

THE BASICS: Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Bible is the Word of God. It claims to be the truth, the message of God to man. 2 Peter 1:21 says that “men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

- The Scriptures were written by approximately 40 different men.
- These men lived in Several different countries and cultures
- They lived in different eras (1400 B.C. through A.D. 90).
- They wrote in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

Even with these differences, God moved these men to focus on Him and His glory in the redemption of man through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

I. The Old Testament (39 Books)

- A. **The Pentateuch (5 books)** The first 5 books of the Old Testament written by Moses around 1400 B.C.

List the books of the Pentateuch in the order you find them in your Bible.

1. _____ The book of beginnings: Creation, man, sin, redemption, God’s nation
2. _____ God delivers His people from Egypt
3. _____ Atonement, holiness, and worship through sacrifice and purification.
4. _____ God’s people repeatedly disobey and wander in the wilderness 40 years.
5. _____ Moses’ great discourses to prepare Israel to enter the Promised Land

- B. **History (12 books)** The historical books were written between 1400 and 450 B.C. and tell about God’s dealings with His chosen people Israel.

List these books in the order you find them in your Bible.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ |

- C. **Poetry (5 books)** The following five books are poetic, describing in poetry and song God's greatness and His dealings with men.

List these books in the order you find them in your Bible

1. _____ The suffering and loyal trust of a man who loved God
2. _____ Songs of praise and instruction
3. _____ God's practical wisdom for daily life
4. _____ The emptiness of an earthly life without God
5. _____ A celebration of marital joy

- D. **Major Prophets (5 books)** A prophet was a person commissioned by God to deliver His message to men. These books are called "Major Prophets" because they generally are longer than the writings of the "Minor Prophets." The Major Prophets were written approximately between 750 and 550 B.C.

List these books in the order you find them in your Bible

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

- E. **Minor Prophets (12 books)** The last of the Old Testament books written approximately between 840 and 400 B.C.

List these books in the order you find them in your Bible

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ |

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT (27 BOOKS) reveals Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of men. Here we see:

- The life of Christ
- The way of Salvation
- The beginning of Christianity
- Instruction for Christian living
- God’s plan for the future

A. History (5 books)

1. The Gospels (First 4 books)-

- a. _____ Especially for the Jews, revealing Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Messiah
- b. _____ Reveals Jesus as the Servant of God; written especially to the Roman world.
- c. _____ Reveals Jesus as the perfect man, emphasizing His humanity; written by Luke, a Greek, to the Greek world.
- d. _____ Reveals Jesus as the Son of God, stressing His deity; very evangelistic.

What two reasons are given for the writing of John’s Gospel (John 20:31)?

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

2. History of the Early Church (1 book)

_____ The beginning and spread of the Christian church; it could be called the “Acts of the Holy Spirit,” and was written as an evangelistic tool.

B. Letters or Epistles (21 books) were written to individuals, churches, or to believers in general. The letters deal with every aspect of the Christian faith and responsibility .

List these books in the order you find them in your Bible.

1. Paul's Letters (13 Books)

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | f. _____ | k. _____ |
| b. _____ | g. _____ | l. _____ |
| c. _____ | h. _____ | m. _____ |
| d. _____ | i. _____ | |
| e. _____ | j. _____ | |

2. General Letters (8 books)

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ | g. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ | h. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ | |

C. Prophecy (1 book) The last book of the New Testament tells of future events.

- a. Return of Christ
- b. Reign of Jesus Christ
- c. Glory of Jesus Christ
- d. Future state of believers and unbelievers

This book is called _____

III. CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

a. The Old and New Testaments should be seen together, as both portray Jesus Christ as the central figure.

- i. Luke 24:27. Christ is seen in _____
- ii. John 5:39. Jesus said the Scriptures "bear witness of _____."

b. The Key is Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT		NEW TESTAMENT		
5 Law books	12 History; 5 Poetry; 17 Prophecy	4 Gospels	1 History; 21 letters	1 Prophecy
<i>Promises of Christ</i>	<i>Anticipation of Christ: Types, Experiences, and Prophecies</i>	<i>Manifestation of Christ</i>	<i>The Church of Christ</i>	<i>Coronation of Christ</i>

IV. WHY IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT? When tempted by Satan, Jesus alluded to Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

a. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the Bible? (Choose the correct answer.)

- Some of the Bible is inspired by God.
- There are a few parts that are not inspired.
- The entire Bible is inspired by God.
- Only those parts that speak to us in a personal way are inspired by God.

- **NOTE:** The Old Testament is the revelation of God to show man what God is like, who God is, what God tolerates and does not tolerate, how God desires holiness and punishes sin. The New Testament is God revealed by His Son in the life of His Son, in the message of His Son, in the understanding of the work of His Son and in the culmination and the coming of His Son to establish His eternal Kingdom. But in either case, Old Testament, New Testament, God spoke. And what we have is indeed the word of God. This is not the word of man.

So, men were not inspired but Scripture is. God breathed into them and they wrote it down, word by word what God breathed into them. It was more than dictation. They weren't just listening to some voice and writing mechanically every word; it was flowing through their heart and their soul and their mind and their emotions and their experiences. But it came out every word the Word of God. As God breathed into them the message and they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, they said it and some of them wrote it down. Miraculous, supernatural, inexplicable process that yields to us the Word of God.

b. How do the following verses show the importance of God's Word?

i. 2 Timothy 3:15

ii. Hebrews 4:12

c. What four things does God's Word do?

- i. Psalm 19:7a** _____
- ii. Psalm 19:7b** _____
- iii. Psalm 19:8a** _____
- iv. Psalm 19:8b** _____

V. **APPLICATION** Based on what you have learned about the Bible, what should your response be?

- **NOTE:** When it comes to godly living and godly service, to growing in “the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4), God-breathed Scripture provides for us the comprehensive and complete body of divine truth necessary to live as our heavenly Father desires for us to live. The wisdom and guidance for fulfilling everything He commands us to believe, think, say and do is found in His inerrant, authoritative, comprehensive, and complete Word.

It is impossible to believe, understand, and follow what you do not even know. It is futile, and foolish, to expect to live a spiritual life without knowing spiritual truth. Biblically untaught believers, especially those in biblically untaught churches, are easy prey for false teachers. They are spiritual “children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (Eph. 4:14). Throughout most of redemptive history, God could have said what He said in Hosea’s day: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). It is for that reason, as well as for the even greater reason of honoring the Lord, that regular, systematic, and thorough study of the doctrines in God’s Word is imperative for God’s people.