

# Exploring Our Biblical Heritages

## Bible Study Guidelines & Models

### Guideline #1

*My belief system will be large enough to include all of the facts,  
open enough to be examined and questioned,  
and flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.*



### Guideline #2

*A word or phrase is a group of symbols or sounds  
with an attached bundle of associations that determine meaning.  
The bundle of associations consists of the Source's culture, historical time period,  
geographical location and personal experiences.*



### Guideline #3

*Identify the **Source** (one who wrote or spoke the words)  
and identify the intended **Receptor** (one who reads or hears the words).*



### Things to Remember

1. Bibles written in the English language contain words that are translations, transliterations or insertions made by translators.
2. Bible translators work with Hebrew, Greek and Latin manuscripts – plus other documents.
3. No original manuscript of any book in the Bible exists today.
4. The manuscripts Bible translators work with are copies of copies of copies, etc.
5. Today approximately 6,000 Greek manuscripts and fragments of New Testament books exist. In 1900 only 20 manuscripts had been discovered.
6. The oldest complete manuscripts of New Testament books were copied after 350 CE.
7. The Dead Sea Scrolls contain the oldest Hebrew scrolls and fragments of the Jewish Scriptures.