

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

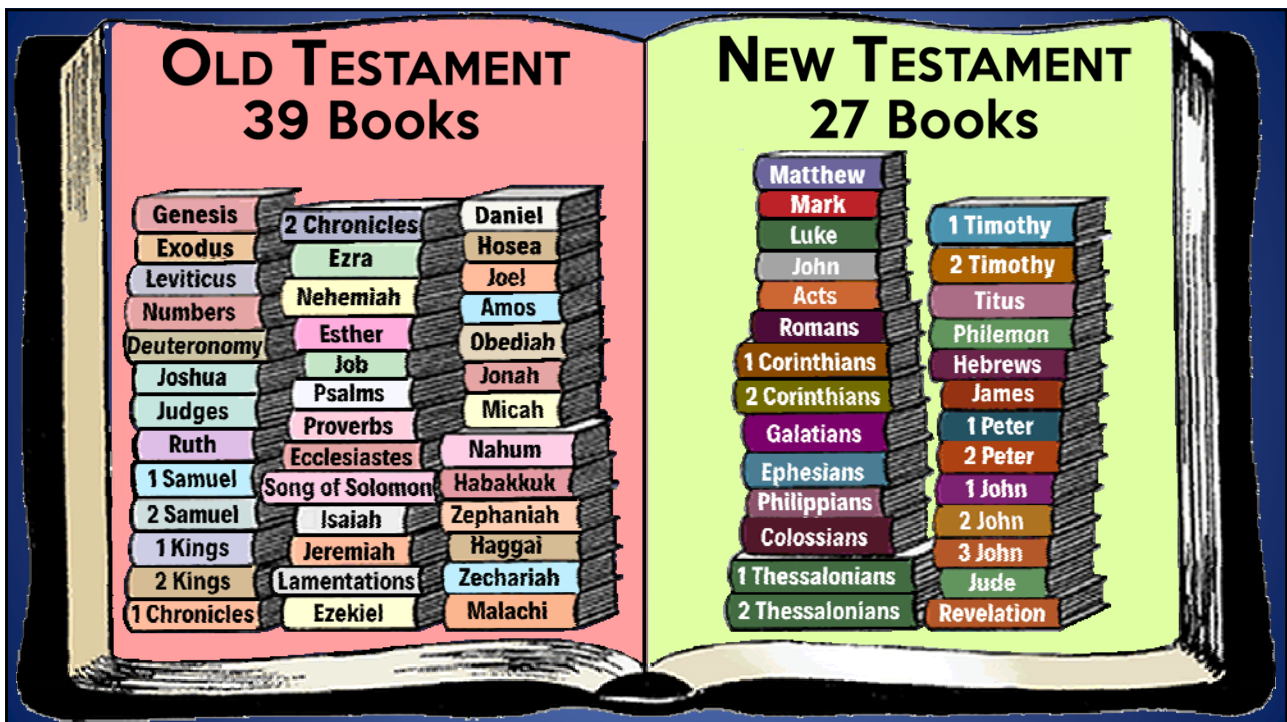
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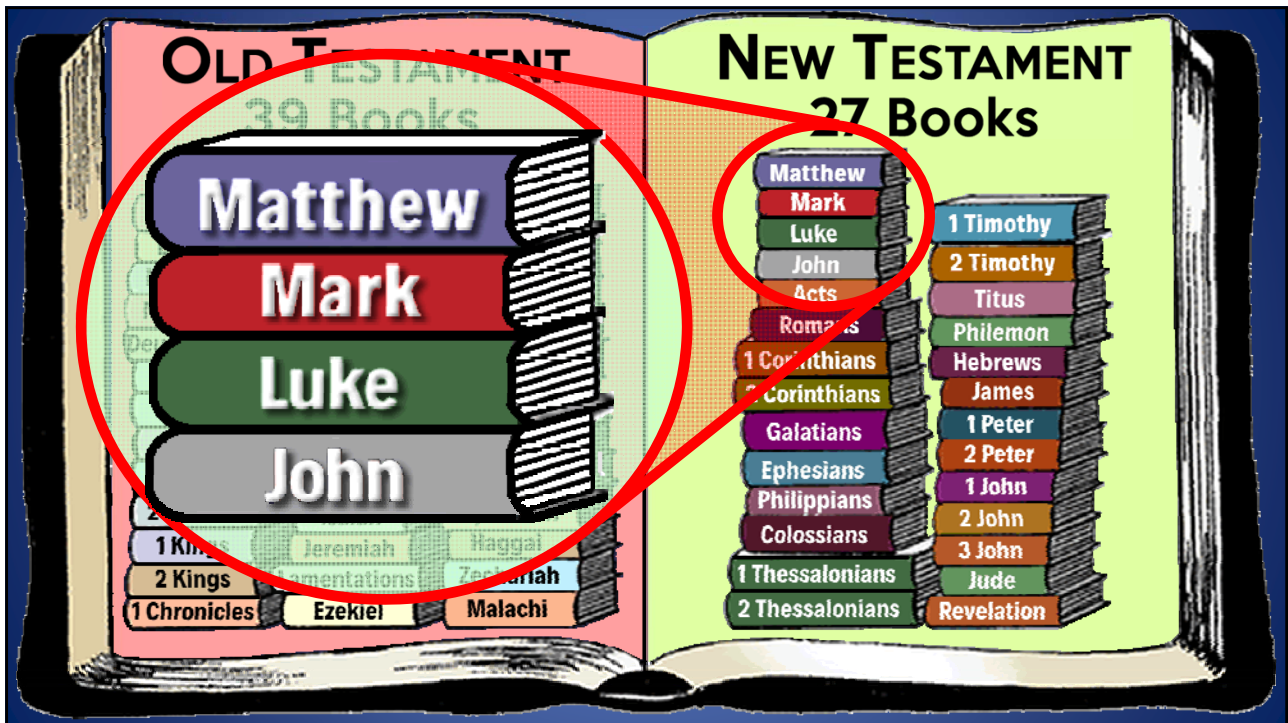
Session 5

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

THE MECHANICS OF THE GOSPELS





gos'pel

noun | gos•pel | \gä-spəl\

1. *capitalised*: good news; the message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation
2. *capitalised*: one of the four New Testament books telling of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. a lection from one of the four gospels used in a religious way
4. any system of religious doctrine; sometimes, any system of political doctrine or social philosophy; as, this political gospel.
5. anything promoted or accepted as infallible truth or as a guiding principle of doctrine

Middle English, from Old English *gōd-spel* meaning “good news” or “glad tidings”, which is a calque (word-for-word translation) of the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον, euangelion (eu- “good”, -angelion “message”) or in Aramaic (ܐܘܢܘܢ ewang'eliyawn).

Okay, but what IS the Gospel?

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The “Good News” of the Bible

01

**Jesus died,
according to the Scriptures...**

02

He was buried...


03

**He rose again on the third day,
according to the Scriptures.**

3 Died
according to the scriptures

Buried

Rose 3rd day
according to the scriptures

<u>Gospel</u>		<u>Scribe (<i>oxygràphos</i>)</u>
<u>Author</u>		
Matthew		Matthew (Levite tax man)
Peter		Mark (amanuensis)
Paul		Luke (doctor)
(+other apostles?)		

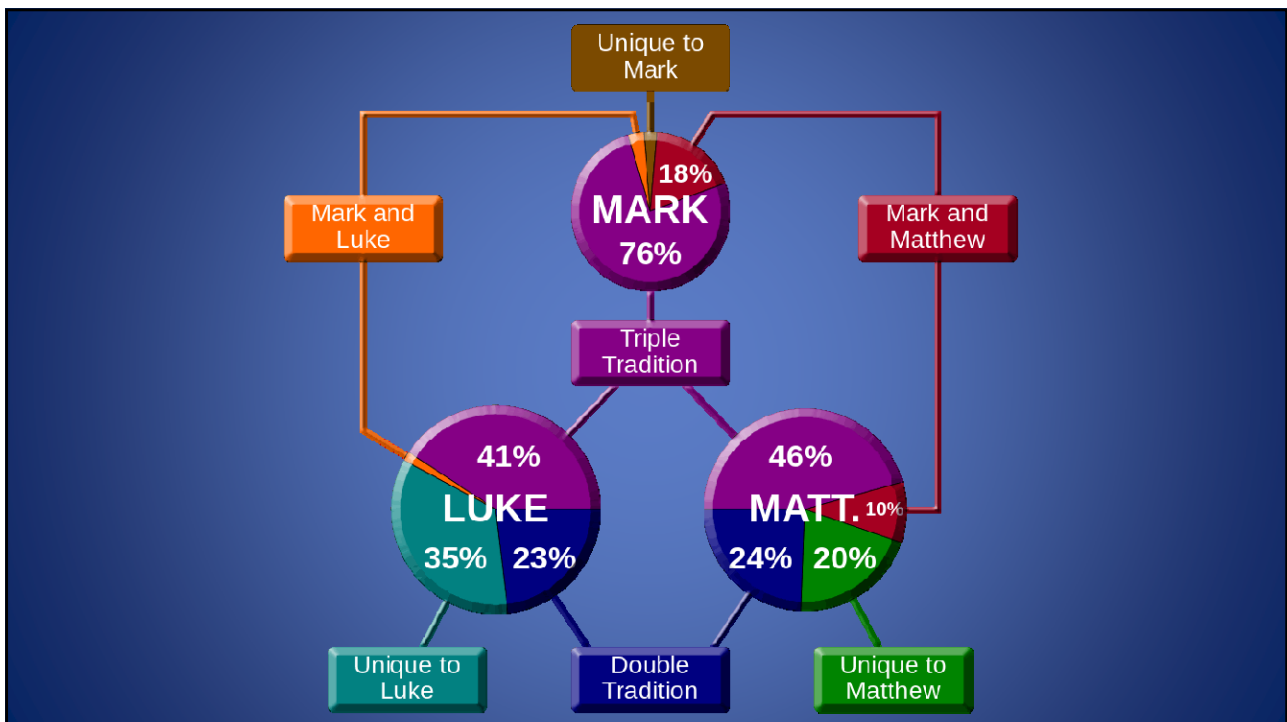
The three **Synoptic Gospels** include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence with similar wording.

Example: healing the leper

Matthew 8:2-3	Mark 1:40-42	Luke 5:12-13
And behold, a leper came	And , calling out to him, there comes to him a leper	And behold, a man full of leprosy. But, upon seeing Jesus,
and worships	and kneeling and	he fell upon his face and requested
him, saying: Lord, if you wish, I can be cleansed.	saying to him: If you wish, I can be cleansed.	him, saying: Lord, if you wish, I can be cleansed.
	And , moved with compassion,	
And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying: I wish it; be cleansed. And immediately his leprosy	he stretched out his hand and touched him and says to him: I wish it; be cleansed. And immediately the leprosy left him,	And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying: I wish it; be cleansed. And immediately the leprosy left him.
was cleansed.	and he was cleansed.	



Christ cleansing a leper by Jean-Marie Melchior Doze, 1864.



<u>Gospel</u> <u>Author</u>		<u>Scribe (<i>oxygràphos</i>)*</u>
Matthew		Matthew (Levite tax man)
Peter		Mark (amanuensis)
Paul (plus?)		Luke (doctor)
John		Mark?

* Amenuensis,
Ready Writer,
tachygráphos,
shorthand writer

<u>Gospel</u> <u>Author</u>		<u>Scribe (<i>oxygràphos</i>)*</u>
Matthew		Matthew (Levite tax man)
Peter		Mark (amanuensis)
Paul (plus?)*		Luke (doctor)
John		Mark?
		Luke (doctor)
		Luke (author)

*Luke and Acts may comprise a legal defence of Paul written to precede him to Rome. If so, it worked.

Design of the Gospels

	2 Jesus as King matthew <small>a tax collector</small> <small>written 2nd A.D. 40-140</small>	1 Jesus as Servant mark <small>a missionary</small> <small>written 1st A.D. 55-70</small>	3 Jesus as Man luke <small>a doctor</small> <small>written 3rd A.D. 62</small>	4 Jesus as God john <small>a fisherman</small> <small>written 7th A.D. 80-90</small>
Presents as:	MESSIAH	SERVANT	SON OF MAN	SON OF GOD
Genealogy:	Abraham (legal line)	–	Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Preexistence)
What Jesus:	Said	Did	Felt	Was
Written to:	Jew	Roman	Greek	Believers (all)
1st Miracle:	Leper cleansed (Jew = sin)	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to wine
Emphasis:	Credentials	Servanthood	Compassion	Jesus' Deity
Ends with:	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit (see Acts)	Promise of return (see Revelation)

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Style:	Well structured sections	Snapshots, action, themes	Narrative, M/F characters, story	Supernatural, irony, paradox
Key word:	Fulfilled (32X)	Euthys -at once, immediately- 42X	It came to pass (40x)	Verily, verily (24X)
Purpose:	book of "heritage" of Jesus (1:1) & much of his "teaching" (28:20)	narrated "good news" (1:1) about Jesus, esp. his actions & his death	an "orderly account" for attaining "secure knowledge" (1:1-4)	much "testimony" and "signs" for believers (20:30-31; 21:24-25)
What?				
Why?	to teach a community with internal divisions and external enemies	to encourage a group undergoing difficult trials & persecutions	to challenge believers to put their faith into practice more fully	to strengthen a group ostracized by other Jews for their faith
Emphasis:	focus on men: David, Joseph, Herod, Magi; power: King of Jews? murder of infants!	birth not narrated; but he's called "Son of Mary" (6:3) and "the Nazarene" (14:67)	focus on women: Elizabeth, Mary, Anna; angels; shepherds; Holy Spirit	theology of incarnation: "Word became flesh and dwelt among us"
Birth				
Death	authorities' plots & treachery (ch. 26-27)	horrible suffering; tragic death (ch 14-15)	Jesus' innocence; forgiveness (ch. 22-23)	exaltation/glorification (ch. 18-19)

Clues to early NT authorship

- Conspicuous omissions:
 - Nero's persecutions after 64 A.D.
 - Execution of James, 62 A.D.
 - Jewish Revolt against Romans, 66 A.D.
 - The Destruction of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.
- Papyri fragments



The Magdalen Papyrus P64, poss. 2nd half 1st Century (Matthew)



Rylands P52, 125 AD (John)

The book of Matthew

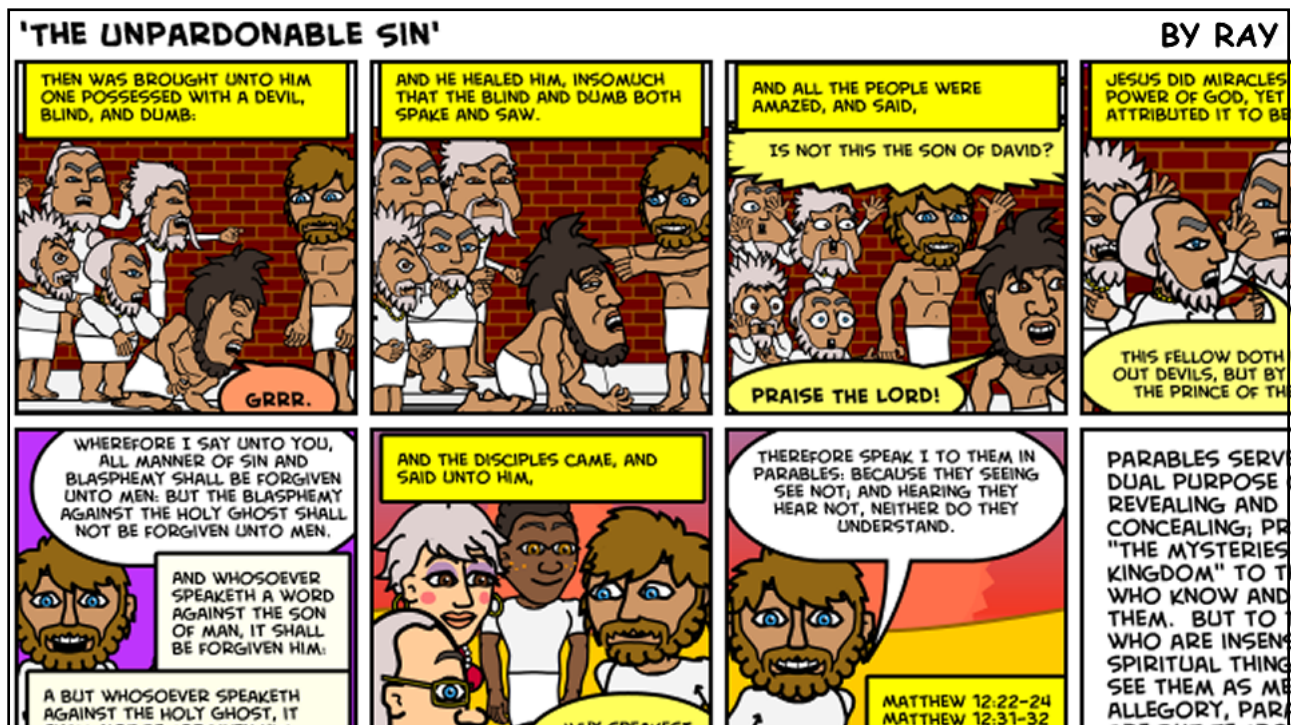
- **Key theme:** **Jesus as King** - The King and His kingdom
- **Author:** Matthew, a Jew (tax collector w/ shorthand)
- **Audience:** Israel and Jewish readers
- **Distinctives:**
 - Genealogy of birth, not death (incl 4 women)
 - Traces Jesus lineage back to Abraham
 - Jesus' **legal** (Joseph) heredity as son of David
 - Jesus' divine heritage (Matt 1:18-25)
 - Introduce Jesus as **doer** and teacher (*rabbi*)!
 - Show that Jesus **fulfilled** Tenakh prophecies
 - Records 20 specific miracles witnessed

- **Distinctives:** Detailed narrative of six major messages:
 - ① the Sermon on the Mount (chap 5—7)
 - ② the charge to the apostles (chap 10)
 - ③ the parables of the kingdom (chap 13)
 - ④ the lesson on forgiveness (chap 18)
 - ⑤ denunciation of the Pharisees (chap 23)
 - ⑥ Mount of Olives prophecy (chap 24-25)
 - Ministry of John the Baptist (bridge to OT)
 - Structured account of Jesus' life/ministry
 - Introduced the mystical church of Jesus

- **Matthew:** Original name Levi (“joined to” [Rome?])
Renamed Matthew “the gift of YHWH”
Written soon after Jesus’ ministry (AD40-50)
The NT is silent on Matthew’s life
From Capernaum (which rejected Jesus)
Left wealth, business to follow Jesus
Tradition has him in Persia, Ethiopia, Syria
Some traditions associate him with Greece

The book of Matthew

- In Chapters 1-10 Jesus presents the kingdom of heaven to Israel for 2½ years:
 - Teaching, preaching, parables, miracles and healings by Jesus up to Chapter 9, prove His credentials to those with eyes to see and ears to hear
 - The 12 sent out in Chapter 10, more miracles by them
 - Israel’s response to John the Baptist in Chapter 11
 - Rejection of Jesus in Chapter 12
 - Ends with the “unpardonable sin”



The book of Matthew

- In Chapters 1-10 Jesus presents the kingdom of heaven to Israel:
 - Jesus announced Himself
 - His teaching, preaching, parables, miracles and healings (up to Chapter 9) proving His credentials to those with eyes to see and ears to hear.
 - He has overcome opposition from Pharisees, Sadducees and others of His day

- He has consolidated and concentrated His power

• Power over Disease	Matthew 8:1–17
– Leprosy	Matthew 8:1–4
– Palsy	Matthew 8:5–13
– Fever	Matthew 8:14–17
• Power over Nature	Matthew 8:18–27
• Power over Satan	Matthew 8:28–34
• Power over Sin	Matthew 9:1–17
• Power over Death	Matthew 9:18–26
• Power over Darkness	Matthew 9:27–31
• Power over Demons	Matthew 9:32–38

What more does Jesus have to prove?

- Per Matthew, as a 12-year old, He demonstrated a perfect knowledge of the Scriptures.
- In His early Ministry, He was recognized publically by God and by other supernatural evidences.
- Through His life as the Son of Man, He demonstrated an impossible standard of human perfection.
- As the Son of God, He demonstrated His Glory as the Only Begotten Son through miracles and healings.
- In Galilee, he was even transfigured before witnesses.

Jesus has
nothing left
to prove!

Jesus has
nothing left
to prove!

So from now on
His ministry will change.

To prepare for
the changed mission,
Jesus prays alone.

Act 1. The Old Testament

To prepare for
the changed mission,
Jesus prays alone.

~~Act 1. The Old Testament~~

COMPLETED

To prepare for
the changed mission,
Jesus prays alone.

~~Act 1. The Old Testament~~

COMPLETED

Act 2. Matthew 1-10: offering Israel the Kingdom of Heaven

To prepare for
the changed mission,
Jesus prays alone.

~~Act 1. The Old Testament~~

COMPLETED

~~Act 2. Matthew 1-10: offering Israel the Kingdom of Heaven~~

COMPLETED

To prepare for
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~~Act 1. The Old Testament~~

COMPLETED

~~Act 2. Matthew 1-10. Offering Israel the Kingdom of Heaven~~

COMPLETED

Act 3. Jesus' final six months, death, burial and resurrection

Now things change
dramatically.
From now on, Jesus only
speaks publically in

Now things change
dramatically.

From now on, Jesus only
speaks publically in

parables

Matthew 13: 1-9

1. The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.
2. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

Jesus' Kingdom Parables

Why Parables? Matthew 13:10-17, 34-35

1. Sower and 4 Soils Matthew 13:3-9
(Sower and 4 Soils Explained) Matthew 13:18-23
2. Tares and Wheat Matthew 13:24-30
(Tares and Wheat Explained) Matthew 13:36-43
3. Mustard Seed Matthew 13:31-32
4. Woman and Leaven Matthew 13:33
5. Treasure in the Field Matthew 13:44
6. Pearl of Great Price Matthew 13:45-46
7. Dragnet Matthew 13:47-50

3. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;
4. And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:
5. Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:
6. And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.
7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
8. But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
9. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Why Parables?



- A parable is a story to hide the truth.
 - Jesus used to tell stories that most people failed to understand. Conclude, to those who have ears.
 - Parables are metaphors, yes, but remember expositional constancy.
 - Parables are stories with a mirror in them
 - Parables were used as stories with a mystery. Jesus used them as a riddle. Why? Riddles leave us confused, and then when we see the answer we feel foolish. Some get it right away and some never get it, and some wrestle with it until they got it.
 - Say something to them that would make them think... and if they didn't think about it they would forget even what they knew about it before.
 - If we are going to see growth, we must not make it too easy for them to respond.
 - Healing brought the people in (what they wanted, physical material blessing like healing), but He wanted to teach them (preach).

Three cases seed failed to reproduce itself

- Speak to hardened minds and hearts
 - As soon as they listened, they lose it right away
- Too superficial or shallow, perhaps emotional
 - but then they fall away when a bit hard
- Lives so crowded that only a small part that can hear, but their life is so crammed
 - The message gets crowded out

The only reason
to sow seed is to
get more seed!

Because one seed in
four reproduced the
failures are completely
swallowed up by one success

- To you has been given the secret:
 - Everything is about the Kingdom of God.
 - You can look at anything and see the principle of God. Everywhere you look you can see the principles of the kingdom of God.
 - Everywhere you look you now have the key to unlock and can see the government of God in it.