

Bible Characters Studies

Introduction to Bible Character Studies

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

- The Bible is true (it is not just stories, but true accounts).
- People in the Bible were real people with real lives, real relationships, real joys, and real problems, just like us.
- The Bible tells both the strengths and weaknesses of those people.
- We can relate to them and learn from their successes and failures.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God"
 - Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure"
 - these characters were chosen intentionally
 - "every word ... is pure" (tested, tried, chosen, flawless)
- We study people in the Bible not merely to know the historical facts
 - their stories help us have a greater understanding of who God is
 - we recognize human tendencies
 - we learn by example (both good and bad examples)
- 1 Corinthians 10:11 AMP "Now these things happened to them as an example and warning [to us]; they were written for our instruction [to admonish and equip us]."
 - "them" – take a quick glance at this chapter to see who the "examples" are
 - these people and what they did were "written down" as examples, as warnings, for our instruction (we can learn from them)
 - Example: Elijah was described as "a man just like us" (James 5:17, multiple versions)

How to Study a Bible Character

1. Choose character
2. Find Scripture references
3. Study context: time period, what was going on around them, contemporaries
4. Use a Bible atlas, Bible encyclopedia, historical reference material to learn about the location, customs, and times
5. Read commentaries (be careful & prayerful; a commentary is someone commenting or explaining Scriptures; there are many commentaries that have false doctrine)
6. What were the major events in this character's life?
7. Consider human nature
8. What was his/her relationship with God?
9. How did he/she fit into God's plan?
10. What is the key verse that summarizes this character?
11. What is the personal application?