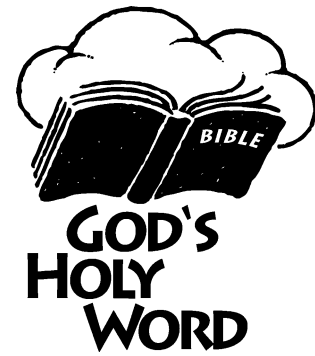


Getting to Know About

The Most Important Book On Earth!



The Bible is God's Word to Men and Women, written through specially anointed writers in a Collection of 66 Books bound into one...It is the Word of God!

The Bible has two major divisions:

The Old Testament, also called the "Hebrew Scriptures," is a collection of the specially, divinely inspired, 39 books that focus on God's interaction with Israel and the promise of the coming of Christ. In the Old Testament, 23,214 verses make up 929 chapters. The Longest book is Psalms ... The Shortest book is Obadiah (3rd shortest book in the Bible)

The New Testament is a collection of 27 specially, divinely inspired books that focus on the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, 7,959 verses make up 260 chapters. The Longest book is Acts and the shortest book in the Bible is either 3rd John, which has fewest number of words, or 2nd John, which has more words, but one less verse.

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The ancient texts of scripture were written primarily in Hebrew and Greek. Research has shown that the ancient words have been remarkably and reliably preserved through centuries of copying and translating.

By 2001, the Bible had been translated into more than 1,200 different languages with approximately 168,000 copies being sold or given away in the United States EVERY DAY! Yet, 1/3 of the world's language / dialect groups do not have the Bible translated into their native tongue... the work of translators continues.

Each of the divisions of the Bible is organized by types of writings, and not chronologically.

The Old Testament has Five Sections...

1. The Law, also called the “Five Books of Moses,” and the “Pentateuch.”

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

2. The History, tells the story of the Israelites in the Promised Land and in Exile.

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

3. Poetry and Wisdom... Poetic prayers, songs, and prophecies in addition to ancient wisdom on living a life of faith

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

4. The Major Prophets, made up of longer prophetic books...

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

5. The Minor Prophets, sometimes called the “Book of the Twelve,” made up of shorter prophetic books...

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Sometimes the Major and Minor Prophets are grouped together and called “The Prophets.”

The Old Testament is made up of the ancient holy writings viewed as scripture in the days of Jesus’ personal earthly ministry.

Christians believe that the Old Testament is properly interpreted in the light of the New Testament. Each Testament bears witness to the other, and provides clarity to the other.

The New Testament has Five Sections...

1. The Gospels... four books that tell the story of the ministry and teachings of Jesus and bear witness to his divinity...

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

2. The History, one book that tells of the activities of the early church, with a special focus on the ministry of the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul.

Acts

3. The Letters of Paul, also known as the "Pauline Epistles" and the "Pauline Corpus."

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

4. The General Letters, also known as "The General Epistles"

James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

5. The Apocalypse, a book of prophecy..

Revelation

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Knowing the background setting, occasion of the writing, and section of Scripture that a book comes from aids in properly studying and interpreting the book.

Remembering that "Scripture interprets Scripture" is also a valuable principle, because the Bible is unified by the intention of the Holy Spirit, its ultimate author, who moved upon divinely appointed and inspired human writers to proclaim God's Holy Word. Clarity in interpreting one portion of God's Word will come from another portion of God's Word.

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