



# THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

AN EIGHT-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON  
GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS





# Guide to Studying Your Bible

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS FROM PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS



## PRAY OVER IT

**Begin with prayer.** Ask for God's cleansing and the ability to receive what He wants to teach you.

## PONDER IT

What did it mean **then**?  
What does it mean **now**?  
What does it mean **to me**?



## PUT IT IN WRITING

Write down what **the Holy Spirit is revealing** to you.

## PRACTICE IT

Find ways you can **incorporate the truths** you've just been shown into your own life.



## PROCLAIM IT

Contemplate ways to **share the knowledge** God has given you.



# 6 QUESTIONS

TO ASK YOURSELF WHILE READING SCRIPTURE

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a lesson to learn?

Is there a blessing to enjoy?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a new thought to carry with me?



# THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS



**The Bride of Christ (Bible Study)**

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## INTRODUCTION

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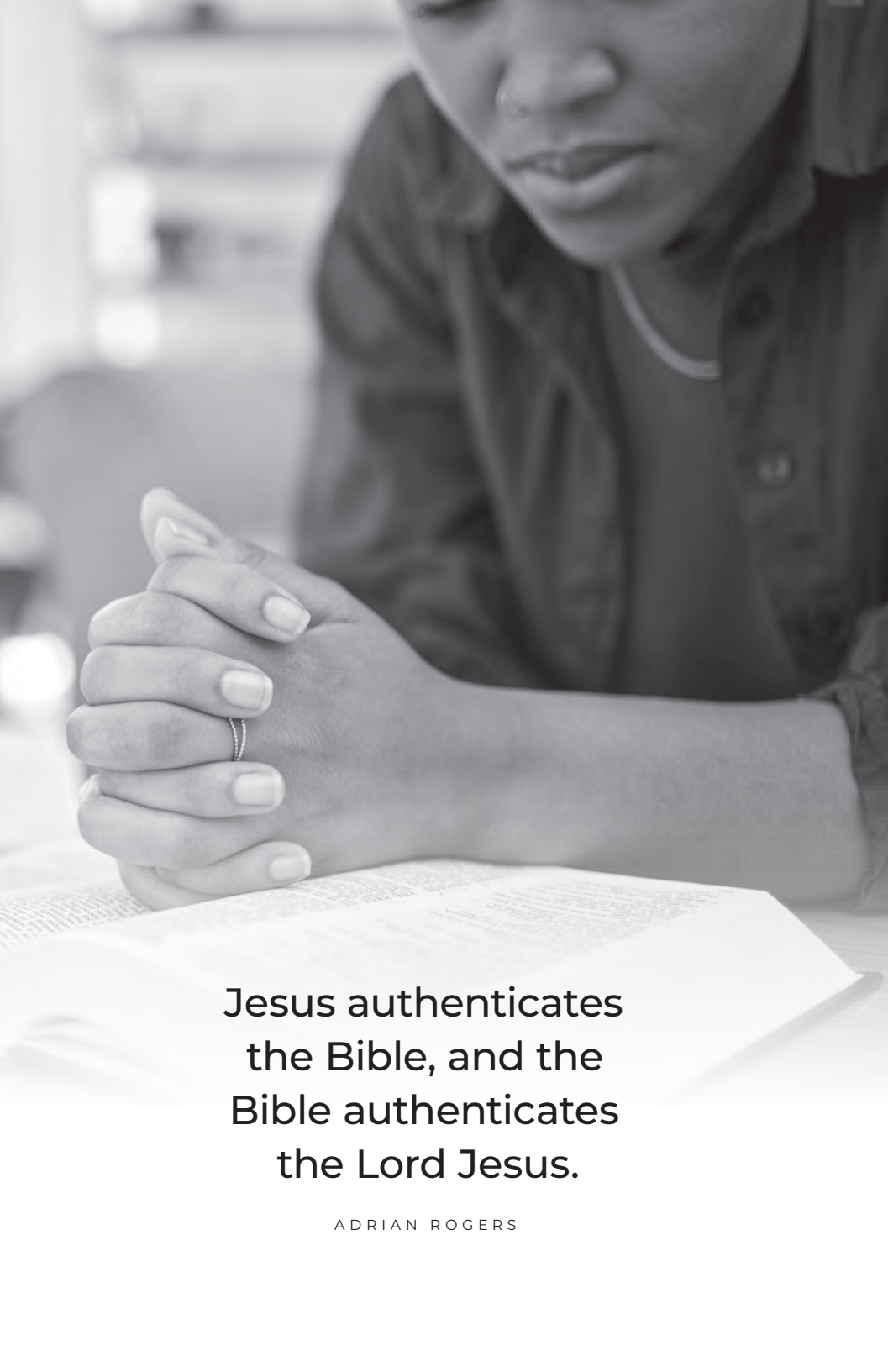
# THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

In Scripture, the Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ, and the mission of that Church is to bring others to know Jesus. But what does this look like on a practical level? How can the Church be a beacon to a world in need of a Savior? How can a local church stay healthy and on mission as we move into the future?

The Church is meant to be more than programs and activities. If we are called to be God's change agents in this world, we must learn God's whole plan for His Church and know how to live it out. This eight-week study will focus on how the Church can be Bible-believing, unified, steadfast, Spirit-filled, praying, worshiping, conquering, and caring. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, each individual can work on these areas of growth and help the Church as a whole become the welcoming Bride of Christ that God has called us to be.

### WANT MORE?

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code on page 114 at the end of this study.



**Jesus authenticates  
the Bible, and the  
Bible authenticates  
the Lord Jesus.**

ADRIAN ROGERS

## WEEK 1

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# A BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCH

### ■ INTRODUCTION

If the Church is to move forward and honor God in the years ahead, individual churches must be Spirit-filled, steadfast, worshipful, conquering, and unified. In order to do that, we must be a Bible-believing Church, and our faith must rest in the Word of God.

Jesus authenticates the Bible, and the Bible authenticates the Lord Jesus. They rise or fall together. Before the New Testament was written, Jesus said:

**“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:17-18).**

The Jews called their Scriptures “The Law and the Prophets.” We call those same Scriptures the Old Testament. It was the part of the Bible that was written before Jesus came in the flesh. As we study what Jesus said about His Bible, we want to lay three things on your heart, and we pray that you will receive them as we study together. This week we will look at Jesus’ own testimony about the Old Testament and how we can follow His example.

### ■ PRAY OVER IT

*Dear God, I believe that the Bible is true, but sometimes I struggle to see how it is relevant to my own life—especially the Old Testament. I ask that You open my eyes to the truth of Your Word and that it would rest deep in my soul. I never want to waver regarding the truth in Your Word. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



# JESUS FULFILLS PROPHECIES

## ■ PONDER IT

**Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies.** The Old Testament is a written testimony of predictions that are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The key to understanding the Bible is to look for Jesus because He is the hero of the Bible. Jesus testified to the truth of the Old Testament:

**And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27).**

Jesus started with Moses—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—and then He went on to the Prophets. The Gospels are not the only place you will find the story of Jesus.

You may not see Him literally on every page, certainly not if you're reading a list of names that sound like a Hebrew telephone directory. However, if you understand biblical history, you'll understand that it is written to present Jesus Christ. Peter preached this message to the Jews of his day.

**“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).**

Don't get the idea that the Old Testament was written about one thing, and the New Testament is written about something else. The Savior and the salvation that He provides are presented in the Old Testament. Jesus said:

**“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).**

Jesus said that these Scriptures testify about Him. Jesus is in all of the Bible, and you will find Him especially in prophecy.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How can we know the Bible is true? Would Jesus be God if He claimed a lie to be true?
- How do the Old Testament and New Testament work together?

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God has no program, no plans, and  
no purposes that do not ultimately  
center on the Lord Jesus Christ.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 2

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# FULFILLED PROPHECIES BUILD CREDIBILITY

### ■ PONDER IT

Jesus Christ is unique because He fulfilled the predictions of the Old Testament. He's the only person ever born to this world whose ancestry, birth time, birth place, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching, character, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension were prophesied centuries before He was born. What a testimony to the character of the Bible and the character of Jesus and how they rise and stand together!

More than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament concern Jesus Christ. Statistician Peter Stoner evaluated the possibility that just eight of these could have been fulfilled by chance. In his book, *Science Speaks*, he declared that the mathematical chance that eight of these prophecies could be fulfilled in one person is ten to the seventeenth power. That's one in one hundred quadrillion! He gave this illustration:

Cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars to a level of two feet deep. The total number of silver dollars needed would be 10 to the 17th power. Now, choose just one silver dollar, mark it, and put it back. Then thoroughly stir all the silver dollars all over the state. Now, blindfold someone and tell him he can travel wherever he wants in Texas, but at some point he must pick one of the silver dollars. The chance of finding that one silver dollar that we marked in a pile two-feet deep covering the state of Texas would be the chance the prophets had for these eight prophecies coming true in any one man in the future.

He only considered eight of the more than three hundred prophecies. With one prophecy fulfilled, some could think that He might be the Son of God. With two prophecies fulfilled, they might

think it's a bit more likely. When there are more prophecies fulfilled, then the possibility of random chance greatly diminishes.

This is a story from Pastor Rogers:

Joyce and I have a son named David who lives in Spain. When I want to call David, I pick up the phone and dial a specific number, and he's on the other end. But think of how the mathematical situation works out.

When I pick up the phone, I eliminate calling everybody who doesn't have a telephone. When I dial the overseas operator, I know that I'm not going to talk to anybody in North America. Three hundred million people are cut out of the equation.

When I dial the exact country's number, I eliminate all of the millions and billions of people who live in other countries. When I dial the area code, I eliminate everybody in the country of Spain who doesn't have that particular area code. When I begin to dial his personal number, I eliminate even more people. The first number eliminates everybody whose phone number doesn't begin with that first number. The same with the second number, and I keep narrowing and narrowing the scope until the phone rings, and I hear the voice I love say, "Hello," and there's David.

You can't just pick up a telephone, dial random numbers, and get your loved one overseas or anywhere else. It's a mathematical impossibility that such would happen.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How does fulfilled prophecy prove that Jesus was who He said He was?
- What do these facts tell you about God Himself?

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If you read the Bible and don't  
find Jesus, re-read it.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 3

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# SPECIFIC PROPHECIES

### ■ PONDER IT

Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God. This is the very first prophecy we have that tells us He's a man, not an angel or some other creature. This is what God said to Adam and Eve after they sinned:

**“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).**

Just like dialing a phone number eliminates possibilities with each number, each of the specific prophecies about the Messiah narrows it down to Jesus. First of all, we have someone of a certain race from Adam and Eve. Then we need someone who is of a specific section of that race. Three descendants of Noah came out of the ark: Ham, Shem, and Japheth. Jesus is a descendent of Shem. Noah gave a specific God-inspired blessing to Shem:

**And he said: “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant” (Genesis 9:26).**

The Messiah had to be a Shemite. But then we have a specific nation from that specific section. God spoke to Abraham:

**“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2).**

That is, the Messiah is going to come through Abraham.

Then we have a specific tribe of that nation: the tribe of Judah. Jacob spoke to his sons:

**“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Genesis 49:10).**

Then God names a specific family of that tribe from whom the Messiah would eventually come. One of the sons of a man named Jesse had a son named David who would be the progenitor of the Savior of the world who lives forever. The prophet Nathan delivered this prophecy to David:

**“And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16).**

In addition to the father’s lineage, a specific prediction about the mother of the Messiah was also given. The Lord spoke to Ahaz:

**“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).**

What person can predict his own lineage before he is even born? A Son born of that woman, of that family, of that tribe, of that nation, of that race—a very specific lineage—would become the Messiah. Don’t think for one minute that could happen by chance. Jesus bore witness to Himself:

**“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).**

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What about Jesus’ lineage shows that He is who He said He is?
- When you read the lineage of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 1:1-17, what stands out to you?

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Jesus appeared in the Old Testament and fulfills the Old Testament in its prophecies.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## PERFECTLY FULFILLED

### ■ PONDER IT

**Jesus fulfills the Old Testament perfectly.** The jot, or iota, is the smallest letter in the Greek and Hebrew alphabets, and a tittle is the smallest punctuation mark. Jesus explained that even the smallest, most minute marks and punctuations were there with purpose.

**“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:18).**

Some people think only sections of the Bible are inspired by God. But if you can't trust all of it as God originally gave it, you cannot trust any of it.

The Bible is verbally inspired, which means each word, not just the overall thoughts. Jesus testified to the Word of God:

**But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).**

You can't have thoughts without words any more than you could have mathematics without numbers. God gave the words, and the Bible is verbally inspired.

Some people doubt that the Word of God is truly inspired by God. But this is the work of the devil. Your view of the Bible better be the view of your Savior. You can have confidence in the Bible because of what Jesus said about it. If that's not true, either the Bible was not true and Jesus was too ignorant to know it, or Jesus knew it and was so dishonest He wouldn't admit it. Your Savior is not ignorant or dishonest.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Do you believe every word in the Bible is inspired by God? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to believe that everything in the Bible is from God?

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Your view of the Bible better  
be the view of your Savior.

ADRIAN ROGERS



## DAY 5

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# FULFILLED PURPOSE

### ■ PONDER IT

Jesus fulfills the Law of God in its prediction and its perfection. **Jesus also fulfills the purpose of the Bible**, especially the Old Testament.

The purpose of the Old Testament law is to bring us to Christ. The Law can't save us. The Ten Commandments can't save us. However, they do show us our need for a Savior.

**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Romans 10:4).**

We shouldn't think that this means the Ten Commandments don't matter anymore. Jesus said He didn't come to destroy it, but He did come to fulfill it. When you understand this, you understand what the cross is all about. When Jesus died, He bowed His head and said, "It is finished!" (See John 19:30.) He had perfectly fulfilled every demand of the Law.

If Jesus had not met every demand of the Law, He could not be your Savior. God demanded a perfect, sinless sacrifice who was born of a virgin, had none of the Adamic nature in Him, and lived a sinless life. Jesus Christ met every standard of the Law of God. Jesus met every requirement of the Word of God. That's the only way Jesus can be my Savior and yours.

When we think of the Law, we think of the Ten Commandments because that summarizes the Law. If Jesus had not fulfilled the righteousness of the Law, we could never be righteous. Jesus fulfilled the Law for us so that grace might fulfill it in us.

There is a difference between the Law and the Gospel:

- The Law says, "Do this and you will live." The Gospel says, "Live and you will do."

- The Law says, “Pay me what you owe.” The Gospel says, “I forgive all.”
- The Law says, “You shall love the Lord with all of your being.” The Gospel says:

**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).**

- The Law says that if you break one little point, there’s a curse upon you. (See Galatians 3:10.)

The Gospel says:

**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered (Psalm 32:1).**

- The Law says that the wages of sin is death. (See Romans 6:23.) The Gospel says that the gift of God is eternal life. (See Romans 6:23.)
- The Law says, “Do.” The Gospel says, “Done.” Jesus fulfilled it. He died upon the cross.
- The Law says, “Run,” but it gives us no legs. The Gospel says, “Fly,” and it gives us wings.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why is it important in the Christian faith that Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it? Should Christians still follow the Ten Commandments?
- When you consider the difference between the Law and the Gospel, which one would you rather be under? What is your response to God regarding the Law and the Gospel?

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The Law is a unit, and God  
doesn’t grade on the curve.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 6

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# ONLY JESUS CAN SAVE US

### ■ PRACTICE IT

The Old Testament shows us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He fulfills the Bible in its predictions. It shows us that He is the Son of God who fulfills the Bible in its perfection. It shows us that He's the Son of God who fulfills the Bible in its purpose.

The Law is here to show us that we're sinners and that we're lost. We cannot save ourselves. If you think you're saved because you have kept the Ten Commandments, then you're fooling yourself, and you're not saved. Imagine yourself hanging over a ferocious furnace of fire suspended by a chain. It wouldn't matter that nine links in that chain were made of forged steel if one link was made of crepe paper.

**For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all (James 2:10).**

Consider whether you have the audacity, the unmitigated gall, to truly declare that you've never broken one of the Ten Commandments. If you've broken one, in spirit you've broken them all. The Law is a unit, and God doesn't grade on the curve.

We are all sinners, and Jesus came to save sinners. He suffered, bled, and died on that cross. He paid every debt that we owe and fulfilled the Law in its purpose. The Law is but a schoolmaster meant to bring us to Christ, to say we're poor, lost sinners. We can't save ourselves, but Jesus died to save us. The Gospel is good news.

That doesn't mean that we can live however we want or that the Ten Commandments are obsolete. They're absolute, and every day of your life, you can be blessed to live by God's blessed Commandments. But you can't fulfill the Law without Jesus Christ in you. That's what it's all about.

**That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:4).**

The Bible of Jesus was the Old Testament. Those of us who live this side of Calvary also have the New Testament. The Old Testament is true, and so is the New. The New says we must be born again and only Jesus can save us.

**Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).**

If you're not saved, you need to give your heart to Jesus. You can pray something like this:

*Dear Jesus, I need You, and I want You. Help me today to trust You enough not to be ashamed of You. Come into my heart, forgive my sin, and save me, Jesus. Amen.*

#### ■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to [lwf.org/discover-jesus](http://lwf.org/discover-jesus), scrolling down the page, and clicking on I BELIEVE.

Consider whether or not your church is a Bible-believing church. Spend time thanking God for the Bible and for Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled the prophecies and purpose of the Bible. Ask God to show you how to live in Christ and walk in the good works He has prepared for you.

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Heaven is not a reward for the  
righteous; it's a gift for the guilty.

ADRIAN ROGERS