

[WELCOME TO THE FAMILY]

Bible Study #1

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD OF GOD (Part 1)

It is amazing that, when we come to faith in Christ, we truly become a new creation. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* Becoming a Christian is without a doubt the beginning of the most exciting life imaginable. These 18 short studies will strengthen your new relationship with Jesus Christ.

One of the most important tools to strengthen your Christian faith is the Bible -- which is often called "The Word of God". The purpose of this first study is to help you understand how the Bible is put together, so you can more easily find verses that will help you grow as a Christian.

Once you understand the basic fundamentals of how the Bible is constructed...you will be on your way to a great adventure of reading through and studying the bible. You will grow to enjoy navigating through the pages of God's word, once you understand how it is put together.

So...fasten your seatbelts and get ready for the greatest adventure of your life!

Here are some things that famous people from the past have had to say about this amazing book called "The Bible"...

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."
George Washington

"The Bible is no mere book, but a living creature with a power that conquers all that oppose it." **Napoleon**

"The Bible is the sheer anchor of our liberties." **Ulysses S. Grant**

Q: What kind of book is the bible?

Many people think that the Bible is a history book of all people who have ever lived. When they realize that it does not give an account of all people since the creation of man, they may scoff at the Bible and disregard it.

The Bible is a history of:

1. the creation of the world,
2. the creation of man,
3. the fall of man (separating him from God, his creator), and
4. God's perfect plan for the reconciliation of imperfect men to a perfect and holy God.

Q: How many books are in the bible?

The Bible consists of a total of 66 books of various sizes. They were written by 40 different authors, over a period of 1,500 years, in three different languages. The Bible is divided into two sections known as:

1. the Old Testament, which was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, are the parts of the Bible that took place before the Jesus came to live on earth and
2. the New Testament, which was originally written in Greek, are the parts of the Bible that took place while Jesus was living on earth and after His resurrection.

Even though there were 40 different authors, everything was written under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So, in essence, the Bible was actually written by God under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Writing to a young pastor, named Timothy, the great apostle Paul said...

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

To locate this passage in your Bible, the reference information (2 Timothy 3:16-17) must be properly understood:

- “2 Timothy” means that the passage is found in the second book called Timothy. In this case, Paul wrote two different letters to Timothy, both of which have been included in the Bible. We can keep these two books separate by referring to them as 1 Timothy & 2 Timothy.
- “3” refers to the third chapter of the Paul’s second letter to Timothy. Books of the Bible may have as few as 1 chapter, or as many as 150 chapters.
- “16-17” refers to the 16th & 17th verses of the third chapter of Paul’s second letter to his friend, Timothy. Chapters in books of the Bible may have as few as 2 verses, or as many as 176 verses.

Used with the Table of Contents at the beginning of the Bible, and with proper interpretation, Bible references can lead you directly to Bible verses.

The Old Testament

There are five major divisions in *The Old Testament*, as follows: *The Law of Moses, The Histories, The Poets, The Major Prophets, and The Minor Prophets.*

Practical Exercise...

Open your Bible to the very first book in the Bible “Genesis” and write down the first five books of the Bible known as... *“The Law of Moses”*...

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____

The Law of Moses (OT)

These five books contain stories about the creation of the world, the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the children of Israel in Egypt, the Exodus, and the time the children of Israel spent in the wilderness before entering the

Promised Land of Canaan. They also recorded the law (Ten Commandments) which God gave to the people on Mt. Sinai. God's laws laid down the regulations for sacrifice, worship, and daily living.

Take a moment and write down the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20. (Note: "v." stands for "verse" or "verses")

1.(v. 2-3) _____

2.(v. 4-6) _____

3.(v. 7) _____

4.(v. 8-11) _____

5.(v. 12) _____

6.(v.13) _____

7.(v. 14) _____

8.(v. 15) _____

9.(v. 16) _____

10.(v. 17) _____

Now, continue through the rest of the Old Testament. Keep in mind that you will be writing them in the same order that they are written in your Bible.

*The Histories...*a total of 12 books...

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

The Histories (OT)

These twelve books contain stories about the children of Israel in the Promised Land. From Joshua, the successor to Moses, through the period

of the Judges (about 400 years), followed by the period of the Kings (about 600 years), their history is presented from the viewpoints of several different writers.

Take a moment and write down the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, named for the twelve sons of Jacob (as found in Joshua 13:15, 13:24, 15:1, 16:4, 17:1, 18:11, 19:1, 19:10, 19:17, 19:24, 19:32, 19:40).

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

The Poets...a total of 5 books...

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____

The Poets (OT)

These five books contain wise poetic commentary on life with God in Old Testament times. Job portrays God's sovereignty in an encouraging story of perseverance in the midst of trials. The Psalms were mostly written by David, the greatest Jewish king; in them, we find the complete range of human emotional & spiritual expression. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon were all written by King Solomon, David's son. Proverbs is full of practical spiritual wisdom. Ecclesiastes teaches that nothing of this world compares to life with God. And the Song depicts the passionate devotion that God shows & desires in His relation with each of us. An important thing to note about the "The Poets" is they are written in Hebrew poetry not English poetry; meaning they rhyme in thought instead of sound.

Jot down the following verses, spending a moment in prayer over each one:

1. Job 19:25 _____

2. Psalm 23:6 _____

3. Proverbs 16:9 _____

4. Ecclesiastes 12:13 _____

5. Song 8:7 _____

The Major Prophets...a total of 5 books...

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____

The Minor Prophets...a total of 12 books...

The Prophets (OT)

These 17 books contain messages from God. God raised up these prophets, in different times & places, during the period that Israel was ruled by kings, so that He might speak through them to the children of Israel. The first five books are longer (the Major Prophets) and the last 12 books are shorter (the Minor Prophets). Regardless of length, all these books are equally important in understanding God's heart for us.

Write out Isaiah 53:4-6, and spend a few moments considering how God saved us from our sins, through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

Write out Joel 2:28, and spend a few moments considering how God has given us the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we can know & do His will.
