

[WELCOME TO THE FAMILY]

## Bible Study #1

# INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD OF GOD (Part 2)

In the previous study we had an introduction to the Word of God and looked at how the Old Testament (the time before Jesus) is divided. In this study we will take a look at the New Testament (the time of Jesus' life on earth and after He resurrected) and learn about how it is divided.

### **The New Testament**

There are four major divisions in *The New Testament*, as follows: *The Gospels*, *The Acts*, *The Epistles*, and *The Revelation*.

Practical Exercise...

Open your Bible to the very first book in the New Testament "Matthew" and write down the first four books of the New Testament known as "*The Gospels*."

*The Gospels*...a total of 4 books...

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ***The Gospels (NT)***

These four books contain first-hand accounts of the life & ministry of Jesus. Mark recorded Peter's account of the basic historical facts. Matthew recorded the good news of Jesus for a Jewish audience. Luke recorded Paul's understanding of the gospel for a Greek or non-Jewish audience. John presented the spiritual significance of the gospel for all people, in every time and every place.

Write out Matthew 28:19-20, often referred to as the Great Commission. Spend a few moments considering how God has called famous people (such as Billy Graham) to fulfill that commission.

---

---

---

---

---

Write out Mark 16:15, and spend a few moments considering how God has called not-so-famous people to fulfill that commission.

---

---

---

---

---

Write out Luke 11:13, and spend a few moments considering how God promises us the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we can know & do His will, if only we will ask Him for it.

---

---

---

---

---

Write out John 13:34, and spend a few moments considering how the power of the Holy Spirit might actually help us to love other people, just like Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

Next is a book known as The Acts of the Apostles, which gives a history of the early church in the first century following the death, resurrection & ascension of Jesus.

*The Acts of the Apostles (NT)*

These Acts contain stories about the early church, and the ministries of several apostles, in the years immediately following the resurrection of Jesus to heaven. Most of the attention is given to the ministries of Peter & Paul.

Write out Acts 1:8, and spend a few moments considering that the power of the Holy Spirit actually did come upon the first church members, and helped them to love other people, just like Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

Write out Acts 2:42 known as the four fundamentals of Christianity.

---

---

---

---

Now, turn to the next book right after Acts, which is the Book of Romans. Write down the next 21 books of the New Testament (beginning with Romans) known as *"The Epistles."* You will be writing them in the same order that they appear in your Bible.

*The Epistles...*a total of 21 books...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

***The Epistles (NT)***

These 21 letters were written by various apostles to first century churches spread throughout the Roman Empire. These letters brought encouragement & instruction to the early churches, and they do the same for us today.

The first 14 letters are generally attributed to the apostle, Paul. The titles of these books tell to whom the book was written (*Romans* was written to the church in Rome). The remaining 7 *Epistles* were written by the people whose names they bear: James (1 letter), Peter (2 letters), John (3 letters), and Jude (1 letter).

Write out Ephesians 2:8-9, and spend a few moments considering the gift of salvation that is given to each of us by the amazing grace of God, simply because we have faith, simply because we decide to trust & follow Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

The final book of the Bible is known as The Revelation, in which Jesus gives the apostle John a vision of the church as it was (Chapter 1), as it is in the first century (Chapters 2-3) and as it will be in the last days of creation(Chapters 4-22).

***The Revelation (NT)***

The book of Revelation records the testimony of Jesus to the apostle John, regarding the future of the church and the world.

Write out Revelation 22:14, and spend a few moments considering how great a reward in heaven awaits the saints who remain faithful in the Lord's service.

---

---

---

---

**Q:** Is the Bible written in chronological order?

In a very broad sense, the Bible is presented in chronological order. It begins with the creation of the world in the book of Genesis (the first book of the bible), and it ends about 2,500 years later with the prophesy of a new heaven and new earth, as described in the book of Revelation (the very last book of the bible). However, many of the books in between are not placed in chronological order.

A basic timeline of Bible history can be obtained by reading just 14 of the 66 books of the Bible:

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Luke
- Acts
- Revelation

Though reading these books will give you a historical timeline of the Bible, we must remember that the historical timeline given in the Bible is not the purpose for reading the Bible. To gain true knowledge of who God is and what He has done for us we need to read the whole Bible verse by verse.

As we are going through these studies, you should read through the Gospel of John. This book will give you the foundations of who Jesus is and what it means to be born again.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New King James Version,  
copyright © 1982.

Revised 05/27/08