

## One Million Arrows Study for Parents

By Julie Ferwerda

\*Bible Text used is NASB

### Introduction: Building the Foundation for Family Growth

Because time is short and lives are at stake, this study is going to get into some deeper teachings of the faith right from the start—teachings I believe that are critical in our times for understanding our call to belief, obedience, character growth, and holiness in our individual lives and in our families. *The Bible is about so much more than many of us have been taught.* We're going to start scratching that surface so we can begin understanding the bigger picture more fully from cover to cover and find out what God is up to in His-story. I also HIGHLY recommend going through my FREE Bible commentary that I'll be completing and posting throughout the year where I'll share insights God has been teaching me over the past several years that I believe will make your experience in the Bible come alive in fresh, relevant, new ways. Not only that, the Bible will begin to tie together profoundly from Genesis to Revelation!

Use this time of coming together with others to discuss your parenting successes and failures, as iron sharpening iron, encouraging and exhorting each other with creativity and accountability so that your families can light up this world! Feel free to send feedback and suggestions so I can consider how to improve this study.

Please note that the things we'll be covering are merely scratching the surface of the deeper underlying teachings presented in Scriptures. Of course, I'm presenting my beliefs based on my own study, so don't take my word for it—I hope you study it all out for yourselves and in greater depth. I believe a lot of concepts presented here begin to tie the Scriptures together in ways that are exciting and meaningful, and begin to open up a “bigger story” worth seeking out (that's where my personal Bible commentaries come in).

### Background

The Old Testament (OT) is full of pictures of things for us to apply today that must be “discerned in the Spirit.” The (OT) happenings in the natural world are a picture of concepts in the spiritual world that are to be great teachers to us today of God's will and plan for us. Paul refers to this idea in 1 Cor. 15:46: *“However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.”* Paul explains this further in 1 Cor. 2:

*6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ...Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 1 Cor. 2:6-8, 12-14*

Some of our Bible lesson teachings will likely be foreign to you, but we are going to get some help from early Hebrew perspectives on Scripture to discern what was happening in the natural world so that we might apply it to the spiritual world.

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One important understanding from the Hebrew perspective of the Bible is that “history repeats itself.” Most of the OT concepts and teachings have cyclical fulfillment (past, present, and future), often many times over. Each of the concepts we’re about to explore have and will have many prophetic fulfillments of which we are only considering two—a look at the corporate fulfillment for Israel in the natural world (OT) and a brief look at the personal fulfillment for us today in a spiritual sense. But again, all of these concepts have much more meaning and layers of fulfillment than we can possibly cover here.

I look forward to these next ten sessions with you. I hope they are a blessing to you and your family.

Julie Ferwerda