

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY BIBLE

- I. THE COMPOSITION OF THE BIBLE (What It Is Made up of).
- A. The Bible Is Made up of sixty-six Books or Letters, Having 1,189 Chapters.
1. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament, with 929 chapters.
 2. There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament, with 260 chapters.
 3. The shortest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 117, the longest chapter is Psalm 119, and the middle chapter is Psalm 117.
- B. The Bible Is Unique (has no equal) among all religious Books because:
1. It is God's way of revealing Himself to all of mankind (Jer 22:29).
 - a. In Genesis 1:1 God reveals Himself as being "Creator."
 - b. In Leviticus 19:1-2 God reveals Himself as being "Holy."
 - c. In 1st John 3:20 God reveals Himself as being "Omniscient" (all knowing).
 - d. In Revelation 19:6 God reveals Himself as being "Omnipotent (all powerful).
 2. It is inspired by God (given life by God's breath) (see 2 Tim 3:16; Gen 2:7; Heb 4:12 & cf. 2 Tim 4:1).
 3. It reveals God's plan and purpose for man, to live in sinless fellowship with God for all time and eternity (Gen 2:8; 3:8, 22-24; 1 John 1:1-4; Rev 22:1-4).
 4. Its main theme is the Kingdom of Heaven and its main personage (character) is the King of that kingdom (the Lord Jesus Christ) (John 1:47-49; Mat 4:17).
 5. It is the absolute (final) authority in all matters of faith and practice (belief and living) for believers (see John 20:31; Mat 4:4 & cf. Gal 4:30a).
- II. THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THE BIBLE.
- A. The Term "Bible" Comes from a Greek Word that Means "Books." The Latin Word for *Bible* Is "Scriptures" and Means "Writings."

- B. The Word *Bible* Is a singular Word that Is Used to Show the Unity (oneness) of all sixty-six Books.
- C. The Old Testament Is Referred to by many different Names and Titles including: the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Testimony, the Way, the Precepts, the Oracles, the Covenant, the Truth, the Word, the Commandments, the Statutes, the Judgments, the Path, the Righteousness, etc. Today It Is Called “the Tanakh” by the Jews.
- D. The New Testament Writings Are Called, “Scriptures” (2 Pet 3:15-16), “the Word of God” (1 Thes 2:13) and “the Commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor 14:37).

III. THE MAIN DIVISION OF THE BIBLE.

- A. The Terms “Old Testament” and “New Testament” Are Used to Show the Division between the Hebrew Old Testament Writings and the Christian New Testament Writings.
- B. The Word “testament” Has the same Meaning as the Term “Covenant,” which Means, “a Promise, a Deal, a Pact, a Will, or a mutual Agreement.”
- C. The Term *Old Testament* Refers to the Covenant (agreement) Made by God with the Nation of Israel (the Jews) through the Prophet Moses (Exo 34:1-27; 2 Cor 3:13-4).
- D. The Term *New Testament* Refers to the Covenant Made by God the Father with the Lord Jesus Christ (Mat 26:26-28; Heb 9:14-18).
- E. The New Testament (covenant) Does not Begin at Matthew 1:1 but at the Death of Jesus Christ in Matthew 27:50 (cf. Heb 9:16-17). Therefore, a majority of the four Gospels Are not Written to Christians for Doctrine (2 Cor 5:16).

IV. THE LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE.

- A. The Old Testament (completed about 400 B.C.) Was mostly Written in Hebrew. However, there Are some Portions that Were Written in Aramaic (a Semitic language like Syrian, Persian, or Chaldean that is closely related to Hebrew) (Ezra 4:8 to 6:18; Jer 10:11; Dan 2:4 to 7:28).

- B. The Old Testament Was also Written in Greek. It Is Called “the Septuagint” or “LXX.” It Is Thought by some “Bible Scholars” to Have Been Written around 300 B.C. However, Evidence Has Proven It to Have actually Been Written about A.D. 250.
- C. The New Testament (completed about A.D. 90) Was Written almost entirely in Greek, the common Language in Use in that Part of the Graeco-Roman World at the Time It Was Completed.

V. THE ORDER OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

- A. The Order of the Old Testament Books Differs in the Hebrew Bible from the Order of the English Bible. Nevertheless, They both Contain the same Books.
- B. The Hebrew Bible Has twenty-four Books Arranged in three Groups, just as Jesus Said in Luke 24:44 (the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms).
 - 1. The group called *the Law of Moses* (the Torah) contains five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
 - 2. The group called *the Prophets* (the Nebhiim) contains eight books in two sections: the Former Prophets and the Latter Prophets.
 - a. The section containing *the Former Prophets* has four books: Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings.
 - b. The section containing *the Latter Prophets* has four books in two portions:
 - 1) The first portion contains Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel (three books).
 - 2) The second portion, which is called “The Book of the Twelve,” contains Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi (all Twelve Prophets in one book).
 - 3. The group called *the Psalms* (the Writings) contains eleven books: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles.
 - 4. Notice that in the Hebrew Bible Samuel, Kings, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles are each one book instead of two books each as in the English Bible.
- C. The Old Testament of the English Bible has thirty-nine Books Arranged in three Groups: the Law, the Writings and the Prophets.
 - 1. The group called *the Law* (the Pentateuch) contains five books: Genesis through Deuteronomy.
 - 2. The group called *the Writings* contains seventeen books: Joshua through Song of Solomon.
 - 3. The group called *the Prophets* contains seventeen books: Isaiah through Malachi.

4. The Roman Catholic Church Accepts some apocryphal (obscure or hidden) Books as Old Testament Scripture.

VI. THE ORDER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

- A. Early Christian Listings Were Different among Writers.
 1. Some early writers differed in the order of the books, while other early writers listed several books as questionable.
 2. The order of the New Testament Books was standard for the entire Christian Community (all believers) before A.D. 400 at the Council of Carthage.
 3. The Roman Catholic Church has the same New Testament Books as the Protestants have. However, it considers its Church traditions to be equal with the Bible (Mark 7:5-13).
- B. The New Testament Has three Groups of Books that Are Similar to the Old Testament Groups of the Law, the Prophets and the Writings (Psalms).
 1. The *Historical Group* (similar to the Old Testament *Writings*) contains five books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts.
 2. The *Doctrinal Group* (similar to the Old Testament *Law*) contains twenty-one books: Romans through Jude.
 3. The *Prophetical Group* (similar to the Old Testament *Prophets*) contains only one book: Revelation.

VII. THE APOCRYPHAL BOOKS (Called “the Apocrypha”).

- A. The Word “Apocrypha” Means, “concealed; hidden; obscure.”
- B. Some of the Apocryphal Books Were Written well after the Old Testament Was Complete (about 400 B.C.) and Others Were Written well after the New Testament Was Complete (about A.D. 90).
- C. The Apocryphal Books Vary in Number from seven to fifteen, Depending on Whom Is Listing Them.
- D. Early Protestant Bibles used to Have some of the Old Testament Apocryphal Books Inserted between the Old and New Testaments, but They Were to Be Used only for historical Reference and not as inspired Scripture.
- E. The Roman Catholic Church officially Incorporated eleven of the fifteen Apocryphal Books into the Text of the Roman Catholic Bible as Scripture at the Council of Trent in A.D. 1545. They also Declared Them to Be Inspired, Canonical (accepted as Scripture) and Authoritative for Doctrine.

- F. The following Are thirteen Reasons why Bible Believing Protestants Reject the Apocryphal Books as Scripture:
1. They were never quoted by Jesus Christ or by any New Testament writer even though the Old Testament apocryphal books existed during their lifetime.
 2. Jesus Christ referred to the Hebrew Scriptures as a well-defined collection of writings, leaving no question as to where the Old Testament begins and ends (Mat 23:35; Luke 24:44).
 3. The Jewish Philosopher Philo (20 B.C. to A.D. 50) wrote much and quoted the Old Testament often, but he neither quoted the apocryphal books nor mentioned them. He even stated that the Jews would not allow additions to the closed canon of Old Testament Books.
 4. The Jewish Historian Josephus (A.D. 37 to A.D. 100) lists the Old Testament Books without making one mention of the apocryphal books.
 5. During the first 300 years of Christianity, there is not one record of any listing of Bible Books that includes them as Scripture.
 6. They were not used by anyone as Scripture or proof texts until about A.D. 500.
 7. They were all written in Greek and not in Hebrew, like the Old Testament was written.
 8. Orthodox Jews have always rejected them and have never quoted them in any of their writings (Rom 3:1-2).
 9. No writer of an apocryphal book claims to be inspired by God, and some of them even deny being inspired.
 10. No writer of the apocryphal books was ever called a prophet or held the office of a prophet.
 11. They teach false doctrine and practices that are contrary to (against) the Scriptures (the Bible): such as lying, suicide, assassination (murder), magical incantations (spells or charms), prayers for the dead, and sinless perfection.
 12. They contain many historical, geographical and chronological mistakes, and also distort Old Testament narratives (accounts).
 13. They often contradict themselves, the Bible and secular History.