

The Life Changer

Study Series

The Scriptures a Safeguard to Deceptions

Your eternal life is too valuable to entrust to the opinions of others. Sadly, millions of people refuse to even investigate the Scriptures that will judge them. They ignore the Bible that could set them free from condemnation and give them assurance of salvation in Christ (Romans 8:1, 10:9). They say like the people in Israel in Jesus' day, "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?" They trust their religious teachers to tell the truth. But as the Pharisees and rulers were wrong so also many teachers today are teaching error. Millions accept these fatal deceptions and will be lost.



Lesson 31



Shining Stars Series (Philippians 2:14-16)



"Why are you reading the New Testament? Don't you know that it's been changed?" said Mustafa, Mehmet's acquaintance at the restaurant.

"Lots of people say that. Why do you think so?" replied Mehmet with a raised eyebrow.

"The New Testament was given by God but now it doesn't agree with the last and great revelation. Therefore it must have been changed."

"You sound pretty confident that you know what you are talking about. Have you read the New Testament?"

"Yes, I know all about it."

"I see," Mehmet said. "Here is the New Testament. Can you show me what verses you think were changed and when?"

"Well...no, but anything that disagrees with the last book has been changed in the New Testament. God doesn't change the truth."

Mehmet smiled when Mustafa couldn't show him anything about the New Testament at all. "That is true," Mehmet said, "God doesn't change the truth. But I am afraid you have turned God's standard around backwards."

"What do you mean?"

"You say that anything that disagrees with the Last Book has been changed. But the Scriptures say that anything that is different from the first book, that is the Old Testament is wrong. The first books are the standard for the later books and not vice versa. Look here at what the Bible says in Isaiah 8:20:

'To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.'

The word translated law is 'torah' which is the word used for the law of God as given to the Israelites. If someone arises who speaks or thinks contrary to the Old Testament they are wrong. Therefore God made the first books the standard and test for all later books."

"Well they changed that verse to say that."

"Really? How do you know? Do you read Hebrew and Greek? Are you an expert in ancient writings? You are just repeating the words that someone told you. Look, the sacred writings were translated into many languages and spread all over the world. If someone changed one word it would be known by comparing it to all other manuscripts."

"The last revelation is perfect, hasn't changed and never will be. That is why it was given, because the others were changed."

"If the Jews had changed the Old Testament, why did Jesus tell us to read it? Why did He constantly quote from it? What is more, if the Christians tried to change the Old Testament, the Jews who didn't accept Jesus would have created a riot. It is not possible that the Old Testament was changed. Besides in 1947 at Qumran they found Old Testament manuscripts dating from about the third century BC to 70 AD. Except for spelling and other minor differences, it is the same Bible as we have today. We know this."

"Well the New Testament was changed," Mustafa retorted.

"You are speaking but you aren't listening. There are thousands of New Testament manuscripts. Any variance in the writings is verifiable by comparison with both the other Greek manuscripts and the translations. Almost all the variations are either spelling or copyist mistakes which are easily detectable. There is no change in essential teaching or doctrine. The accusations you hear are baseless. You should check it out for yourself and not trust others to think for you."

"The last revelation is the only one that hasn't been changed."

"How do you know? What makes you so sure it hasn't been changed? You are just repeating what various teachers have told you. Are you going to trust your eternal life to their opinions?"

"We don't need to study the former books because they have been changed."

"Do you read your own book?" Mehmet asked.

Mustafa raised his eyebrows, "I don't need to, besides it's not in my language."

"Well, my friend, you need to study your own book a little more closely. It recommends studying the former books. Furthermore, your book doesn't say that the Bible was changed. It says that people would arise and corrupt its teachings. We know that is true. The Bible itself prophecies that false teachers would arise."

"What makes you so sure that the New Testament hasn't been changed?" Mustafa said with a growing tension in his voice.

"The New Testament authenticates itself with prophetic descriptions



of world history and the future. As the Old and New Testaments¹ have, without error, predicted the fall and rise of nations, so it is a trustworthy source of all truth. No other book has described the future with unerring accuracy. Although written by many authors over many centuries the teachings all harmonize with each other perfectly. Only God could do that. God gave His word and God preserved it. But you can never know that if you don't take time to investigate it for yourself. If you want, we can study the prophecies together and you can see for yourself that the word is preserved."

"Thanks," said Mustafa. "I don't need to look at them. I know the truth." (To be Continued)

God has sent warnings to mankind so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying through the air. In the three angels' message of Revelation 14:6-12 we see the danger of worshipping the

1 People use the terms Tevrat, Zebur, and İncil in different ways. Moses wrote only the first five of 39 books of the Hebrew prophets. As mentioned in this document, some people call all 39 books as Tevrat. Others call only the books written by Moses Tevrat. In the second case, there remains no name to be used for the writings of other Hebrew prophets. Zebur is the name given to the prophetic hymns written by David and a few other people. Zebur is not generally seen as a separate book, but as one of the other Hebrew prophetic writings. Christians call all 39 books of the Hebrew prophets the Old Testament.

When most people in Turkey hear the word İncil, they think of four books describing Jesus' life and ministry: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books are often called the Gospels or İncil. Jesus did not write any of these books. However, if you buy an İncil, you will notice that there are 27 books, not four. The 27 books contain the prophetic writings of other people such as Paul, James, Peter and Jude. Christians call these 27 books the New Testament.

There are two major editions in Turkish that include the prophetic writings of all the Old and New Testaments: the Kitabı Mukaddes and Kutsal Kitap. The first one calls the entire Old Testament as Tevrat, while the second calls the entire Old Testament as Tevrat and Zebur. Since the Kutsal Kitap translation is the most modern and most used translation, when we say Tevrat, Zebur and İncil, we are talking about all 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books. In this lesson series, we called this compilation the Bible.

beast and his image. The Bible says, "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). These wonders will be so powerful they will deceive all except those who know the Scriptures for themselves. The Scriptures are our safeguard against deception.

① Q1. Can we understand the Scriptures by ourselves? Read Psalm 119:18.

A. _____

We must pray diligently that the Holy Spirit would guide our thoughts and understanding when reading the Scriptures. Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit - the Comforter: "He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

② Q2. If we really want to know the truth, what attitude must we have when we study the Bible? Read John 7:17.

A. _____

We must be willing to perform the truth in our lives if we want God to show us the truth. Anyone who will not obey will not receive enlightenment from God.

③ Q3. What is the purpose of studying the prophecies of the Bible? Read John 5:39 and 2 Peter 1:19.

A. _____

It may be interesting to know future events and other mysteries that are contained in the Bible. However these prophecies have a goal and that is so that Christ, the Day Star arises in our hearts. Without Christ, knowledge is superficial and fading. Paul said that to win Christ was everything (Philippians 3:8-10).

④ Q4. What admonition is given to every believer about studying the

Bible? Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

A. _____

There is a right way to divide the word of truth and a wrong way. We should make efforts to know the Scriptures.

② Q5. How did Satan try to trick Jesus by wrongly "dividing" the words of Scriptures"? Read Matthew 4:5, 6.

A. _____

Satan only quoted part of the verse and omitted the words, "to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11, 12). Thus he misrepresented and misapplied scripture. Knowing the Scriptures for ourselves is critically important in the last days.

② Q6. What warnings did Jesus give about false teachers? Read Matthew 7:15-20, 24:11.

A. _____

Pastors and teachers are important in the learning process. But ultimately we are each individually responsible for our own beliefs and behavior. It is important that we know the truth for ourselves so that we are not deceived.

② Q7. Is every word in the Bible directly dictated to the prophet by God? Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Samuel 23:2; Ezekiel 2:2 and 1 Corinthians 14:32.

A. _____

The prophetic revelation that brought about the Bible did not usually happen through word for word communication. In most instances, the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets with thoughts and the prophets wrote the Scriptures in their own style. There are more than 40 authors of the Scriptures, each having a different educational background and

experience which is reflected in their ability of expression. This is evident by examining their styles of writing. Nevertheless, the message they gave was from God and thus the Bible is a production of the Holy Spirit working through human agencies. Only the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) was directly God's choice of words to man. Even then, God communicated in the language of men in terms that they could understand.

② Q8. Does God communicate to us in other ways besides the Scriptures? Read Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:20.

A. _____

God communicates to man through nature. Man can discern in the awesome works of nature an intelligence and order much superior to his own. Thus the Creator is revealed. But because sin entered the world, the face of nature does not perfectly reveal the Creator. Thorns and thistles and carnivorous animals were not a part of the original creation. Therefore to rightly understand what nature tells us about God and the cosmic conflict the world is involved in, the Scriptures must be consulted.

God can also communicate to us through the Holy Spirit. Our minds are enlightened and we see in circumstances around us the providence of God. This is most keenly seen in the book of Esther. God's name is never mentioned in the book but we see the outworking of divine providence everywhere in the book.

② Q9. In the last days what problem will arise among men concerning the Scriptures? Read 2 Timothy 4:3.

A. _____

② Q10. Why do people believe error? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12.

A. _____

We see that believing error is not always an intellectual problem. Many people believe error because they do not love the truth and then fall under Satanic influences.

② Q11. How can the Scriptures protect us in the last days? Read Psalm 119:11, 99, 104 and 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

A. _____

The great battle between Christ and Satan is one between righteousness and evil. To avoid all sin and do what is good is to put yourself on God's side. To know what is right and good requires that you study the Scriptures. God will protect us from evil as we ally ourselves to Him.



Shining Stars Series (Philippians 2:14-16)



“And then what happened?” Gül asked. Mehmet had just told the Bible study group about his encounter with Mustafa in the restaurant.

“That’s it. That’s all that happened,” Mehmet explained.

“So he doesn’t want to study or read anything? It just stopped there?” Gül continued.

“Unfortunately that is the reality for most people, Gül. They just don’t want to make an effort. I guess they are comfortable that they already know the truth and they don’t want to be disturbed.”

Gül added, “I suppose if the building were on fire they wouldn’t want to be disturbed about that either.”

Everyone laughed at that remark but the appropriateness of the analogy soon sunk in and the mood was serious again.

Mert broke the silence, “You know I am in school and learning is so important to me right now, you know for my whole life. It is hard for

me to grasp that people really don't care enough to read."

With that comment both Yusuf and Ece nodded their head in agreement.

Afife leaned forward and said, "I just want to say that I am thankful for you all and our group and the opportunity to read God's word. I love this promise from Psalm 119:105: 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' It is especially important for me now that Reşat is not coming. It has been so hard without him here." Afife's last words drown in tears.

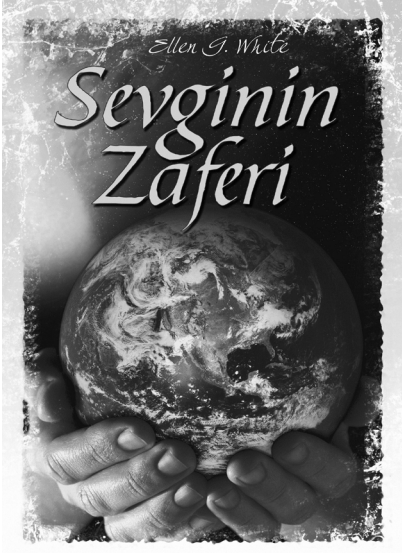
Fatma caressed Afife's shoulder as the other's watched. Her mother Türkan looked at her daughter and without further word began to pray.

"Father in heaven. We do thank you for your word and we consecrate ourselves now to you. We trust your word and with one voice we acknowledge Christ as Savior and Lord. Please help us to remain faithful. Please give grace to Afife and may your Holy Spirit be with Reşat so that he will return to faith in you. Give him courage to accept and keep your Sabbath day regardless of the consequences. We don't forget Ekrem and Filiz and pray that you will deliver them from darkness. Let them love the truth and let them not come under the delusions of Satan so that they would believe a lie. In Jesus name we pray. Amen."

And everyone said, "Amen."

Call to commitment through prayer.

SEVGİNİN ZAFERİ



Kötülüğün kaynağı, henüz çözülememiş bir sırdır. Neden kötülük var? Nereden geliyor? Kötülüğün bir sonu olacak mı? Bunlar yanıtlanması gereken çok önemli sorulardır.

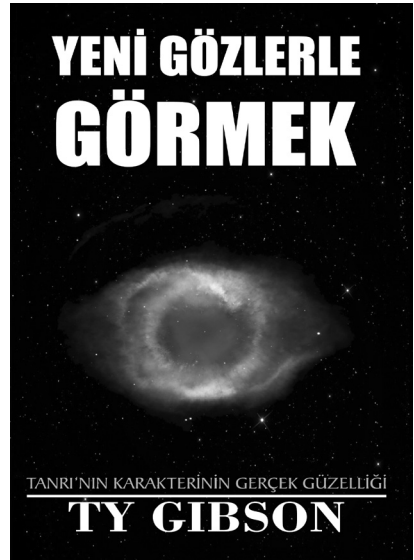
Büyük mücadele, görünen dünyayı, görünmeyen dünyadan ayıran perdeyi aralamakta ve bu dünyanın tüm sakinlerinin dahil olduğu doğüstü savaşı gözler önüne ermektedir.

Kitap, uğrunda savaştıkları şey için çok önemli olan iki tarafın, iyinin ve kötünün arasında geçen evrensel savaşın nasıl başladığından ve nasıl sonlandırılacağından bahsetmektedir. Geçmişten, şimdiki zamandan ve gelecekte söz etmekte, çok dokunaklı bir ricayla ve ciddi bir uyarıyla sona ermektedir. Bu kitabı okurken, sanki Tanrı ile röportaj yapıyormuş hissine kapılacaksınız.

Güzel olduğu kadar şok edici bir yolculuğa çıkmaya hazırlanın. Okuduktan sonra artık aynı kişi olmayacaksınız.

YENİ GÖZLERLE GÖRMEK

Pek çok şeyi görebilmek için, kişinin gözleri açık olmalıdır. Fakat Allah ile öyle değil. Gözlerinizi çok fazla açarsanız ya da çok fazla yakından bakarsanız, O'nu gördüğünüzü düşünürken aslında O'nu gözden kaçırabilirsiniz. Pek çoğumuz tam da bu hatayı yaparız. Allah'ı görmeyi umarak insanlara bakarız. Dinlere bakarız. Hatta aynaya bakarız. Kaçınılmaz olarak da hayal kırıklığına uğrarız, zira İlahî Kişi'nin daha güzel bir resmini ummuştuk. Sayısız insan Allah'tan dönmüştür, çünkü O'nu bir kişide ya da bir toplulukta gördüklerini sanmışlardır... ve açıkçası gördüklerinden hoşlanmamışlardır. Elinizde tuttuğunuz kitap Allah hakkındadır.





EN ZENGİN MAĞARA ADAMI

Milyoner bir baba ile gösteri dünyasında çalışan bir annenin oğulları olan genç Doug Batchelor, paranın satın alabileceği her şeye sahipti. Mutluluk hariç her şeye. Uyuşturucu kullandı, okulda kavgalar çıkardı ve intihar düşüncesiyle hayaller kurdu. Kendinden tiksinen ve hayatın hiçbir amacı olmadığına inanan Doug, yaşayabileceği tüm eğlence ve heyecanları yaşamayı kafasına koydu.

Arayışı sona ermeden önce dağlarda bulunan bir mağara, evi oldu. Babasının sahip olduğu yata, jete ve havayolu firmasına rağmen, Doug kendini çöp tenekelerinde yiyecek ararken buldu.

Doug'un aradığı mutluluk sürekli kendisinden kaçıyor, ta ki bir "arayışçı" dostun mağarasında bıraktığı tozlu bir kitabı bulup okuyana dek. Bundan sonra olanlar ancak mucize olarak açıklanabilir.

BİNLERCESİ KIRILACAK

Franz Hasel, 40 yaşındaki bir pasifist, ön cephelerde köprüler kuran Hitler'in seçkin birliği 699. İstihkâm Bölüğüne atanmıştı. Dinî inancı üstleri tarafından pek hoş karşılanmamıştı. Kendisiyle "havuç yiyen" ve "İncil okuyan" diye alay edilmesine rağmen sonunda birliğinin saygısını kazanmıştı.

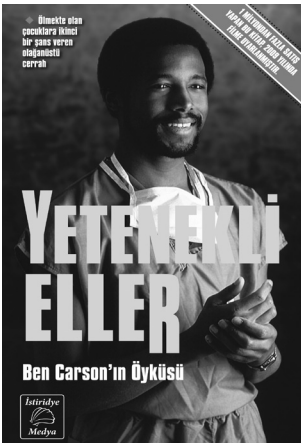
Çevrelerindeki binlerce insan savaşın dehşetine kurban giderken onlar meleklerin kanatları altındaydılar, hatta bazen gerçek anlamda. Bu, ne pahasına olursa olsun imanlı kalmayı seçen ve yüce Tanrı'nın gölgesinde sığınmak bulan çaresiz bir ailenin yürek parçalayan gerçek öyküsüdür.



YETENEKLİ ELLER

Dr. Ben Carson, beyin cerrahisindeki umut olmayan yere umut getiren yeniliklerle tüm dünyada tanınmaktadır. Yetenekli Eller'de, Detroit'in kenar mahallelerindeki çocukluğundan başlayarak, otuz üç yaşında Johns Hopkins Sağlık Kurumları'nda pediatrik beyin cerrahisi şefliğine uzanan ilham verici macerası anlatılıyor. Sizi, sayısız hayat kurtardığı ameliyathaneye götüren Ben Carson, görünürde imkânsız olanı başarmaya çalışan herkese örnek oluyor.

Etkileyici vaka tarihçeleriyle dolu olan bu çoksatır kitap, Ben Carson'un zorlukların üstesinden gelme çabasının ve onu günümüzün en büyük hayat kurtarıcılarının biri yapan iman ile dehanın dramatik ve ayrıntılı öyküsünü anlatıyor.





Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:1-5)



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This study series is a continuation of the Fate Changer series
and a product of Istiridye Medya.