

Quick Notes: The Quickest Way to Learn the Foundational Truths of the Bible

The Bible

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the greatest selling book of all time.

The Bible is God's inspired revelation of the origin & destiny of all things.

The Bible is the all sufficient rule of faith and practice among believers.

The Bible is the truth that leads to eternal life.

WHERE DID THE BIBLE GET ITS NAME?

You will not find the word "Bible" written in the book bearing the title: Holy Bible.

"Bible" is the equivalent word to the Greek word *Biblia*, meaning rolls, scrolls, or books.

The Bible was termed **The Books** - Tau Biblia in the mid 2nd century. The Bible did not circulate as a single book until it was copied in a single "codex" or volume in the 4th century. In the 5th century, Jerome, translator of the Latin Vulgate, named it "The Divine Library." In the 13th century, by common consent, it became known as "The Book of Books"... The Bible.

CANONIZATION OF THE BIBLE:

The word "Canon" is derived from the Greek word "kanon" which metaphorically means "a standard" and literally means "a rod of measurement".

Old Testament Canonization: At the end of the first Christian century (A.D. 90), Jewish rabbis at the Council of Jamnia fixed the Canon of Hebrew books and declared them authoritative. Four criteria were involved in the decision:

1. The content of the books must be in harmony with the Law.
2. Since prophetic inspiration was believed to have begun with Moses and ended with Ezra, to qualify for the Canon, a book must come within that period to be considered inspired.
3. The language of the original book was to be in Hebrew.
4. Written within the geographical limits of Palestine.

Thus **a total of 39 books became the Old Testament:** the Palestinian Canon of Scriptures.

THE 39 OLD TESTAMENT OR OLD COVENANT BOOKS

LISTED BELOW MEET THE REQUIRED CRITERIA:

The first five books of the Old Testament, called the Torah in Hebrew, mean "teachings" or "learning". Called the Pentateuch, in Greek, its translated meaning is "five vessels", i.e. the Word of God.

Below is the listing of the Old Testament books appearing in order left to right

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Judges	Ruth	I Samuel	II Samuel
I Kings	II Kings	I Chronicles	II Chronicles	Ezra
Nehemiah	Esther	Job	Psalms	Proverbs
Ecclesiastes	Song of Solomon		Isaiah	Jeremiah
Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea	Joel
Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum
Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi

The listing of the Canon of the New Testament was not until 367 A.D. in the "Festal (Easter) Letter" when Archbishop Athanasius of Alexandria first listed the 27 books of the New Testament as "authoritative" which were distinguished sharply between "God-inspired Scripture which were handed down to our fathers by those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning" and the "so-called secret writings" of heretics. Three councils established the criteria of the Canon of the New Testament.

CANONIZATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

- A.D. 363 Council of Laodicea decreed that only canonical books of the New Testament should be read in church services.
- A.D. 397 Third Council of Carthage listed the 27 books of the NT.
- A.D. 419 Council of Hippo reiterated the same 27 books of the NT.

THE CRITERIA USED FOR MAKING THE CHOICE OF THESE 27 BOOKS:

1. Was the book written by one of the twelve Apostles or by someone associated with an Apostle?
2. Were the contents spiritual?
3. Was the book widely received by the churches?
4. Was there evidence to the reader of divine inspiration in the book?

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 NASB1995

THE 27 NEW TESTAMENT OR NEW COVENANT BOOKS

Below is the listing of the New Testament books appearing in order left to right.

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts
Romans	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians
Philippians	Colossians	1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy
2 Timothy	Titus	Philemon	Hebrews	James
1 Peter	2 Peter	1 John	2 John	3 John
Jude	Revelation			

Jerome translated these same 27 books from the Greek into Latin in A.D. 382.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness... 2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV

The New Testament Canon, then, is not the product of one person's arbitrary judgment, nor was it set by a single council, but was the outcome of the use of various writings which proved their merit and unity by their inward dynamic... they bore the fruit of God's inspiration through the life of believers who applied their directives personally.

THE TWO GREAT DIVISIONS (TESTAMENTS) OF THE BIBLE:

The word "testament" means: a will, a binding document, a covenant. The Bible is broken into two covenants or binding documents which link us to God by His words.

Old Testament Divisions:

The Law History Poetry Prophecy

New Testament: 4 Divisions:

The Gospels Acts The Epistles Revelation

No critic has been able to disprove or improve on the Bible's spiritual and factual content. It is scientifically and historically correct. Numerous archaeological finds authenticate the absolute accuracy of its contents and claims. The Word of God, the Bible, is timeless. It is current and applicable to all people, of all ages, in all lands, and for all times.

WHY THE BIBLE IS KNOWN AS THE “WORD OF GOD”:

A collection of 66 books written over 1,800 years by 40 different authors, this “Divine Library” is in complete agreement without contradictions although written by kings, shepherds, businessmen, fishermen, and others at different times and different locations, some never having seen the work of the others. **Over 3,500 times Bible writers claim that God spoke what they wrote.**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God ...

2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV

The Lord gave the Word, and great was the company of them that published it.

Psalms 68:11 KJV

But He (Jesus) answered, It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4 HCSB

EACH WORD IS A HALLOWED PLEDGE:

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Matthew 24:35 HCSB

If ye abide in Me, and my WORDS abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7 KJV

THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD OF GOD FOR YOU:

Jesus said, you pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about Me.

John 5:39 HCSB

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:31-32 NKJV

Then I (Jesus) said, ‘Behold, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me) to do thy will, O God.

Hebrews 10:5-7 NKJV

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

LIFE’S FOUNDATION:	Joshua 1:8... 2 Timothy 2:19... Hebrews 6:1-2
SALVATION:	1 Peter 1:23... Hebrews 5:9... James 1:21
FAITH:	Romans 10:17... Hebrews 12:2... Matthew 17:20
FOOD:	John 6:31-33... Matthew 4:4... Matthew 6:24-34
PROSPERITY:	Proverbs 3: 1-2... Proverbs 10:22... Joshua 1:7
HEALING:	Psalms 107:20... Proverbs 4:20-22... Matthew 8:16
DELIVERANCE:	Colossians 1:13... Isaiah 61:1... Jeremiah 15:21
ACCEPTANCE:	Romans 15:7... Acts 10:34-35... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
ILLUMINATION:	Psalms 119:99-100... Proverbs 6:2-3... Matthew 13:11
GUIDANCE:	Luke 1:78-79... John 16:13... Isaiah 42:16
VICTORY OVER SIN:	1 Corinthians 15:56-57... 1 John 5:4... Ephesians 1:7
AUTHORITY:	Luke 9:1... Titus 2:11-15... Revelation 2:26-29
JUDGMENT:	John 12:48... Matthew 12:36-37... Hebrews 6:4-6
COMFORT:	1 Thessalonians 4:18... 2 Corinthians 1:3-4... John 14:18
HOPE:	Jeremiah 29:11... Psalm 31:24... Romans 15:13
PEACE:	Isaiah 26:3... Philippians 4:8-9... John 14:27

DEFINITIONS AND FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE:

Translation: To change from one language to another with literal interpretation from the original text.

Paraphrase: A rewording of the meaning of something spoken or written and not necessarily literal in interpretation for clarification and application for common use.

1500-500 B.C. The Old Testament was first recorded on scrolls by holy men: Moses and the prophets.

250-100 B.C. The Septuagint a translation from the Hebrew into Greek by 72 Hebrew scholars was completed in 70 days in Alexandria, Egypt. It continues to be the Old Testament of the Latin and Greek Church.

A.D. 52-100 The New Testament was written from Koine' Greek (common language of the time) although portions may have been first set down in Aramaic, the language spoken by Christ.

A.D. 382 Jerome completed his translation of the Bible into Latin (Latin Vulgate) establishing it as the Canon of the New Testament. It remains the authorized version of the Roman Catholic Church.

1382 John Wycliffe completed his translation, the first complete English Bible.

1456 The Gutenberg Bible, a folio edition of the Latin Vulgate, was printed from movable type, an event that inaugurated the era of printing.

1522 Martin Luther translated the Bible into German.

1560 The Geneva Bible, the first Bible to be divided into chapters was produced by Coverdale, William Whittingham, John Knox, and others in Geneva.

1611 The great King James Bible or Authorized Version was completed by a group of "learned men", all renowned scholars who were appointed by King James. It is still a widely used and distributed English translation.

1973 The New International Version translation was completed by the International Bible Society. Accepted trans-denominationally, this modern translation is easily understood by all ages and in all cultures.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:1-4, Hebrews 10:7 NAS95

*A variety of Bible translations and paraphrases have been used in the **Quick Notes** for clarity. We recommend www.biblegateway.com as a Bible resource and study aid.



www.visiblelight.org

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