



The Bible

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter.

Here too, heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Owned, it is riches; studied, it is wisdom; trusted, it is salvation; loved, it is character; and obeyed, it is power.

The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz

by the Student

It was more than fifteen years ago that I entered the laboratory of Professor Agassiz, and told him I had enrolled my name in the scientific school as a student of natural history. He asked me a few questions about my object in coming, my antecedents generally, the mode in which I afterwards proposed to use the knowledge I might acquire, and finally, whether I wished to study any special branch. To the latter I replied that while I wished to be well grounded in all departments of zoology, I purposed to devote myself specially to insects.

"When do you wish to begin?" he asked,

"Now," I replied.

This seemed to please him, and with an energetic "Very well," he reached from a shelf a huge jar of specimens in yellow alcohol. "Take this fish," said he, "and look at it; we call it a *Haemulon* [pronounced Hem-yu' lon]; by and by I will ask what you have seen."

With that he left me, but in a moment returned with explicit instructions as to the care of the object entrusted to me.

"No man is fit to be a naturalist," said he, "who does not know how to take care of specimens."

I was to keep the fish before me in a tin tray, and occasionally moisten the surface with alcohol from the jar, always taking care to replace the stopper tightly. Those were not the days of ground glass stoppers, and elegantly shaped exhibition jars; all the old students will recall the huge, neckless glass bottles with their leaky, wax-besmeared corks half eaten by insects and begrimed with cellar dust. Entomology was a cleaner science than ichthyology, but the example of the professor, who had unhesitatingly plunged to the bottom of the jar to produce the fish, was infectious; and though this alcohol had "a very ancient and fishlike smell," I really dared not show any aversion within these sacred precincts, and treated the alcohol as though it were pure water. Still I was conscious of a passing feeling of disappointment, for gazing at a fish did not commend itself to an ardent entomologist. My friends at home, too, were annoyed, when they discovered that no amount of eau de Cologne would drown the perfume which haunted me like a shadow.

In ten minutes I had seen all that could be seen in that fish, and started in search of the professor, who had, however, left the museum; and when I returned, after lingering over some of the odd animals stored in the upper apartment, my specimen was dry all over. I dashed the fluid over the fish as if to resuscitate it from a fainting-fit, and looked with anxiety for a return of the normal, sloppy appearance. This little excitement over, nothing was to be done but return to a steadfast gaze at my mute companion. Half an hour passed, an hour, another hour; the fish began to look loathsome, I turned it over and around; looked it in the face -- ghastly; from behind, beneath, above, sideways, at a three-quarters' view just as ghastly. I was in despair; at an early hour I concluded that lunch was necessary; so, with infinite relief, the fish was carefully replaced in the jar, and for all hour I was free.

On my return, I learned that Professor Agassiz had been at the museum, but had gone and would not return for several hours. My fellow students were too busy to be disturbed by continued conversation. Slowly I drew forth that hideous fish, and with a feeling of desperation again looked at it. I might not use a magnifying glass; instruments of all kinds were interdicted. My two hands, my two eyes, and the fish; it seemed a most limited field. I pushed my finger down its throat to feel how sharp its teeth were, I begin to count the scales in the different rows until I was convinced that that was nonsense. At last a happy thought struck me - I would draw the fish; and now with surprise I began to discover new features in the creature. Just then the professor returned.

"That is right," said he; "a pencil is one of the best of eyes. I am glad to notice, too, that you keep your specimen wet and your bottle corked."

With these encouraging words he added, "Well, what is it like?"

He listened attentively to my brief rehearsal of the structure of parts whose names were still unknown to

me: the fringed gill-arches and movable operculum; the pores of the head, fleshy lips, and lidless eyes; the lateral line, the spinous fin, and forked tail; the compressed and arched body. When I had finished, he waited as if expecting more, and then with an air of disappointment, "You have not looked very carefully; why," he continued, more earnestly, "you haven't seen one of the most conspicuous features of the animal, which is as plainly before your eyes as the fish itself; look again, look again!" and he left me to my misery.

I was piqued; I was mortified. Still more of that wretched fish! But now I set myself to my task with a will, and discovered one new thing after another, until I saw how just the professor's criticism had been. The afternoon passed quickly, and when, towards its close, the professor inquired, "Do you see it yet?"

"No," I replied, "I am certain I do not, but I see how little I saw before."

"That is next best," he said earnestly, "but I won't hear you now; put away your fish and go home; perhaps you will be ready with a better answer in the morning. I will examine you before you look at the fish."

This was disconcerting; not only must I think of my fish all night, studying, without the object before me, what this unknown but most visible feature might be; but also, without reviewing my new discoveries, I must give an exact account of them the next day. I had a bad memory; so I walked home by Charles River in a distracted state, with my two perplexities.

The cordial greeting from the professor the next morning was reassuring; here was a man who seemed to be quite as anxious as I that I should see for myself what he saw.

"Do you perhaps mean," I asked, "that the fish has symmetrical sides with paired organs?" His thoroughly pleased, "Of course, of course!" repaid the wakeful hours of the previous night.

After he had discoursed most happily and enthusiastically _ as he always did - upon the importance of this point, I ventured to ask what I should do next.

"Oh, look at your fish!" he said, and left me again to my own devices. In a little more than an hour he returned and heard my new catalogue.

"That is good, that is good!" he repeated, "but that is not all; go on." And so, for three long days, he placed that fish before my eyes, forbidding me to look at anything else, or to use any artificial aid. "Look, look, look," was his repeated injunction.

This was the best entomological lesson I ever had -- a lesson whose influence has extended to the details of every subsequent study; a legacy the professor has left to me, as he has left it to many others, of inestimable value, which we could not buy, with which we cannot part.

A year afterwards, some of us were amusing ourselves with chalking outlandish beasts upon the museum blackboard. We drew prancing starfishes; frogs in mortal combat; hydra-headed worms; stately crawfishes, standing on their tails, bearing aloft umbrellas; and grotesque fishes, with gaping mouths and staring eyes. The professor came in shortly after, and was as amused as any, at our experiments. He looked at the fishes.

"Haemulons, every one of them." he said; "Mr _____ drew them."

True; and to this day, if I attempt a fish, I can draw nothing but Haemulons.

The fourth day, a second fish of the same group was placed beside the first, and I was bidden to point out the resemblances and differences between the two; another and another followed, until the entire family lay before me, and a whole legion of jars covered the table and surrounding shelves; the odor had become a pleasant perfume; and even now, the sight of an old, six-inch, worm-eaten cork brings fragrant memories!

The whole group of Haemulons was thus brought in review; and, whether engaged upon the dissection of the internal organs, the preparation and examination of the bony framework, or the description of the various parts, Agassiz's training in the method of observing facts and their orderly arrangement was ever accompanied by the urgent exhortation not to be content with them.

"Facts are stupid things," he would say, "until brought into connection with some general law." At the end of eight months, it was almost with reluctance that I left these friends and turned to insects; but what I had gained by this outside experience has been of greater value than years of later investigation in my favorite groups.

DEVOTIONAL STUDY FORM

Date:

Passage:

1. Prayer (*check when done*)

2. Meditation

3. Application

4. Memorization

QUIET TIME READING JOURNAL

As you meet with God take time to -

LISTEN - Read, Meditate on, and Memorize God's Word

1. Find the "Main Idea"

- a truth to learn?
- a promise to claim?
- correction I need?
- an example to follow?
- a command to obey?
- a key verse to paraphrase?
- a sin to forsake?
- something to give thanks for?

2. Summarize what God is saying to you.

TALK - Pray about what you read.

PLAN - specific actions to show obedience and love today.

Monday _____

LISTEN	Scripture Passage _____
PRAY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PLAN	

Tuesday _____

LISTEN	Scripture Passage _____
PRAY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PLAN	

Wednesday _____

LISTEN	Scripture Passage _____
PRAY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PLAN	

Thursday _____

LISTEN	Scripture Passage _____
PRAY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PLAN	

Friday _____

LISTEN	Scripture Passage _____
PRAY <input type="checkbox"/>	
PLAN	

Weekend Review _____

LISTEN	Summarize the main things God has been saying to you through His Word this week.
PRAY	about His message to you through Quiet Time, Preaching, friends and circumstances of the past week.
PLAN	Evaluate your progress, attitudes and actions. What changes does God want to make? PLAN AHEAD.

- Other Projects - Memory Verse _____
- Sermon Notes
 -
 -
 -

PASSAGE BEING STUDIED _____

<p>Paragraph Titles (3-4 words):</p> <p>VS _____</p>	<p>Names and Kinds of People in Chapter:</p> <p>List: _____</p> <p>Good Example or Bad?: _____</p>
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<p>List Commands:</p>	<p>List Promises:</p>	<p>List Sins to Forsake:</p>
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<p>Important (Key) Words or Concepts:</p> <p>List Words: _____</p> <p>Cross References: _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>Key Verse(s): _____</p>		
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<p>Theology: What does this chapter tell you about God?</p>	<p>Application: What does this chapter say to <u>you</u> about living the Christian Life?</p>
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<p>Summary (one sentence):</p> <p>Chapter Title _____</p>
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<p>Responding to God in Prayer: What ideas for prayer does this chapter suggest?</p>

OUTLINE FOR BOOK SURVEY METHOD

1. Read through the whole book in one sitting, twice.

(Depending on the length of the book, it may be helpful to read through it once per day over a two-day period.)

2. Circle the category or categories of this book.

Historical

Narrative

Prophetic

Law

Biographical

Epistolic

3. Note the historical context and the main events this book contains. *(A Bible dictionary may be helpful)*

4. Read the entire book a third time, and list the main characters.

(e.g. author, audience/recipient, main characters found in narrative)

5. Read the entire book a fourth time, and list any themes, teachings/doctrines, keywords, key phrases, or warnings. Also note the main theme(s) and key verses.

Add your own questions-

a few questions to get started:

- Recurring Theme(s)?*
- This book's teachings about God?*
- About the Kingdom/Church?*
- About Salvation?*
- What Instructions or Corrections?*
- What Warnings or Judgments?*

6. Read the entire book a fifth time, and make a simple outline with the divisions you've noticed. Write a title for each division. (use a separate sheet if necessary)

7. How does this book fit within the broader context of the Bible?

8. Application

GOD'S WORD...FOR ME

This simple system of filling in a circle after you read the chapter in the Bible will make a good record of your personal reading. If you want to read through the Bible in one year, read five chapters each Sunday and three chapters each day, Monday through Saturday. If you want to read the Bible through in two years, read two chapters each day, Sunday through Saturday.

Genesis

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

Exodus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

Leviticus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Numbers

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Deuteronomy

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Joshua

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24

Judges

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21

Ruth

1 2 3 4

1 Samuel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

2 Samuel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24

1 Kings

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22

2 Kings

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25

1 Chronicles

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

2 Chronicles

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Ezra

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Nehemiah

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Esther

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Job

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42

Psalms

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60
61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80
81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120
121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140
141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150

Proverbs

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Ecclesiastes

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Song of Solomon

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Isaiah

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60
61 62 63 64 65 66

Jeremiah

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

Lamentations

1 2 3 4 5

Ezekiel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

Daniel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Hosea

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Joel

1 2 3

Amos

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Obadiah

1

Jonah

1 2 3 4

Micah

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Nahum

1 2 3

Habakkuk

1 2 3

Zephaniah

1 2 3

Haggai

1 2

Zechariah

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Malachi

1 2 3 4

Matthew

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Mark

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Luke

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24

John

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21

Acts

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Romans

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

1 Corinthians

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

2 Corinthians

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Galatians

1 2 3 4 5 6

Ephesians

1 2 3 4 5 6

Philippians

1 2 3 4

Colossians

1 2 3 4

1 Thessalonians

1 2 3 4 5

2 Thessalonians

1 2 3

1 Timothy

1 2 3 4 5 6

2 Timothy

1 2 3 4

Titus

1 2 3

Philemon

1

Hebrews

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

James

1 2 3 4 5

1 Peter

1 2 3 4 5

2 Peter

1 2 3

1 John

1 2 3 4 5

2 John

1

3 John

1

Jude

1

Revelation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22

