

APPENDIX C

The Seven Seals: How to Understand *The King James Bible*

The transition from the *Authorized King James Bible* to a recent version is usually based on the contention that the KJV is old and difficult to understand. The *real* gap is one of distance between God and man, not a lapse between us and ‘Father Time’. Since the fall (Genesis 3), man has moved off to a corner of the universe, out of reach of God’s voice. Now powerless to penetrate God’s spiritual realm, he moves madly through man-made word-mazes, in version after version, defiantly determined never to look up to God or delve within his own misdirected heart.

The spiritual chasm is so vast that even those close to Jesus could not understand him. He was not speaking archaic Aramaic to Mary and Joseph yet, “they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.” Obsolete words were not the obstacle when he asked Peter, “Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand?” Later, Peter again fell under the darkening spell of sin saying, “I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest.”

God tells us man’s inability to understand the bible has a number of causes, none of which is a limitation in his vocabulary. The bible is not difficult to understand—it is impossible—unless God’s criteria are met. The verses and checklists to follow should help the reader look within his heart for the start of the knot, and then look up to God for the unraveling.



The bible is a sealed book.

For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes...and the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for **it is sealed**. Isaiah 29:10, 11



Man's sin casts a shadow which darkens his understanding of each verse.

Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof?...no man was found worthy to open and to read. Revelation 5:2, 4

The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did **understand**, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become **filthy**...Have all the workers of iniquity **no** knowledge. Psalm 14:2-4

Why do ye **not understand** my speech?...Ye are of your father the **devil**. John 8:43, 44

[N]one of the **wicked** shall **understand**. Daniel 12:10

A **scorner** seeketh wisdom and findeth it **not**: but knowledge is easy unto him that **understandeth**. Proverbs 14:6

[T]he **wicked**. They know not, neither will they **understand**. Psalm 82:4, 5

A **brutish** man knoweth **not**; neither doth a fool **understand** this. Psalm 92:6

Evil men **understand not** judgment. Proverbs 28:5

[T]he people...the Pharisees...they **understood not** what things they were which he spake unto them. John 8:2, 3, 10:6

Understand, ye **brutish** among the people: and ye fools, **when** will ye be wise? Psalm 94:8

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind... Being filled with all **unrighteousness**, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **Without understanding**, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are **worthy of death**...

Romans 1:28-32



Even man's mind cannot penetrate the deep, dark shadow which blackens 'the book'.

[F]or the wisdom of their **wise** men shall perish, and the **understanding** of their **prudent** men shall be **hid**. Isaiah 29:14

For it is written, I...will bring to nothing the **understanding** of the **prudent**. I Corinthians 1:19

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**. I Corinthians 2:14



The shadow is shaped like the profile of a heart jagged with sin.

[W]alk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the **understanding darkened**... because of the blindness of their **heart**.

Ephesians 4:17, 18

[Y]e shall hear, and shall **not understand**...For the **heart** of this people is waxed gross...lest they should...**understand** with their **heart**. Acts 28:26, 27

[Y]e fools, be ye of an **understanding heart**.
Proverbs 8:5

[T]hou hast **hid** their **heart** from **understanding**.
Job 17:4

They have not known nor understood: for **he hath shut** their eyes, that they cannot see; and their **hearts**, that they cannot **understand**...a **deceived heart** hath turned him aside. Isaiah 44:18-20

And they understood none of these things: and this saying was **hid** from them. Luke 18:34

[W]here is the place of **understanding**? Seeing it is **hid** from the eyes of the living. Job 28:20-21



There is ‘a way’ of understanding the bible and that way is Jesus Christ.

The preface to the KJV says, “**He** removeth the scales from our eyes, the veil from our hearts, opening our wits that we may understand his word.”

Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood. Revelation 5:2, 4, 5, 9

[G]o in the way of understanding. Proverbs 9:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way... John 14:6

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. Proverbs 21:16

Hearken unto me everyone of you, and **understand**.
Mark 7:14

Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures**. Luke 24:45

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath **given** us an **understanding**... I John 5:20

Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2, 3

Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. Psalm 147:5

[H]e hath counsel and understanding. Job 12:13

[W]ho hath given **understanding** to the **heart**?
Job 38:36

[T]he **Almighty giveth** them **understanding**.
Job 32:8

Only **the LORD give** thee wisdom and **understanding**. I Chronicles 22:12

[T]he **Lord give** thee **understanding** in all things.
II Timothy 2:7

[T]he **LORD made me understand**.
I Chronicles 28:19

[E]very wise hearted man, in whom **the LORD put** wisdom and **understanding**. Exodus 36:1

I have given thee a wise and an **understanding** heart.
I Kings 3:12

Pharaoh said unto Joseph...thou canst **understand**...
And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: **God shall give** Pharaoh an answer of peace.
Genesis 41:15, 16

God gave them knowledge...Daniel had **understanding** in all visions and dreams. Daniel 1:17

And **God gave** Solomon wisdom and **understanding** exceedingly much, and largeness of heart.
I Kings 4:29

The Seven Seals

1. *A New Heart*



When we receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour, he gives us a new heart where the Spirit of God can dwell. Have you received him?

I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh. Ezekiel 11:19

I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding...Exodus 31:3

[T]he God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...Ephesians 1:17-18

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:3, 5

I thank thee, O Father,...thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes...for so it seemed good in thy sight. Matthew 11:25, 26

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding...And shall make him of quick understanding. Isaiah 11:2, 3

They also that erred in spirit shall come to understand. Isaiah 29:24

[U]nderstand the words that I speak unto thee...from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard. Daniel 10:11, 12

[B]e ye of an understanding heart. Proverbs 8:5

[T]hey, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.
Luke 8:15

2. *Pray*



Do you pray before you study the bible?

If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him **ask** of God.
James 1:5

Ask, and it shall be given you. Luke 11:9

Give me **understanding**. Psalm 119:34, 73, 144, 169

[G]ive me **understanding**, that I may know thy testimonies. Psalm 119:125

Make me to **understand** the way of thy precepts.
Psalm 119:27

Give therefore thy servant an **understanding** heart.
I Kings 3:9

[H]ast **asked** for thyself **understanding**. I Kings 3:11

I was...**praying**, and confessing my sin...and presenting my supplication before the LORD...then Gabriel...said...thou art greatly beloved: therefore **understand** the matter. Daniel 9:20, 23

[W]e...do not cease to **pray** for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual **understanding**. Colossians 1:9

3. *Read and Hear*



Are your senses (seeing and hearing) saturated with the bible, or are they filled with other things such as the internet, Facebook, television, movies, radio, books, newspapers, magazines, or gossip? (Even

‘Christian’ media and materials can block out the word of God.)

Wisdom [the bible] is **before** him that hath **understanding**; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. [internet, TV, magazines, catalogues, etc.] Proverbs 17:24

The heart of him that hath **understanding** seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools **feedeth** on foolishness. Proverbs 15:14

[U]nderstanding put forth her voice?...She crieth...
Hear. Proverbs 8:1, 3, 6

A wise man will **hear**, and will increase learning; and a man of **understanding** shall attain unto wise counsels. Proverbs 1:5

My son, **attend** unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my **understanding.** Proverbs 5:1

[A]ttend to know **understanding.** Proverbs 4:1

[G]et **understanding...**neither decline from the words of my mouth. Proverbs 4:5



Do you attend church regularly to hear those whom God has given the ministry of teaching?

And I will give you **pastors** according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and **understanding.** Jeremiah 3:15

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understand** thou what thou reatest? And he said, How can I, except some **man** should guide me? Acts 8:30, 31

When I thought to **know** this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the **sanctuary** of God; then **understood** I their end. Psalm 73:16, 17

[T]he Levites, caused the people to **understand** the law...So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to **understand** the reading. Nehemiah 8:7, 8



Do the teachers you hear (church, internet, media, books) gain their understanding of the scriptures from following God's criteria or man's (degrees, commentaries, consensus)?

[H]e that followeth vain persons is **void of understanding**? Proverbs 12:11

[S]ome having swerved have turned aside unto vain janglings; Desiring to be **teachers** of the law; **understanding neither** what they say nor whereof they affirm. I Timothy 1:6, 7

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be **understood**, which they that are **unlearned** and **unstable** wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. II Peter 3:16

4. *Seek*



Do you pursue an understanding of the bible daily?

I am **understanding**...those that **seek** me early shall find me...Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching **daily** at my gates. Proverbs 8:14, 17, 34

Redeeming the **time**, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding** what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:16, 17

[T]hey that **seek** the LORD **understand** all things. Proverbs 28:5

There is none that **understandeth**, there is none that **seeketh** after God. Romans 3:11



Have you studied the bible to the same extent that you have studied for school, career, or hobbies—for the approval of men?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

[K]nowledge of the holy is **understanding**.
Proverbs 9:10



Do you pursue further study of the bible to understand portions which are unclear or do you give up easily or rely on commentaries which may or may not be correct?

[N]ot in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual**. I Corinthians 2:13

Through **thy precepts** I get **understanding**. Psalm 119:104

The entrance of **thy words giveth** light; it giveth **understanding** to the simple. Psalm 119:130



Are you expecting to understand the bible at a level beyond your chronological or spiritual level of maturity? (The bible is a book for an entire lifetime.)

When I was a child,...I understood as a child.
I Corinthians 13:11

Brethren, be not children in understanding...but in understanding be men. I Corinthians 14:20

[W]ith the **ancient** is wisdom; and in length of days **understanding**. Job 12:12

These things **understood** not his disciples **at the first**.
John 12:16

As newborn babes, desire the sincere **milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby. I Peter 2:2

I have fed you with milk, and not with **meat**: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it neither yet now are ye able. I Corinthians 3:2

[T]he first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of **strong meat**. For everyone that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. Hebrews 5:12, 13

But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age**...Hebrews 5:14

Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to **understand** doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept...line upon line; **here a little**, and **there a little**. Isaiah 28:9, 10

5. *Delight*



How do you delight yourself? Are your ‘delights’ related to the flesh or the spirit? Self or God?

[H]is **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. Psalm 1:2

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get **understanding** rather to be chosen than silver! Proverbs 16:16

A fool hath no **delight** in **understanding**, but that his heart may discover itself. Proverbs 18:2

6. *Memorize and Meditate*



Do you think about scripture verses you have memorized or do you think about other things?

I have more **understanding** than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my **meditation**. Psalm 119:99

[T]he **meditation** of my heart shall be of **understanding**. I will incline my **ear** unto a parable. Psalm 49:3, 4

7. *Obey*



Do you obey the light God has already given you? Do you think he will give you more understanding if you do not follow that which he has already shown you?

Whoso...will **observe** these things, even they shall **understand**. Psalm 107:43

I **understand** more than the ancients, because I **keep** thy precepts. Psalm 119:100

[A] good **understanding** have all they that **do** his commandments. Psalm 111:10

[D]o them; for this is your wisdom and your **understanding**. Deuteronomy 4:6



Have you allowed sin to creep into your life?

[Y]et made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our **iniquities**, and **understand** thy truth. Daniel 9:13

For **my people** is foolish, they have not known me; they are **sottish** children, and thy have **none understanding**. Jeremiah 4:22

Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have **no understanding**. Psalm 32:9



Are you open to correction?

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is

profitable for...reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth **understanding**. Proverbs 15:32

[R]eprove one that hath understanding, and he will **understand** knowledge. Proverbs 19:25

[A] **rod** is for the back of him that is void of **understanding**. Proverbs 10:13



Do you believe what you are reading is the “pure,” “preserved” and “inspired” word of God? (Psalm 119:140, 12:7, Proverbs 30:5, 2 Tim. 3:16)

O ye of little **faith**...Do ye not yet understand...How is it that ye do not **understand**. Matthew 16:8, 9, 11

Through **faith** we **understand**. Hebrews 11:3

[W]hatsoever is not of faith is sin. Romans 14:23



What is your motive for wanting to understand more of the bible? Do ye seek to exalt self or God with this knowledge?

Knowledge **puffeth up**. I Corinthians 8:1



Are you willing to pay the price to remain humble once you have this understanding?

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I should be exalted** above measure. II Corinthians 12:7

Finally



Are you expecting to understand more than God has chosen to reveal to man now? There is much a godly person will not understand in this life.

[GOD]	Hast thou considered my servant Job , that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:8
[JOB]	[T]herefore have I uttered that I understood not . Job 42:3
[PAUL]	[W]e are perplexed , but not in despair. 2 Cor. 4:8 For now we see through a glass, darkly...now I know in part . 1 Cor. 13:12



Is the portion of the bible that you cannot understand prophetic in nature and, as such, will not be clear until it is fulfilled?

And I heard, but **understood not**...[T]he words are closed up and sealed till the time of the **end**.
Daniel 12:8, 9

But they **understood not** this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not. Luke 9:45
(Concerning Christ's betrayal into the hands of sinners.)

But they **understood not** that saying. Mark 9:32
(about Christ's death and resurrection)

Summary: The Seven Seals

SALVATION	My son , if thou wilt receive my words,
MEDITATE	[A]nd hide my commandments with thee;
READ	So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
PRAY	Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
SEEK	If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
OBEY	He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous ; he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.
DELIGHT	When wisdom entereth into thine heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Prov. 2:1-10