

Edited by
STEPHEN BAKER

HOW TO STUDY
YOUR BIBLE
Using an iPad
Page 2

DANIEL 4
Testimony Time
Page 4

LUKE 17. 11-19
**The Cleansing of
the 10 Lepers**
Page 6

WHAT CAN I DO
FOR GOD?
**Believers' Water
Baptism**
Page 8



Volume 10
Number 2

MAY
2013

Editor's Introduction

By the time this issue of YPS reaches you, we hopefully will have passed the season of snow and be well beyond spring and thinking of summer. Of course, that presupposes that you live in Europe; if you are in another time zone, my apologies. Enjoy whatever season you are in!

This is a good lesson for life. Enjoying the season you find yourself in is not always easy. For some it's exams, pressure, and all that kind of thing. For others, it's romance and the thrill of new experiences. Sadly, for some, they face tough times.

I trust that whatever season you find yourself in at the moment that you will be given grace to enjoy it for the glory of God, or to endure it with the patience that only God can give. Ecclesiastes 3. 1 would remind us that God has a purpose in every season of life. Hopefully, this issue of YPS will be helpful in your walk with God.

Happy browsing

Stephen Baker



PS - remember to look us up on Facebook.
Please let us know what you think of YPS.

YOUNG PRECIOUS SEED is a supplement of *Precious Seed International* designed for those young in faith. Its purpose is to restate timeless truths from the word of God for a new generation of Christians and to kindle a biblical approach to current issues in the world in which we live. YPS is published by *Precious Seed International*, Pitcot Farm, Pitcot Lane, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Radstock BA3 4SX, UK, and is available separately from the main magazine.



HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

Using an iPad

BY **JIM ARMSTRONG** SALTCOATS, SCOTLAND

In our last study we looked at the importance of spending time with God. We live in a world that is so anti-God, and yet at the same time a world that needs to see Spirit-filled believers to experience what true Christianity looks like. We concluded that it was impossible, whatever our age, for individuals to live the life God intends for us without prioritizing time in His presence and reading His word. If we try to live for God in our own strength or effort we will portray a very lifeless and powerless Christianity. Something this world has seen enough of!

It was suggested that I should write an article about the use of an iPad/Tablet computer for Bible study, and what I've found beneficial as I used this technology.

I bought an iPad over two years ago, and since then, I've used it extensively for reading and study. As I go through my recommendations in terms of applications (app) to use I recognize that some will use other apps, which are just as good. This issue is not about the version of app, but the way they are used and more importantly the fact that they are used. There is a danger that the iPad/tablet just becomes like my Bible - something I take back and forward to the meeting with no reference to in between.

First things first! Any serious study of God's word will need the following -

- More than one version of the Bible
- A good concordance
- An expository dictionary
- A Greek word study for the New Testament
- A Hebrew word study for the Old Testament
- A Bible dictionary and
- A good Bible atlas.

I would also add some reputable commentaries to give you some objective viewpoints. After you have collected all this and a large desk, or at least space to work, you are ready to get started.

Just in case my last statement about study is misinterpreted, to get to know God all anyone actually needs is a healthy prayer life and a well-read Bible. These are all I need to hear God speaking to me. We do however have the privilege of being able to dig deeper into God's word.

The first advantage of the tablet is you can have all of the above and more on the one device, hence no real need for the large desk, and most Bible study material comes at a fraction of the cost. You do have to pay out for the iPad or equivalent but overall it works out cheaper.

Secondly, many Bible packages will link all of the previous study aids together. So for example if you are reading a particular story - say, the wedding at Cana of Galilee, you can reference all sorts of information just by touching the words on the screen, e.g. -

- Where Cana is on the map in relation to Jerusalem, for example.
- What the Bible dictionary has to say about Cana at the time when Jesus was there. What weddings were like in New Testament times.
- What Greek words were used for the 'good wine' just by tapping on the word good.
- Various translations to give you a broader understanding of the text and so on.

In addition you can also save your own notes, which will always be available to refer to later. These are linked to the very verse you were meditating on. Before I had an iPad, I would

write my thoughts on a piece of paper and then lose it! Maybe this is an indicator of how disorganized I can be!

The two apps I use are -

1. The Olive Tree Bible Study App. Main reasons - as detailed above. I now have about 10 different versions of the Bible in the one app. I also use the following -

- Vine's Expository Dictionary
- A complete Bible word study for Greek and Hebrew
- Strong's concordance and dictionary
- The Olive Tree Bible maps app, and
- Various commentaries including a full Matthew Henry collection for the whole Bible.

I save my personal notes within this app as well.

2. The second app I use is the Glo Bible. There are three main reasons why I find this so beneficial.

a. The multi media facility is superb with various map/pictures and videos all connected to the verses you are reading. This linked to a projector is a great resource for Bible teaching and youth work.

b. The various Bible reading plans which also chart your progress and;

c. It's visually very impressive with layout and style.

In addition to the various apps and versions of the Bibles, you can also reference many podcasts about the subject or passage you are reading. The tablet will have access to free podcasts from across the world, which can be listened to. Our church is going through the New Testament epistles, at our weekly teaching meeting. At various points I've had some difficult subjects to deal with from the Roman and Corinthian epistles. As I prepared for the various meetings, I was able to access sermons from all over the globe. They were easily accessed through

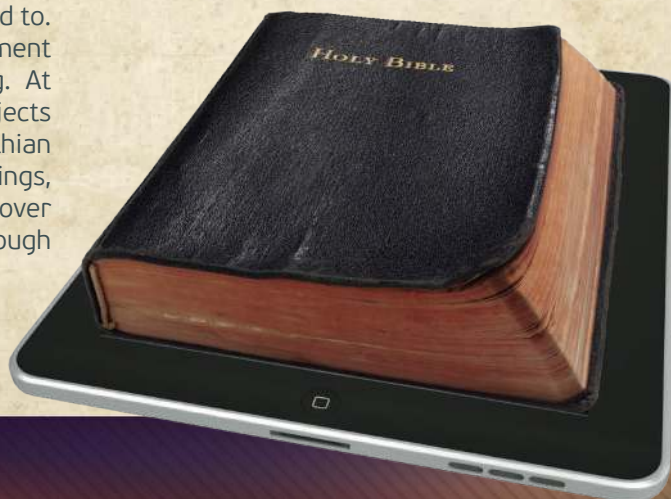
my iPad and listened to at my convenience, something, which would have been impossible before I had this medium.

Both the Olive Tree and Glo Bible applications will be available through the app store of the tablet you are using.

My last point picks up where I began. A thirst for God can be satisfied through the reading of the God's word irrespective of the medium. Many reading this might prefer a physical Bible with the feel of the pages and text. Others will like the iPad/tablet idea. Whatever your preference, make it your daily counsel and your spiritual food.

Paul tells us in Colossians **'And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God', Col. 3. 15,16 ESV.** This is how we set our minds on things above.

If you have a tablet or thinking of getting one hopefully the information in this article will give you some food for thought.





DANIEL 4

Testimony Time

BY PAUL McCAULEY BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

I love to hear how people were saved. It's thrilling to hear about the different links in the chain, the moving of circumstances, the acts of providence, the moment of faith, and the change that resulted. Little wonder there is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner that repents.

Well, Daniel chapter 4 is really Nebuchadnezzar's story of conversion. He put it into a 'tract' and published it throughout his empire, and I want to encourage you to do a similar thing. I'm not talking necessarily about writing a tract, but I am urging you to write down your story of conversion in a clear and concise way, and commit it to memory to pass on to others. Why? Because it is one of the most effective witnessing weapons in our arsenal.

Let me give you a couple of reasons why a personal testimony is so effective:

- Everyone likes a story - it's a way of catching people's interest and drawing them in.
- You are preaching to them but not at them - you are communicating the gospel about sin and judgment, Christ and salvation, without coming across as superior or arrogant - it's about you, but they're getting the message too.
- You are letting them know that this isn't theory to you. You can stand and debate evidence all day (and sometimes it is necessary to discuss evidential issues) but in your testimony you are showing them that you know the reality of this in your own experience.

You may object that you were saved early in life, and there is nothing really remarkable to tell.

Well, I can identify with that sentiment, but even if you were saved early in life the fact is you do have something worth telling. Although there may be nothing terribly dramatic or shocking in what you did before your conversion, you can tell people what you were - a guilty and helpless sinner. You can tell them the truth of the gospel you knew, and how you actually were saved. You can tell them about the reality and joy of being in the present possession of salvation.

Before we get back to the chapter, let me give you a couple of tips:

- Keep it short - Nebuchadnezzar's story takes about 7 minutes to read, but in personal witnessing that is too long. Practise getting your story down below two minutes. In personal witnessing you are in a dialogue not a monologue, and if you speak for too long you will be interrupted or seen as rude. Cut out the peripheral details.
- Keep it scriptural - you may have been truly saved when you 'asked the Lord into your heart' or when you 'gave your heart to the Lord', but you weren't saved by doing those things. You were saved by repenting and putting your trust in Christ, Acts 20. 21. Therefore, in your testimony, leave out the language or details that cloud salvation rather than clarify.

Now let's take a look at the chapter. Nebuchadnezzar was at rest and was flourishing, v. 4 - a picture of contentment. This was a man you would have thought was unreachable, but the chapter shows us how quickly things can change, and no one is beyond the reach of God.

Nebuchadnezzar had been spoken to before.

In chapter 2 we might have thought he had been converted. He learned there that God was omniscient, 'The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret', v. 47. He was moved, and his profession sounded very promising. However, he went back to his old ways.

Then, in chapter 3 we might have thought this was when he would bow the knee. In that chapter he learnt that God was omnipotent, 'there is no other God that can deliver after this sort', v. 29. But again, he remained unrepentant, still seeing himself as the lord of his own life, and the centre of his own universe.

What this shows us is that it is possible for someone to be powerfully affected by the gospel, and to make a profession that sounds genuine, but to remain unconverted. To put it in New Testament terms - the proof of having had the new birth is having new life. If someone remains completely unchanged it indicates they remain completely unconverted.

But then Nebuchadnezzar had this dream and sent for Daniel. You can see from verses 8, 9 and 18 that the king held Daniel in high esteem and knew he was really in touch with God. Daniel might have been discouraged after the experience of chapter 2. Perhaps he was expecting Nebuchadnezzar to have turned to the Lord in repentance, but instead saw him continue on his course of rebellion and sin. But Daniel's testimony had not been forgotten, and it had left its mark on the stubborn heart of that wicked king, so that, when God spoke to him again, the king wanted to know what Daniel had to say. Let that be an encouragement to you. Maybe you have had opportunities in the past to explain the gospel to someone at school or work, and it seemed that they were touched, but the next day they acted as if it never happened. Don't be discouraged - it hasn't been forgotten, and, in a time of crisis, you may find that person turning to you for answers.

As in the previous chapters we find this lovely blend of courtesy and courage in Daniel. He spoke respectfully to the king, but he warned him faithfully to turn from his sins, v. 27. Daniel left the warning with him, because that's as far as we can go in the matter of evangelism, present the truth, make the application, and leave it with God.

Nebuchadnezzar went on, still sitting on the throne of his own heart, until God took him down a peg or two. The king was the most powerful man on earth; he thought (and so did others) that no one could challenge his authority. It took only a word from God to bring him down, not just to the level of ordinary men, but to the level of a beast. Those who walk in pride, God is able to abase, and it was when God brought Nebuchadnezzar down that he really began to look up. Until then he had been looking down on others but when God dealt with him he realized he was no better than anyone else, and there was a God upon whom he was entirely dependent.

In our day we see governments in the Western 'Christianized' world becoming more hostile to God and the gospel. How important it is that we heed Paul's exhortation to pray for kings and for all in authority, 1 Tim. 2. 1-3. We may feel those in authority are immovable, but be encouraged - when Paul tells us to pray for kings he does it hard on the heels of the mention of another King - 'Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen', 1 Tim. 1. 17.

Whatever power an earthly king or ruler may have, we pray to the all-powerful King, and He is able to bring them down, and also to lift them up. Nebuchadnezzar is a testimony to that.



LUKE 17. 11-19

The Cleansing Of The 10 Lepers

BY PAUL ROBINSON MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

Luke tells us of a visit that the Lord Jesus made to Jerusalem in the closing days of His public ministry. On the way He passed through Samaria and Galilee and came to a 'certain village' where ten lepers met him. Their disease meant that they were unclean and, as a result 'they stood afar off'.

Lesson 1

What a picture these men are of all humankind. Before we were saved, we also 'stood afar off' from God because of our sinful condition. We were 'without Christ . . . having no hope and without God in the world', Eph. 2. 12.

I am sure that these men never forgot the place where they met the Saviour as He passed through their village.

Lesson 2

It is a lovely thing to remember the day in our own experience when we met the Lord*. It should encourage us to keep on trying to introduce others to Him.

In their dreadful condition and tremendous need, they all shouted to the Lord, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us'. They were not to be disappointed! The Lord's instruction, 'Go

shew yourselves unto the priest', carried with it the implied promise of cleansing, Lev. 14. 2. The amazing result was that 'as they went, they were cleansed'. Their faith was demonstrated in their obedience to the Lord's command – they set off to show themselves to the priest, before the miracle had actually taken place.

Lesson 3

This is a lovely picture of the believer. Just as these men were physically healed and cleansed, so a believer is cleansed from sin and brought near to God through faith in Christ.

There is, however, a bit of a twist in this story; it's quite a shocking one. One of the ten 'when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at Christ's feet, giving him thanks'. There are a number of similar examples in Luke's Gospel where people, who were blessed by the Lord, or saw blessing received by others,

glorified God, 2. 20; 5. 25; 7. 16; 13. 13; 18. 43. But here is the shocking bit – only one came back to say 'thank you'. The other nine continued on their way to the priest. Perhaps they were so excited about their cleansing that they were thinking about what would happen next. As cleansed lepers they would be able to go back to normal life. Their future had just changed from 'hopeless' to 'rosy and bright'. They may have been so preoccupied with what their cleansing meant for them, that they forgot the One who had made it possible.



WE ALSO "STOOD AFAR OFF"

Lesson 4

We must beware of the danger of being so taken up with the fact that we have been blessed that we forget the One who is the source of these blessings.

The words of the Lord to the one leper who returned suggest how disappointed He was with the nine. 'Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?'

Lesson 5

The Lord desires gratitude and thankfulness from every believer for what He has done for them.

Overall Lesson

We must remember to thank God, in our personal times of Bible reading and prayer, for all of our blessings, both spiritual and material. It is also important to have regular fellowship with other believers, and to thank God for our blessings. It is essential that we thank God for the One who is the source of all our blessings - His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Where better to do this than on the first day of the week when we have the opportunity to remember the Lord together in the 'breaking of bread'?

The Lord has done great things for us and at such a cost to Himself that He surely merits our praise and thankfulness. May we remember this simple lesson from the story of the thankful Samaritan leper.



* (Editor's Note: Some may find it hard to locate the actual day of their salvation but can thank the Lord for their awareness of the need to repent and their present enjoyment of salvation)

WHAT CAN I DO FOR GOD?

Believers' Water Baptism



BY STEVEN BUCKERIDGE DATCHET, ENGLAND

The Lord Jesus expects every disciple to be baptized. But it doesn't end when the physical act has taken place. The truth that baptism pictures should continually and practically affect our lives. Being baptized, and living it out each day, is an important and elementary way for every believer to do something for the Lord.

What is believers' water baptism?

Baptism takes place when a Christian is completely immersed in water (the word means 'to dip' - this is illustrated by the fact that in Acts 8. 38 Philip and the Ethiopian went 'down both of them into the water'). It is an act made in the name of the Lord, Matt. 28. 19; Acts 10. 48 and a declaration of the believer's new life in Christ, Acts 2. 41; 9. 18; 10. 47; 16. 33.

Why should we be baptized?

- It is the instruction of our risen Lord, Matt. 28. 19.
- All of those who were saved in the 'Acts of the Apostles' were baptized.
- Being baptized follows the example of the Lord Jesus. He was willing to be baptized to obey the Father's will and 'fulfil all righteousness' even though He had no need to repent, Matt. 3. 13-17.
- When a person takes on a new job and is willing to publically wear the relevant uniform so baptism is the open proclamation of what privately happened at salvation between a person and God.

How should baptism affect my life?

The practical impact of baptism can be seen in the three steps involved. This is taught in Romans chapter 6 verses 1-13.

Going into the water

- This is symbolic of death. The Christian is conscious that he died to sin and their past habit of living for self.
- The Christian is also saying he is associated with the Saviour whom the world condemned to death. He willingly takes his place with a rejected Man, accepting he can expect nothing better.

Under the water

- Baptism is like entering a grave! To be 'dead and buried' means something is completely finished, with no chance of returning to life. This is how seriously we should view anything to do with sin in our lives.
- To desire to be buried with someone is an expression of deepest love, normally reserved for closest family. Being buried with Christ in baptism is the symbolic act, which declares our unrivalled love for Him.

Coming out of the water

- It is as if we have come back to life but in a real sense it's not my life but I now live Christ's life, Rom. 6. 4, Gal. 6. 20. 'Walking in newness of life' is living yielded to God, using our lives to do only what is righteous.
- This also pictures our association with the Lord Jesus in His resurrection. Living for God is not easy. However, the same power that accomplished the greatest miracle of the universe (Christ's resurrection) is available to enable us to live for Him. 'Ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead', Col. 2. 12.

The New Testament envisages every Christian, regardless of age, ability, or background, being baptized. There is limited value in seeking to understand what else I can do for God if I am not willing to obey this step, or live out what it pictures! The table below may be of help in the future.

	Going into the water (Death)	Under the water (Burial)	Out of the water (Resurrection)
Our relationship to our pre-salvation conduct	Dead	Finished with it	Living a new life for God
Our relationship with Christ	Willing to be rejected as He was	Wanting to be buried with someone declares deep love	Raised with Him, including living by that power