

SURE FOUNDATION BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The word Bible comes from the Greek word *biblos*, which means book. The Bible that we have today is really a collection of books combined into one. Since Christian growth depends largely on one's knowledge of the Bible, it is important to have an understanding of what it is and how it came to be. This lesson is designed to help you find your way through the Bible and to make it easier to locate the various books and Scripture references cited throughout this study and the ones to follow.

READY TO GO!

Begin with prayer. Ask God to give you the ability to learn as you study through this lesson. This study is designed to help you develop in your knowledge of the Bible and to grow in faith as a believer in Jesus Christ.

WHAT THE BIBLE HOLDS FOR YOU!

The Bible is God's written revelation to man. It describes the history of creation, the sin of man, and the interaction and redemption of humanity by God through the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible declares that Jesus is the central focus of the entire Word of God. Look for Him on every page as you read through your Bible!

Just as with any book, there is a table of contents at the front of your Bible. Before you begin, locate the table of contents and use that as your guide as you go through this study.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is divided into various sections ranging in size from very large to fairly small. What is the largest division of the Bible that you can find on the table of contents? (Hint: there are two parts) _____

2. How many books are there in...
- A. The Old Testament? _____
 - B. The New Testament? _____
 - C. The entire Bible? _____

Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters and verses. Chapters are larger divisions of a book of the Bible, and verses are divisions within each chapter. The larger numbers found on virtually every page of your Bible refer to the chapter, and the smaller numbers refer to the verses. When citing a Scripture in the Bible you write the name of the book, then the chapter, followed by a colon and the verse or verses.

3. What is the name, chapter, and verse of the Bible in the following citation? John 3:16.
Book _____ Chapter _____ Verse _____.
4. Locate John 3:16. Write the page number on which it appears in your Bible once you have located that verse. _____.

Some books of the Bible consist of only one chapter. When citing a passage from those books you only need to identify the book and the verse. The books that only have one chapter are: Obadiah, Philemon, II John, III John, and Jude.

The Bible is not organized as many would expect it to be. It is not written in a purely chronological order. However, that does not mean that it is without organization. Here is how the books of the Bible are grouped together.

The Old Testament

Historic – Genesis through Esther (17 books)
Poetry – Job through Song of Solomon (5 books)
Prophetic – Isaiah through Malachi (17 books)

The New Testament

Historic – Matthew through Acts (5 books)
Epistles – Romans through Jude (21 books)
Prophetic – Revelation (1 book)

In addition to these organizational divisions there are additional subdivisions which are often mentioned. If you are not familiar with these terms then it can be very confusing. Here are some terms and their meanings to help you.

The Law..... Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Pentateuch Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Books of Moses Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The first five books of the Bible are referred to by the various names above. They were written by Moses and contain the Law of God for the nation Israel.

Major Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Ezekiel.

Minor Prophets Daniel through Malachi.

The Major and Minor prophets are divided by the size of the books and not because of their importance. The Major Prophets are larger books. All of the prophetic books take their names from the prophet who wrote the book except for Lamentations. In the original Hebrew Scriptures, Lamentations was not a separate book, but it was part of Jeremiah. It is the only Old Testament prophetic book that is not named after its author.

Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Synoptic Gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Gospels record the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first three are called Synoptic Gospels because they are written from the same perspective. They are named for their authors.

General Epistles James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, and Jude.

Epistle is just a fancy name for a letter. The General Epistles got their name from the fact that they are not sent to a specific church to address specific issues of that church. Therefore, they are general. These epistles are named for their authors.

Pauline Epistles Romans through Philemon.

The Pauline Epistles are letters to specific churches or persons that were written by the Apostle Paul. The name given to each book is taken from the recipient of the letter rather than from the author. In the case where more than one letter was written to a specific church or person then the name of the book will be preceded by a number, indicating the chronological order of the writing. For example, I Corinthians was written prior to II Corinthians.

Johannine Epistles I John, II John, and III John.

The Johannine Epistles are letters written by the Apostle John. Aside from the three epistles John wrote, he also wrote the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation.

Prison Epistles Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

The Prison Epistles are the letters that the Apostle Paul wrote from prison. He was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Christ, but that did not stop him from continuing to serve in the ministry.

Pastoral Epistles I Timothy, II Timothy, and Titus.

The Pastoral Epistles are letters written by the Apostle Paul to two men, Timothy and Titus, who were pastors. The names of these epistles signify the recipient of each letter.

Write whether each statement is *True* or *False* in the space provided.

5. The Major Prophets are more important than the Minor Prophets. _____
6. Lamentations is the only Old Testament prophetic book that does not take its name from its author. _____
7. Every epistle was written by the Apostle Paul. _____
8. All epistles are named for the recipient or recipients of the letter. _____
9. The General Epistles are named for the person who authored those letters. _____
10. The ministry of the Apostle Paul was brought to a halt when he was imprisoned. _____

Answer the following questions using the Scriptures provided.

11. Who wrote the various books of the Bible, God or man? (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21)

12. What does the Bible say is its central message? (Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Hebrews 10:7)

MEMORY VERSE

“O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day,” Psalm 119:97.

Please PRINT clearly:

NAME _____ SEX _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ZIP _____ PHONE () _____ AGE _____

Once complete, mail it back or drop it off and we'll send you Bible Study #4 and return this lesson to you once it's been reviewed. Return to: Calvary Chapel of the Chino Valley, 12205 N. Pipeline Ave., Chino, CA 91710. Our phone number is (909) 464-8255. God bless you as you learn about the Lord!

Any questions?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____