

Chapter Summary Method

There are 1189 chapters in the Bible.

These chapter divisions were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury in 1227 AD.

The verse divisions were made in 1448 AD for the OT...and 1555 for the NT.

In the Chapter Summary Method we attempt to gain an understanding of the contents of any given chapter of the Bible by reading it multiple times (in its entirety), asking questions relating to the content of the chapter, and ending with a general summary of the chapter.

The most important tools for any study are three simple words: Observe, Interpret, Apply.

Required Tools Needed:

A Bible with cross references.

Suggested tools needed:

A Study Bible

A Bible concordance

A Bible Dictionary

Free Resource:

www.biblestudytools.com

Before you read the chapter you desire to study, start with the first couple of verses of the book.

Look for who wrote it...and who they were writing to.

Then read the chapter in its entirety without stopping.

This will help you get the flow of the chapter.

Then read it in a couple of more translations.

Then walk through the following steps:

Caption: Give the chapter a short but descriptive heading.

Contents: Make a list or outline of the major point of the chapter.

Chief People: Make a list of the major individuals in the chapter, some reference to the surrounding chapters may be necessary.

Central Verse: Select a verse that is the most significant verse in the chapter.

Crucial Word(s): Make a list of the key word(s) of the chapter.

Challenges: List any difficulties you may have with the chapter.

What don't you understand?

Cross References: Use your cross references to find other passages in the Bible that help you to understand this chapter.

Internal Cross References - Look for cross references within the book you are studying.

External Cross References - Look for cross references within other books by the same author.

Compare with cross references within the same Testament (Old or New)

Compare with cross references within the Bible as a whole.

Christ Revealed: All of the Bible points to Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament points to Him, the Gospels give the details of His earthly life, and Acts and the Letters show His activity in the world.

What does your chapter reveal about the nature, ministry, or person of Christ?

Central Lesson(s): List the major lessons taught in the chapter.

Conclusion: Application

How do these insights apply to me personally?

What am I going to do about them?