

Lesson 1 – Introduction to the Bible

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

The Bible is the Word of God. It claims to be the truth, the message from God to man. Men moved by the Holy Spirit wrote what God wanted to speak (2 Peter 1:21).

- It was written by approximately _____ 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.

Despite these differences, God moved the writers to focus on His glory in man’s redemption through one central figure—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

I. Old Testament Books (39 books)

A. The Pentateuch (5 books)

The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses around 1400 B.C. They are often referred to as “Five Books of Moses” or the “Pentateuch.”

- 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 continually disobey and wander in the wilderness for 40 years.
- 5) _____ : Moses’ great discourses to prepare Israel to enter the Promised Land.

B. Historical Books (12 books)

These books were written between 1400 and 450 B.C. and describe God's dealings with His chosen people, Israel, the Hebrew nation.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1) Joshua | 4) 1 Samuel | 7) 2 Kings | 10) Ezra |
| 2) Judges | 5) 2 Samuel | 8) 1 Chronicles | 11) Nehemiah |
| 3) Ruth | 6) 1 Kings | 9) 2 Chronicles | 12) Esther |

C. Poetry (5 books)

These books describe in _____ and _____ God's greatness and His dealings with men.

- 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 _____ by God to deliver His message to men. These books are called "major prophets" because they are _____ than the writings of the "minor prophets." These were written approx. between 750 and 550 B.C.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1) Isaiah | 3) Lamentations | 5) Daniel |
| 2) Jeremiah | 4) Ezekiel | |

E. Minor Prophets (12 books)

The last 12 books of the Old Testament were written approx. between 840 and 400 B.C.

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

II. The New Testament (27 books)

The New Testament, or New Covenant, reveals Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of men. In it we find:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ The life of Christ | ➤ Instruction for Christian living |
| ➤ The way of salvation | ➤ God's plan for the future |
| ➤ The beginning of Christianity | |

A. History (5 books)

➤ The Gospels (4 books)

- 1) _____: The life of Christ, written especially for the Jews, revealing Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Messiah.
- 2) _____: The life of Christ, revealing Jesus as the obedient Servant of God; written especially to the Roman world.
- 3) _____: The life of Christ, revealing Jesus as the perfect man, emphasizing His humanity; written by Luke, a Greek, to the Greek world.
- 4) _____: The life of Christ, revealing 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)

- _____
- _____

5) 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)

These books were written to individuals, churches, or believers in general. The letters deal with every aspect of Christian faith and responsibility.

➤ Pauls' Letters (13 books)

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1) Romans | 5) Ephesians | 9) 2 Thessalonians | 13) Philemon |
| 2) 1 Corinthians | 6) Philippians | 10) 1 Timothy | |
| 3) 2 Corinthians | 7) Colossians | 11) 2 Timothy | |
| 4) Galatians | 8) 1 Thessalonians | 12) Titus | |

➤ General letters (8 books)

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1) Hebrews | 4) 2 Peter | 7) 3 John |
| 2) James | 5) 1 John | 8) Jude |
| 3) 1 Peter | 6) 2 John | |

C. Prophecy (1 book)

The last book of the New Testament tells of future events.

- The return of Christ
- The reign of Christ
- Glory of Jesus Christ
- Future state of believers and unbelievers

➤ This book is called _____.

III. Christ in the Bible

Read the following verses and fill in the blanks:

1. Luke 24:27. Christ is seen in _____.
2. John 5:39. Jesus said the Scriptures “testify about _____.”

IV. Why the Bible is Important

What four things does God’s Word do?

1. Psalm 19:7a _____
2. Psalm 19:7b _____
3. Psalm 19:8a _____
4. Psalm 19:8b _____

V. Application

1. Based upon what you have learned about God’s Word, what is your response? Why?
2. Why is it important to know your Bible in this breakdown?
3. How do you get to know the Bible better?