

B The Bible

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

What is the "authority" in your life? Those who believe something must have a reason for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in government, and in education — the Christian needs an **absolute standard** for his beliefs, his duties — indeed, his whole conduct.

Many people have as their authority their inner CONSCIENCE. "Let your conscience be your guide!" they say. This sounds good, but according to *Titus 1:15* the conscience may be _____; according to *I Timothy 4:2*, _____ and according to *I Corinthians 8:7*, _____.

Other people, especially religious folk, have the 'CHURCH' or man-made CREEDS as their authority. Again, such standards are unreliable — because man is involved. *Colossians 2:8* warns us against P _____ and T _____. (Look up and read: *Matthew 15:3, 6, 9*.)

For the Christian, only the BIBLE, the Word of God, is the unchanging authority for faith and practice.

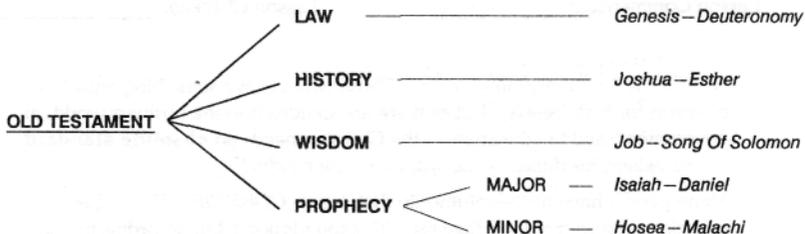
This study will teach you what the Bible is, why you can take it as your authority, and how to use it as a child of God.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

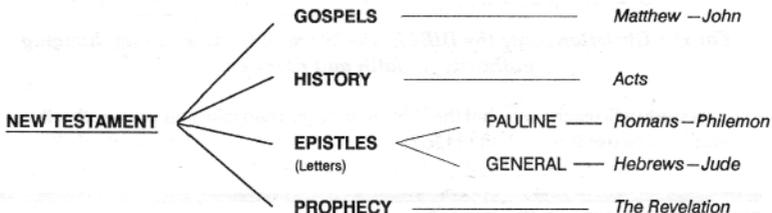
- A. The Bible is a collection of ___ books, divided into two major sections known as the OLD and NEW _____.
- B. Other names given to the Bible are:
1. The _____ . *Romans 10:17*
 2. The _____ . *II Timothy 3:15*
- C. The Books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically, but rather "topically." Both the Testaments have their Books set in groups, as shown on the next page.

(All new Christians experience difficulty at the first in finding the Books of the Bible, especially during a preaching service. Don't be embarrassed to use the index in the front

of your Bible or to accept the assistance of another Christian. The more you use your Bible, the sooner you will become familiar with the location of its Books.)



From the close of the Old Testament (*Malachi*) to the birth of Jesus Christ (*Matthew*), over 400 years transpired. These years are called the “Silent Years.”



HOW DID WE RECEIVE THE BIBLE ?

The Bible is not just a book, it is **THE BOOK** — different from any other book that has or will be written. The Bible is a *SUPERNATURAL* Book because of the way in which God gave it to mankind.

A . Look up and write out: *II Peter 1:21*.

This verse of Scripture teaches us three vital facts concerning how we got the Bible:

1. It wasn't made up by men. "... *came not by the will of man. . .*"
2. Men of God wrote the Bible. "... *holy men of God spake . . .*"
3. God authored the Bible. "... *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*"

B. God used human writers to pen His Words.

1. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to write down the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of some 1,600 years.
2. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in *HEBREW*. The New Testament was originally written in *GREEK*.

C. God authored the Bible.

A good way to illustrate this miracle is to consider how you would write things down on paper. First, it is the *PEN* which actually does the writing — but it only writes as you move it. Second, the characteristics of the script will depend on the kind of pen or writing instrument you use. Write your name down on paper using a "fine ball-point pen," a "felt marking pen," and a paint brush — note there will be the **same** words, but a **different** appearance!

1. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own literary style.

2. The way in which God gave us the Bible is called **INSPIRATION**.

- a. Because the Bible is the *INSPIRED* Word of God, we can take it as **the** authority for all we believe and do.

BEWARE of men who say, "*The Bible BECOMES the Word of God*" when it speaks to you personally. Look up *Matthew 24:35* and *I Corinthians 2:13*. According to these passages, God has inspired the _ _ _ _ _ (not just the ideas & thoughts).

BEWARE of men who say, "*The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God*," meaning there are parts of it which are not God's Word. Look up *II Timothy 3:16*. According to this Scripture verse, how much of the Bible is inspired? _ _ _ _ .

- b. Because the Bible is inspired of God, it is _ _ _ _ _ from beginning to end. *Psalm 119:160*

DO WE HAVE THE BIBLE TODAY?

The original manuscripts of the Bible have long been lost. Does this mean we no longer have the pure Word of God?

- A. Look up: *Psalm 12:6,7* and *Matthew 24:35*.

Not only did God give us His Word, but He also promised to

P _ _ _ _ _ it until the end of the world.

- B. How has God preserved His Word ?

God has providentially kept His Word from destruction and corruption in two ways:

1. Down through the centuries, the Lord has raised up men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm.

Zealous Jewish patriots, then simple Bible-loving Christians (in particular, our Baptist forefathers), have kept the Scriptures available to all generations.

Satan has on numerous occasions attempted to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. Hellish decrees have seen the Bible **banned**, **burned**, **banished**, and **battered** by scornful men.

2. The Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been faithfully preserved by fastidious Jewish scribes — it is called the **Masoretic Text**. The Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved in what is called the **Textus Receptus**, or Received Text.

Over 3,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament, along with some 2,000 lectionaries (selected readings) still exist today—the majority of them attesting to the Received Text.

- C. Do we need to understand Hebrew And Greek to know the Bible?

NO! The preservation of God's Word extends to our English Bible.

The ONLY version of the Bible translated from the Masoretic Text and the Textus Receptus is the KING JAMES VERSION of 1611 A.D., also known as the Authorized Version.

1. When you hold a copy of the King James Version (KJV), you hold in your hands the Word of God.

2. BEWARE of **all** other translations such as the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New International Version (NIV), the New American Standard Version (NASB), Good News Bible, the New English Bible — they are all based upon corrupt manuscripts and contain serious errors.

If you don't already possess a Bible, your pastor recommends you purchase a plain KJV without added notes or comments. Make sure the type is readable. Bibles range in price from about \$2 to \$100 — the difference is due to the covers and quality of the binding.

WHY DO WE NEED THE BIBLE?

- A. Look up: *I Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12,13; Psalm 19:10; and Jeremiah 15:16.*

According to these Scriptures, the Bible is our spiritual _____ .

- B. Look up: *Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17.*

The Bible is our spiritual _____ .

- C. Look up: *Psalm 119:11.* This verse says the Bible keeps us from _____ .

- D. Look up: *Psalm 119:105.* According to this Scripture, the Bible is life's:

_____ . (Use your words.)

- E. Look up: *II Timothy 3:16* again. The Bible is profitable for:

_____ , (what is right)

_____ , (what is not right)

_____ , (how to get it right)

and _____ . (how to keep it right)

- F. Look up: *I Thessalonians 4:18* and *Psalm 119:50.*

The Word of God is for our _____ .

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE BIBLE?

- A. *John 5:39* _____ *Acts 17:11*
- B. *II Timothy 2:15* _____
- C. *James 1:22* _____
- D. *I Corinthians 2:13d* C _____
- E. *II Timothy 4:2* _____
- F. *Psalms 1:2* _____ *Joshua 1:8*
- G. *Colossians 3:16a* _____
- H. *Psalms 119:11* _____

You may wish to write the following statement in your Bible as a wise reminder:

**“THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN –
OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK.”**

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through *Psalms 119* (24 verses per day). This is called the “Word of God Chapter,” and is the longest chapter in the Bible.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize *Psalms 119:9,11*.