

UTT Series Book I: Foundations Overview

Course Description: *Foundations* is the first volume in the four-part Understanding the Times series, and uses Scripture and a Student Textbook as primary texts to guide students to:

- understand the foundational components of the Christian worldview.
- approach the Bible with a clear understanding of its authority, validity, and relevance to God's plan for our lives.
- examine the concept of the Trinity with a deeper understanding of one true God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- explore the Bible as God's grand story: a biblical metanarrative in six acts and an interlude.
- equip students with biblical teaching on God's love for us, and how we love God, ourselves, others, and our world.

This course integrates the content with the Bible's metanarrative and a defense of its trustworthiness to prepare students to understand and share the gospel with sensitivity and critical thinking.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1. How Can I Find Direction in Life?
2. What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?
3. What Is the Bible, and What Is Its Place in a Christian's Life?
4. How Are We Supposed to Read the Bible?
5. Where Have We Been? Creation to Israel
6. Where Are We Now? Jesus to New Creation
7. Who Is God? Who Am I?
8. How Can I Become Like Jesus?
- 1.10 Conclusion

Chapter 2: What the Bible Is and Isn't

- 2.1 The Importance of the Bible in History
- 2.2 How People Read the Bible Today
- 2.3 What the Bible Is
- 2.4 Not Merely a Book of Instructions
- 2.5 What Does It Mean to Call the Bible "Revelation"?
- 2.6 How We Got the Bible
- 2.7 What Does It Mean to Say the Bible Is the "Word of God"?
- 2.8 Does the Bible Actually Claim to Be True?
- 2.9 Why Truth Matters
- 2.10 Conclusion

Chapter 3: Does the Bible Have Authority?

- 3.1 Who's in Charge?
- 3.2 Internal Evidence for the Bible's Authority: Old Testament
- 3.3 Internal Evidence for the Bible's Authority: New Testament
- 3.4 External Evidence for the Reliability of the Old Testament
- 3.5 External Evidence for the Reliability of the New Testament
- 3.6 Accurate Preservation of the Bible
- 3.7 Answering Objections to the Authority of the Bible
- 3.8 How Far Does God's Authority Extend?
- 3.9 Why Should We Submit to God's Authority?
- 3.10 Conclusion

Chapter 4: How to Read the Bible

- 4.1 A Bible Study Gone Wrong
- 4.2 Tolle Lege: Pick It Up and Read It
- 4.3 A Lifelong Journey
- 4.4. Self-Centered Bible Reading
- 4.5 Common Mistakes in Bible Reading, Part 1
- 4.6 Common Mistakes in Bible Reading, Part 2
- 4.7 Steps to Reading the Bible Well, Part 1
- 4.8 Steps to Reading the Bible Well, Part 2
- 4.9 Practicing What We Learn
- 4.10 Conclusion

Chapter 5: The Bible as a Story

- 5.1 Tell Me a Story
- 5.2 Elements of a Story
- 5.3 What is a Metanarrative?
- 5.4 Worldviews as Metanarratives
- 5.5 The Bible as a Metanarrative
- 5.6 Comprehensive, Coherent, and Normative
- 5.7 Caught Up in a Bigger Story
- 5.8 Outline of the Biblical Story
- 5.9 Meeting the Author
- 5.10 Conclusion

Chapter 6: Act 1: Creation

- 6.1 Creation Stories
- 6.2 Genesis 1
- 6.3 Genesis 2
- 6.4 God: The Creator
- 6.5 Human Beings: Rulers and Sub-Creators
- 6.6 Humans: Relational and Sexed Beings
- 6.7 Nature: God's Gift
- 6.8 Genesis Confronts Ancient Creation Myths
- 6.9 Genesis Confronts Alternative Worldviews
- 6.10 Conclusion

Chapter 7: Act 2: The Fall

- 7.1 All Was Well
- 7.2 What Is Sin?
- 7.3 The Beginning of Sin
- 7.4. Consequences of Sin: Broken Relationships with God and Nature
- 7.5 Consequences of Sin: Broken Relationships with Self and Others
- 7.6 Who Is to Blame?
- 7.7 God's Grace in the Midst of Judgment
- 7.8 The Way of Cain and the Flood
- 7.9 God's Covenant with Noah and the Tower of Babel
- 7.10 Conclusion

Chapter 8: Act 3: Redemption Initiated—Israel

- 8.1 The Family of Abraham
- 8.2 The Exodus
- 8.3 The Tabernacle in the Wilderness
- 8.4 The Promised Land and the Judges
- 8.5 The First Kings of Israel
- 8.6 The Northern Kingdom: Israel
- 8.7 The Southern Kingdom: Judah
- 8.8 The People of God in Exile
- 8.9 The Prophets
- 8.10 Conclusion

Chapter 9: Interlude—The Second Temple Period

- 9.1 Daniel's Vision and the Return from Exile
- 9.2 Alexander the Great and Hellenization
- 9.3 Antiochus IV and the Maccabees
- 9.4 Herod, Pilate, and Roman Rule
- 9.5 Key Jewish Symbols
- 9.6 The Diaspora, the Synagogue, and the Samaritans
- 9.7 Jewish Factions
- 9.8 Literature and Theology in the Second Temple Period
- 9.9 The Hopes of Israel
- 9.10 Conclusion

Chapter 10: Act 4: Redemption Accomplished—Jesus

- 10.1 The Incarnation of Jesus
- 10.2 Jesus' Announcement of the Kingdom of God
- 10.3 Jesus' Identity
- 10.4 Jesus' Parables
- 10.5 Jesus' Miracles
- 10.6 Jesus' Teaching
- 10.7 The Crucifixion of Jesus
- 10.8 The Resurrection of Jesus
- 10.9 The Ascension of Jesus
- 10.10 Conclusion

Chapter 11: Act 5: Restoration Initiated—The Church

- 11.1 Already and Not Yet
- 11.2 A New Community: The Church
- 11.3 Challenges and Growth
- 11.4 Letters to the Churches
- 11.5 The Church throughout History and Today
- 11.6 Restored Relationship with God
- 11.7 Restored Relationship with Self
- 11.8 Restored Relationship with Others
- 11.9 Restored Relationship with Creation
- 11.10 Conclusion

Chapter 12: Act 6: Restoration Accomplished—New Creation

- 12.1 Longing for Restoration
- 12.2 Context of the Book of Revelation
- 12.3. Worshipping God, Following the Lamb
- 12.4 Judgment
- 12.5 Hell
- 12.6 Heaven
- 12.7 The Second Coming
- 12.8 From the Garden to the City
- 12.9 All Things New
- 12.10 Conclusion

Chapter 13: Who God Is

- 13.1 Four Gods
- 13.2 Can We Really Know an Infinite God?
- 13.3 Who God Reveals Himself to Be—Part 1
- 13.4 Who God Reveals Himself to Be—Part 2
- 13.5 Who God Reveals Himself to Be—Part 3
- 13.6 The Triune God
- 13.7 The Trinity in the Old Testament
- 13.8 The Trinity in the New Testament
- 13.9 Why the Trinity Matters
- 13.10 Conclusion

Chapter 14: Who God Wants Us to Be

- 14.1 Being Human
- 14.2 Living in the Here and Now
- 14.3 Becoming Like God and Glorifying Him
- 14.4 Participating in the Divine Life
- 14.5 Becoming a Servant
- 14.6 Picking Up the Cross
- 14.7 Living in Hope
- 14.8 Growing in Christlikeness
- 14.9 Growing Together
- 14.10 Conclusion

Chapter 15: Walking with God

- 15.1 Spiritual Disciplines—For What?
- 15.2 Solitude, Silence, Listening, and Self-Examination
- 15.3 Prayer
- 15.4 Worship
- 15.5 Reading, Memorizing, Meditating on, and Contemplating Scripture 1
- 15.6 Further Reading and Exploration
- 15.7 Fasting and Abstinence
- 15.8 Giving, Stewardship, and Simplicity
- 15.9 The Example of the Saints
- 15.10 Conclusion

Chapter 16: Walking with God in Community

- 16.1 The Christian Life in Community
- 16.2 Worship in Community
- 16.3 Studying Scripture in Community
- 16.4 Prayer in Community and Exercise of Spiritual Gifts
- 16.5 Confession, Accountability, Mentoring
- 16.6 Baptism and Communion
- 16.7 Giving and Service
- 16.8 Sharing the Gospel
- 16.9 The Positive Impact of the Church on Society
- 16.10 Conclusion

Chapter 17: Loving God and Others

- 17.1 The Two Greatest Commandments
- 17.2 What Love Is
- 17.3 Loving God
- 17.4 Accepting God's Love for Us
- 17.5 Loving Others
- 17.6 Who Is My Neighbor?
- 17.7 Neighborliness and Community
- 17.8 Neighborliness and Citizenship
- 17.9 Love Your Enemies
- 17.10 Conclusion

Chapter 18: Conclusion

- 18.1 Encountering Scripture
- 18.2 Growing in the Life of Faith
- 18.3 Putting It All Together—Part 1
- 18.4 Putting It All Together—Part 2
- 18.5 Sharing the Good News