

**WEDNESDAY****Studying the Word**

- Grew up / NT church = taught OT no longer relevant for Christians
- After college = studied my way out of that belief system
- But fragmented portions of Scripture I knew = positioned in way = reflected **disjointed view** of God = like looking thru **kaleidoscope**,
  - Still held on to traditional beliefs handed down to me

**Mark 7:13** making the word of God of no effect thru your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

- Taught God of OT = wrathful/ vengeful / God of NT = love
- God does not change = **Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17**
  - Righteous character= light “God is light” **1 John 1:5**
  - Essence of nature = love “God is love” **1 John 4:8, 16**
- God had to change my **perspective** to view Scripture
  - thru lens of His unchanging nature of light/love
- Widen my focus to include all Scripture = Genesis to Revelation
- Bible = single story of God’s salvation by grace thru Messiah-Christ
  - Plan to save us thru – Covenant of Righteousness by Faith
- Narrative of NT begins where OT ends = need panoramic view of Scripture

**2 Timothy 3:15–17** <sup>15</sup> from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Scriptures= refer to OT writings = and by implication included
- NT writings that were circulating = considered sacred Scriptures,

**John 5:46–47** <sup>46</sup>For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

**Luke 24:27 ROAD TO EMMAUS** <sup>27</sup>And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- Dashed back to Jerusalem = disciples locked behind closed doors  
—for fear of Jewish leaders **John 20:19**

**Luke 24:44–45** ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures”

- Helpful to know promises on number of topics
  - but can’t understand Bible if only treat Scripture as loose collection of sayings/proverbs
- Lesson compares to assembling jigsaw puzzle = Impossible to discern entire picture / when just few pieces assembled
  - Might conclude you’re assembling picture of horse
  - Few more pieces, reveal chicken/cow
- Once hundred pieces assembled = see you’ve working on a landscape = includes city/farm/range of mountain in distance
- All Scripture = interwoven/ single story of God’s interactions w/ His created beings - Can’t approach prophecy by **[LESSON QUOTE]** “lifting an individual text out of its context and comparing it to current events instead of the rest of the Bible. This, in part, has led to the constant stream of modern books on prophecy that have to be updated every few years because they were wrong on what they said was going

to happen—and when. That’s why it’s so important not merely to select some specific texts on any given topic, but instead to study carefully **everything the Bible says about that topic**, and to **take into consideration the context in which it says it, as well**. It is very easy to pull a passage out of context and make it say whatever we want.”

I grew up being taught REV = mystery / could not be understood

Just opposite = mystery REVEALED =

**Revelation 1:1–3** <sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup>who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- Book of Revelation = all about Jesus Christ
- Seems veiled in symbolic language = but **key to understanding**
  - contains 500+ quotes /allusions from at least 28 OT books
  - opens prophecies of Daniel
- Signs/ symbols of Revelation find their meaning as explained in OT
- Bible interprets itself—
- **2 Peter 1:20** = “no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation”

**[LESSON QUOTE]** Seventh-day Adventists owe much to William Miller for their understanding of Bible prophecy. While his understanding of key passages (such as Daniel 8:14) was not perfect, Miller’s **methodology was, nonetheless, important**, because it paved the way for the birth of our last-day remnant movement.