

B The Bible

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

What is the “authority” in your life? Those who believe in something must have a *reason* for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in government, and in education, the Christian needs an **absolute standard** for his or her beliefs, duties, and, indeed, his or her entire conduct.

Many people take as their authority their inner CONSCIENCE. “*Let your conscience be your guide!*” they say. This sounds good but, according to *Titus 1:15*, the conscience may be _____; according to *I Timothy 4:2*, _____; and, according to *I Corinthians 8:7*, _____.

Other people, especially religious folk, take the “CHURCH” or man-made CREEDS as their authority. Again, such standards are unreliable. Why? Because man is involved.

Colossians 2:8 warns against P_____ and T_____.
(Look up and read: *Matthew 15:3,6,9*.)

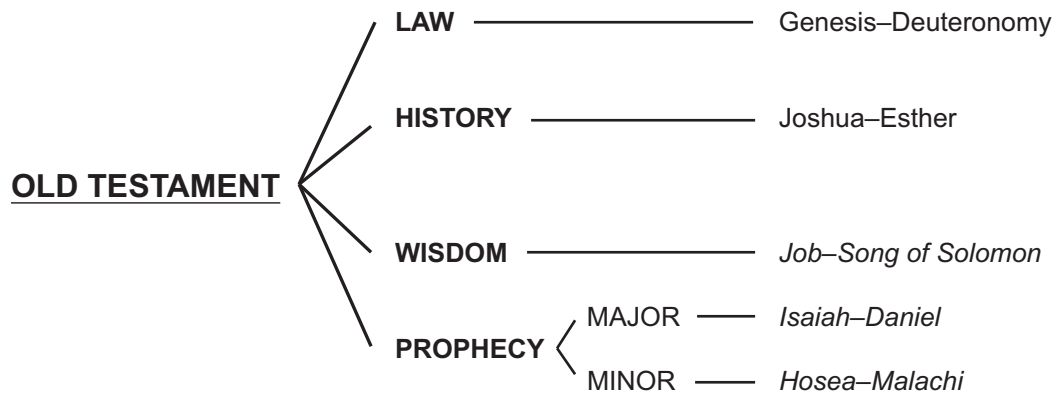
***For the Christian the BIBLE (the Word of God) ALONE
is the unchanging authority for faith and practice.***

This study will teach you what the Bible is, why you can take it as your authority, and how to use it as a child of God.

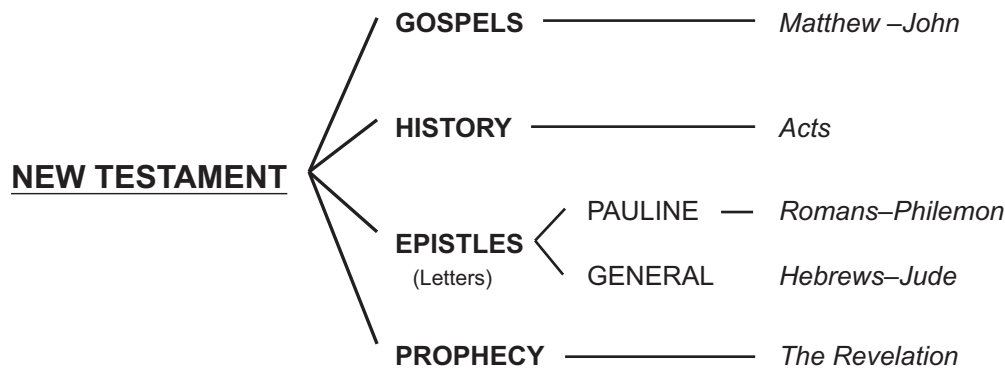
WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- A. The Bible is a collection of ____ books, divided into two major sections known as the OLD and NEW _____. S. [Use the list in the front of your Bible.]
- B. Other names given to the Bible are:
 - 1. The _____ — *Romans 10:17*.
 - 2. The _____ — *II Timothy 3:15*.
- C. The books of the Bible are not arranged in strict chronological order, but also “topically” in groups, as shown on the next page.

(New Christians often have trouble at first in finding the books of the Bible, especially during a preaching service. Don't be embarrassed to use the table of contents in the front of your Bible or to accept the assistance of another Christian. The more you use your Bible, the sooner you will become familiar with the location of its books.)



From the close of the Old Testament (Malachi) to the birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew), over 400 years transpired. These years are called the “Silent Years.”



HOW DID WE RECEIVE THE BIBLE?

The Bible is not just a book, it is **THE BOOK** — different from any other book that has ever, or will be, written. The Bible is a *SUPERNATURAL* book because of the way in which God gave it to mankind.

A. WRITE OUT: *II Peter 1:21.*

This verse of teaches us three vital facts concerning how we got the Bible:

1. It wasn't made up by men — “...came **not** by the will of man...”
See: verse 16.
2. Men of God wrote the Bible — “...holy men of God spake...”
3. God authored the Bible — “...as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

B. GOD USED HUMAN WRITERS TO PEN HIS WORDS:

1. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to write down the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of some 1,600 years — with incredible unity of teaching and fact.
2. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in *HEBREW*. The New Testament was originally written in *GREEK*.

C. GOD AUTHORED THE BIBLE:

A good way to illustrate this miracle is to consider how you would write things down on paper. First, it is the *PEN* that does the writing — but it only writes as you move it. Second, the characteristics of the script will depend on the kind of pen or writing instrument you use. Write your name down on paper using a fine ball-point pen, a felt marking pen, and a 1" paint brush — in each case you will read the same words, but they'll have a **different** appearance!

1. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own literary style.
2. The way in which God gave us the Bible is called *INSPIRATION*. "Inspiration" means "God-breathed — God breathed life into these writings (see: John 6:63^{c-e} and Hebrews 4:12).

 - a. Because the Bible is the *INSPIRED* Word of God, we can take it as the absolute authority for all we believe and do.
 - BEWARE of those who say, "*The Bible BECOMES the Word of God*" when it speaks to you personally.
Look up: Matthew 24:35 and I Corinthians 2:13. According to these passages, God has given its very _____ (not just the ideas and thoughts).
 - BEWARE of men who say, "*The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God*," meaning there are parts of it which are not God's Word.
Look up: II Timothy 3:16. According to this verse, how much of the Bible is inspired? _ _ _ .
 - b. Because the Bible is given by inspiration of God, it is _ _ _ _ from beginning to end — *Psalms 119:160*.

DO WE HAVE THE BIBLE TODAY?

The original manuscripts of the Bible have long been lost; there are none to be seen in any museum or collection. Does this mean that we no longer have a pure Word of God?

A. LOOK UP: *Psalm 12:6-7* and *Matthew 24:35*.

God not only gave us His Word, He also promised to P _ _ _ _ _ it until the end of time and for eternity.

B. HOW HAS GOD PRESERVED HIS WORD?

God has providentially kept His written Word *both* from destruction and corruption.

1. Down through the centuries, He has raised up and used men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm.
 - Zealous Jewish patriots and, later, Bible-loving Christians (including many of our Baptist forefathers), have kept the scriptures available to all generations.
 - On numerous occasions, Satan has attempted to eradicate the Bible from the face of the earth. Hellish decrees have seen the Bible banned, burned, banished, and battered by scornful men.
2. The Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been faithfully preserved by fastidious Jewish scribes — it is called the **Masoretic Text**.
3. The Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved in what is called the **Textus Receptus** or Received Text. Over 5,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament, along with some 2,000 lectionaries (selected readings) still exist today — most of them attesting to the Received Text.

C. DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HEBREW AND GREEK TO KNOW THE BIBLE?

NO! The preservation of God's Word extends to our English Bible.

**The ONLY English version of the Bible
accurately translated from the Masoretic Text
and the Textus Receptus
is the KING JAMES BIBLE of
1611 A.D., also known as the
AUTHORIZED VERSION.**

1. When you hold a copy of the Authorized, King James Version (KJV), you hold in your hands the Word of God.

2. BEWARE of all other translations such as the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New American Standard Version (NASB), Good News Bible, the New English Bible, the New International Version (NIV), and the English Revised Version (ESV) — they are all based upon a handful of corrupt manuscripts and, as such, contain serious errors.
- Even the 1982 *New King James Version* (NKJV) has made changes to the meaning of some scripture passages and has included critical (questioning) footnotes.

If you don't already possess a Bible, your pastor recommends you purchase a plain Authorized, King James Version without added notes or comments. Make sure the type is readable.

Bibles range in price from about \$10 to \$200. The difference in cost is mainly due to the type of cover and quality of the binding.

WHY DO WE NEED THE BIBLE?

- A. Look up: *I Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-13; Psalm 19:10 and Jeremiah 15:16.*

According to these scriptures, the Bible is our spiritual F__ __ __.

- B. Look up: *Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17.*

The Bible is our spiritual S__ __ __.

- C. Look up: *Psalm 119:11.* The Bible keeps us from __ __ __.

- D. Look up: *Psalm 119:105.* According to this scripture, the Bible is life's:

_____ . (Use your own words.)

- E. Look up: *II Timothy 3:16.* The Bible is P__ __ __ __ A B L E for:

_____ (what is right),

_____ (what is not right),

_____ (how to get it right),

and _____ (how to keep it right).

- F. Look up: *I Thessalonians 4:18 and Psalm 119:50.*

The Word of God is for our _____.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE BIBLE?

- A. *John 5:39* _____ *Acts 17:11*
- B. *II Timothy 2:15* _____
- C. *James 1:22* _____
- D. *I Corinthians 2:13^d* C _____
- E. *II Timothy 4:2* _____
- F. *Psalms 1:2* _____ *Joshua 1:8*
- G. *Colossians 3:16^a* _____
- H. *Psalms 119:11* _____

You may wish to write the following statement in your Bible as a wise reminder:

**“THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN —
OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK.”**

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through Psalm 119 (24 verses per day). This is the “Word of God Chapter” and the longest chapter in the Bible.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Psalm 119:9,11.*