

## THE BIBLE

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the written Word of God. **(John 17:17; John 20:31)**

2. WHO PRODUCED THE BIBLE?

God is the Author of the Bible and holy men of God were used to actually express His thoughts in writing. Prophets and priests wrote the Old Testament and evangelists and apostles wrote the New Testament.

**(II Peter 1:21; Rev. 22:18-19)**

3. WHAT DOES "THE WORD OF GOD" MEAN?

The Word of God means that God has spoken or expressed Himself. Just as we exchange ideas by speaking words, God talks to us by using words, or the Word. **(John 1:1; I Peter 1:23,25; Hebrews 1:1)**

4. WHY IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD ALTHOUGH IT WAS WRITTEN BY MAN?

The Bible is the Word of God because its writers were inspired of God to write His thoughts. **(II Timothy 3:16; I Thess. 2:13)**

5. WHAT DOES "BY INSPIRATION" OF GOD MEAN?

By inspiration of God means that God breathed His thoughts into the minds of men, so that these men expressed exactly the very thoughts of God. **(II Peter 1:21; I Cor. 2:13)**

6. WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY THAT THE ENTIRE BIBLE IS INSPIRED?

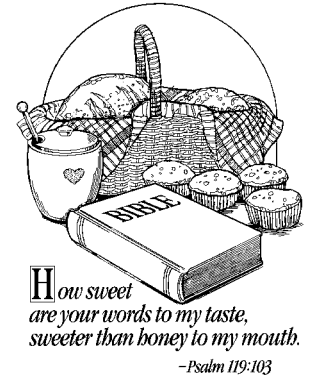
Every word in the Bible is God's Word. Therefore, there are no errors or mistakes in the Bible. The power of inspiration kept the writers from making mistakes. **(John 10:35; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16)**

7. FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID GOD GIVE US THE BIBLE?

God gave us the Bible to reveal Christ to us so that in Him we might have eternal life and walk pleasing to Him. **(II Tim. 3:15-17; Psalm 119:105)**

8. HOW DOES THE BIBLE REVEAL CHRIST TO US?

In the Old Testament, the prophets foretold the coming of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. In the New Testament, we recognize Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies. **(John 5:39; Psalm 40:7)**



9. WHAT USE SHOULD WE MAKE OF THE BIBLE?

We should diligently and reverently read and study the Bible, listen attentively when it is read and explained, believe it, and live according to it. **(John 5:39; Luke 11:28)**

10. HOW CAN WE KNOW THE ESSENTIAL MEANING OF THE BIBLE?

Four things are necessary to properly understand the Word of God:

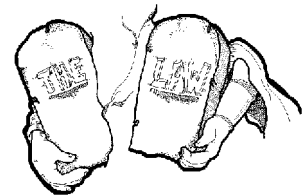
1. You must be a child of God.
2. You must be inspired by the Holy Spirit.
3. You must read and study with an open mind  
(free from prejudice).
4. You must receive teaching and instruction from God inspired ministries set in the church.

11. WHAT ARE THE TWO GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE?

The Law and the Gospel are the two great doctrines of the Bible. **(John 1:17)**

12. WHAT WAS THE LAW?

The Law was the judgments, statutes, ordinances and the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses to instruct the people of Israel, to motivate them to obey God and to make them conscious of sin. Its purpose was to teach man how God expects him to live and to show man that he cannot obey God through his own efforts alone, without Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **(Romans 2:18; Psalms 19: 7-8; Galatians 3:24)**



13. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Gospel means good news. The Gospel is that doctrine of the Bible in which God tells us the good news of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

**(I John 4:9; John 3:16; Romans 1:16)**

14. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL?

1. The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done and still does for our salvation.
2. The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and the grace of God.

15. WHAT ARE THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

The Bible is not simply one book, but rather a library or compilation of sixty-six books bound together. Every Christian should know the books of the Holy Bible so that he can easily find the Scriptures he desires to read. They are easily memorized if taken in groups.

16. HOW AND WHY IS THE BIBLE DIVIDED?  
The Bible is divided into the Old Testament (written before the coming of Jesus Christ) and the New Testament (written after His ascension into heaven). This division shows the progressive nature of God's revelation to man.
17. WHAT IS A TESTAMENT?  
A testament (or will) is an agreement or covenant between two parties; a will. Our Bible consists of two testaments - an old and a new - which show the two great covenants of God with His people. It is not a contract. A contract is established because of a lack of trust while a covenant is established on the basis of trust.
18. WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?  
The Old Testament is that portion of the Bible that was written before the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. It is made up of the 39 books which includes Genesis through Malachi.
19. WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?  
The New Testament is that portion of the Bible that was written after the coming of Jesus into the world. It is made up of 27 books beginning with Matthew and ending with Revelation.
20. HOW MANY MEN DID GOD USE IN WRITING THE BIBLE?  
Approximately 44 writers were used by God in the course of twenty centuries to write the Bible. (**Jeremiah 36:18; Galatians 6:11; II Thessalonians 3:17**)

## **LESSON TWO - UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE**

### **BIBLE SURVEY**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT - 39 Books in four categories**

##### **A. PENTATEUCH (5)**

- |    |             |                                                                                                                            |
|----|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Genesis     | Book of origins<br>Early history of the chosen family: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob                                               |
| 2. | Exodus      | Bondage of Israel in Egypt and deliverance<br>Moses leading the people in the wilderness<br>God's covenant with the nation |
| 3. | Leviticus   | Book of laws of the covenant nation<br>Teaches access to God through sacrifices                                            |
| 4. | Numbers     | Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness                                                                        |
| 5. | Deuteronomy | Repetition of the laws before Israel entered the Land of Caanan                                                            |

##### **B. HISTORICAL BOOKS (12)**

- |     |               |                                                                                             |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.  | Joshua        | Conquest of Caanan<br>Division of the land among the tribes of Israel                       |
| 7.  | Judges        | Israel's early history<br>6 servitudes under foreign domination<br>15 judges                |
| 8.  | Ruth          | A story of God's mercy to a faithful Gentile woman                                          |
| 9.  | I Samuel      | Israel's history under Samuel, Saul and David                                               |
| 10. | II Samuel     | Israel's history under Samuel, Saul and David                                               |
| 11. | I Kings       | Solomon's reign and the division of the Kingdom<br>History of the Kings of Israel and Judah |
| 12. | II Kings      | The ministry of the Prophets, Elijah and Elisha                                             |
| 13. | I Chronicles  | Reigns of David, Solomon and Judah's kings up to the captivity                              |
| 14. | II Chronicles | Reigns of David, Solomon and Judah's kings up to the captivity                              |
| 15. | Ezra          | The return from captivity and rebuilding of the temple                                      |
| 16. | Nehemiah      | Rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls<br>Re-establishing of sacred ordinances                     |
| 17. | Esther        | Queen Esther's deliverance of the Jews<br>Origin of the Feast of Purim                      |

##### **C. POETIC BOOKS (5)**

- |     |                 |                                        |
|-----|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| 18. | Job             | Problem of affliction                  |
| 19. | Psalms          | 150 spiritual songs, poems and prayers |
| 20. | Proverbs        | Moral and religious wisdom             |
| 21. | Ecclesiastes    | The emptiness of life without God      |
| 22. | Song of Solomon | Poetic love story                      |

##### **D. PROPHETICAL BOOKS (17)**

###### **MAJOR PROPHETS (5)**

- |     |              |                                                                                             |
|-----|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23. | Isaiah       | Many Messianic prophecies<br>God's judgments on various nations                             |
| 24. | Jeremiah     | The unfaithfulness, coming captivity and eventual Restoration of<br>Israel                  |
| 25. | Lamentations | Poetic grief over Israel's woes                                                             |
| 26. | Ezekial      | Prophecies concerning Judah's destruction and captivity<br>Oracles against foreign nations  |
| 27. | Daniel       | History of Daniel and three Hebrew young men<br>Visions of the immediate and distant future |

## MINOR PROPHETS (12)

- |     |           |                                                                                                                       |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28. | Hosea     | A prophet of Israel during the time of Isaiah and Micah<br>Israel's spiritual adultery                                |
| 29. | Joel      | A prophet of Judah<br>The blessings of national repentance                                                            |
| 30. | Amos      | Herdsman prophet of righteousness                                                                                     |
| 31. | Obadiah   | The fall of Edom                                                                                                      |
| 32. | Jonah     | The reluctant missionary                                                                                              |
| 33. | Micah     | The moral darkness of Israel and Judah<br>Messiah's coming reign of righteousness                                     |
| 34. | Nahum     | The destruction of Ninevah                                                                                            |
| 35. | Habakkuk  | God's dealings with Israel which are difficult to understand                                                          |
| 36. | Zephaniah | Prophecies concerning the "Day of the Lord"<br>Oracles against foreign nations<br>God's judgments upon Jerusalem      |
| 37. | Haggai    | Exhortation to finish rebuilding the temple                                                                           |
| 38. | Zechariah | Series of eight visions to encourage Israel which depict a<br>glorious future                                         |
| 39. | Malachi   | Six oracles dealing with God's love for Israel, failure of the<br>priests, divorce, God's coming judgment and tithing |

## NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS - 27 Books in four categories

### A. HISTORICAL (5)

- |    |                      |                                                                                                                   |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Matthew              | The life of Jesus Christ, specially written for a Jewish audience                                                 |
| 2. | Mark                 | Life of Christ emphasizing His power over nature, disease and<br>demons<br>Well adapted to a Roman audience       |
| 3. | Luke                 | The most complete biography of Christ<br>Emphasizing Christ as the Son of Man<br>Well adapted to a Greek audience |
| 4. | John                 | Jesus as the Son of God<br>Particularly written for believers                                                     |
| 5. | Acts of the Apostles | Sequel to Luke's Gospel<br>The origin and growth of the early church during its first thirty<br>years or so       |

### B. PAULINE EPISTLES (14) including Hebrews

- |     |                  |                                                                                                    |
|-----|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.  | Romans           | Letters to the Christians at Rome<br>The plan of salvation and function of the church              |
| 7.  | I Corinthians    | Letter to church at Corinth<br>Cleansing of the church and doctrinal instructions                  |
| 8.  | II Corinthians   | The nature and vindication of Paul's ministry and apostleship                                      |
| 9.  | Galatians        | Letter to the church in Galatia<br>Justification by faith<br>Warnings against reversion to Judaism |
| 10. | Ephesians        | Letter to the Christians at Ephesus<br>Christian teaching, both theory and practice                |
| 11. | Philippians      | Letter to the Philippian church                                                                    |
| 12. | Colossians       | Letter to church at Colossae<br>Against worldly philosophy (Gnosticism)<br>Practical exhortations  |
| 13. | I Thessalonians  | Letter to the church at Thessalonica<br>Special reference to the second coming of Christ           |
| 14. | II Thessalonians | Sequel to I Thessalonians<br>Teaching on the second coming of Christ                               |
| 15. | I Timothy        | Counsel to a young pastor regarding his work for the Lord                                          |

- 16. II Timothy More of what was in I Timothy  
Paul's last letter chronologically
- 17. Titus Instructions to a pastor and friend of Paul
- 18. Philemon A private letter concerning the return of Onesimus, a runaway  
slave who has become a Christian
- 19. Hebrews Author uncertain but possibly Paul  
The new covenant's relationship and superiority to the old  
covenant.

**C. THE GENERAL EPISTLES (7)**

- 20. James Written by the Lord's brother  
Practical Christianity
- 21. I Peter A letter of encouragement to Christians in Asia Minor  
by the Apostle Peter
- 22. II Peter A warning against false teachers by the Apostle Peter
- 23. I John The Apostle John writes to fellow Christians regarding holiness  
and brotherly love
- 24. II John A letter concerning hearsay and false teachers
- 25. III John A personal letter to Gaius, encouraging continuance of  
hospitality to visiting missionaries
- 26. Jude A general letter to all believers warning against apostasy and  
immorality

**D. PROPHETICAL BOOK (1)**

- 27. Revelation Written by the Apostle John  
Series of prophetic visions depicting the final triumph of God's  
Kingdom