

Foundations Class
“The Bible”

Ken Stone Ministries

Section 1

Belief in the Existence of God

Belief in the existence of God is the primary truth which lies at the foundation of all religious faith and knowledge.

Heb. 11:6 “Whosoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and He rewards those who seek Him.” (R.S.V.)

Prov. 1:7 The basis of wisdom.

2. The existence of God is a revealed truth. The Bible writers make no attempt to prove that God exists. Jesus Christ advanced no arguments to convince men that there is a God. The Bible teaches the existence of God.

3. The following considerations contribute toward belief in the existence of God:

- a. God is revealed in Scriptures.
- b. The existence of the material universe with its living inhabitants.
- c. The universal conviction in men of the existence of a Supreme Being.
- d. The universal desire to worship.
- e. The universal sense of right and wrong.
- f. Jesus Christ’s faith in God.
- g. The prophecies of the Scriptures.

4. The most important, and the really conclusive, evidence of the existence of God is to be found in one’s personal experience.

Notes:

Some testimonies of those who knew God: Jesus John 7: 29; 10:15; 17:25 Job Job 19:25; 42:5 David Ps. 34:10; 42:2 Jeremiah,10:10 Paul 2 Tim. 1:12

Lesson 2

How God Has Revealed Himself

1. The first great truth is the fact that God has revealed Himself to men; and we believe because of this revelation. Heb. 1:1 God has spoken to men.

“The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate...The Omniscient One is above discussion.”

2. God has revealed Himself in nature.

Ps. 19:1-4 The material universe reveals God's glory.

3. God has revealed Himself in history.

4. God has revealed Himself in the lives of men.

5. God has revealed Himself through the prophets.

Amos 3:7 “The Lord Eternal never does anything without telling His servants the prophets.” (Moffatt)

6. The best and fullest revelation of God is in the person of Jesus Christ. John 1:18 “God has been unfolded by the divine One.”(Moffatt)

“All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son.”

We recognize that these revelations are dependent on the Bible for interpretation.

Notes:

Lesson 3

The Written Word

1. The Scriptures The special revealings of divine truth have come to men by the prophets and, in a fuller way, by the appearance of the Son of God among men. (Heb. 1:1,2.) Apart from the Scriptures we would have no way of ascertaining either the messages of the prophets or the facts connected with Christ's life and teaching. We look upon the Scriptures, therefore, as the written record of God's revelations to the human race.
2. The contents of the Scriptures The Scriptures (from the Latin scriptura, which, like the Greek graphai, means "writings") come to us in the form of 66 books. This collection of writings has come to be known as the Bible, from the Greek word biblos, meaning "book."
3. Their date of composition The earliest writer of Scripture was Moses, who wrote about 1,500 years before Christ. Therefore the 39 books of the Old Testament were written over a period of one thousand years. The 27 books of the New Testament were all written before the close of the first century A.D., with the last, the book of Revelation, being written by John the apostle about A.D. 95. Thus, the writing of the books which constitute the Bible covered a period of approximately 1,600 years.
4. Their authorship In the main it was written by some 35 authors, but these men doubtless secured information and used documents written by many other writers.
5. Their arrangement The order of the books in the Hebrew Bible of Christ's day was not identical with their arrangement in our Bible. There were three main divisions of the Hebrew Bible, as follows:
The Law The Prophets
The Writings
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and The Twelve (the minor prophets). Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

The books of our English Bible are, on the whole, grouped according to their literary character, as follows:

Old Testament , Law Poetry Prophecy , Genesis to Deuteronomy Job to Song of Solomon Isaiah to Malachi

New Testament, History, Letters Prophecy Matthew to Acts Romans to Jude Revelation

6. Their Language The Old Testament was written in Hebrew except for a few sections which were written in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek and was first translated into English by John Wycliffe in 1382-1388.

The King James, or Authorized, Version of the Bible was made in 1611.

Notes: