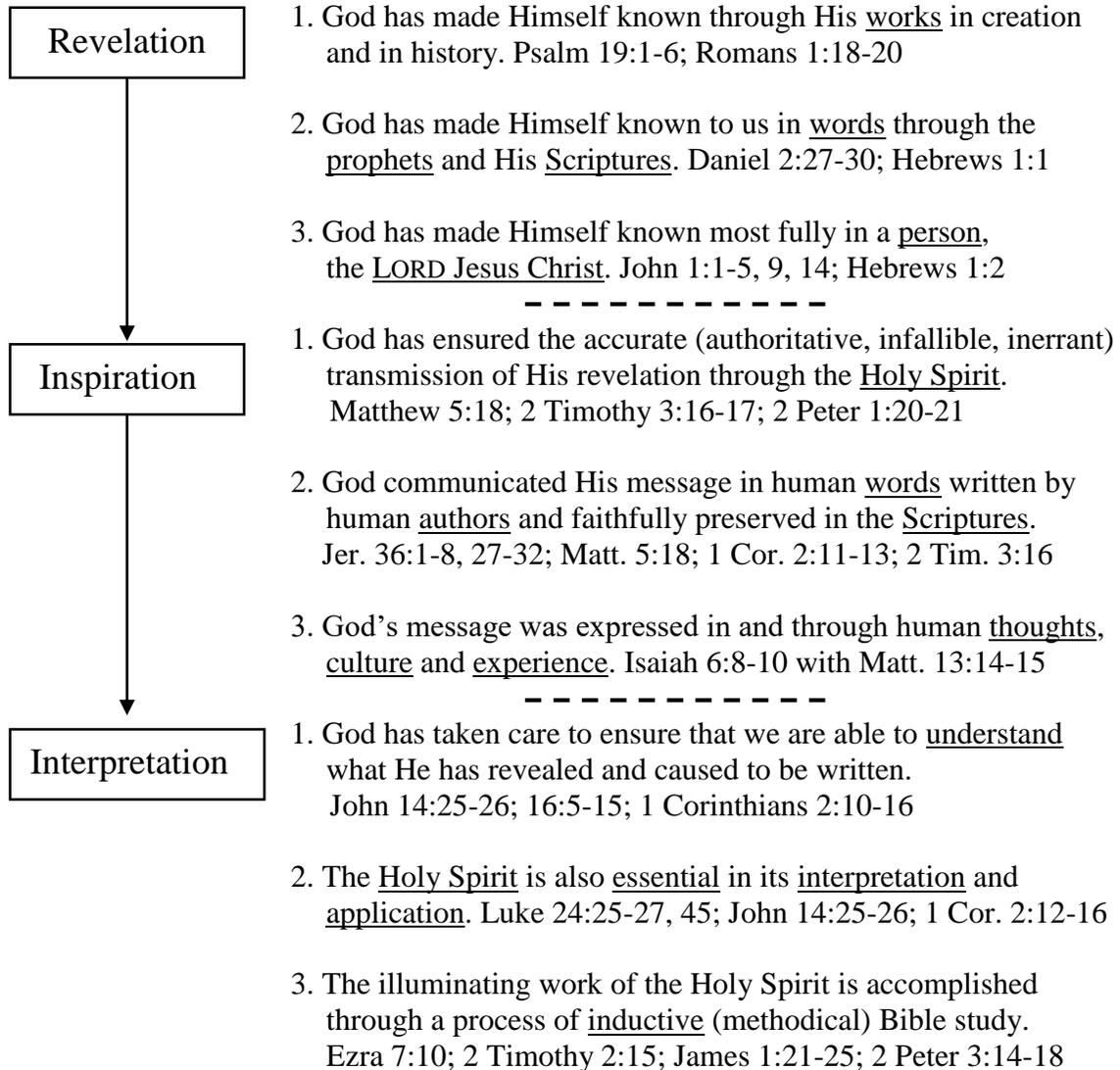# How to Study the Bible
Dr. Ken Hanna
The Foundation of Bible Study, September 16 & 19

Abraham Lincoln: "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

The Savior and the Scripture: God's gifts of love

| Revelation |

1. God has made Himself known through His <u>works</u> in creation and in history. Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-20

2. God has made Himself known to us in <u>words</u> through the <u>prophets</u> and His <u>Scriptures</u>. Daniel 2:27-30; Hebrews 1:1

3. God has made Himself known most fully in a <u>person</u>, the Lord <u>Jesus Christ</u>. John 1:1-5, 9, 14; Hebrews 1:2

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| Inspiration |

1. God has ensured the accurate (authoritative, infallible, inerrant) transmission of His revelation through the <u>Holy Spirit</u>. Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

2. God communicated His message in human <u>words</u> written by human <u>authors</u> and faithfully preserved in the <u>Scriptures</u>. Jer. 36:1-8, 27-32; Matt. 5:18; 1 Cor. 2:11-13; 2 Tim. 3:16

3. God's message was expressed in and through human <u>thoughts</u>, <u>culture</u> and <u>experience</u>. Isaiah 6:8-10 with Matt. 13:14-15

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| Interpretation |

1. God has taken care to ensure that we are able to <u>understand</u> what He has revealed and caused to be written. John 14:25-26; 16:5-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

2. The <u>Holy Spirit</u> is also <u>essential</u> in its <u>interpretation</u> and <u>application</u>. Luke 24:25-27, 45; John 14:25-26; 1 Cor. 2:12-16

3. The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit is accomplished through a process of <u>inductive</u> (methodical) Bible study. Ezra 7:10; 2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:21-25; 2 Peter 3:14-18

Revelation = Truth is revealed (by the Holy Spirit, a perfect process)

Inspiration = Truth is recorded (by the Holy Spirit, a perfect process)

Illumination = Truth is received (personal study, an imperfect process)

Developing a "seeing eye."

Three people came to the tomb on resurrection Sunday morning. All three "saw" the tomb, but not all "saw" the same thing.

1. How did their "seeing" at the tomb compare or differ?

2. How did their response to what they "saw" compare or differ?

John 20:1-9

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." **3** So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. **4** Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. (ESV)

Next week:
Developing an inquiring mind (Sharpening our "detective skills")