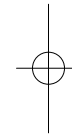
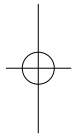


Understand the Bible for yourself



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Preface

If the front door of a building swung shut leaving you locked outside, you would soon know how important a key really is. With it you could gain easy access again. Without it you would be unhappy, for it could take you quite a while to get back in.

But what if someone then arrived with the key? How welcome that would be! As it turned in the lock, you would probably be resolving never to be without your own key again. And all that just about gaining access to a building! How would you feel if someone arrived with the key to eternal life? If you were told you could get into God's House – somewhere you could live forever – wouldn't that mean much?

That key exists and you may well have it already. The Bible is the key that God has given to show us how to live for ever. Understand for yourself what it really teaches and, with God's help, you can live for ever in a perfect world. Without the key, however, you will be shut out of all that is due to happen when God puts the final phase of His rescue plan into effect.

Several times in the past, God has intervened in human affairs and the outcome has always been dramatic and hugely important. He is about to do the same again; this time on a bigger scale than ever before. The whole world is going to be changed and a new society will be formed out of the wreckage of the old one. All the indications are that this change is about to begin. We need to think about it, and what it means for us and our families.

This book will explain what is about to happen and why. But, even more importantly, it will show you how to find the key that will let you into God's new world. This book is not the key. The Bible is the key and this is a book about the Bible. It can help you understand what the Bible teaches and help you read the Bible for yourself. It will tell you what the author thinks is true Bible teaching, and what the church he belongs to teaches. But this book is not about him or about his church. It is about you – to help you read and understand the Bible – a book that many people find confusing and difficult.

It will give you things to think about; suggest some answers and show you how to work things out for yourself. It invites you to check your own understanding against the conclusions presented here.

It does not start at the beginning of the Bible and work its way through. There are other books that do that. This one looks at one New Testament letter, which happens to contain a summary of the gospel of God. Then it looks elsewhere in the Bible to see where those ideas came from and to find out more about what they really mean. We hope you will find this a challenging and informative read.

