why not?

What does God being our creator mean for our relationship with him?

What is our "spirit"?

How should the fact that people are made in God's image influence us?

How could you use the world as evidence for God's existence, when talking to a non-Christian?

7. God's Sovereignty

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As the one and only God, God has supreme power and control over all things. Comprehending this and its implications is vital to having a sound understanding of God and of his relationship to the world – including his relationship with ourselves.

God Rules Supreme

He is the one and only God

[GOD:] *And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.* ^{22c}Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! *For I am God, and there is no other.* ISAIAH 45:21B–22 ESV

God rules over all

O LORD, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. 1 CHRONICLES 29:11 NET

God will reign forever

But you, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. LAMENTATIONS 5:19 NET

God Asserts His Authority

God carries out his plans

The LORD Almighty has sworn an oath: *“What I have planned will happen. What I have determined to do will be done.* ISAIAH 14:24 GNT

God destroys his enemies

But he will pay back those people who hate him. He will destroy them, and he will not be slow to pay back those who hate him. DEUTERONOMY 7:10 NCV™

God will impose his absolute rule on all

[JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION:] When the seventh angel blew his trumpet, there were loud voices in heaven, saying, *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever.”* ¹⁶Then the twenty-four elders who were sitting on their thrones in God’s presence fell on their faces and worshiped God. ¹⁷They said, “We give thanks to you, Lord God

Almighty, who is and who was, because *you have taken your great power and have begun to rule*. REVELATION 11:15–17 ISV

The proclamation in v. 15 and the final phrase “have begun to rule” (v. 17) may mean that at this point God has begun to impose his rule on all. This will involve the appearance of the kingdom (v. 15) with God’s great power being imposed over all things (v. 17). Alternatively the past tense may be used here to indicate the certainty of God doing so in the future.

God Has Control over All Things

God has control over evil

[JACOB, REFERRING TO HIS GREEDY UNCLE LABAN:] Your father has cheated me. He has changed my wages ten times. But *God hasn't let him harm me*. GENESIS 31:7 GW

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] The only temptation that has come to you is that which everyone has. But you can trust *God, who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it*. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 NCV™

God has control over and limits any temptation, whether it originates from Satan or from our own sinful nature. This shows God’s control over evil.

God has control over nature

He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through the clouds. ¹²*The clouds go round in circles, wheeling about according to his plans, to carry out all that he commands them over the face of the whole inhabited world.* JOB 37:11–12 NET

God has control over the nations

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] May the nations be glad and sing for joy, because *you judge the peoples with justice and guide every nation on earth*. PSALMS 67:4 GNT

God Has Control over People

God has control over people's hearts and minds

When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart.

1 SAMUEL 10:9A NCV™

The LORD caused the Egyptians to think well of them, and the Egyptians gave the people everything they asked for. So the Israelites took rich gifts from them. EXODUS 12:36 NCV™

God has control over people's actions

[DANIEL, TO KING BELSHAZZAR:] *But you have not glorified the God who has in his control your very breath and all your ways!* DANIEL 5:23B NET

God controls all that happens to people

Good and bad each happen at the command of God Most High.

LAMENTATIONS 3:38 CEV

[A WISE TEACHER:] *When life is good, enjoy it. But when life is hard, remember: God gives good times and hard times, and no one knows what tomorrow will bring.* ECCLESIASTES 7:14 NCV™

What makes you think that God reigns supreme in the world?

What plans has God carried out - in the world and/or in the lives of people you know?

How should the teaching that God has control over evil influence us?

To what degree does God impose his control over the nations? What does he do?

In what way/s does God exert control over our lives? (In your answer you could make reference to your own life.)

8. God's Word

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God's word is our window to God. For through it we learn about God and his relationship with us. This chapter begins with some basic concepts and then looks at a key aspect of God's word – God's covenant with Israel. This defined God's relationship with his people in the Old Testament and is critical to understanding the New Testament.

What God's Word Is

God's word primarily is Scripture

All Scripture is inspired by God ... 2 TIMOTHY 3:16A GNT

Scripture is the writings contained in the Bible. As all Scripture is inspired by God, effectively it "is God's Word" (CEV).

God's word includes what Jesus Christ said

The One [Jesus] whom God sent speaks the words of God, because God gives him the Spirit fully. JOHN 3:34 NCV™

Characteristics and Functions

God's word is true

The words of the LORD are true ... PSALMS 33:4A GNT

God's word is active and powerful

God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. HEBREWS 4:12 NCV™

God's word can penetrate to the very depths of our inner-selves, exposing our thoughts and attitudes for what they really are.

God's word brings spiritual life

[JESUS:] The Spirit is the one who gives life; human nature is of no help! *The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*

JOHN 6:63 NET

Jesus appears to be saying that his words are spiritual, producing spiritual or eternal life, by the Holy Spirit (v. 63a).

God's word gives light

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.* PSALMS 119:105 GW

God's word gives "light" – guidance and spiritual insight.

God's Covenant with Israel

A covenant is a firm agreement made between two parties. God's covenants are a key aspect and expression of his word – as are his commands, prophecies and promises.

God's covenants with people were all initiated by God. They generally clarified and formalized his relationship with the persons concerned – who were or who became his people. As such the covenants included binding promises by God of blessings for his people, reflecting his purposes for them.

In some cases God's covenants also outlined what God required of his people and how they were to relate to him. God's covenant with Israel is a chief example of this type.

God made a covenant with Israel, based on the laws he gave through Moses

The LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

²⁸So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. *He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.* EXODUS 34:27–28 NET

If the Israelites obeyed God, then they would be his people and he would be their God

[GOD, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *Obey me and carry out the terms of the agreement exactly as I commanded you. If you do, you will be my people and I will be your God.* JEREMIAH 11:4B NET

According to the terms of the covenant, Israel was to obey God. If Israel kept the covenant by obeying God's commands, then under the covenant they would be God's people and he would be their God.

Faithful obedience to the law would bring righteousness

[MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *It will be righteousness for us, if we're careful to obey all the law before the LORD our God, as he commanded.* DEUTERONOMY 6:25 ISV

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments form the basis of the law that God gave through Moses. This law is sometimes referred to as the Mosaic Law.

Commandments for our relationship with God

Then God spoke all these words [to the Israelites]: “I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“*You shall have no other gods besides me.* ⁴“*You shall not make for yourselves an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above, or on earth below, or in the water under the earth.* ⁵*You shall not bow down to them in worship or serve them ...* ⁷“*You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the LORD will not leave the one who misuses his name unpunished.* ⁸“*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.* ⁹*Six days you shall labor and do all your work,* ¹⁰*but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. And you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male or female servants, nor your livestock, nor the alien who is within your gates.* EXODUS 20:1–5B, 7–10 ISV

Commandments for our relationships with people

“*Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.* ¹³“*You shall not murder.* ¹⁴“*You shall not commit adultery.* ¹⁵“*You shall not steal.* ¹⁶“*You shall not testify falsely against your neighbor.* ¹⁷“*You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*” EXODUS 20:12–17 ISV

Should we accept every verse of Scripture as God's word? What dangers are there in not doing so?

In what way/s is God's word active and powerful?

How does - or how should - God's word impact the lives of his people?

Which of the Ten Commandments do you need to be more mindful of? How would doing so affect you/ your life?

Is God's covenant with Israel relevant in any way to God's relationship with his people today? If so, how?

9. The Problem of Sin

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Knowing what sin is and what its consequences are is vital to understanding both God's relationship with humankind and the need for Jesus Christ's mission. Knowing about the law's provision of "atonement" is also critical to understanding these things.

What and Who

Sin is breaking God's law

Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law. 1 JOHN 3:4 GNT

Sin is committed by all people

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. ROMANS 3:23 CEV

The expression "fallen short of God's glory" (v. 23) most likely means that all people have failed to live up to a standard that matches God's glory. Sin is the reason for this.

Consequences of Sin

Sin results in separation from God

[ISAIAH, TO HIS PEOPLE:] *But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers.* ISAIAH 59:2 NET

Because sin defiles us and makes us spiritually "unclean", it separates us from God. For God is holy – set apart from sin and the resulting spiritual "uncleanness".

Sin means that we face God's anger

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *Actually all of us were like them and lived according to our natural desires, doing whatever suited the wishes of our own bodies and minds. In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God's anger.* EPHESIANS 2:3 GNT

All people have lived sinful lives and face the consequences.

Sin results in physical death

Sin came into the world through one man, and *his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.* ROMANS 5:12 GNT

Note that this verse refers to death initially coming as a consequence of the first sin, committed by the first man, Adam.

Sin brings the prospect of eternal death

For *the payoff of sin is death*, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 6:23 NET

Here “death” appears to primarily mean – or at least include – what is sometimes referred to as eternal “death”. Because of his justice God demands that unforgiven sin be punished with everlasting “death”, or “destruction”. It involves everlasting separation from God, in hell. A complementary reason for this “death” is that sin makes separation from God necessary, because of his holiness.

The Law’s Provision for Sin

An animal was offered to God to make atonement for anyone who sinned

[MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *If any person sins unintentionally, then he must bring a yearling female goat for a purification offering.* ²⁸*And the priest must make atonement for the person who sins unintentionally ... to make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven.*

NUMBERS 15:27–28 NET

Under the Mosaic Law, when a person sinned the person had to bring an animal for a priest to sacrifice as an offering of a life to make atonement for the person.

In the Bible, “atonement” is where God accepts such an offering or sacrifice of a living being as a substitute for the life of a person who has sinned. (Otherwise the person’s life would be required as punishment for their sin.) As such, God accepts the sacrifice as payment for the person’s sin. The result is that the sin is taken away – and so the sinner is forgiven, pronounced righteous and reconciled to God.

The high priest made atonement for Israel as a whole

[GOD, TO MOSES:] *“The priest who is anointed and ordained to act as high priest in place of his father is to make atonement. He is to put on the linen garments, the holy garments,³³ and he is to purify the Most Holy Place, he is to purify the Meeting Tent and the altar, and he is to make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.*

³⁴This is to be a perpetual statute for you *to make atonement for the Israelites for all their sins once a year.*” LEVITICUS 16:32–34A NET

However, Israel did not keep God’s law and broke his covenant

Samaria [the capital city of northern Israel] fell because *the Israelites did not obey the LORD their God, but broke the covenant he had made with them and disobeyed all the laws given by Moses, the servant of the LORD. They would not listen and they would not obey.*

2 KINGS 18:12 GNT

Despite the law’s provision for Israel’s sin, the Israelites as a whole persisted in sin – rebelling against God and breaking his covenant with them. This showed that ultimately the law was not sufficient to deal with sin.

Give a definition of sin.

Why is sin so bad?

What is involved in being separated from God (as a consequence of sin)? What are the implications?

Why does sin result in people facing God's anger?

Explain as simply as you can the concept of making atonement for a person who has sinned.

10. God's Judgment

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An understanding of God's judgment is needed to understand God himself, and also his salvation for people. Additionally, the topic of God's judgment contains some of the most awe-inspiring teaching, and even reasons for hope for God's people.

Reasons for God's Judgment

God's judgment is to punish sin

[DANIEL, TO GOD:] All Israel has broken your law and turned away by not obeying you. *Therefore you have poured out on us the judgment solemnly threatened in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against you.* DANIEL 9:11 NET

God's judgment is to discipline his people

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] But *when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined* so that we may not be condemned with the world. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:32 NET

God's judgment is to punish the wicked

But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for *the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.* 2 PETER 3:7 NET

God's judgment also involves reward for his people

[ANGELIC BEINGS, TO GOD:] *It is time for the dead to be judged— to reward your servants, the prophets, the saints, and all who fear your name,* both unimportant and important, and to destroy those who destroy the earth. REVELATION 11:18B ISV

This speaks of the future Judgment Day, involving all people.

The Justice of God's Judgment

God judges fairly

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *You are fair and honest in your judgments,* and you have judged in my favour. PSALMS 9:4 GNT

God judges correctly

“Yes, Lord God Almighty, *your judgments are true and fair.*” REVELATION 16:7B GW

God repays people according to what they have done

[PAUL, SPEAKING OF GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT:] *On that day everyone will see God's right judgments. ⁶God will reward or punish every person for what that person has done.* ROMANS 2:5B–6 NCV™

God gives fair warning of judgment

[GOD:] *There are times, Jeremiah, when I threaten to uproot, tear down, and destroy a nation or kingdom. ⁸But if that nation I threatened stops doing wrong, I will cancel the destruction I intended to do to it.* JEREMIAH 18:7–8 NET

What God says here regarding nations is also applicable to individuals.

The Power of God's Judgment

God's judicial retribution can involve awesome power

The LORD who rules over all says, 'Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the earth.' JEREMIAH 25:31–32 NET

The "mighty storm" denotes a very powerful force and/or its destructive effects. This prophecy would be fulfilled through the invasion by the Babylonians.

God's judgment is inescapable

[PAUL, TO HIS READERS:] *When you judge people for doing these things but then do them yourself, do you think you will escape God's judgment?* ROMANS 2:3 NET

God's judgment can be terrifying

For if we choose to go on sinning after we have received the full knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but only *a terrifying prospect of judgment and a raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.* HEBREWS 10:26–27 ISV

The Wicked and God's Judgment

People may question God's apparent lack of judgment regarding the wicked

[JEREMIAH:] LORD, when I bring my case to you, you are always right. But *I want to ask you about the justice you give. Why are evil people successful? Why do dishonest people have such easy lives?*

JEREMIAH 12:1 NCV™

But in due time God does take action against the wicked

[GOD:] *To me belong vengeance and recompense. In due time their feet will slip, because their time of calamity is near and the things prepared for them draw near.* DEUTERONOMY 32:35 ISV

Israel and God's Judgment

Eventually God decided to bring destruction on unfaithful Israel

[GOD:] *My people, you abandoned me and walked away. I am tired of showing mercy; that's why I'll destroy you ⁷by scattering you like straw blown by the wind. I will punish you with sorrow and death, because you refuse to change your ways.* JEREMIAH 15:6–7 CEV

But God promised to spare a remnant of Israel

[ISAIAH, SPEAKING A MESSAGE FROM GOD:] *Those who remain in Judah will take root in the ground and bear fruit. ³¹For a remnant will leave Jerusalem; survivors will come out of Mount Zion. The intense devotion of the sovereign Lord to his people will accomplish this.*

2 KINGS 19:30–31 NET

Note that Judah was the name of the southern Israelite kingdom and that Mount Zion refers to Jerusalem. (Zion was originally the name of one of the hills on which Jerusalem was built.)

How should the statement that God is the judge of the world encourage us?

What factors make God's judgment just?

How do you think God may carry out his judicial retribution in the present time? Are there any happenings that you think may be God's judgment?

Why do you think that God's judgment of the wicked is not more immediate?

If God did not judge us, would there have been any need for Jesus Christ to die?

Topics in This Series

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2. God's Character
3. Jesus Christ
4. The Holy Spirit
5. Angels, Demons and Satan

Part B. God and the World: Basics

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Overview of *The Bible Unpacked*


There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next longest edition. As such they have similar structures. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text along with questions. For more details and free downloads of all the material, go to www.thebibleunpacked.net.

 **Two-Minute Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for people “on the run”*
For giving to non-Christians.


 **Pocket Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth*
Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

 **Concise Edition:** *Key Bible teachings for new believers*
For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.




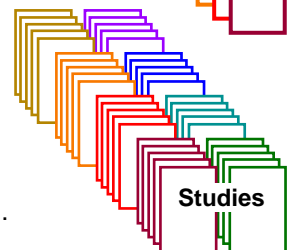
 **Foundations Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers consolidating their faith.* For newer Christians.
Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.




 **Intermediate Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers growing in the faith.*
For developing a sound understanding of the faith.
Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.



 **Comprehensive Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers established in the faith.* For a comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Useful as a study or a devotional tool - and preparing talks.
Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.



 **In-Depth Edition:** *A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for teachers and students of the Bible.*
For Christians keen to gain a deep understanding of their faith. Useful for speakers preparing talks, study groups leaders, Bible students and Bible colleges.
It is also in an electronic version, which is a PDF file.

**Electronic
Version**

An Appeal on Behalf of Persecuted Christians

Over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied basic human rights solely because of their faith. (Source: World Evangelical Alliance) Every year many Christians are killed because of their faith.

Through prayer, encouragement and practical assistance we can assist and fellowship with persecuted Christians in their suffering. You can play a vital part in this through contacting one of the organizations listed below. Most produce regular news/prayer letters.

Barnabas Fund – www.barnabasfund.org

It provides material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

Christian Faith and Freedom – www.cffreedom.org

It advocates on behalf of and aids persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity International – www.csi-int.org

CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – www.csw.org.uk

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

Compass Direct – www.compassdirect.org

This is a Christian news service providing news, reports, interviews and analyses of situations facing persecuted Christians.

Open Doors – sb.od.org; www.opendoors.org.au

It provides Bibles and other Christian materials, to prepare believers for persecution and equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel.

Religious Liberty Commission – www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/; www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also www.idop.org
Receive weekly updates by sending a blank email to join-rlpb@hub.xc.org.

The Bible League – www.bibleleague.org/persecuted; www.bibleleague.com

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

Voice of the Martyrs – www.persecution.com; www.persecution.com.au

VOM provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other assistance to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. They also send material aid.

Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NCV

This series of studies is based on the
Foundations Edition of The Bible Unpacked.

There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*.
These aim to address the needs of
NON-CHRISTIANS through to MATURE CHRISTIANS,
from TEENAGERS to ADULTS.

For more information and free downloads go to:
www.thebibleunpacked.net