

# Fundamentals of the Faith

## Lesson One: Introduction to the Bible

- If you were to pick one Bible verse that tells you the purpose of the Bible, what would it be? 1 Timothy 3:16
- The Scriptures were written by approximately 40 different men.
- They lived in several different countries.
- They lived at different times - 1400 BC to 90 AD.
- They wrote in three languages - HEBREW, ARAMAIC, and GREEK.

Despite this vast variety, God moved the writers to focus on God's glory in man's redemption with one central figure – Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Bible is divided into two “Testaments” – the NEW Testament and the OLD Testament.

What does the word “Testament” mean?

1. Something that serves as tangible proof or evidence.
  2. A statement of belief.
  3. Archaic: A covenant between humans and God.
- The Old Testament has 39 books split into 5 groupings.
    1. The PENTATEUCH ( 13 Books). Written by Moses
    2. HISTORICAL ( 12 Books). Also known as GOVERNMENTS
    3. POETIC ( 5 Books).
    4. MAJOR PROPHEST ( 5 Books).
    5. MINOR PROPHESTS ( 12 Books).

The Old Testament was written between 1400 - 400 BC.

- The New Testament has 27 books split into 3 groupings.
  1. HISTORICAL ( 5 Books).

The first four of these are called the GOSPELS. They tell of the life of Christ. Why do you think there are four Gospels if all of them tell the life of Christ?

- a. Matthew reveals Jesus Christ as the **LONG-AWAITED MESSIAH**. Matthew was written especially for the **JEW**s.
  - b. Mark reveals Jesus as the obedient **SERVENT OF GOD**. Mark was written to the **ROMAN** world.
  - c. Luke reveals Jesus as the **PERFECT MAN**, emphasizing His **HUMANITY**. Luke was written to the **GREEK** world.
  - d. John reveals Jesus as the **SON OF GOD**, stressing His **DEITY**. John was written to all men.
- According to John 20:31, what two reasons does John give for writing his gospel?
    - a. **THAT I MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD**.
    - b. **THAT BELIEVING I MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME**.

The fifth (Acts) tells of the beginning and spread of the Christian church. It was written as an evangelistic tool.

- 2. Letters or **EPISTLES** ( **21** Books). These deal with every aspect of Christian faith and responsibility. How many of these did Paul write? **13**
  - 3. **PROPHECY** ( **1** Book). This last book of the New Testament tells of future events – the return, reign and glory of Jesus Christ and the future state of believers and unbelievers.
- The Old and New Testaments are to be seen together and portray Jesus Christ as the central figure. Read the following verses and complete the following phrases:
    - 1. Luke 24:27. Christ is seen in **ALL THE SCRIPTURES**.
    - 2. John 5:39. Jesus said the Scriptures “bear witness or testifies of **HIMSELF**.”
      - Why is the Bible an important fundamental of the Christian faith?
        - Matthew 4:4
        - 2 Timothy 3:15 - 17
        - Hebrews 4:12
        - Psalm 19:7 – 8

Based on what you have learned about the Bible, what should be your response?

---



---



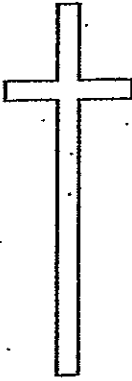
---



---

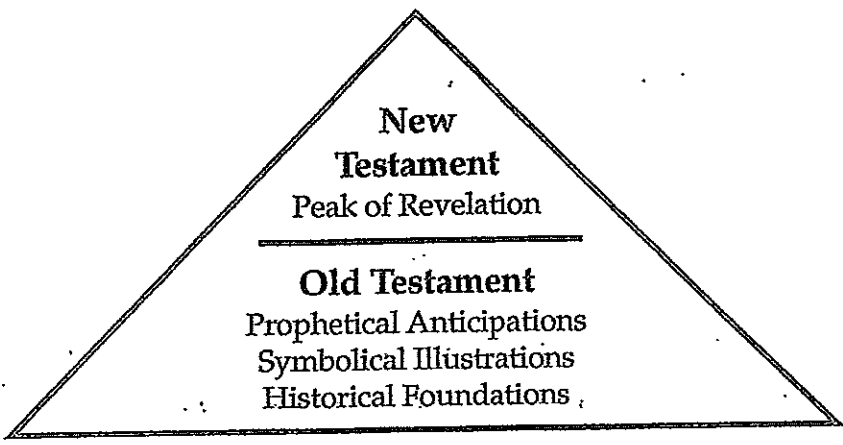
# THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE

(66 books)

OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)			 About 400 years between Testaments	NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)		
HISTORY (17 books)	POETRY (5 books)	PROPHECY (17 books)		HISTORY (5 books)	LETTERS (21 books)	PROPHECY (1 book)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Law</b></p> <p>1 Genesis 2 Exodus 3 Leviticus 4 Numbers 5 Deuteronomy</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>History and Governments</b></p> <p>1 Joshua 2 Judges 3 Ruth 4 1 Samuel 5 2 Samuel 6 1 Kings 7 2 Kings 8 1 Chronicles 9 2 Chronicles 10 Ezra 11 Nehemiah 12 Esther</p>	<p>1 Job 2 Psalms 3 Proverbs 4 Ecclesiastes 5 Song of Solomon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Major Prophets</b></p> <p>1 Isaiah 2 Jeremiah 3 Lamentations 4 Ezekiel 5 Daniel</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minor Prophets</b></p> <p>1 Hosea 2 Joel 3 Amos 4 Obadiah 5 Jonah 6 Micah 7 Nahum 8 Habakkuk 9 Zephaniah 10 Haggai 11 Zechariah 12 Malachi</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gospels</b></p> <p>1 Matthew 2 Mark 3 Luke 4 John</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>History of the early church</b></p> <p>1 Acts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paul's Letters</b></p> <p>1 Romans 2 1 Corinthians 3 2 Corinthians 4 Galatians 5 Ephesians 6 Philippians 7 Colossians 8 1 Thessalonians 9 2 Thessalonians 10 1 Timothy 11 2 Timothy 12 Titus 13 Philemon</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Letters</b></p> <p>1 Hebrews 2 James 3 1 Peter 4 2 Peter 5 1 John 6 2 John 7 3 John 8 Jude</p>	<p>1 Revelation</p>

The New is in the Old Concealed.  
The Old is in the New Revealed.

God used 40 different men over a period of 1500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible — 2 Peter 1:20-21



# How the Bible Became Ours



Original Manuscripts  
from Around 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100  
*Sixty-six distinct works. Some writers unknown.*

Manuscripts in original language.

Translations into other languages and quotations.

A.D. 385-404: The Vulgate, Jerome's Latin translation.

A.D. 700-1000: Various Anglo-Saxon partial translations.

A.D. 1382: Complete translations by John Wycliffe and followers.

A.D. 1525-1535: First printed translation by William Tyndale

1535: Coverdale's translation; 1537: Matthew's; 1539: Taverner's and Great Bible translation; 1560: Geneva Bible; 1568: Bishop's; 1610: Rheim's-Douai

A.D. 1611: The King James Version

*More Discoveries*

1885: English Revised Version

1901: American Standard Version

1947: *Dead Sea Scrolls*

1952: Revised Standard Version; 1960: New American Standard Version;

1966: The Jerusalem Bible; 1971: Living Bible (Paraphrase); 1973: The Common Bible;

1973: New International Bible