

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

Lesson 1 - The Bible

The word **Bible** is one of the many words the English language has borrowed from Greek. The Greek word is **BIBLIA**. It is easy to see how these letters of Greek were carried over into English - **BIBLIA** or **Bible** for a smooth sound. The Greek word means **books** and by adding **Holy** we simply mean the **Divine Books**. The Bible is not just one book, but a library of 66 books written over a period of 1,500 years by over 40 people from all walks of life. The books were all written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is Inspired by God

The dictionary says that inspiration means: *A supernatural influence which qualifies men to receive and communicate divine truth.* This simply means that God gave some men a message to speak or write. Look up the following Scriptures and fill in the blanks.

All Scripture given by inspiration.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

All _____ is given by _____ of _____, and is
_____ for _____, for _____, for _____, for
_____ in _____: That the _____ of _____ may be
_____, throughly _____ unto all _____.

Men were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21:

For the _____ came not in _____ by the _____ of _____: but
_____ of God _____ as they were _____ by the _____.

The Holy Spirit spoke by David.

Acts 1:16:

Men and brethren, this _____ must needs have been _____
, which the _____ by the _____ of _____ spake before
concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Assignment: The 119th Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible and is dedicated to the Word of God. Every verse in some way refers to the Word of God by words like judgments, testimonies, law, statutes, precepts, etc. Find Psalm 119 in your Bible and answer these questions.

1. What will the Psalmist keep? v.8 _____
2. What did the Psalmist hide in his heart? v.11 _____
3. In what way did the Psalmist delight himself? v.47 _____
4. What did the Psalmist love? v. 97 _____
5. What was a lamp to the Psalmist? v. 105 _____

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

The Divisions of the Bible

In looking at the Bible we discover that there are two major divisions;

The Old Testament and The New Testament. The Old Testament tells about God choosing a people, the Jews, to be His special people on earth. They were chosen for two reasons: First, that they might uphold the name of the one true God among the people on earth. And, second, through them the promised Savior would come into the world. The New Testament tells about that Savior and His work to bring salvation to the world. There are subdivisions in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. We must be careful to learn the divisions of the Bible, for if we fail at this point, we shall be hopelessly confused in our understanding of the Scriptures. The Lord Himself tells of the divisions of the Old Testament.

The divisions of the Old Testament.

Luke 24:44:

And he said unto them, These are the _____ which I _____ unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be _____, which were _____ in the _____ of _____, and in the _____, and in the _____, concerning me.

The Bible must be analyzed correctly. (*Analyze* means *to take apart and examine*.)

The Bible must be rightly divided.

2 Timothy 2:15:

_____ to _____ thyself _____ unto _____, a _____ that needeth not to be _____, rightly _____ the _____ of _____.

Assignment: Look up the index in the front of your Bible and read all of the books of the Bible in order.

1. What is the first book of the Old Testament? _____
2. What is the last book of the Old Testament? _____
3. What is the first book of the New Testament? _____
4. What is the last book in the New Testament? _____
5. How many pairs of books can you find that are named 1 & 2 (pronounced *first* and *second*)? _____

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

The Old Testament

We saw in Luke 24:44 that Jesus recognized three divisions in the Old Testament: The Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.

The Law of Moses

This division is called The Law of Moses because it contains the law God gave to Israel through Moses. This section is actually a history that tells where the Jewish nation came from and then traces their history for about 1,600 years. This history takes in the books from Genesis to Esther. Look in the Table of Contents in your Bible and count how many books are in this section. There are _____ books in the division known as The Law of Moses in the Old Testament.

The Prophets

A prophet was a man to whom God gave a message that was to be delivered to the people. These prophets were scattered throughout the 1,600 year history of the Jewish nation in the Old Testament. The books that they wrote have been placed together and are known as The Prophets. This section includes the books from Isaiah to Malachi. There are _____ books in the division known as The Prophets in the Old Testament. The Law of Moses and the age of these prophets came to an end with John the Baptist. Look up this Scripture:

Luke 16:16:

The _____ and the _____ were until _____: since that time the _____ of _____ is _____, and every man presseth into it.

The Psalms

The section of the Old Testament from the book of Job to the Song of Solomon are Jewish poetry and songs. The Book of Psalms is a large portion of this section. A psalm is a **song of praise** and the Book of Psalms is actually an inspired hymn book. There are _____ books in the section known as The Psalms in the Old Testament. While the law and prophets ended with John the Baptist, we are told to continue to use the Psalms. Look up these Scriptures in the New Testament:

Ephesians 5:19:

Speaking to _____ in _____ and _____ and _____ songs, _____ and making _____ in your _____ to the _____;

Colossians 3:16:

Let the _____ of _____ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom; _____ and _____ one another in _____ and _____ and _____ songs, _____ with _____ in your _____ to the _____.

Assignment: Read the 150th Psalm, the last of the Book of Psalms. Notice that the last five Psalms all begin and end with the words, *Praise ye the Lord*.

1. How many times is the word *Praise* used in the 150th Psalm? _____
2. How many different instruments are named in this Psalm? _____
3. Who is to praise the Lord? _____

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

The New Testament

There are 27 books in the New Testament. The New Testament naturally falls into three sections; *history, doctrine and prophecy.*

History

The first five books of the New Testament are history books. The first four, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are called the Gospels (*gospel* means *good news*) and each covers the life of Christ. The fifth, Acts, tells of the work of the early churches, especially the work of the Apostle Paul. Look up John 20:30-31 and fill in the blanks:

And many other _____ truly did _____ in the _____ of his _____, which are not _____ in this _____: but these are _____ that ye might _____ that _____ is the _____, the _____ of _____; and that _____ ye might have _____ through his _____.

Doctrine

The word *doctrine* simply means *teachings*. From this section we find the things that we believe and practice. This section takes in the books from Romans to Jude. These are called *epistles* which were *letters* that were written to churches, individuals or to Christians in general. There are _____ books in the Doctrine section of the New Testament.

1 Timothy 4:16:

Take heed unto _____, and unto the _____; _____ in them: for in doing this thou shalt both _____ thyself, and them that _____ thee.

Prophecy

The prophetic section of the New Testament has only one book, the Book of Revelation. This book tells us how everything is going to end. It contains a lot of figurative language that will be better understood as your knowledge of the Scripture increases.

In Revelation 1:19, John was told to:

_____ the _____ which thou hast _____, and the _____ which _____, and the _____ which shall be _____.

Assignment: Look up the following Scriptures and answer the questions.

1. John 21:25 - Is everything that Jesus did written in the Gospels? _____

2. Acts 2:41-47 - In what four things did the disciples continue? _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

3. 1 Timothy 3:14-15 - Why did Paul write this book? _____

4. Revelation 22:18-19 - What will God do if a man adds to or takes from this book? _____

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

The Rule of Interpretation

The *Rule of interpretation* is a simple four part common sense rule that is necessary in understanding the Scriptures.

1. **Who is speaking?** Although the Bible is the Word of God and everything we find in it is true, all of the words in the Bible are not God's words. Sometimes Satan's words are recorded. Sometimes a man of God is speaking and sometimes one of God's enemies is speaking. It is necessary to find out who is speaking in order to understand a passage. In the first chapter of Job there were seven people who spoke. See if you can find all seven.

2. **To whom is he speaking?** It is also necessary to understand what person is being spoken to. In some places the Jewish nation may be spoken to. In another place it may be a church. In still another it may be a specific person, or a group of people. In John, chapter 11, Jesus spoke to six different people. Check that chapter and list the number of at least one verse where each person is spoken to.

The disciples _____ Martha _____ Mary _____ The Father _____
Lazarus _____ The people _____

3. **About what is he speaking?** What is the subject being discussed? The Bible contains many subjects. Verses before and after must be examined to see what is under consideration. We cannot take what is spoken on one subject and make it apply to a different subject. See if you can find the subject under consideration in 1 Corinthians 12. _____

4. **When was he speaking?** The time that something was said is also important. Was it before the Law of Moses, under the Law of Moses, during the personal ministry of Jesus, etc.?

Look up Deuteronomy 22:11 and fill in the blanks:

*Thou shalt not _____ a _____ of _____ sorts, as
of _____ and _____ together.*

Why then do we wear clothes made of different materials? Because this command was written at a time that was under the Law of Moses. Today, we are not under the Law of Moses.

Assignment: Look at the book of 1 Timothy and try to answer the four questions of the Rule of Interpretation.

1. Who is speaking? 1:1 _____

2. To whom is he speaking? 1:2 _____

3. About what is he speaking? 3: 14-15 _____

4. When was he speaking? Before the Law of Moses. _____ Under the Law of Moses.
_____ During Jesus' earthly ministry. _____ After Jesus' earthly ministry.

DO THE TEST FOR LESSON 1