

**Additional notes for teachers:**

Many of the notes comprise deeper matters which have arisen in the course of preparation of the Students Notes. Other material has been appended for the purpose of providing background, explanations or interesting detail.

## Lesson 1 THE HOLY BIBLE – GOD’S INSPIRED WORD

### 1. COULD MOSES HAVE WRITTEN GENESIS?

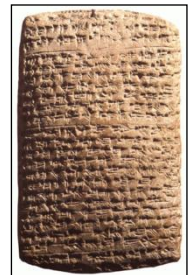
This question was formerly answered with a very definite negative by the “higher critics” on the assumption that writing was unknown in the time of Moses.

Indeed the earliest date that could be allowed by the critics was that of David or Solomon, about 1,000 B.C., nearly 500 years after the time of Moses.

The early Israelites could neither read nor write, it was stated; so that it was impossible to believe that Moses wrote Genesis or the rest of the Pentateuch.

Archaeological discovery, however, has completely disproved this assumption of the critics. This is one of the most important contributions archaeology has made, in confirmation of the truth of the Old Testament Scriptures.

It is now established beyond doubt that writing was known centuries before Moses was born. The Amarna letters (Tel el-Amarna tablets), discovered in 1887, indicate that there was a considerable correspondence passing between Palestine, before and during the Exodus. The Amarna letters are an archive of correspondence on clay tablets, mostly diplomatic, between the Egyptian administration and its representatives in Canaan and Amurru during the New Kingdom.



The discovery in 1901 at Susa in Persia, of the code of Hammurabi, who ruled in Babylon from 1792 BC until his death in 1750 BC, showed that in Abraham’s day a written code of laws was in existence amongst the people of that time. Hammurabi is usually identified with the Amraphel of Genesis 14.

Further discoveries proved that the art of writing was known much earlier than Abraham’s time.

### 2. PROPHECY AND THE JEWS

The land and the people of Israel are the greatest witnesses today of the truth of God’s Word. It is a great miracle which cannot be over emphasized to scholars that after 2,000 years of scattering and persecution Israel is again a nation in the earth.

The land too, dead for 20 centuries, is being brought back to fruitfulness by unremitting labour, as foretold by Israel’s prophets hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

Events since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which are now history, have confirmed the prophecy of Jesus that “they (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24)

Teachers should be looking to make a considerable impact on this topic.

### **TEACHING METHODS**

1. Describe the unique nature of the Bible compared to all other books and our acceptance of it as the foundation of all our belief.
2. Explain the term “inspiration”, avoiding unnecessary involvement in the mechanics of it, which are not revealed.
3. Support the claim of the Bible to be God’s Word with the variety of evidence provided in the Notes, laying emphasis on Jesus.
4. Conclude with the aspect that the Bible is God’s revelation to man for the purpose of saving him.

### **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

- *The way of life* edited by Rob J. Hyndman
- *Understand the Bible for yourself* by Tecwyn Morgan
- *The Bible - the word of God* by Mike Bull
- *Back to the Bible* by Harry Tennant