



THE BASICS IS SIMPLE, BUT...

THE DETAIL IS LIKE PUTTING TOGETHER A BILLION PIECE PUZZLE



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Part of the **FREE** series aimed at **positively** impacting children and the future



1. INTRODUCTION:

So how would you put together a Billion piece puzzle? I would say over time and with the help of others! You can attempt it yourself, but it might take years and you ~~might~~ will probably miss pieces of the puzzle over time...

Have you ever watched a movie twice or even more times? Did you notice “new” things or more detail the second time round?

2. A STORY:

Johnny always wanted to be a pilot and when he was the appropriate age, he asked an uncle who was a pilot to borrow him his technical books needed to study for a pilot’s licence.

He borrowed and begged for books and taught himself how to fly at least 15 different aircraft. As he progressed, he became more and more confident (and arrogant) about his knowledge of aircraft and later stopped asking his uncle for further guidance. He convinced his parents to buy him a flight simulator and played for days on end until he was of the opinion that he was ready. However, he did not have any money to go for the pilot’s licence.

One day he went over to his uncle’s house, but found that only the maid was there and noticed his uncle’s aircraft keys... The maid told him that his uncle and aunt went to a workshop and would be away all day. He was sure that he was ready to take the aircraft for a “spin” and thought to himself “*if I flew the aircraft for just an hour, nobody would know and I would still have 5 hours left to spare!*” He had flown as a passenger with his uncle on a few occasions, so knew where to find the hanger and aircraft.

He took his bicycle to the nearby airport and went to the hanger where his uncle’s plane was parked. Pushed the hanger doors open, climbed in and started the aircraft. Slowly he proceeded to the runway and most of the switches and instruments were familiar to him having flown with his uncle before and having flown with a similar aircraft on the flight simulator. He stopped at the beginning of the runway and just before he opened the throttle, someone on the radio asked him to identify himself...Not knowing what to say and not having used a radio before (the simulator did not have such a function), he chose to ignore the message and pushed the throttle fully forward.

The plane started to accelerate and soon he had lift off. Freedom at last, he thought. He was “on top of the world” so to speak. Soon afterwards as he was over some mountains, the plane however started jerking, something he was not use to, as the flight simulator did not physically simulate any such movements. Frantically he consulted the manual above his head trying to read and understand what was wrong, but everything now seemed confusing. Firstly, he thought he knew the manuals well, but in this panic situation, he discovered that many sentences and sections were linked to others on other pages which made it confusing and difficult to page back and forth and link procedures. Furthermore, some sentences all of a sudden seemed to have more than one possible meaning and he never had any practical experience linking the manuals to a real life practical situation!?

The plain’s engine jerked more and more and he broke out in a cold sweat and grabbed the radio to communicate (scream for help), but he had never learnt to communicate and use the radio, so he was unable to use it. “*What have I done*” he though just as the plane’s engine finally cut out and he spiralled to earth crashing in a ball of flames....

This story is not too tasteful, but this is how many people's lives turn out to be on earth. They think they know, but the heading for a crash...

3. SO WHAT IS THIS ARTICLE AND THE SUBSEQUENT STORY ALL ABOUT?:

Let us firstly cover a small part of the heading and then get back to the rest in more detail. A **Billion piece puzzle?** If there was one, it would be extremely complex and alone, nobody would be able to master it.

Let us analyse the above story in bullet point format to keep it short and simple:

- Johnny tried to understand the manuals **alone**;
- A **professional was at hand**, but he choose to ignore him;
- The professional would have helped him understand the manuals and how pages and topics link (if "x" then go to "y" else perform "z"...);
- He did **not have any practical experience** and things in practice often turn out differently from a simulated environment or from what is written in a book;
- When he needed help over the radio, he did not know how to use it to communicate, as he **never used it/communicated through it before**; and
- Because of the above, he ended up in a ball of flames.

Ok, that is enough on that. Let us get back to the heading "***The basics is simple, but the detail is like putting together a billion piece puzzle***". You see, reading the Bible and extracting the basic information from it is simple, such as:

- The 10 commandments;
- Loving God and your neighbour;
- Understanding that Jesus died for our sins;
- Following and understanding the various stories,
- Reading verses in isolation, etc.

It is in the detail where things become very complex! Just like Johnny who tried to understand the flight manuals, but failed to consult the experts and did not see (or realise) all the links and cross references, so should you **not try and understand the Bible alone**. You should ideally consult experts or attend training (e.g. Bible school) as an example. Reading the Bible alone and not attempting to also "do" as the Bible says (gaining that Practical experience), is also a pitfall you should avoid and as Johnny did not learn to use the radio, so must you also be careful not to regularly **talk to/communicate with God/Jesus** and ask for guidance via prayer. Each time I read the same passages in the bible, I notice something I did not "see"/realise in them before, so the more you read it, the more you will notice/find "new" or more information you might not have identified the first time round (just like watching a movie a second time). It feels as if a person needs to read a sentence (even the words) extra slowly and even twice or



thrice just to make sure you understand it well. Also, do not forget that passages in the bible have links to others!

Excuse the pun, but if you fail to do at least the above, you too could land up in a ball of flames...

So the Scriptures were inspired by God:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

4. WHAT ELSE TO BE CAREFUL OF:

People often quote a text (verse) from the Bible, but it usually turns out to have more than one meaning or needs to be read further to put it in context or cannot always be taken literally. For example, let us take the text that is on my wedding ring: Jeremiah 29:11 – ***“I know the plans I have for you in Jesus Christ...”*** Mine stops there due to space limitations, but how many other people often refer to this section of the text for inspiration: ***“¹¹ I know the plans I have for you”*** declares the LORD, ***“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”***. This sentence is inspiring and people therefore often make it their own and then expect results...,BUT...

Here is the “BUT” part: this verse carries on and has some T’s & C’s (Terms and Conditions) further down the line (in verse 12 to 14). Let us look at those T’s & C’s what follow:

“¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, ***“and....”***.

So the T’s and C’s you have to comply with before just accepting that the above verse 11 is 100% applicable to you are to constantly pray to God (“call on Him” and “pray to me”) and seek him with “ALL YOUR HEART”, else no results (and “All your heart” is a very difficult task/challenge).

Let us take just one more example, but there are many others:

From 1 Kings 17, verse 8 to 16 and then further...

Let us look at the message if we only read 1 Kings 17 from verse 8 to 16:



⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹ “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹ And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³ And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ **The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty**, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah”.

Conclusion: What a “nice” heart-warming story. Assume we stopped here?

Now let us assume we read a little further to verse 17:

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, **became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.** ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!”

Conclusion: Now a different story all together! (just one verse further).

But yet again, there is more, from verse 19 things change once more:

¹⁹ And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child's life^[a] come into him again.” ²² And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. **And the life of the child came into him again**, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

Conclusion: The “nice” heart-warming story returns.



Quoting/using sentences and captions in the Bible are good, BUT you must either read the sentences just before it, and/or the sentences afterwards and/or other links. Perhaps you need to read the entire paragraph just before it, and/or the paragraph afterwards, and/or the Chapter before and/or the Chapter afterwards and/or link the sentence/verse to another book in the bible, or even jumping from the old testament to the new testament and vice versa and/or a combination of all the above! Who knows? Well professionals who have studied the Bible for many years would be in a better position to understand and know!. There is thus much more to most captions/text/verses in the Bible!

Also note that you cannot read the New Testament without also reading the Old Testament, they are interrelated! You also need to read the Old Testament before you can understand the New Testament. Then there are different Bible translations and the old versions maintained the form, while the new versions aimed at attempting to give an accurate meaning to words and sentences. This means that you actually should read the different versions (translations) of the Bible to obtain a good overall understanding.

5. IT IS NOT ONLY DIFFICULT TO READ AND UNDERSTAND...

Above I covered the challenges to read, interpret and understand the Bible, but there is something else that is also difficult!?

"So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but 'in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.'" [Revelation 10:9](#)

The meaning of the above is that the Bible is easy to read (eat), but difficult to "digest" (understand and apply!). There are many guidance and terms and conditions, but these are all difficult to follow and apply in practice, because of our human nature and the weakness of the flesh. It is also difficult to tell others what is in the Bible and what they need to do if we have not been trained or studied it adequately.

The Old testament was full of violence and subsequent rules and commandments to attempt to curb the violence and sin.

Some parts were also meant to protect people health wise at the time (Circumcision only on the eighth day due to Vitamin K deficiency before that and not eating Pork, due to their lack of knowledge at the time that it needs to be well cooked before eating – a topic for another Article).

The rules/commandments implemented in the Old Testament were not working, so Jesus had to come and fix what was meant to be the initial meaning in Genesis 1 (Heaven (God's Kingdom) was initially created on earth and there was initially a perfect balance between God and Man



and between God and Nature and between Man and Nature), but soon Man and Woman messed it up (God's Kingdom subsequently left).

Since Man could not even abide by the Ten Commandments, Man was doomed, so Jesus came to save our Souls. Our prayer is now for God to return his Kingdom and this is a WIP (Work In Progress) as part of the New Testament.

Also note that the Book of Revelation has more than one meaning, as when it was written at the time, most of those "things" in Revelation was describing what was happening at that time in a poetic fashion, but it also includes some future visions mixed into sentences.

To truly understand the Bible and what is in it, go to the next paragraph for more info.

6. THE BOTTOM LINE:

After having many discussions with people and attending Bible school, I discovered that there are just too many messages and links in the Bible which are not that clear and obvious to most of us. You will often read a text in isolation only to "discover" later that the text had a deeper meaning or was linked to another. You therefore need to:

- Consult experts and/or go for further training such as Bible school if you really want to understand the deeper links and meanings (choose a well-respected teacher, because having an incompetent teacher is another major risk not covered in this article);
- Do not just read a caption (verse) or text from the Bible in isolation (read the subsequent piece or read the piece just before it). Ideally, try and read an entire book with all its chapters, as I heard that chapters were originally not well divided (if you read some chapters and end there, the subsequent chapter could have been linked to it and cause you to get half the message);
- Read very slowly and concentrate on almost each word (some words may have a dual meaning, some might be relevant at the time, some will be different in previous or subsequent translations with an aim to clarify);
- Read the Bible sections more than once (as many times as you can, the second time around you will probably notice new information you missed the first time, the third time you will notice yet more things. It is like a movie, the second and third time round you notice "information" you missed previously);
- Obtain practical experience by doing, not just reading (practice what you read);
- Talk and consult God and Jesus constantly (via prayer) and ask for guidance and clarity;
- Remember that sentences/text/paragraphs may have (many) links to other areas in the Bible;
- Understand that many text have T's and C's you need to comply with, but remember that God has a Plan for each one of us, so it is still up to Him to decide if the "promise" in the text you read will become applicable to you;



- Remember the period when the particular Bible text was written (many years ago) and put that in context (e.g. the Old Testament may have said you may not eat a certain animal, but the reason at that time was that the whole environment was unhygienic and cooking methods primitive, so God actually protected people by giving that guidance. Today this might be a different story);
- The Bible is actually full of riddles and links and unpacking it would need a number of chapters and other books to be read in conjunction. Even in the Old Testament there was direct (and indirect) references to the coming of Jesus the saviour;
- Understand that the Old and New testament is intrinsically linked (also note that the New testament is actually a “new” chapter in everybody’s lives, replacing many of the “rules” from the Old testament); and
- Consult the experts and/or get training (yes, a repeat from the first bullet above, because the over 1 200 pages of the Bible are actually extremely intricate/complex and are incredibly linked); because;
- The Bible is **easy** to Read, but **difficult** to Digest.

Let me leave you with this verse from the Bible (assuming it is read in context):

¹⁶as he (Paul) does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. °There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, ^pas they do the other Scriptures” - 2 Peter 3 verse 16

Parts of the Bible are Hard to understand! Do not be ignorant about this! Be careful of “twisting” sentences to your liking and ultimate destruction. If you get to know the Bible, you will note the extreme complexities, links, references and cross references, just a stunning complex, yet straight forward book written thousands of years ago, but still 100% relevant and still making 100% sense even in today’s terms and for the future! Just imagine if we found old general non-biblical scrolls of 2000 years ago and read them!? They would cover stuff and practices of that period and would **not** be relevant to our current environment at all, they would probably not make sense, they would probably be interesting, but of no value, but the Bible is completely the opposite! You will only realise how well it is “engineered/designed” (similar to our DNA, a topic for another book), once you study it in detail and receive guidance and once that happens, a “lightbulb” will flash above your head.



Initially you will at least move from being Unconsciously incompetent to becoming Consciously incompetent and this can be changed/improved via further studies, but I believe nobody will ever become fully Competent, we will have to wait for God to explain it to us in detail one day...





7. RECAP QUESTIONS:

NO	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
1	Find Ephesians 1 and write verse 17 out here	
2	Complete this common saying: If all else fails, consult the ...	
3	Never read a Bible verse in ...	

8. RELATED ARTICLES:

NO	RELATED ARTICLES	COMMENTS
	To be completed later, as more Articles are developed	