

# THE KEY TO BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING ELM 95

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Without the key to Biblical understanding, the Bible remains a total mystery. Understanding the Bible is impossible for even the most educated intellectuals. The 'key' makes the Bible come alive, and understanding of the Gospel simple for all to understand.

The 'Key' to Biblical understanding is to put the Biblical Books back into the original inspired Divine Order of Books. Please print out the image file on A4 or 8½x11 size paper, and use it in conjunction with these notes for clearer and better understanding of the order.

Bible CHART of GOD'S Divine Order of Books.jpg

There are in existence over 5000 manuscripts of the original books of the Bible, but there is no Bible in the world that is printed in the original order that the books were intended to be in, unless it has been completed in the last few years. This is most unfortunate as it prevents the truths being understood that the original order makes clear.

The King James Version, while possibly the best overall translation, is not in the correct inspired order. The incorrect order of the books, although all of which were inspired directly by the Holy Spirit, masks and obfuscates the message God intended the Bible to convey.

The Old and New Testament as we know it now has 66 books. The original Bible contains 49 books or 7x7 which is a perfect number. When the books of the Bible are in the correct order, a perfection of Divine design emerges which makes the message of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation crystal clear.

The Old Testament originally consisted of 22 books, the canon of which was arranged by Ezra in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The Jews know this, retained this order for centuries, and there are scrolls in this inspired order that exist to this day. Jesus read from, and quoted from this original order of the three divisions of the books that He referred to, the Law, the Prophets, and Psalms, or the Writings division.

Here is Christ, after His resurrection, shortly before He ascended into heaven telling His disciples about the design of the complete scriptures of the canon of the Old Testament.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Notice the definite article, that they might understand **the** scriptures. The Old Testament in written in Hebrew consisted of 22 books.

The Law - 5, the Prophets - 6, and Psalms, or Writings division – 11. The Old Testament had 22 books,  $5+6+11= 22$ . The New Testament had 27 books,  $22+27 = 49$

Around the time of Christ, many people wrote about the events, happenings and miracles He performed, but the Holy Spirit inspired the selection of the the New Testament books we have today. The New Testament books were canonized by John in the last decade of the first century A.D. after Jesus Christ had inspired him to write the book of Revelation. Revelation is the 49<sup>th</sup> book, completing the numerical perfection of  $7 \times 7$ .

All the festivals in the sacred calendar were within the first seven months of the year. The Jubilee was held after 49 years.

Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> century, all manuscripts were in scroll form. These scrolls were inconvenient in use compared to the 'Codex' form. The new 'Codex' or 'book' form of a front cover, a back cover enclosing individual pages which could be numbered was developed around this time, and may have been invented, or at least used by Paul. Luke, the beloved physician, a Gentile, was Paul's secretary, and he penned the book of Luke and the book of Acts.

In the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. the Septuagint version in the Greek language was produced in the 'Codex' form.

In the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., Saint Jerome, commissioned by Pope Damasus in 382, made up the Vulgate (or commonly used) version in Latin, and he

avoided the original order, and he put the Bible together in the order he thought fit, according to some form of human logic. Jerome used the Egyptian order, and mixed up the original order which confused the perfection and obscured the message of the Bible, and this created chaos, which is so often the result of man's interference with the plan of God.

Jerome put the Book of Hebrews, and moved the 'ministerial epistles' of I & II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. His disruption of the original order was a disaster.

The first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are known as the Law. The number five is the number of Law. The five books, the New Testament Law, of the Gospels and Acts form the exact centre of the Bible when all the books are in the Divine Order.

The New Law brought by Christ did not abolish the law, but abolished the enmity between man and God.

Ephesians 2:15 (Christ) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Christ came to 'magnify' the law and make it honourable.

Isaiah 42:21 The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

The Old Testament Laws were impossible to keep, and they were physical in nature and application, so all sinned and fell short of the glory of God. The New Testament Laws, being spiritual in nature are even more impossible for a human to keep, which necessitated the sacrifice of Christ's perfectly sinless life to 'keep' them for us.

The Old Testament is made up of the first section of the five books of the Law.

Plus the second division of the books of

- a. Joshua/Judges =1,
- b. I&II Samuel & I&II Kings =1,
- c. the three major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel = 3,
- d. The twelve Minor Prophets = 1 scroll,

A total of 6 books

Then the Wisdom section, Psalms (3 divisions), Proverbs, Job,  
A total of 3.

Then the Festival books. God is not mentioned in the five Festival books which were read in the Female section outside the Temple.

Song of Solomon – Passover  
Ruth – Pentecost  
Lamentations – the 10<sup>th</sup> of Ab  
Ecclesiastes – Tabernacles  
Esther – Feast of Purim

A total of 5.

Then the 'Restoration' section,

Daniel  
Ezra/Nehemiah  
Chronicles I&II

A total of 3.

Old Testament consisted of 22 books:-  $5 + 6 + 11 = 22$

One book for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, 22 = completion.

The first section is the Law of God, the second is the 'Church' the 'ministry' of the Prophets, the third is the writings about Kings and the State.

This follows the divisions of the Temple, 1<sup>st</sup> God's House, the Holy of Holies, 2<sup>nd</sup> the Holy Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> the Court of Israel. The layout of the Temple was analogous to God's Place of Residence in Heaven.

Interestingly, Adam was the 22<sup>nd</sup> created thing. After 22 generations, along came Jacob/Israel, the father of God's chosen people.

Amazing how many things like that are built into the Bible that one might never notice.

There are seven divisions of the Bible: The first is the Law, the Ten Commandments were not 6 & 4 but 5 & 5, important because the number 5 means 'law', the second is the Prophets, Joshua and Judges was one book, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and finally the 12 Minor Prophets, the third is the 'Psalms' including the Psalms, then the writings which consisted of the books of Wisdom, Proverbs, Job, then the five 'Festival' books all

about or for women, and the word God does not appear in these books: Song, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther. Then the 'Restoration' books of Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah – one book.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> creation of God was Adam. From Adam to the 22<sup>nd</sup> generation we come to Israel, a most remarkable fact.

B. The New Testament follows the same pattern as the Old Testament. The Gospels and Acts make up the 4<sup>th</sup> Division of the Bible, and are the five books of the New Law which together make the central books of the whole Bible. The New Law was the crucial pivotal hinge of the dramatic change in God's way of dealing with His children. The twenty-seven books continue the new theme of God's message to His people and the world.

Matthew's Gospel was to the Jews. As was made clear in the principle of 'to the Jew 1<sup>st</sup>

Mark was the secretary of Peter's Gospel.

Luke was a Gentile, and was Paul's assistant whose commission was to the Gentiles.

John wrote his Gospel later.

The book of Acts completes the 5 books of the New Law.

The next section of the New Testament contains what are called the seven "General Epistles", the 5<sup>th</sup> Division of the Bible, consisted of James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, and Jude which are in order of rank. They contain no specific doctrines. James was the firstborn of Joseph and Mary, the legal brother of Jesus. They are "Jewish" epistles, or 'circumcision' epistles, addressed to the 'dispersion', the 'diaspora' of Israel, but notably Jews from Southern Israel. "To the Jew first..."

It is as well to remember that at the time when the King James Version was first printed in 1611, there was no such word in the English language as Jew, and this was changed in the Revised Version in the 1800's For simplicity, the original word was 'Judean' someone who lived in Judea, but even then there was no letter 'J', so the word was nearer 'Iudean' with a capital i.

The word “Jew” nowadays is a very confusing term which is applied to many different types of people, tribes, and ethnic backgrounds, many of whom are not Jews at all, but say they are when they are not! Many people who live in the country now called ‘Israel’ are in no way related to the descendants of Judah.

Both the Old Testament Law and the New Testament Law are supreme. They are God’s Word directly from our Father to His children letting us know what He wants from us, and how we can please Him. The story of human beings is tragic telling how from Adam on, we have not wanted to please our Heavenly Father, but rather wish to go our own way like badly behaved children.

Then we come to the sixth division of the Inspired Holy scriptures, Paul who wrote more books for the Bible than anyone else. Paul’s fourteen (2x7!) epistles to the Gentiles: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, (to children).

Then come the three epistles that relate to the revelation of the all important ‘mystery’ which Paul received in 63 A.D., Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, (Addressed to mature Christians which tell of the “new” gospel of our elevation to the kingdom to God’s throne!)

I Thessalonians, & II Thessalonians, then comes Hebrews the treatise on the end time and the Millennium. Then follow the ‘Pastoral’ epistles written by Paul to professional ministers ‘out in the field’ so to speak, for professional leaders: I Timothy & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

The number seven comes up again, the first Epistles of Paul, there are 9 Epistles to the seven Ecclesias, there are 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Then comes the capstone so to speak, the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, the book of Revelation, the ‘prophets’ section of the New Testament the 49<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible, indicating completion. The messages to the angels and members of the seven Ecclesias are analagous to the seven Ecclesias of Paul.

The perfect number of 7 Divisions is complete in itself. We do not need the Apocrypha or **any** other books, God has given us His Divine 7x7 or 49 books, the Canon which is complete in itself.

The ‘Key’ to understanding the Book of Books is in the Divine Order inspired by God.

The 'Law; is analgous to the Holy of Holies, then to the East there is the Holy Place, further East and we come to the Court outside the Temple, further East, and then we come to the Mount of Olives where Christ was crucified where the Red Heifer was killed as a sin offering. Where Christ was risen from the dead.

Jesus Christ is not only the centre of the Bible, His New Law of the 5 books of the four Gospels and Acts, is the centre of the 7 Divisions. He is the centre of the understanding of the Gospel. Christ was 'the bottom of the barrel' so to speak as He hung on the tree.

Further to the East, out from Jerusalem, now the Gospel goes out to the whole of the world of the Gentiles starting with the Romans.

In 63 A.D., the inspiration came to Paul of the meaning of the 'Mystery' revealed to Him directly by Christ which is contained in the books of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians which almost one could say form a 'new' theology.

To be 'in Christ' in the Mystery is not only that we will inherit the Kingdom phase with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but we are to be sitting at the Right Hand of God, which was never before revealed.

Because the Pauline Epistles are mixed up, scholars have been unable to make a harmony of Paul's Epistles, but once they are put into the proper order, the 'magic' of the understanding of the 'Mystery' becomes clear.

Ephesians 2:4 and 9 Mystery which was not made known hid in God since the beginning of time and differ fundamentally from everything that came before. This does not mean that hints of it did not occur from Genesis on through the whole Bible, because there were, but there was no coherent explanation there until 63 A.D.

Then with Revelation, comes the message to the whole world embracing all of God's human children regardless of race, tribe, or colour. Revelation is full of sevens, the perfect number.

I & II Thessalonians which talk about the end time, the man of sin, and the resurrections.

Then comes the treatise of Hebrews, some say what has Paul to do with the Hebrews? The book of Hebrews had no name originally until the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Century, so that false name was put on by man, but it confuses the fact that Paul or someone very close to Paul wrote it, but it is virtually certain that Paul who wrote it. It follows the seventh ecclesia of Paul. Without it there would only be 13 books of Paul, which would destroy the perfection of the  $14=2 \times 7$ .

What does Hebrews have as its theme, the world to come, the new relationship the Jews would have in the Millennium, the Sabbatismos was about the Millennium when the Jews will have a different and closer relationship with God. Hebrews 4 talks about the Sabbath of rest during the Millennium.

Timothy, Titus and Philemon are the most advanced information of the Pastoral Epistles.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Division, the book of Revelation reaches out in time beyond even the Millennium and tells that this little dot in the Universe is to become the very home of God the Father, and the most important place in the entire Universe in the aeons, the ages to come.

Revelation tells of the peoples of the whole world. It embraces the doctrines of the New Law, the resurrection of the saints, the Sabbath of the Millennium, the New World to come, of God's Headquarters coming to Earth, thus completing God's inspired Word for us.

When we see the Divine Structure of the entire Bible, the arrangement of the original order of the entire Scriptures, we see the Key which reveals the wholistic nature of the Gospel from Genesis to Revelation.

Thy Kingdom come!



