

The Bible, God's Word

Lesson 1

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- ✓ II Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

The Bible is the Word of God. It contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the blessings of believers.

- ◆ The Scriptures were written by approximately 40 different men (II Peter 1:21 says that men, *“moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”*).
- ◆ They lived in several different countries.
- ◆ They lived at different times (1400 B.C. to A.D. 90).
- ◆ They wrote in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Scriptures contain five major themes:

- ◆ Character of God.
- ◆ Blessings of faith and obedience.
- ◆ Divine judgment for sin and disobedience.
- ◆ A Savior and sacrifice for sin.
- ◆ Coming Kingdom and future glory.

The overarching theme of the Bible is the Glory of God revealed in redeeming sinners through the work of the cross. It is in this sense that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is pre-eminent as the central figure throughout the Scriptures. In John 5:39 Jesus said, *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about _____.”*

5 Books of the Law	12 Historical Books	5 Poetic Books	17 Prophetic Books	4 Gospels	1 Acts	21 Letters	1 Revelation
<i>Promises of Christ</i>	<i>Anticipation of Christ: Types, Experiences, Prophecies</i>			<i>Manifestation Of Christ</i>	<i>The Church of Christ</i>		<i>Coronation of Christ</i>

I. The Old Testament (39 Books)

A. *The Pentateuch (5 Books)*

Written by Moses they are often referred to as the "Five Books of Moses" or the "Pentateuch". List them in order as found in your Bible:

- _____ The Book of beginnings: creation, man, sin, redemption, God's nation.
- _____ God delivers His people from Egypt.
- _____ Priestly laws on holiness and worship through sacrifice and purification.
- _____ God's people continually disobey and wander in the wilderness for forty years.
- _____ Moses' great discourses to prepare the people to enter the Promised Land.

B. *Historical (12 Books)*

The Books of history describe God's dealing with His chosen people; Israel, the Hebrew nation.

1. Joshua	5. II Samuel	9. II Chronicles
2. Judges	6. I Kings	10. Ezra
3. Ruth	7. II Kings	11. Nehemiah
4. I Samuel	8. I Chronicles	12. Esther

C. *Poetic (5 Books)*

These books express God's majesty and His dealings with men in the form of poetry and song. List them in order as found in your Bible:

- _____ The suffering and loyal trust of a man who loved God.
- _____ Songs of praise and instruction.
- _____ God's practical wisdom for daily life.
- _____ The emptiness of an earthly life without God.
- _____ A portrait of God's love.

D. Major Prophets (5 Books)

Prophets were those commissioned by God to deliver His message to men. The difference between major and minor prophets is the size (length) of the Book.

1. Isaiah	3. Lamentations	5. Daniel
2. Jeremiah	4. Ezekiel	

E. Minor Prophets (12 Books)

These last 12 books of the Old Testament were written from approximately 840 B.C. to 400 B.C.

1. Hosea	5. Jonah	9. Zephaniah
2. Joel	6. Micah	10. Haggai
3. Amos	7. Nahum	11. Zechariah
4. Obadiah	8. Habakkuk	12. Malachi

II. New Testament (27 Books)

The focus of the New Testament is:

- ◆ Life of Christ
- ◆ Way of salvation
- ◆ Beginning of Christianity
- ◆ God's plan for the future

A. Historical (5 Books)

The Gospels (good news) are:

- _____ As King of the Jews and long awaited Messiah.
- _____ As an obedient servant.
- _____ As the perfect man.
- _____ As the Son of God.

The beginning and spread of Christianity is recorded in:

- _____

B. Epistles/Letters (21 Books)

Books written to churches and individuals dealing with every aspect of Christian faith and practice:

1. Romans	8. I Thessalonians	15. James
2. I Corinthians	9. II Thessalonians	16. I Peter
3. II Corinthians	10. I Timothy	17. II Peter
4. Galatians	11. II Timothy	18. I John
5. Ephesians	12. Titus	19. II John
6. Philippians	13. Philemon	20. III John
7. Colossians	14. Hebrews	21. Jude

C. Prophecy (1 Book)

The _____ unveils the future events of:

- Return of Christ
- Reign of Christ
- Glory of Christ
- Future state of believers and unbelievers


III. How do the following verses emphasize the importance of God's Word?

1. Psalm 119:11

2. Matthew 4:4

3. II Timothy 3:15

4. Hebrews 4:12

THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE (66 Books)						
OLD TESTAMENT (39 Books)			<div></div> <div>About 400 years between Testaments</div>	NEW TESTAMENT (27 Books)		
HISTORY (17 Books)	POETRY (5 Books)	PROPHECY (17 Books)		HISTORY (5 Books)	LETTERS (21 Books)	PROPHECY (1 Book)
The Law		Major Prophets		Gospels	Paul's Letters	Revelation
1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy		1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Lamentations 4. Ezekiel 5. Daniel		1. Matthew 2. Mark 3. Luke 4. John	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	
History and Governments		Minor Prophets		History of the Early Church	General Letters	
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		1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah 5. Jonah 6. Micah 7. Nahum 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi		1. Acts	1. Hebrews 2. James 3. 1 Peter 4. 2 Peter 5. 1 John 6. 2 John 7. 3 John 8. Jude	
The New is in the Old Concealed The Old is in the New Revealed.						
God used 40 different men over a period of 1500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible – 2 Peter 1:20-21						

The Bible claims ultimate spiritual authority in doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness because it represents the inspired Word of Almighty God (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Scripture asserts its spiritual sufficiency, so much so that it claims exclusivity for its teaching (cf. Isaiah 55:11; 2 Peter 1:3, 4).

God's Word declares that it is *inerrant* (Psalms 12:6; 119:140; Proverbs 30:5a; John 10:35) and *infallible* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). In other words, it is true and therefore trustworthy. All of these qualities are dependent on the fact that the Scriptures are God-given (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21), which guarantees its quality at the Source and at its original writing.

In Scripture, the person of God and the Word of God are everywhere interrelated, so much so that whatever is true about the character of God is true about the nature of God's Word. God is true, impeccable, and reliable; therefore, so is His Word. What a person thinks about God's Word, in reality, reflects what a person thinks about God.

How The Bible Became Ours



Original Manuscripts from around 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100
Sixty-six distinct works. Some writers unknown.

Manuscripts in original language.

Translations into other languages and quotations.

A.D. 385 – 404: The Vulgate, Jerome's Latin translation.

A.D. 700 – 1000: Various Anglo-Saxon partial translations.

A.D. 1382: Complete translations by John Wycliffe and followers.

A.D. 1525 – 1535: First printed translation by William Tyndale.

1535: Coverdale's translation; 1537: Matthew's; 1539: Taverner's and Great Bible translation; 1560: Geneva Bible; 1568: Bishop's; 1610: Rheims-Douai

A.D. 1611 – The King James Version

More Discoveries

1885: English Revised Version

1901: American Standard Version

1947: Dead Sea Scrolls

1952: Revised Standard Version; 1960: New American Standard Version; 1966: The Jerusalem Bible; 1971: Living Bible (Paraphrase); 1973: The Common Bible; 1973: New International Bible