

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

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The Bible is not just a book - It is THE Book! It is the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)! It is a library of 66 Books

Let us begin with a brief over-view of the Bible:

TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS:

OLD TESTAMENT  
39 books

NEW TESTAMENT  
27 books

### I. THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. The Books of the Law: GENESIS - DEUTERONOMY (5 books)

1. Begins with the creation of the world.
2. These books give a history of mankind from the beginning
3. From Adam through Moses.
4. We see the giving of God's Law to the Jewish people.
5. God develops a nation, Israel, and gives her a Law, the Law of Moses.

B. The Books of History: JOSHUA - ESTHER (12 books)

1. These books contain a history of the Jewish nation.
2. They tell of God giving Israel judges, then kings, then the nation of Israel dividing.
3. The Northern kingdom is ISRAEL.
4. The Southern kingdom is JUDAH.

C. The Books of Poetry: JOB, PSALMS, PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON (5 books)

D. The Major Prophets: ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS, ESEKIEL, DANIEL (5 books)

E. The Minor Prophets: HOSEA - MALACHI

400 YEAR INTERVENING PERIOD
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## II. THE NEW TESTAMENT.

### A. The Gospels: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN (4 Gospels)

1. These books tell us of the life of Christ.
2. We find His teaching, miracles, and life recorded in these books.
3. The word "Gospel" means "Good News".

### B. History: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (1 book)

1. This book is a history of the early church.
2. It begins with the Lord still on earth in chapter 1.
3. Then after Jesus ascends back up into Heaven in chapter 1, we see the beginning of the church on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
4. The early church had rapid growth!
5. But also much persecution!
6. This book has sometimes been called the "Book of Conversions"
7. WE see the evangelistic work of Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and others.

### C. The Epistles (or Letters): ROMANS - JUDE 21 books)

1. These books are letters, or epistles, written by inspired writers.
2. Some are written to churches (such as ROMans, 1 Corinthian! Philippians, etc).
3. Some are written to churches in a certain geographical area (such as Galatians).
4. Some are written to individuals (such as Timothy, Titus, etc.
5. Some are written by certain individuals (such as Peter, James) to Christians.
6. Paul wrote the majority of these epistles.

### D. Prophecy: REVELATION (1 book)

1. This book is written to comfort Christians.
2. God is going to pour out His wrath on their oppressors.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

1. Written by about 40 different authors.
2. Written over a period of about 1400 years.
3. There are no mistakes!
4. There are no contradictions!
5. How the Word of God is described:
  - a. As a Sword - Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12
  - b. As Fire - Jeremiah 23:29
  - c. As a Hammer - Jeremiah 23:29
  - d. As Seed - Luke 8:11
  - e. As a Lamp and Light - Psalm 119:105
6. What the Word of God does:
  - a. Gives light - Psalm 119:130
  - b. Gives understanding - Psalm 119:130
  - c. Quickens, or makes alive - Psalm 119:150
  - d. Cleanses - John 15:3
  - e. Sanctifies - John 17:17
  - f. Purifies - 1 Peter 1:22, 23
  - g. Begets - James 1:18
  - h. Converts - Psalm 19:7
  - i. Saves - Acts 11:14
  - j. Saves the soul - James 1:21
  - k. Calls - 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Truly, the Word of God is Powerful! (Hebrews 4:12)

Someone has written,

"This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian charter. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."