

The New Testament

**The Gospel
as Told by the
Apostle John**

*Translation and Commentary
by David Morsey*

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Preface

The purpose of this project is to provide the Lord's people with a thorough, easy-to-read interpretation of the Bible, verse-by-verse. With this commentary there will be a translation from the original text which will preserve simple dignity and yet eliminate the colloquial and antiquated **expressions**. There will also be an effort to avoid translations that make arbitrary decisions about certain texts which might be taken in several ways. For example, in the descriptions of heaven in Revelation 21:16, it says, "*The city lies foursquare.*" Now the Greek word translated "foursquare," *tetragonos*, can mean "cube" or "four-cornered." If the city is a pyramid, which is quite possible, then "four-cornered" is a good translation. But, if we use the word "cube" then we shut out the possibility of the pyramid, an arbitrary decision which we are not capable of making at this time. Accordingly, we will attempt to stay as close to the literal text as possible, without paraphrases that may take too much liberty.

Foreword

With this lesson we are beginning a chapter-by-chapter study that will encompass the entire Bible. It is our intention in these studies to show as accurately as possible what the Bible teaches. We are not trying to present a reasonable philosophy of life with a reference to the Scripture as a source, but rather, we are attempting to show as faithfully as possible what the Bible teaches about life. We are not here defending the Bible, but only interpreting it. The Holy Spirit Himself must defend the Bible because, after all, it is His Word.

In order to interpret the Bible accurately the following things are essential: (1) The presence and power of the Holy Spirit; (2) a thorough knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek languages in which the Bible was written; (3) a knowledge of the history and culture of the periods in which the Bible was written; (4) a personal situation which is free enough to make it unnecessary to defend any particular theological position; and (5) enough personal experience with Christ and with the Bible to provide the high degree of sensitivity that is essential to bring out the best possible meaning among several choices.

The presentation of the truth of God as revealed in the Scripture must be simple enough to be available to all who seek it, and yet profound enough and accurate enough to be assured that we are conveying the message as God intended it to be given. We must come to the Bible not as a textbook to be analyzed, but rather as a revelation from God of the meaning of life especially as it relates to the human spirit and its identity with God. Essentially the Bible reveals to us the nature of God, the nature of man and the nature of man's relationship to God. As a revelation of the nature of God, the Bible becomes a source of nourishment to the spirit which finds its source in the bread of life—Jesus Christ. As a revelation of the nature of man and his relationship to God, the Bible provides guidelines for living.

In this study of the Bible we are going to provide a translation from the original text (Greek in the New Testament and Hebrew in the Old) and with it, comments that will clarify the meaning of the text, providing both the spiritual nourishment and the practical guidelines that were intended from the beginning in the revelation that God has given us.

We are going to begin in the Gospel of John since this gospel provides something of a summary of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the meaning of the life which He lived on the earth. The Gospel of John thus provides a foundation for many of the teachings that are found in the rest of the New Testament.

