

Lesson I

Getting to Know Your Bible

The Bible was written by more than forty human authors in various places around the eastern Mediterranean world over more than two thousand years in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Most of the authors did not know the others or, if they did, did not consult their fellow writers. Yet the Bible is a unified book in terms of themes, depictions of God and humanity, and how we can escape our spiritual inadequacies and know God intimately.

The Bible is a big book, and it intimidates many who read it. The cultures its character lived in seem strange. Its history is ancient and sometimes cruel.

But you can discover a lot about the characteristics of the Bible and find it's not such a daunting book after all. Make your first adventure in Basic Bible Doctrine an introduction to the Bible.

Old Testament

1. The Pentateuch – the fivefold “book of the law” (Joshua 1:8)

Name these first five books of the Bible

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

(4) _____ (5) _____

2. Historical books

From the books of the Old Testament listed in the table of contents of your Bible, write the names of the next twelve, and you will have the historical books.

(6) _____ (7) _____ (8) _____

(9) _____ (10) _____ (11) _____

(12) _____ (13) _____ (14) _____

(15)_____ (16)_____ (17)_____

3. Poetical books

These are the next five.

(18)_____ (19)_____ (20)_____

(21)_____ (22)_____

4. Prophetical books

These are the last seventeen of the Old Testament.

(23)_____ (24)_____ (25)_____

(26)_____ (27)_____ (28)_____

(29)_____ (30)_____ (31)_____

(32)_____ (33)_____ (34)_____

(35)_____ (36)_____ (37)_____

(38)_____ (39)_____

5. How many books in the Old Testament? _____

New Testament

Note that, according to the following classification, these books are not always in consecutive order in the table of contents.

6. Historical

(1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____

(4)_____ (5)_____

7. Doctrinal-Christian teaching

(6)_____ (9)_____ (19)_____

8. Church order

(7)_____ (8)_____ (15)_____

(17)_____

9. Church truth

(10)_____ (12)_____

10. Christian life

(11)_____ (13)_____ (18)_____

(20)_____ (21)_____ (23)_____

11. Course of this Church age

(14)_____ (16)_____ (22)_____

(24)_____ (25)_____ (26)_____

12. Prophetic

The last New Testament book foretells the climax of this Church age and the Kingdom age.

(27)_____

You will note that there are thirty-nine Old Testament books, twenty-seven in the New Testament, sixty-six in all.

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth

In studying any portion of the Bible it is well to determine the:

Place – where written

Person – by whom written

People – to whom principally written

Purpose – why written

Period – when written

Genesis 1:1-11:9 – Jew and Gentile as a common race. All, as human beings, have a common descent from Adam (Acts 17:26).

Genesis 11:10-Malachi 4:6 – Israel primarily; the Church veiled (Ephesians 3:9,10); Gentiles mentioned.

The four Gospels – Jews primarily; Church mentioned as about to appear (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Acts 1:1-Revelation 4:1 – Jews temporarily set aside; Gentiles and Jews as individuals, especially Gentiles, become object of God's special favor.

Revelation 4:1-19:21 – Gentiles; Jews regathered; apostate Christendom.

Conditions of fruitful study

The necessity for spiritual sight

13. What class of persons cannot expect to understand Bible truth?

1 Corinthians 2:14 _____

One may have the most complete natural faculties of mind, but without the illumination of the Holy Spirit, he cannot perceive spiritual things.

14. How **only** can we know spiritual things?

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 _____

This accounts for foolish statements about Biblical matters from so-called scholarly men who are not regenerated.

15. What should the believer's prayer be as he approaches God's Word?

Psalms 119:18 _____

The Holy Spirit – the true Teacher

16. Who can best teach Bible truth?

Psalms 119:33, 34 _____

The Author knows more about the meaning of His Book than does anyone else. The Bible will never be a dry Book to one who knows its Author.

17. Why can a believer confidently study the Bible for himself?

1 John 2:27 _____

This does not mean that one can understand everything at once. Leave your difficulties with God until He is pleased to give you

better light. "There are some things that the LORD our God has kept secret. Only he knows these things. But he told us about some things. And these teachings are for us" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

The Bible – its own interpreter

Spurgeon once said: "The Bible sometimes throws much light upon the commentaries."

18. The Bible is its own best interpreter. Why is the Bible "light" on Bible difficulties best?

1 Corinthians 2:13 _____

Use the marginal references in your Bible. Use your concordance. Use a topical textbook. These are real Bible tools.