



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Sharpening Your Sword Series, Lesson 35

Lesson Title: How Does It Fit Together?

Take Home Point: God wrote the Bible through people.

Warm-Up:

In Robert Louis Stevenson's book *Treasure Island*, a boy named Jim Hawkins receives a treasure map from a dying pirate. With a natural desire for adventure and riches, Jim seeks out the help he needs to get him to the island to recover the treasure, and of course, there are many adventures, difficulties, and scares along the way. Why do they all go to so much trouble? Because they choose to believe the old pirate's story! When Jim and his friends get to the island, what do they do with the map and its instructions? Do they ignore it? Do they give it a quick scan and try to make their own way? No! They carefully read it and follow the instructions to the buried hoard. They know that, to recover the treasure, they must listen to what old Captain Flint wrote on the map.

Read: Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Jeremiah 1:1-10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:16

Observation (What happened?):

Why were the people of Israel to read the law given to them by God through Moses?

Why did Peter say he wrote what he did?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean when God told Jeremiah that his word would "uproot, tear down, destroy, and overthrow," as well as "build and plant?"

What do you think it means that all scripture is given by the breath of God?

Insight:

It is common to find that people view the God of the Old Testament as different from the God of the New Testament. But, although many different men wrote it over the course of thousands of years, the Bible is consistent from front to back in both the revealed character of God and how he deals with individuals. For example, in the book of Judges, Gideon is directed to destroy an idol prior to leading Israel in throwing off the oppression of the Midianites. How different is that from the words of Jesus in the parable of the servants in Matthew 25? The angel of the Lord agreed to give Gideon a sign to prove he was from God. How different is that from the response Jesus gave to Peter's request in Matthew 14? God's patience, mercy, and power to act in his name are always the same, as real now as it was then. Scripture fits together because it is one story – the story of our redemption from sin by the limitless grace of God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know the Bible is what the authors say it is?

How do you approach the word of God – as truth or just one of many ways to guide your life?

Kingdom Quest year 2