

Introduction

The purpose of these Bible reading notes is very simple.

They are to help you to read the Bible!

The Bible is not only a book written by human authors. It was also “breathed out” by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:16, 2 Timothy 3:16). When we open the Bible, God speaks.

What does God have to say about our lives? What guidance does he have for us? What does he have to reveal about himself, and about his Son, and about his purposes in history? The Bible has the answer.

Can there be anything more important to read and understand than the Bible?

Because we all have different abilities, I have tried to make these notes in a way so that they will be useful to everyone. I have included things which you can look up, or not look up, depending on how much you want to do at one time. Use the parts which you find most helpful – but don't forget that we always learn most when we stretch ourselves a little!

When you come to use the notes, I suggest that you do this:

- First, find a place that is quiet, not too hot or cold, and undisturbed.
- Before you do anything else, pray. Ask God to help you understand, and to make you willing to obey.
- Slowly read the passage, trying to understand it for yourself.
- Only after that should you begin reading these notes.

I have split up each part of the notes so that they contain different sections. Some sections are trying to help you *understand* the passage. What did the writer *really say*? Other sections are trying to help you *apply* the passage. What does it mean for you, here in Derbyshire in the year 2006?

This is the first time I have done this. So, I would be especially grateful to have your feedback, so that we can make this better. God bless you.

David Anderson, Grace Church Belper, 14th October 2006