

# **How to Interpret the Bible**

**Sunday School Class – April 27, 2014**

*“So great is my veneration of the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society.” - John Quincy Adams*

*“I speak as a man of the world to men of the world; and I say to you, search the Scriptures! The Bible is the book of all others, to be read at all ages; and in all conditions of human life; not to be read once or twice or thrice through, and then laid aside, but to be read in small portions of one or two chapters every day, and never to be intermitted, unless by some overruling necessity.”- John Quincy Adams*

*“The highest earthly enjoyments  
are but a shadow of the joy I find  
in reading God’s Word.”*

*- Lady Jane Grey*

*“The most learned, acute, and diligent student cannot, in the longest life, obtain an entire knowledge of this one volume. The more deeply he works the mine, the richer and more abundant he finds the ore; new light continually beams from this fount of heavenly knowledge, to direct the conduct, and illustrate the work of God and the ways of men; and he will at last leave the world confessing, that the more he studied the Scriptures, the fuller conviction he had of his own ignorance, and of their inestimable value.” - Sir Walter Scott*

*“Give to the people who toil and suffer, for where this world is hard and bad, the belief that there is a better made for them. Scatter the Gospels among the village, a Bible for every cottage.” – Victor Hugo*

*“Holy Scripture is a stream of running water, where the elephant must swim, and the lamb can walk.”*

*— Gregory the Great*

*“I have read the Bible through many times, and now make it a practice to read it through once every year. It is a book of all others for lawyers, as well as divines; and I pity the man who cannot find in it a rich supply of thought and of rules for conduct.”*

*- Daniel Webster*

*“A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district – all studied and appreciated as they merit – are the principle support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty.”*

*– Benjamin Franklin*

# **2 Introductions to the Bible -**

## **I. What the Bible is.**

## 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677

THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE (96 books)							
OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)			 <p>About 400 years between Testaments</p>	NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)			
<b>HISTORY</b> (17 books)  <b>The Law</b>  1 Genesis 2 Exodus 3 Leviticus 4 Numbers 5 Deuteronomy  <b>History and Governments</b>  1 Joshua 2 Judges 3 Ruth 4 1 Samuel 5 2 Samuel 6 1 Kings 7 2 Kings 8 1 Chronicles 9 2 Chronicles 10 Ezra 11 Nehemiah 12 Esther	<b>POETRY</b> (5 books)  1 Job 2 Psalms 3 Proverbs 4 Ecclesiastes 5 Song of Solomon	<b>PROPHECY</b> (17 books)  <b>Major Prophets</b>  1 Isaiah 2 Jeremiah 3 Lamentations 4 Ezekiel 5 Daniel  <b>Minor Prophets</b>  1 Hosea 2 Joel 3 Amos 4 Obadiah 5 Jonah 6 Micah 7 Nahum 8 Habakkuk 9 Zephaniah 10 Haggai 11 Zechariah 12 Malachi		<b>HISTORY</b> (5 books)  <b>Gospels</b>  1 Matthew 2 Mark 3 Luke 4 John	<b>LETTERS</b> (21 books)  <b>Paul's Letters</b>  1 Romans 2 1 Corinthians 3 2 Corinthians 4 Galatians 5 Ephesians 6 Philippians 7 Colossians 8 1 Thessalonians 9 2 Thessalonians 10 1 Timothy 11 2 Timothy 12 Titus 13 Philemon	<b>PROPHECY</b> (1 book)  Revelation	
				<b>History of the early church</b>  Acts	<b>General Letters</b>  1 Hebrews 2 James 3 1 Peter 4 2 Peter 5 1 John 6 2 John 7 3 John 8 Jude		
				<div>           The New is in the Old, concealed.            The Old is in the New, revealed.         </div>			

God used 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible – 2 Peter 1:20-21

## 2 Introductions to the Bible -

### I. What the Bible is.

- The Bible is a collection of “the books.”

# **The 2 Major Sections of the Bible -**

## **I. The Old Testament.**

# **The 2 Major Sections of the Bible -**

**I. The Old Testament.**

**II. The New Testament.**

# The 2 Major Sections of the Bible -

## I. The Old Testament.

- The 39 books of the Old Testament refer to what happens before the cross.

# The 2 Major Sections of the Bible -

## II. The New Testament.

- The 27 books of the New Testament refer to what happens after the cross.

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

### **A. The Law**

(Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus;  
Numbers; Deuteronomy)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

### **B. The History**

(Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1-2 Samuel;  
1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Ezra;  
Nehemiah; Esther)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

### **C. The Poetry**

(Job; Psalms; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

**D. The Prophetic**

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

### **D. The Prophetic**

#### **1. Major Prophets**

(Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel;  
Daniel)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. 4 Subjects of the Old Testament.**

### **D. The Prophetic**

#### **1. Major Prophets**

(Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel)

#### **2. Minor Prophets**

(Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. Subjects of the New Testament or “New Covenant.”**

A. The History of Christ or “The Gospels” (Matthew; Mark; Luke; John) and The History of the Church (Acts).

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. Subjects of the New Testament or “New Covenant.”**

### **B. The Letters**

- i. The Letters of Paul (Romans;  
1-2 Corinthians; Galatians;  
Ephesians; Philippians;  
Colossians; 1-2 Thessalonians;  
1-2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon)

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

## **I. Subjects of the New Testament or “New Covenant.”**

### **B. The Letters**

- ii. General Letters (Hebrews;  
James; 1-2 Peter; 1,2,3 John;  
Jude).

# **The Major Divisions of the Bible -**

**I. Subjects of the New Testament or  
“New Covenant.”**

**C. The Prophetic (Revelation).**

## **2 Introductions to the Bible -**

**I. What the Bible is.**

**II. What the Bible says about itself.**

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

**I. It is the Word of God.**

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

## **I. It is the Word of God.**

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

– Hebrews 4:12

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

## **II. It is God-breathed.**

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

## **II. It is God-breathed.**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;” – 2 Timothy 3:16

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

**III. It is sufficient.**

# What the Bible Says About Itself:

## III. It is sufficient.

“....so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:17

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

**IV. It is clear.**

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

**V. It is finished.**

# **What the Bible Says About Itself:**

## **V. It is finished.**

“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.” – Rev. 22:18-19