# **The History of God's Revelation**

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The Origin of Scripture

# Introduction to the Series

**To build trust, confidence and understanding of the Bible as the revelation of God.**

As we’ve been going through Samuel, I’ve mentioned textual problems, I’ve mentioned “the Septuagint” and other ancient versions. I’ve said “this word really means that.”

This series is intended to build understanding. What *is* the Bible? What is it a translation of? What remains of the originals, if anything? How was it preserved?

There are many, many questions that we could try and face!

Here’s how I’ve broken down the 5 messages that will make up this series.

##### Session 1: The History of God’s Revelation

The Bible is the pinnacle of God’s revelation to mankind.

• Look at how God has revealed Himself throughout history, leading ultimately to today, in which the written Scriptures are the primary way He speaks.

• How *remarkable* it is that God wants to communicate and fellowship with mankind

##### Session 2: The History of Scripture – Key Documents and Preservation

• To review the history of Scripture:

• how did it come together?

• what languages were used,

• what key texts are extant?

• how they have been preserved?

• What do we have today?

• How amazing that God has preserved the text so well. Miraculous!

##### Session 3: Bible Translations – Why are there *SO MANY?*

This one has a danger of being a bit technical… and a bit dry..

• Having understood what we *have*, it’s time to talk about how we translate it. But it’s not simple.

• To understand more about Hebrew, Koine Greek and the challenges around translation, why different English versions exist, and the role of textual criticism in shaping modern Bibles.

• To showwhy there can never be a “best” English Bible, and that it's helpful to refer to different translations to really get the fullness of what God says.

##### Session 4: The Nature and Reliability of Scripture

• To explore the meaning of “God-breathed” from [2 Timothy 3:16](https://ref.ly/2Ti3.16), glimpse the miraculous precision in Scripture, and understand inerrancy and infallibility while addressing textual challenges.

• I’ll show you a glimpse of the supernatural precision and the irrefutable miraculous fingerprints of God within. I hope a real “wow” factor.

• To understand inerrancy and infallibility – what do these words mean? How do we understand some of the problems, such as clear textual difficulties (eg. [1 Samuel 13:1](https://ref.ly/1Sa13.1))? To understand why, in spite of some textual challenges, the Bible is uniquely and miraculously preserved for our benefit.

##### Session 5: The Word of God is For Everyone

• To glimpse the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Bible, which are both “the Word of God.” The Bible authenticates Jesus Christ (see any OT prophesy!) and Christ authenticates the Bible (see [John 5:46-47](https://ref.ly/Jn5.46-47), [Mark 7:6](https://ref.ly/Mk7.6), [Luke 20:37](https://ref.ly/Lk20.37), [Luke 24:7](https://ref.ly/Lk24.7), etc.)

• To clarify that the Bible is for *everybody*– how to interpret, the role of the Holy Spirit.

# The Outcome

… I hope… is for us all to have a more fuller appreciation and **AWE** of what we have in our lap.

In [Psalm 138:2](https://ref.ly/Ps138.2), David says something startling. The NKJV puts it: ‘You have magnified your word above all your name.’

In Scripture, God’s *name* represents His power, His character, His glory — everything He is. And yet, David says God has lifted His *word* even above that.

I think this shows just how seriously God takes the Bible! It’s more than just a message from Him — it is the very means by which He reveals Himself, makes promises, and acts. It is the sum of what He wants us to know about Him, at this point in history at least!

As we get into some of the history and the technicalities of the languages, my prayer is we can keep in mind a sense of wonder at what God has achieved and what God has given to us.

# The History of God’s Revelation

Today is about reviewing *how* God has made Himself known throughout history.

We will come away hopefully with 3 key points:

1. God desires to make Himself known to people. He wants humanity to know Him. And I mean *know Him,* not just know *about* Him.

2. There are different forms that God has used for revelation: creation, conscience, direct communication, prophets, Jesus Christ, and Scripture. These can be categorised as “general revelation” and “special revelation.” We’ll see that special revelation must take priority. We will take a look at the history of this, from Adam and Eve through to the close of the Old Testament.

3. How the written Word became the primary means of preserving God's revelation. It is the *climax* of God’s revelation. As such, for us today, the *Bible* is the final word on truth.

## Note

I’m taking for granted that God exists.

His existence is self-evident from creation. He is the uncreated Creator; the First Cause of every effect.

That *anything exists at all* demands a Creator.

Atheism can be immediately rejected as illogical as it cannot provide a rational explanation for the existence of reality that had a beginning.

When you look at all that exists, two things are quickly apparent:

First, that there is an incredible beauty and an incredible complexity which defies all explanation except the Divine. but when you consider that both in form and in function, creation is astounding, it speaks to the creative genius of God.

**Psalm 19:1–2 NASB 2020**

The heavens tell of the glory of God;

And their expanse declares the work of His hands.

Day to day pours forth speech,

And night to night reveals knowledge.

And

**Romans 1:20 NASB 2020**

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is,* His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

The more we look into this, whether considering the vastness of the Universe, or going the other way and the incredible complexity at the microscopic level, all of Creation is just mind-blowing.

But secondly, it is obvious that Creation is marred. Damaged. Broken. The human body is a feat of engineering that is amazing, and yet *every* component of it is vulnerable to disease. The climate and the weather system comprise an incredible and miraculous system for enabling various types crops to grow all over the world, and yet it’s broken and we get severe weather, droughts, etc.

Exactly as the Bible says. [Genesis 3](https://ref.ly/Ge3) speaks of God cursing the ground because of Adam’s sin, and [Romans 8:19*ff*](https://ref.ly/Ro8.19-39) declares how the creation groans and suffers, then adds “and so do we...”

The Universe, the planet Earth, and everything on the Earth are simultaneously astounding, and tragically marred.

Atheism cannot even start to explain it, given its inability to account for anything at all.

Other worldviews and belief systems may try to explain it, but I assert that the Bible’s explanation of a perfect Creation marred by sin and the Curse is the best explanation.

Hopefully, that little excursion has show that humanity is able to *infer* things about God from what He has made.

We look at what God has made, the nature of reality, and that reveals to us some aspects of the nature of the Creator.

This is called **General Revelation**.

It means: knowledge that God has made generally available to all of humanity. Irrespective of language, culture, etc.

The counterpart to general revelation is:

## Special Revelation

This is just a fancy term used to refer to when God directly communicates to people. Throughout the roughly 6,000 years of history, God has directly spoken with humanity time and again.

The first example would be [Genesis 2:16-17](https://ref.ly/Ge2.16-17) where God spoke to Adam to command him: *don’t eat from that tree!*

But think about this example.

That tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It *looked good*. According to [Gen 3:6](https://ref.ly/Ge3.6), the fruit was “good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise.”

To put it another way, if Eve had only general revelation available, it would make sense to eat it.

But the special revelation - the command of God - should have **overruled** general revelation.

And this is a key principle: what God has spoken MUST take priority over what we see.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 NASB 2020**

for we walk by faith, not by sight—

Faith is believing what God has said - special revelation.

## Why Revelation Matters

The focus today is *how*, but I want to touch on the why. Why does God make Himself known?

Now I could put a bunch of reasons here, but I the one I want to emphasise is **relationship**. God makes Himself known to humanity so that we as individuals can choose to know Him and live in relationship with Him, exactly as He designed us to do.

In [John 17](https://ref.ly/Jn17) Jesus prays for His disciples and for all believers. He says:

**John 17:2–3 NASB 2020**

just as You gave Him authority over all mankind, so that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

God the Father wants us to *know* Him. **That’s WHY Jesus came!** And in this prayer He connects eternal life with knowing God and knowing Jesus Christ.

Saving knowledge.

Because as I’ve touched on, ever since Adam and Eve ate that fruit that looked *so* good, mankind has been fallen.

The relationship with God has been broken to the extent that it’s called *death.* Because God is the author of life, to be severed from Him is to be dead, spiritually speaking.

Relationship with God is *not possible* because of sin.

General revelation - what we can perceive and understand through our senses - can tell us very little about our fallen state… other than it is horrible.

And it can tell us absolutely nothing about how to be saved.

Hence the need for God’s special revelation.

*If God does NOT reveal to us these things, we CANNOT know the way of salvation.*

# History of Revelation

Let’s now dig into the history of God’s revelation to mankind.

I found this timeline on Creation Ministries International’s website.

We don’t know with any precision when the Earth was created, unfortunately.

The date today, on the Hebrew calendar, is 29 Nisan, 5785. That is, the 5785th year since Creation!

This timeline uses dates proposed by James Ussher in the early 17th C proposed that creation was 4004BC, based on the data within the Bible. AiG and CMI broadly agree, admitting that the precision is not really possible.

Amazing, isn’t it?

• Did you know Adam lived to see Noah’s father Lamech?

• Or that Noah was still alive when Abraham’s father Terah was born.

• Or that Shem was still alive when Isaac was born to Abraham?

## Pre-Law

From Creation to Moses is about 2,600 years.

More than half of the Old Testament period!

Jesus Christ Himself affirms that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible. So how did God’s Revelation happen before that?

4 Different Ways:

### Direct Speech

Often the Bible simply says that God spoke.

Of course God spoke directly with Adam and Eve. Take a look at how He called Noah:

**Genesis 6:12–13 NASB 2020**

And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for humanity had corrupted its way upon the earth.

Then God said to Noah, “The end of humanity has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of people; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

God goes on to give to Noah very precise instructions for the Ark. And it seems to be very straightforward. Verbal.

Abraham, similarly in [Genesis 12](https://ref.ly/Ge12). The Lord said to Abram, we read. Very matter of fact.

We could look at other examples of this. But the sum is that God did communicate with humans directly and verbally, and they would have a conversation.

### Vision

Another way we see God communicate is through a vision.

Take a look in [Genesis 15:1](https://ref.ly/Ge15.1)

**Genesis 15:1 NASB 2020**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

Your reward shall be very great.”

A vision. And God and Abraham go on to have a conversation that concludes with this covenant being cut with a very mysterious sacrifice.

Jacob in [Genesis 46](https://ref.ly/Ge46) has “visions of the night” in which God speaks to him.

Visions also appear to be clear in meaning, at least in this era.

### Dream

We often see God use the mechanism of dreams to communicate, too.

Interestingly, the first example is to a guy called Abimelech, not one of the covenant people. In [Gen 20](https://ref.ly/Ge20), Abraham and Sarah are lodging in Gerar. Sarah is unusually beautiful, and to avoid the risk of being killed in jealousy, Abraham habitually says that Sarah is his sister, rather than wife. And so Abimelech the king there believes she is single and wants to marry her.

**Genesis 20:3 NASB 2020**

But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.”

In the dream, Abimelech even has a brief conversation with God about it!

Another example: in [Genesis 28:10*ff*](https://ref.ly/Ge28.10-22) you have the story of Jacob dreaming about this divine ladder or staircase reaching into Heaven, and God was standing there and reaffirms the covenant.

And of course Joseph’s dreams, and the dreams he interprets, serve as further examples. However, these are notable in that *they require interpretation*. Take a look:

**Genesis 37:6–8 NASB 2020**

He said to them, “Please listen to this dream which I have had; for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf stood up and also remained standing; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.” Then his brothers said to him, “Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Observe that the dream doesn’t contain direct communication from God, and it’s not straightforward in meaning. And yet, the brothers interpret it well enough. And, the dreams are proven to be prophetic.

### Theophany

The final mode is what we call a “theophany” - which means an appearance of God.

There are quite a few examples we could look at.

• Hagar with her son Ishmael in [Genesis 16](https://ref.ly/Ge16)

• Abraham has 3 examples of God appearing, such as the 3 “men” who appear to him before Sodom and Gomorrah fall.

• Jacob wrestles with a “man” in [Genesis 32](https://ref.ly/Ge32), and the man is generally interpreted as being a theophany.

You will hear the term “christophany” for an OT appearance of Jesus Christ, but for today I’m not going to discern between the two.

### Summary of Pre-Law Revelation

Prior to Moses then, it seems that God’s special revelation - God speaking to mankind - was only done orally, or experientially. Through an experience.

This is half of the chronology of Old Testament history.

And so, what struck me was how *rarely* people heard from God. In Abraham’s 175 years, it seems he heard from God maybe a dozen times? I grant it’s possible there are other recorded instances, but I maintain that hearing from God was not a common occurrence.

## Moses

Now with Moses, things change.

How was he called? Well, Moses just happened to be out with the sheep at the mountain of God, and:

**Exodus 3:2 NASB 2020**

Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not being consumed.

An experience! God appeared to him. And much like earlier examples, God and Moses have a conversation. A long conversation, a chapter and a half!

Now Moses had a unique relationship with God. Take a look at [Numbers 12:5-8](https://ref.ly/Nu12.5-8)

**Numbers 12:5–8 NASB 2020**

Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent; and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, He said,

“Now hear My words:

If there is a prophet among you,

I, the Lord, will make Myself known to him in a vision.

I will speak with him in a dream.

“*It is* not this way *for* My servant Moses;

He is faithful in all My household;

With him I speak mouth to mouth,

That is, openly, and not using mysterious language,

And he beholds the form of the Lord.

So why were you not afraid

To speak against My servant, against Moses?”

It’s fascinating to see how Moses was singled out.

There are prophets, and they may see a vision or have a dream, but it may be “mysterious language” - basically, a riddle. The truth is not clear to them and discernment is needed.

And then there’s Moses. God spoke with him “mouth to mouth.” Incredibly familiar.

You might also look at [Exodus 33:7-11](https://ref.ly/Ex33.7-11)

**Exodus 33:7–11 NASB 2020**

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would stand and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. So the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Again we see that favoured relationship - that close fellowship with God - that Moses enjoyed. And God has said sets him apart from everybody else.

And it seems to me that Joshua wanted that same relationship, as he lingered in the tent, but it was only Moses who had that closeness.

Only Moses had that clarity in his communication with God.

So how did other people hear from God?

Initially, they all had to go to Moses. In [Exodus 18](https://ref.ly/Ex18) we read about this, and he receives advice that this isn’t sustainable: he must appoint judges under him to tell people God’s will when they come with their questions.

But of course, where we are heading is the written Law. Moses wrote God’s words down for all to read and hear.

The first place I could find where writing was commanded is [Exodus 17:14](https://ref.ly/Ex17.14). God brought a miraculous victory for Moses and his young commander Joshua over the army of Amalek.

**Exodus 17:14 NASB 2020**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly wipe out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”

Write it down for the sake of remembrance. So you can remember what God did.

But the first written Law - where God’s revelation, God’s commandments - God’s *word* was recorded, is written by God Himself. Those Ten Commandments in [Exodus 20](https://ref.ly/Ex20).

But then, from [Exodus 21](https://ref.ly/Ex21), God speaks these *ordinances*.

**Exodus 21:1 NASB 2020**

“Now these are the ordinances which you are to set before them:

And then [Exodus 34:27](https://ref.ly/Ex34.27)

**Exodus 34:27 NASB 2020**

Then 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.”

So Moses is required to write them down and present them before the people.

With the written Law, God’s very word could now be read and understood by the common people.

[Deuteronomy 6](https://ref.ly/Dt6) and 11 are key here. [Deut 11:18-21](https://ref.ly/Dt11.18-21)

Moses speaking about the words God has given him:

**Deuteronomy 11:18–21 NASB 2020**

“You shall therefore take these words of mine to heart and to soul; and you shall tie them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. You shall also teach them to your sons, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your sons may be increased on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

So the words are written, the words are read and the words are spoken by all the people. The expectation is that all the people will have the words of God - their own copies. And they will read them, re-read them, teach them to their children, talk about them in the course of they day.

And there was a whole communal aspect to the reading - see [Deut 31:10-13](https://ref.ly/Dt31.10-13) which shows that the whole Torah was commanded to be read to the whole gathered nation of Israel at the Feast of Booths.

So there has been a significant shift with Moses. God’s commandments and some promises of God are now permanently written down.

People can know and believe, going forward, that God gave us this land, and God gave us these laws to live by, and if we do, He has promised to bless us here.

Awesome revelation!

## After Moses

Now what about after Moses?

Of course, God had more to say.. to give the leadership and the people specific guidance.

In some cases, God spoke and appeared similarly to how He did beforehand.

• Immediately when we open the book of Joshua, we read how the LORD spoke to Joshua to command him.

• Joshua also saw an appearance of God - a theophany - at the end of [Joshua 5](https://ref.ly/Jos5).

In [Joshua 7](https://ref.ly/Jos7) there is a defeat for Israel because of a secret sin that one person has committed. And it’s fascinating to read how God reveals it. He speaks directly to Joshua, saying “somebody has sinned! That’s why you were defeated” but rather than say, oh, by the way it was Achan, God commands a whole ritual of drawing lots to discover the man.

Why?

Because the drawing of lots provides a mechanism for God to reveal the truth publicly.

A couple of verses I’ll share about this period. This verse from the time Samuel was young:

**1 Samuel 3:1 NASB 2020**

Now the boy Samuel was attending to the service of the Lord before Eli. And word from the Lord was rare in those days; visions were infrequent.

As we’ve discussed in our studies through 1 Samuel, the prophet Samuel was the last of the judges and the first of the prophets - a new line of people who hear from God and speak it. Prior to that, God was rarely heard.

Another verse that provides a bit of insight for us:

**1 Samuel 28:6 NASB 2020**

So Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him, either in dreams, or by the Urim, or by the prophets.

Saul wanted to hear from God, and the verse implies that there are 3 normal modes: dreams, the Urim, or by prophets.

The Urim means “the lights” in Hebrew. Exactly how that worked is unknown, but the consensus view is that it relates to the breastpiece that the High Priest wore. The High Priest had a mechanism to discern God’s will through that.

## The Time of the Prophets

After Samuel is the time of the kings of Israel and Judah and the prophets.

If you refer back to the timeline, you can see the books of the Bible listed.

When you start reading one of the prophets, it’ll normally starting with something like:

**Isaiah 1:1 NASB 2020**

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

or

**Hosea 1:1 NASB 2020**

The word of the Lord which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

God wants to communicate to the nation. Some special revelation, a specific message to a specific generation.

He does this by calling a prophet to receive and convey the message.

Here in Isaiah, he records how God commanded him to also write down the message.

**Isaiah 30:8 NASB 2020**

Now go, write it on a tablet in their presence

And inscribe it on a scroll,

That it may serve in the time to come

As a witness forever.

So in the days of the prophets, they are delivering the revelation of God verbally, but generally speaking they are also writing it down.

Now these words and writings were immediately received as God’s word.

Zechariah, who was one of the final 3 OT prophets (Haggai and Malachi being the others) wrote this:

**Zechariah 7:12 NASB 2020**

They also made their hearts *as hard as* a diamond so that they could not hear the Law and the words which the Lord of armies had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of armies.

What’s notable is that he puts the Law - the Torah of Moses - on an equal footing with the words God sent by His Spirit to the “former prophets” - i.e. those who wrote before him.

We can see then that already the prophetic words written down were considered Scripture. The Word of God. In just the same way that the Torah was.

## Christ and the New Testament

Now after Malachi you may know that there are these so-called 400 silent years, in which no further Scripture was written. There is plenty written down from that period, which well touch on in a future session.

With the close of the Old Testament - the Tanakh - God has said everything He needs to say… for now.

• The Old Testament shows us the character of God: holy, all-powerful and mighty, intolerant of sin, yet forgiving and merciful to the contrite

• It paints the picture of the problem of sin with perfect clarity, showing that sacrifice is essential but provides only temporary cover

• It present many prophesies and predictions as to how God will permanently resolve the sin problem: a Coming One - the Messiah.

The Old Testament prophesies contain a huge amount of data about Jesus Christ.

• [Daniel 9](https://ref.ly/Da9) give us the timing

• [Genesis 3](https://ref.ly/Ge3), [Zechariah 9](https://ref.ly/Zec9) give the mission - the King coming with salvation, to crush the head of he serpent

• [Isaiah 53](https://ref.ly/Is53) and [Psalm 22](https://ref.ly/Ps22) show us how: His pierced hands and feet, the bearing of all our iniquity.

It’s all there!

And then He came. The Apostle John calls him “the Word.”

Having established that the Word is God, he says:

**John 1:14 NASB 2020**

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christ came as the incarnate Word. He is the embodiment of God’s revelation.

The writer to the Hebrews says:

**Hebrews 1:1–2 NASB 2020**

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

During the lifetime of Christ, God’s revelation was living and breathing.

Christ called men to be with Him and to record His life, and then to write the letters that constitute the New Testament.

These writers immediately knew that what was received was God’s revelation. Just one example to show this is from Peter, speaking of the Apostle Paul’s writings:

**2 Peter 3:15–16 NASB 2020**

... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which there are some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

So in Peter’s lifetime, Paul’s writings were already accepted as God’s Revelation.

And with the completion of the Scriptures, at last we have the complete special revelation of God, the primary way that we may know God. The last book, Revelation, closes with a couple of verses that warn about adding to or taking away from the book.

Now next week we’ll focus on how the Scriptures were assembled and formally accepted as the Word of God. How they were preserved, etc.

But let’s wrap up for today.

## Summary - and the Holy Spirit

I was unsure how to conclude today. I went running yesterday and prayed about it.

And God said to me simply: “this is the point!”

Today, right now, you and I can have a close relationship with God. We can talk to Him in prayer, and God continues to speak to us.

**John 14:26 NASB 2020**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and continue to teach us and remind us.

We have the complete Bible, which is able to make us wise, and we have the Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us. [John 16:13](https://ref.ly/Jn16.13) says that He will “guide us into all the truth.”

It is *such* a privilege.

Furthermore, in these last days, we have *unprecedented* access to the written word of God. For most of the Church age, a personal copy of the Bible was unheard of! But most of us probably have more than one copy, and of course through the internet multiple versions are freely available.

And we have helps to dig into the words more fully.

Because throughout history, it was not easy for most people to hear from God!

They had the Law of Moses so they knew generally how they should order their lives. But for specific guidance, they always needed assistance.

Remember when we read about Saul trying to find those donkeys early in 1 Samuel. They couldn’t just pray for guidance; they needed to go to Samuel!

We are here, on the 29th of Nisan, in the year 5785. With the coming of Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit, we have a privileged access to fellowship with God. While only a privileged few could communicate with God, and that quite rarely, you and I have precious access to God.

**Hebrews 10:19–22 NASB 2020**

Therefore, brothers *and sisters,* since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, *through* His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let’s approach *God* with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

What an amazing privilege we have!