

MADENEW: STUDY GUIDE

The Book: Beauty and Simplicity

The Beauty of Scripture

- I. Full range of literary and writing styles.
 - A. The Bible can be broken into several categories of writing.
 - B. Approximately 43% of the Bible is made up of narrative, from historical narrative to parables.
 - C. Roughly 33% of the Bible is poetry, including songs; reflective poetry; and passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets.
 - D. The remaining 24% of the Bible is prose discourse, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay.
- II. Vivid pictures of peoples' lives. We see aspects of ourselves in these stories.
- III. All pointing to one God, with one grand, majestic, eternal purpose.
 - A. Carried out through thousands of years of history.
 - B. Much of the beauty of scripture is simply in the design.
 1. It is amazing it is that we even have the book!
 2. Number of authors, period of time over which it was written.
 3. The way it all fits together.
 - C. Here are some examples of the glorious, sweeping, majestic beauty of the written Word of God:

1. Exodus 34:4-10	5. Isaiah 60:1-3	9. Hebrews 1:6-12
2. 1 Chronicles 16	6. John 1:1-15	10. Rev. 5:6-14
3. Psalm 91:1-8	7. Eph. 1:3-12	11. Rev. 21:1-4
4. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	8. Col. 1:15-20	

The Simplicity of Scripture

- I. The Bible's not complicated - it was written in common languages of the day.
- II. It was intended to be read, taught, spoken, and understood. Not obscure and difficult.
- III. The Bible explains to us the culture of the Kingdom of God.

We complicate the Bible when we try to filter our understanding of it through our understanding of the culture of the earth. Jesus explains this principle to Nicodemus in John 3:3-12

The Bible makes sense when we read it or hear it, believe it, and let the Spirit of God teach it to us. Jesus explained this principle to his disciples using the parable of the sower. Luke 8:9-15

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Questions:

- Is it sometimes hard to understand the Bible? What do you do to help understand it?
- Have you read the Bible and seen it as beautiful? Where were you reading?
- Has the Bible become more easy to understand after more experience with it?