

THE BIBLE

Holy Bible – It is the only book that can honestly have the word holy before it. Prov. 7:2 says: *“Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.”* The phrase “apple of thine eye” means pupil or center of your life. God’s Word is to be the center of the Christian’s life. It is to be the hub of the wheel where all spokes tie together.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119, with 176 verses! Its theme is the Bible. Almost every verse in that chapter mentions God’s Word.

God has given us His Word to reveal Himself to us so we can know Him and what He expects of us. Job 23:12 says: *“...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”* The Bible was so important to Job that he would have chosen the Bible over eating any day.

The Bible is called seed to sow, milk to drink, meat to eat, a mirror to see ourselves, water to drink and to wash with, law, light to direct, a hammer to break stony hearts, and a sword to divide the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

QUOTES ABOUT THE BIBLE:

George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

Charles Dickens: “The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world.”

Andrew Jackson: “That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests.”

Abraham Lincoln: “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book.”

Horace Greely: “It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the ground works of human freedom.”

WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89) The Bible has always been. It was in heaven before it was given, word-for-word, to man about 3,500 - 4,000 years ago.

HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?

Many people have said, “The Bible is just a book authored by man.” That is not true. If man could have written the Bible, he would not have! Mark Twain once said, “It’s not what I don’t understand of the Bible that bothers me, but what I do understand.” 2 Pet. 1:20-21 says: *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* These holy men did not write what they willed but what the Holy Ghost moved them to write. 2 Tim. 3:16 says: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* Inspiration means “God breathed”. In other words, God dictated the words to holy men so they would write the exact words of God. It was much like a boss would dictate a letter to a secretary.

ARE THERE ANY MISTAKES IN THE BIBLE?

- Ps. 19:7: *“The law of the Lord is perfect...”*
Ps. 119:160: *“Thy Word is true from the beginning...”*
Prov. 30:5: *“Every Word of God is pure...”*
Isa. 40:8: *“...but the Word of our God shall stand forever.”*
Jer. 36:32: *“Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire...”*
2 Tim. 4:2: *“Preach the Word...”*

As the scrolls that contained the Word of God became tattered, scribes (professional copiers) would make new copies and destroy the old ones. How do we know they made no mistakes? There was a penalty of death for scribes who made any mistakes. King Jehoiakim burned the book of Jeremiah and God had him rewrite it again. It is the Eternal Book. Besides that, how could God command us to “preach the Word” and not give us the Word to preach? **There are no mistakes in God’s Word.**

A bank in New York has a \$1000 reward for anyone finding just one contradiction in the Bible. No one has ever claimed the money.

WHICH VERSION SHOULD I USE?

Presently, there are hundreds of “versions” of the Bible. Many people want the Bible in modern-day terms to make it easier to understand. The version God has chosen to bless for the English-speaking people, is the 1611 Authorized **King James Version**. In the 1600’s, King James of England wanted the common man to have a copy of the Bible, which was written in Hebrew and Greek. Fifty-four of the best Hebrew and Greek scholars in the world assembled to translate the scrolls into English. Other translations were also written but were taken from other scrolls that ungodly men had tampered with by trying to remove words about the blood and deity of Christ.

SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

- Lev. 17:11: *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”*
Job 26:7: *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”*
Isa. 40:22: *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...”*
Heb. 1:2: *“...by whom also he made the worlds;”*

Years before science proved it, the Bible said: man’s blood is what keeps him alive; the earth is suspended in space; the earth is round; and our planet is not the only one God created.

WHY READ IT?

Vance Havner said: “There are more Bibles sold and less read than any other book.”

Patrick Henry said: “The Bible is worth more than all other books written, but it has been my misfortune never to have found time to read it.”

II Tim. 2:15: *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* We are commanded to study God’s Word.

II Pet. 3:18: *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ...”*

We must read God’s Word to know more about Jesus. Studying God’s Word is profitable! (II Tim 3:16). The four ways it profits us are:

- Doctrine: Teaches us what is right to believe.
- Reproof: Points out error in our life.
- Correction: How to correct what is wrong in our life.
- Instruction in Righteousness: Teaches how to stay right.

STUDYING GOD’S WORD HELPS US GROW!!

I Pet. 2:2 says: *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*

The Bible contains promises, warnings, commandments, wisdom, and principles. Principles are applications of truth to our lives. The entire Bible is profitable for us today.

The Bible keeps us from getting offended! Ps 119:165 says: *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”*

The Bible keeps us living clean! Ps. 119:9 says: *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*

God’s Word transforms our thinking! Rom. 12:2 says: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, . . .”*

The Bible increases our faith! Rom. 10:17 says: *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

The Bible reveals God’s will (plan) to us. Its 30,000 promises provide us with a wide variety of help in time of need.

THE BIBLE DIVISIONS:

The Old Testament has 39 books that cover much of the Israel's history. Many prophecies say the Messiah or Saviour is coming!

The New Testament has 27 books which begin with the four gospels (accounts of Jesus' life), followed by Acts which is the history of the first Church, and then by many epistles (letters) to churches and Christians. The last book, Revelation, sounds the reminder that Jesus is coming again. Here is the theme of each book:

THEMES AND OUTLINES OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
<u>GENESIS</u>	How it all Began.	
	Early History of Human Race	1 - 11
	Early History of Jewish Race	12 - 50
<u>EXODUS</u>	Redemption Makes a Difference	
	God's Power	1 - 17
	God's Perfection	18 - 24
	God's Provision	25 - 40
<u>LEVITICUS</u>	Redemption Has a Price	
	Price of Redemption - Sacrifice	1 - 10
	Practice of Redeemed - Separation	11 - 25
	Promises to Redeemed - Success	26 - 27
<u>NUMBERS</u>	Advancing for God	
	Old Generation	1 - 14
	Wilderness Wandering	15 - 20
	New Generation	21 - 36
<u>DEUTERONOMY</u>	Truth is Worth Repeating	
	Review of Journey	1 - 3
	Review of Commandments	4 - 11
	Review of Judgments	12 - 30
	Moses' Final Moments	31 - 34
<u>JOSHUA</u>	Claiming Your Inheritance	
	Entering the Land	1 - 4
	Conquering the Enemy	5 - 12
	Dividing the Inheritance	13 - 24
<u>JUDGES</u>	Failure Through Compromise	
	Apathy	1 - 2
	Apostasy	3 - 16
	Anarchy	17 - 21

<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
<u>RUTH</u>	Redemption Satisfies	
	Ruth's Salvation	1
	Ruth's Service	2
	Ruth's Love	3
	Ruth's Marriage	4
<u>I SAMUEL</u>	Leading God's People	
	Samuel	1 - 7
	Saul	8 - 15
	David	16 - 31
<u>II SAMUEL</u>	Turning Victory Into Defeat	
	David's Victory	1 - 12
	David's Defeat	13 - 24
<u>I KINGS</u>	Morals of Nation Determined by	
	Character of Leaders	
	Solomon's Reign	1 - 11
	Divided Kingdom	12 - 24
<u>II KINGS</u>	Morals of Nation Determined by	
	Character of Leaders	
	History of Israel	1 - 10
	History of Israel and Judah	11 - 17
	History of Judah	18 - 25
<u>I CHRONICLES</u>	Making a Place for God	
	History of David's Family	1 - 10
	David's Reign	11 - 23
	Preparation for Temple	24 - 27
<u>II CHRONICLES</u>	Making a Place for God	
	Solomon's 40 Year Reign	1 - 9
	Judah's History Until the Exile	10 - 36
<u>EZRA</u>	Building for God	
	Zerubbabel - Return to City	1 - 6
	Ezra - Rebuilds Temple	7 - 10
<u>NEHEMIAH</u>	Rebuilding for God	
<u>ESTHER</u>	Providence of God in the Lives	
	of His People	
	Preparation	1 - 2
	Opposition	3 - 5
	Vindication	6 - 10
<u>JOB</u>	Patience in Testing	
	Job's Circumstances	1 - 2
	Job's Critics	3 - 37
	Job's Correction	38 - 42

PSALMS Singing to God

PROVERBS Living with Wisdom

BOOK **SUBJECT** **CHAPTER**

ECCLESIASTES Selfish Living Never Satisfies

SONG OF SOLOMON Love Makes a Song Out of Life

ISAIAH Surrender Brings Blessing
Rebellion Brings Judgment
God's Judgment of Nations 1 - 35
God's Dealing with Individuals 36 - 39
God's Promise of Peace 40 - 66

JEREMIAH No Pleasure Sin Can Offer is Worth
One Moment out of Fellowship with
God
God Teaches Jeremiah 1 - 25
Jeremiah Preaches to the People 26 - 51

LAMENTATIONS Eulogy - A Funeral Sermon of
Jerusalem

EZEKIEL Glory of the Lord
God Calls a Man 1 - 3
God Judges His People 4 - 24
God Restores His People to Their
Land 25 - 48

DANIEL Sovereignty of God in Government
of Men
Daniel's Personal Victories 1 - 6
Daniel's Prophetic Visions 7 - 12

HOSEA Breaking God's Heart
Israel's Unfaithfulness Pictured 1 - 3
Israel's Sin Proclaimed 4 - 7
Israel's Judgment Pronounced 8 - 10
Israel's Restoration Promised 11 - 14

JOEL National Sin Results in National
Judgment
Day of Lord Pictured 1- 2:27
Day of Lord Described 2:28 - 3

AMOS National Sin Results in National
Judgment
Heathen Nations 1- 2:3
Hebrew Nations 2:4-9

OBADIAH Opposing God's People Brings
God's Wrath
Judgment of Edom 1 - 16
Blessing on Judah 17 - 21

<u>JONAH</u>	The Backslidden Prophet		
	Resignation - God's Patience	1	
	Repentance - God's Pardon		2
	Revival - Lesson on God's Power	3	
	Rebellion - Lesson on God's Pity	4	
<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	
<u>MICAH</u>	Hearing the Word		
	Judgment is Coming		1 - 2
	The Deliverer is Coming	3 - 5	
	Trust God Today		6 - 7
<u>NAHUM</u>	Judgment of God		
	God is Jealous		1
	God is Judge		2
	God is Just		3
<u>HABAKKUK</u>	Doubting God		
	Burden of Habakkuk		1 - 2
	Prayer of Habakkuk	3	
<u>ZEPHANIAH</u>	God Pours Out Wrath on Sin		
	Judgment on Judah		1 - 2:3
	Judgment on Nations		2:4-3:8
	Salvation for the People	3:9 - 20	
<u>HAGGAI</u>	Consider Your Ways		
	Selfishness - Lived for Self	1	
	Sinfulness - Lived in Past	2:1-2:9	
	Lived Unclean		2:10
<u>ZECHARIAH</u>	Lord of Hosts		
	Israel's Future	1 - 6	
	Israel's Fasts		7 - 8
	Israel's Folly		9 - 14
<u>MALACHI</u>	God Has No Pleasure in Believers		
	Who Justify Sins		
	Israel's Sin		1 - 2
	Prophecy of Lord's Return	3 - 4	

THEMES OF NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
<u>MATTHEW</u>	Jesus is King
<u>MARK</u>	Jesus is Servant
<u>LUKE</u>	Jesus is Man
<u>JOHN</u>	Jesus is God
<u>ACTS</u>	Acts of the Holy Spirit Through the Apostles
<u>ROMANS</u>	Justification by Faith
<u>I CORINTHIANS</u>	Living for God's Glory
<u>II CORINTHIANS</u>	Problems a Man Faces in the Ministry
<u>GALATIANS</u>	The Gospel Truth
<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
<u>EPHESIANS</u>	Living Your Blessings
<u>PHILIPPIANS</u>	Priorities That Produce Joy
<u>COLOSSIANS</u>	Putting Jesus First
<u>I THESSALONIANS</u>	Looking for Jesus
<u>II THESSALONIANS</u>	Looking for Jesus
<u>I TIMOTHY</u>	Faithfulness in the Ministry
<u>II TIMOTHY</u>	Faithfulness in Doctrine
<u>TITUS</u>	Faithfulness in Living
<u>PHILEMON</u>	Jesus Paid it All
<u>HEBREWS</u>	Making Progress in the Christian Life
<u>JAMES</u>	Becoming Spiritually Mature
<u>I PETER</u>	Answers the Question: Why Should Christians Live Holy?
<u>II PETER</u>	Remember the Truth
<u>I JOHN</u>	Assurance of Salvation

II JOHN Do Not Leave the Truth

III JOHN Cults

JUDE Apostasy

REVELATION Jesus - Coming King

QUESTIONS TO ASK

There are four important questions to ask when reading your Bible:

1. Who is speaking?
2. Who is being spoken to?
3. What does it mean?
4. What does it mean to me?

WHERE TO BEGIN

The Bible is not hard to understand if we will just read it. The average word in the Bible is only five letters long. Many new Christians try to wade through the Bible from the beginning and often get bogged down with hard names to pronounce, and with genealogies. It is best to have three or four places you read each day. A good start is:

- 1 Chapter in Psalms - for sweetness
- 1 Chapter in Proverbs - for wisdom
- 1 Chapter in Mark - for Christ-likeness
- 1 Chapter in Genesis - for finding out how it all began!

WHEN TO READ

Strength for the day is needed at the beginning of the day! God's manna for Israel was to be gathered early before the sun melted it. Let God speak to you through His Word each morning before the cares and pressures of the day occupy your mind.

HOW TO READ

Read prayerfully. Before starting, ask God to give you something for the day. Read obediently. God does not bless only the amount we read. He blesses how much we obey. James 1:22 says: *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

HOW MUCH TO READ

It is not how much we read but how much we meditate on what we read. There are two times a Christian is to meditate on Scripture - day and night.

Joshua 1:8: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

Psalms 1:3: *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

CARRY IT!

A Christian should always have a Bible with them - to read a verse of comfort, to use time wisely, or to witness.

TEACH IT TO OTHERS!

Parents are commanded to teach its truths to their children. Deut. 6:7 says: *“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”* Paul told Timothy, in 2 Timothy 2:2: *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* Share what you do know with others.

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

There are three methods of Bible Study:

1. **Topical study:** Choosing a topic and, using a concordance, looking up all references where it occurs.
2. **Expository study:** Studying a passage of Scripture.
3. **Textual study:** The study of one or two verses.

NAME _____

REVIEW BIBLE - STEP 3

1. The Word of God is to be the _____ of our eye, which means the _____ of our life. (Proverbs _____)
2. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms _____ which speaks about the _____
3. The average word in the Bible is _____ letters long.
4. There are _____ Old Testament books and _____ New Testament books.
5. How old is the Bible? (Ps. 119:89) _____
6. What kind of men did God use to write the Bible? _____
7. Did these men put down their own words or thoughts? _____
8. Did God give the Bible to them word-by-word? _____
9. Are there any errors in the Word of God? _____
10. How do we know we have the copy of the Word of God? _____

11. Which version has been translated from the original Greek and Hebrew? _____
12. Name the four ways God's Word is profitable:

13. What are the best four places to begin reading the Bible?

14. What are the four questions to ask yourself when reading God's Word?

15. When is the best time of the day to read the Bible? _____
16. How long should a Christian read the Bible each day? _____
17. What does "meditate" mean?

18. What two times are Christians commanded to meditate? _____ and _____

19. Can you quote:

II Timothy. 2:15: _____

I Peter 2:2: _____

20. Have you chosen a certain Bible reading time yet? _____

When? _____