

Hi everyone and welcome to Grain of Wheat Publishing and “Studies in Scripture.” Thanks for joining me today. This is Part 3 of “How I Study the Bible.” Be sure to check out Part 1 and 2 available on my YouTube Channel, Grain of Wheat Publishing. Our topic today is called “Connecting the Dots” and builds on the second component on my list, “Interpreting Scripture with Scripture.”

First of all, let me say that I am fascinated by the book of the Revelation and I fully intend to get into this book in future videos. No doubt about it, it is the most mysterious book of the Bible, its numbers and symbols challenging any and all who would seek to understand its message. Countless books and articles have been written about its content, producing such a large host of speculations that it is difficult for anyone to know where to turn for understanding. Despite this confusion, I believe there “is” a true understanding which I believe can only be accomplished by His Spirit first, then through the symbols and spiritual meaning of numbers, and finally, by “connecting the dots.”

What do I mean by “connecting the dots”? Consider the following from *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia* online.

**Quote – Connect the dots** (also known as **dot to dot** or **join the dots**) is a form of puzzle containing a sequence of numbered dots. When a line is drawn connecting the dots the outline of an object is revealed. The puzzles frequently contain simple line art to enhance the image created or to assist in rendering a complex section of the image. Connect the dots puzzles are generally created for children. The use of numbers can be replaced with letters or other symbols.

In adult discourse the phrase "connect the dots" can be used as a metaphor “to illustrate an ability (or inability) to associate one idea with another, to find the ‘big picture’, or salient feature, in a mass of data” – **End Quote**.

So again, how is the “big picture” formed? By the “ability to associate one idea with another,” or as a metaphor, *by connecting the dots*. This being true, I believe that despite the large amount of symbols and numbers found in the book of the Revelation, the understanding of this book “will always connect with” and “be enhanced by” the other books of the Bible. What Jesus, Paul, Peter, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and others taught will never conflict with the book of the Revelation; rather, it will, in fact, help us to understand it. This also includes the writings of the Old Testament which involves “types” and “shadows” and the utterances of the prophets (Luke 24:44). Why do I believe this? Because the same Spirit which inspired Noah, Moses, Abraham, and others in the records of the Old Testament is the same Spirit which inspired Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, and others in the New.

Now, what do I mean by “types” and “shadows”? The interpretation of a type involves seeing a historical person, place, event, or institution as having a future historical and “spiritual” fulfillment. The primary person, story, or event is the “type,” whereas the fulfillment is the “antitype.” In the New Testament, the Greek word “týpos,” meaning “example,” describes a model or pattern in the Old Testament that is fulfilled in the New Testament or even up to our present day. The word “týpos” in the King James is also translated as “pattern” (Titus 2:7; Hebrews 8:5), “form” (Romans 6:17), “print” (John 20:25), “ensample” (1 Corinthians 10:11), “fashion” (Acts 7:44), “figure” (Acts 7:43; Romans 5:14), and “manner” (Acts 23:25).

Think of types as “molds” or “templates,” “patterns” if you will which reveal spiritual realities. They are different from an allegory or parable in that they refer to a literal object pointing to a literal fulfillment or antitype. One of the best examples of a “type” is the Tabernacle of Moses, first mentioned in Exodus, Chapter 25. This “literal” tabernacle which Israel built points to the true and spiritual tabernacle which is the Father in Christ in us. For confirmation, read John 17:23.

Now, let’s consider what Paul wrote in Second Timothy:

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God,” therefore “all” of it is “from” God, not man alone. This is, perhaps, the most difficult thing for so many to accept, that the Bible “is” the Word of God, the Word “from” God, and that He chose to reveal that Word through human vessels. Please consider the following passage in Galatians 3:22 which is quite powerful in its declaration.

**But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.**

Our word “scripture” in this passage is the transliteration “graphē,” defined by the Strong’s Concordance as, “A ‘document,’ i.e. holy ‘Writ’ (or its contents or a statement in it).” This word is used a total of 50 times in the New Testament. In his book, *Number in Scripture*, here’s what E.W. Bullinger wrote concerning the spiritual meaning of 50.

FIFTY is the number of jubilee or deliverance. It is the issue of  $7 \times 7$  ( $7^2$ ), and points to deliverance and rest following on as the result of the perfect consummation of time.

In his book, “*The Spiritual Meaning of Numbers from One to Forty*,” Stephen E. Jones cites fifty as meaning, “Life, activity.”

So in fifty, we have the number of jubilee, deliverance, rest, or life, and when we come to realize that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God and believe in it, “we will find rest or life” (see Hebrews, Chapter 4). Not suprisingly, the word “Pentecost” means “fiftieth,” due to the fact that it followed fifty days after the celebration of Passover.

So, let’s consider our word “concluded” in Galatians 3:22. This definition reads, “To ‘shut together,’ i.e. ‘include’ or (figurative) ‘embrace’ in a common subjection to.” For this reason, the English Standard Version renders this passage as, “But the scripture ‘imprisoned’ everything under sin.” The “scripture” did this? Yes it did! It “imprisoned everything? Yes, that’s what it says.

So let’s talk reality. Is this true? When you’re willing to look at this world raw and honestly, you have to believe it is. After all, how do we account for humankind’s wicked behavior? How do we explain the destruction and mayhem which we have propagated and endured for so long? Is this just coincidental to our existence, or is there an explanation for it? If so, where do we find that explanation? My answer of course, is “in scripture,” in the inspired words of those who penned the Old and New Testaments.

Friends, believe me when I say that there is no other book on this planet like the Bible. Ah, but “there are” errors in it. After all, man has handled this book since its inception. However, that doesn’t negate the entire thing, and those who seriously study His Word understand this. They are not deterred by the fact that we have to work around these errors.

Think about it, my friend. Just because we don’t understand physics doesn’t change the fact that others do or that it isn’t a part of science. The same could be said for any body of knowledge that exists, theoretical or otherwise. And the main thing to remember in this is to have “humility,” meaning we must be willing to admit that, just because we don’t understand it, it doesn’t mean there’s something wrong with it. This, I believe, is the mistake of the masses. We don’t “get it” so we reject it. We don’t “care” for how it is written, so we throw it out. We don’t understand it, so “it” must be the problem, not we ourselves.

I cannot remember the number of times I’ve heard someone say, “The Bible contradicts itself.” No, it doesn’t. Understand that these contradictions are a matter of our own perspective and not the fault of the Bible. I’ve learned this over the years, finding contradictions that puzzled me more than once, but when I simply waited, pondered, and patiently considered these supposed contradictions, the understanding would eventually rise to the surface. I would find that it was simply a matter of realizing something I hadn’t considered when I first discovered the supposed contradiction.

Still another argument I've heard from various people is the fact that they cannot equate the God of the Old Testament with the God of the New. This is due largely in part to the fact that the New Testament and the giving of God's Son does not appear to agree with the seemingly "violent" God of the Old Testament whose dealings with humankind were laced with severe judgments, war, and destruction. This being the case, I would encourage you to consider the idea of how much judgment and war we see in this present time as well as how much has transpired in this country alone in the past 250 years. Furthermore, I would also encourage you to think about how much value we place on this fleshly form in light of the following passages from First John.

**Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

May I say it? The "flesh" is not nearly as important as we like to think it is. Ah, but what is in it, i.e. the "heart" or "spirit of man," is of supreme value, and it is this which the Word of God addresses on a continual basis (see Hebrews 4:12). Now, from John 3:6, we read, "**That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**"

In John 6:63, we read, "**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**"

Finally, in Second Corinthians 4:18 we read, "**While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**"

Friend, the God of the Old Testament "is" the God of the New. In Malachi 3:6, we read, "For I am the LORD, I do not change." But, there is a "marked difference" in the way that God moved in the Old Testament as opposed to the New. Is it not true that most of His dealings at that time were with the nation of Israel? And this being the case, our Creator manifested Himself in such a way with this nation that we would be hard-pressed to even imagine it. Yes, other nations beheld these wonders, but only in regard to God's dealings with Israel. Israel, however, saw His works and His glory in a way that no other nation on earth has ever seen it. And God's dealings with Israel set the precedent for the future of the entire world. His purpose in them extended to His purpose for all of us, for He is and always will be the "God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." For further study, see Romans 11:15-36, Exodus 3:6, and Matthew 22:32. Beloved, know that His purpose has been evolving since the beginning, bringing us to the end of this age in accordance with His divine will in heaven.

Finally, I believe the "number one" reason that so many reject the efficacy of the Bible is due to its moral essence. Think about it. Why do so many reject or attack the Ten Commandments? Are they not written for our well-being? They are, yet, so many refuse to consider this, choosing to stand against them as though the wisdom in them is not relevant in our time.

Do we need proof? Consider the fact that the Bible is not the only thing we are attacking. Due to our incessant desire to remove all moral restraint, we are resisting any and all attempts by those who would stand up in this hour and say anything contrary to our love for pleasure and our desire for instant gratification. It need not be religious, only moral, and many of those who speak out for morality are quickly condemned in every way possible. Social Media is on "fire" with the "iniquity" or lawlessness of our tongues (see James 3:6).

John 3:19 states:

**And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.**

Here is the reality. We are lost in our "flesh," in the carnal recesses of our being. Putting it plainly, we love darkness "rather than the light." Though all of us know that this human form is aging and destined to one day

pass away, we expend all of our energy clinging to its temporary existence and identity in fear of its demise. But the message of the kingdom of God is given to free us of this fear of death and its subsequent bondage (Romans 8:20-21). Psalms 139:14 states that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made,” so when we surrender to our Maker and let go of that fear, we will discover the wonder that is our Savior. In I John 4:18 we read, “**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**”

That’s it for today’s lesson and again, thank you for joining me. Be sure to subscribe to my channel for future videos and visit my website at [www.grainofwheatpublishing.org](http://www.grainofwheatpublishing.org). I also have many studies available through [Smashwords.com](http://Smashwords.com) and Barnes and Noble, and all of them are free to download. Feel free to leave your comments below and may God bless you in your walk with Christ.