

**Bible
Teachings
Series**

*A self-study
course about
the main
message of
the Bible*



A Bible Handbook

A Bible Handbook

A self-study course about
the main message of the Bible

Original text produced by the Institutional Ministries
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About This Book

This book is a handbook for the Bible. It will tell you all about the Bible, its parts, who wrote it, how it is put together, and how to use it.

Each chapter begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of the chapter there is a test. If you have read the chapter carefully and answered the questions, you should be able to answer the test questions without trouble.

When you finish answering a group of questions, you will be given a page number where you can turn to check your answers. If you turn to that page, you will find the answers at the very bottom of that page. Check your answers carefully and correct any mistakes that you made. Make sure you understand all the answers before reading any further.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you complete the test, go back and study the chapter tests again. When you have completed the final test, you can either turn it in to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

May God help you as you learn more about his Word, the Bible.



Chapter One

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

How do you spend the time of each day? Some time is spent sleeping. Other time is spent working or writing letters or playing games. Many read books or magazines or watch television. But television programs and magazines are often full of violence and immoral sex. Such evils quickly cause a person to become excited and full of lust. All these activities help pass the time. But the joy they provide does not last. They do nothing to bring lasting peace and contentment into your life.

But there are some books that can bring peace; the Bible is the most important one. Maybe you picked up the Bible before, read some of it, became discouraged, and gave up on it. The Bible seems so big and so hard to understand. But it is not as hard as it seems. By the time you are finished with this chapter you will be able to:

- * name the two main parts of the Bible;
- * name the three kinds of books in the Old Testament; and
- * name the three kinds of books in the New Testament.

God has an important message to share with people. That message is found in the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible. The Bible is God's Word.

In some ways the Bible is like a library, because the Bible is more than one book.

The Bible is a collection of smaller "books" written by different people at different times. The word "Bible" is itself an old Greek word meaning "book."

1. God speaks to us through the book we call the _____.
2. The Bible is really a collection of _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 6)

The Bible is made up of 66 smaller books. These books are divided into two big groups. The first group of 39 books is called the Old Testament. The second group of 27 books is called the New Testament. All of the books in the Old Testament were written before Jesus was born. All of the books in the New Testament were written after Jesus was born.

3. The Bible contains 66 smaller _____.
4. These books are divided into two groups, the _____ Testament and the _____ Testament.

5. The 39 books in the Old Testament were written _____ Jesus was born.
6. The 27 books of the New Testament were written _____ Jesus was born.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 8)

Look at the pictures. They may help to think of the Bible as two bookcases. One bookcase holds the Old Testament books; the other holds the New Testament books. Each bookcase has three shelves, and each shelf holds a different kind of book.

7. The Bible is like two _____.
8. The first bookcase holds the books of the _____.
9. The other bookcase holds the books of the _____.
10. Each bookcase has _____ shelves, each with a different kind of _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 8)



Answers for page 5: 1. Bible; 2. books.

The Old Testament

Genesis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leviticus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/>
I Samuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
II Samuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
I Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>
II Kings	<input type="checkbox"/>
I Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
II Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ezra	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nehemiah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historical Books

Job	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proverbs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecclesiastes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Song of Songs	<input type="checkbox"/>

Poetical Books

Isaiah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lamentations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ezekiel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hosea	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nahum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zechariah	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prophetical Books

The three kinds of books found in the Old Testament are history books, poetry books and prophecy books. On the first shelf are the first seventeen books of the Old Testament

(Genesis through Esther). These are all history books. These books tell us important facts from the past. In them we read how God made the world and how he led his people. They also tell how evil came into the world and that God promised to send a Savior to the world of sinners.

On the second shelf are five books (Job through Song of Songs). These are poetry books. They contain poems and songs that praise God. The best-known poetry book is the book of Psalms.

On the third shelf are the remaining seventeen books of the Old Testament (Isaiah through Malachi). These are books of prophecy. A prophet is a person who speaks for God. In the prophecy books we read about God's messages for his people. At times God's message was that he must punish his people for the evil things they did. However, he also



Answers for pages 5-6. 3. books; 4. Old, New; 5. before; 6. after; 7. bookcases; 8. Old Testament; 9. New Testament; 10. 3, book.

promised to send a Savior who would set people free from the power and slavery of evil and death forever.

11. The three kinds of books in the Old Testament are _____ books, _____ books, and _____ books.
12. In the Old Testament, the _____ books tell us important things about the past.
13. The _____ books contain poems and songs to God.
14. The _____ books contain the messages God gave his people.
15. In the Old Testament, God promised to send a _____ who would set people _____ from sin and death.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 10)

There are also three shelves in the New Testament bookcase. Again each shelf contains a different kind of book. The three kinds of New Testament books are history books, letters, and one prophecy book.

The New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

Historical Books

Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians
I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

Epistles (Letters)

Revelation

Prophetical Books

?

Answers for page 9: 11. history, poetry, prophecy; 12. history; 13. poetry; 14. prophecy; 15. Savior, free.

The first five books in the New Testament are history books. The first four (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are also called Gospels. The Gospels tell us about the life of Jesus. The fifth history book, Acts, tells us about the first years of the Christian church.

The second kind of New Testament books is letters (sometimes called "epistles"). These letters are usually addressed to a person or to a group of people. There are twenty-one letters in the New Testament (Romans through Jude). A man named Paul wrote thirteen of the letters (Romans through Philemon).

The last book of the Bible (Revelation) is a prophecy book. Revelation uses picture language to tell us about God's final victory over Satan and about God's eternal kingdom in heaven.

16. The three kinds of writings in the New Testament are _____, _____ and _____ books.

17. The first five books in the New Testament are _____ books.
18. The first four are also called _____; they tell the history of the life of _____.
19. The second kind of book in the New Testament are _____ written to one person or a group of people.
20. _____ wrote thirteen of the letters found in the New Testament.
21. The third kind of book in the New Testament is a book of _____.
22. The only book on this third shelf is the book of _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 13)

Review Of Chapter One

God speaks to us through the book we call the Bible. The Bible is made up of 66 smaller books. We can picture it as two bookcases. The first bookcase is the Old Testament. It holds books written before Jesus was born. On its three shelves are history, poetry, and prophecy books. The second bookcase is the New Testament. It holds books written after Jesus was born. On its three shelves we find books of history, letters, and one prophecy book.



Answers for pages 11-12: 16. history, letters, prophecy; 17. history; 18. Gospels, Jesus; 19. letters; 20. Paul; 21. prophecy; 22. Revelation.

Test On Chapter One

1. Fill in the names of the bookcases and shelves on the Bible bookcases located on page 15 and 16.

Find the correct answer from the list below for each blank.

letters

prophecy

Old Testament

history

poetry

New Testament

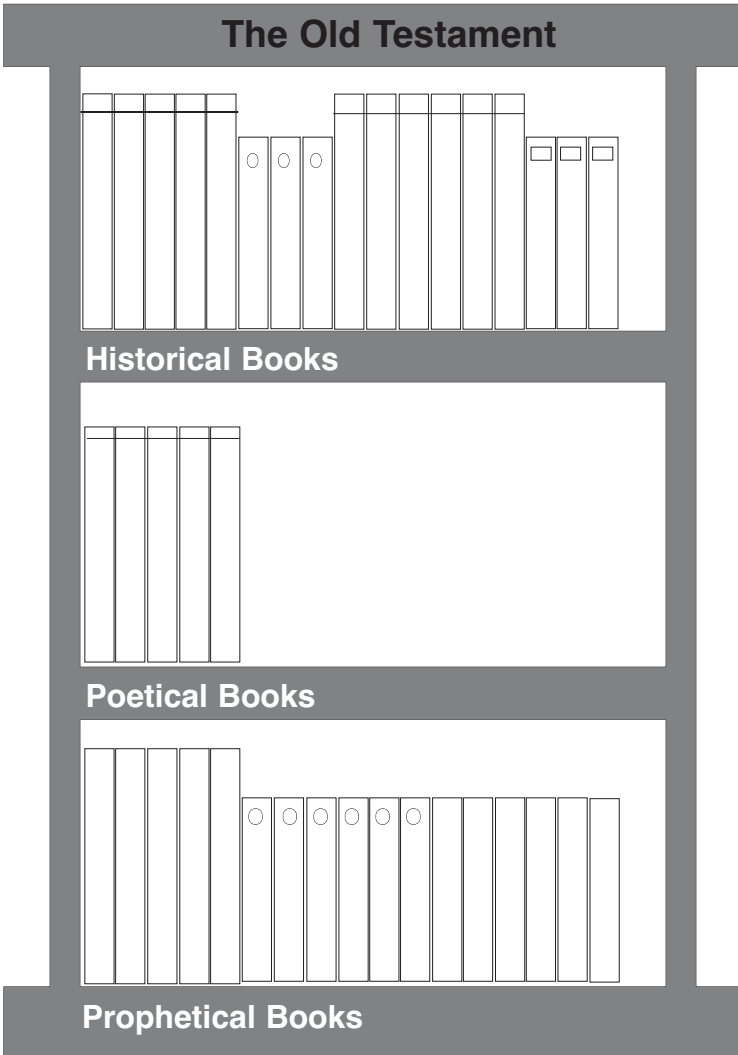
Gospels

2. The _____ books were written before Jesus was born.
3. The _____ books were written after Jesus was born.
4. The _____ books have poems and songs to God.
5. The _____ books contain facts from the past.
6. The _____ are books, which tell about the life of Jesus.
7. The _____ books contain God's message of judgment and of a promised

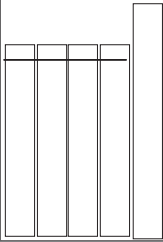
Savior.

8. The _____ to individuals and groups are found only in the New Testament.

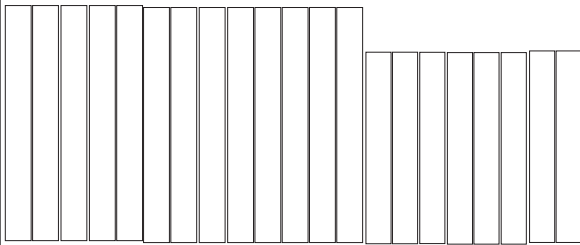
(Check your answers on page 58)



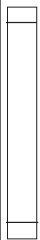
The New Testament



Historical Books



Epistles (Letters)



Prophetical Books



Chapter Two

WHY IS THE BIBLE SO IMPORTANT?

Sometimes people must live alone. They do not have friends or relatives. They get so few visits from people on the outside. When a visitor does come, it becomes a very special day for that person. The same thing happens when a letter arrives. Visits and letters show that someone outside is thinking and caring

about that person.

When we open the Bible, it is like getting a visit or a letter from God himself. The Bible tells us that God does care about us and has not forgotten us. By the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * name the two main teachings of the Bible;
and
- * recognize when each teaching is being used.

Some books are written to entertain people. Other books are written to help people learn things or to teach skills for living. Libraries are filled with thousands of books. The Bible, however, is special. No other book is like it. In the Bible God speaks to us about himself and about us. The Bible has the power to change our lives.

The Bible does not consist of made-up or "make-believe" stories. The Bible tells us

about real people and real events, which really took place. What the Bible tells us is really the difference between life forever in heaven and punishment forever in hell. The Bible teaches us how to get everlasting life.

1. Only in the Bible does _____ speak to us directly.
2. The Bible is not "make-_____."
3. The Bible teaches us how to get _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 21)

The two main teachings of the Bible are called law and gospel. As you read the Bible, it is important to understand the difference between law and gospel.

In the law God tells people what to do and what not to do. The law also tells us about the punishment for those who do not obey the law perfectly. The Ten Commandments are the best known example of the law in the Bible.

4. The two main teachings of the Bible are

_____ and _____.

5. The law tells people what _____
and what _____ to do.
6. The law tells us about the _____ for
those who do not obey it perfectly.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 23)

Here are some Bible passages that tell us what to do and what not to do. One tells of a punishment those who disobey will receive. They are part of God's law:

- * Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul. Love him with all your
mind.
- * Do not steal.
- * When you sin, the pay you get is death.

If all of the Bible were law it would make us very afraid of God. No one can find hope for a happy life in the law. No one can find peace with God by trying to keep the law, because no

one has perfectly obeyed God's law. As a result, no one deserves God's blessing and happiness.

However, the law does do something good for us. It shows us the evil we have done. It also shows us we need someone to save us from an eternity in hell.

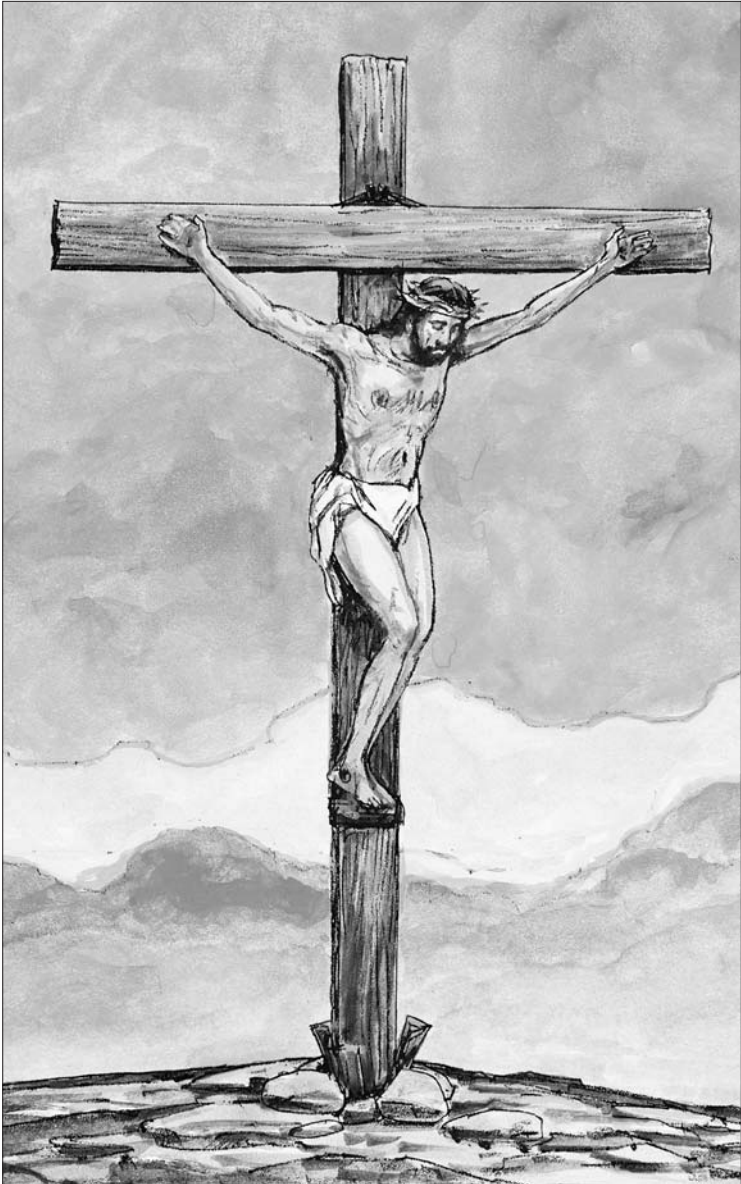
7. It is not possible to find _____ with God by trying to keep the _____.
8. The law shows us the _____ we have done and that we need _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 23)

The other teaching found in the Bible is called gospel, which means “good news.” The gospel never tells us what we are to do or not to do like the law does. The gospel always tells us what God has done for us. The message of the gospel is summarized for us in the following Bible passage:



Answers for page 19: 1. God; 2. believe; 3. eternal life.



Jesus suffered and died for the sins of all people.

* God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Note that we have now learned two different ways that the word "gospel" is used. In Chapter One we learned about the four books in the New Testament, that tell the story of Jesus' life. They are called Gospels, because Jesus' life is "good news." Now we have learned that many parts of the Bible tell us what God has done for us to save us. All these parts are good news to us; therefore they also are called "gospel."

The gospel tells us what God has done for us; this makes the Bible a wonderful book. The gospel shows who our Savior is - Jesus Christ - and it says that God loves people no matter what they have done. Yes, the gospel tells us



Answers for pages 19-20: 4. law, gospel; 5. to do, not; 6. punishment.
Answers for page 21: 7. peace, law; 8. evil, someone to save us.

that Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly and died to save all people. The two main teachings of the Bible, law and gospel, are found in many places in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

9. The two main teachings of the Bible are law and _____.

10. Gospel means _____.

11. The word "Gospel" is used for the four books of the Bible, which tell the story of _____ life.

12. The word "gospel" is also used for all the parts of the Bible which tell us the good things that God has _____.

13. The law shows us our _____, and the Gospel shows us who our _____ is.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 25)

Review Of Chapter Two

In the Bible God speaks directly to us. The Bible contains two main teachings, the law and the gospel. The law tells us what God wants us to do and not to do. It shows us our sin. It tells us if we do not perfectly obey God, he must punish us. The gospel is good news. It tells us of all God's promises to help and save us. It shows us our Savior from sin. The word "Gospel" is also used for the four New Testament books that tell the story of Jesus' life.



Answers for page 24: 9. gospel; 10. good news; 11. Jesus'; 12. done for us; 13. sins, Savior.

Test on Chapter Two

1. The two main teachings of the Bible are _____ and _____.

Circle the statement which is better.

2. a) We need the law to show us how to be saved.
b) We need the law to show us the evil we have done.
3. a) The gospel shows us our Savior.
b) The gospel shows us how to live Christian lives.
4. a) Law is found only in the Old Testament and gospel is found only in the New Testament.
b) Law and gospel are both found in many places in the Bible.
5. a) The Bible is like a lot of other religious books.
b) The Bible tells us the truth about God.

Write before each statement whether it is law (L) (what we must do or not do) or gospel (G) (God's promises to us).

_____ 6. So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

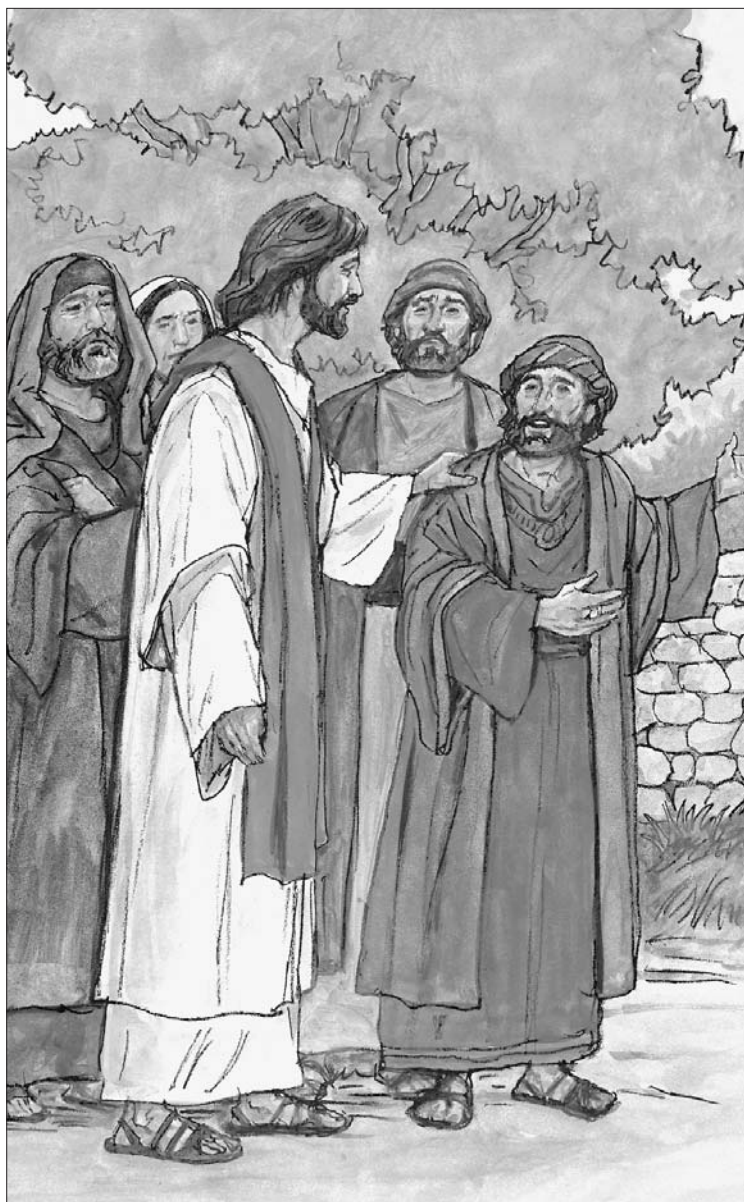
_____ 7. God gives you the gift of eternal life.

_____ 8. Your sins are forgiven.

_____ 9. Don't take part in the sins of others.
Keep yourself pure.

_____ 10. Christ died for sins once and for all time. He died to bring you to God

(Check your answers on page 58)



*Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted
to come to his house.*



Chapter 3

HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

Many people are great storytellers. Some even write down their stories hoping to publish them in a book some day. But do you believe all the stories you hear? Many storytellers do not remember the facts very well. Others make changes on purpose to make themselves look better.

God tells us his story in the Bible. He used men to write down these "stories." But he made sure his book told the stories exactly as they happened - no mistakes and no changes are found in the Bible. That is why the Bible is such an important book for us to study. By the end of this chapter you should be able to:

- * tell why the Bible is called the Word of God;
- * tell what "verbally inspired" means; and
- * tell which languages the Old and New Testaments were written in.

A prophet is one who speaks for God. Writers of the Old Testament books are commonly called prophets. As the prophets wrote God's words, they often spoke about the coming of the Savior and other gospel truths. The prophets of the Old Testament wrote their books in the Hebrew language because Hebrew was the language of God's people in those days.

1. Men called _____ wrote the Old Testament before the time of Jesus' birth.
2. Prophets wrote the Old Testament in the _____ language.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 33)

Jesus' friends and followers were called his disciples. The books of the New Testament were written by some of Jesus' disciples. The disciples wrote the New Testament in the Greek language because by that time Greek was the language used in much of the world.

Today most of us do not know Greek and Hebrew. So Christians have changed or translated the Hebrew and Greek words of the Old and New Testaments into English or Spanish or other languages. In that way we can all understand the Bible.

3. Jesus' followers were called his _____.
4. Some of Jesus' disciples wrote the _____ Testament.

5. The disciples wrote the New Testament in the _____ language.
6. The Bibles we use today are changed or translated into _____ or _____ or other languages.
7. Prophets used the _____ language when they wrote the Old Testament.
8. Jesus' disciples used the _____ language when they wrote the New Testament.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 34)

All the books of the Bible are special. We have just learned that men called prophets and disciples wrote these books. In another way we can say the same person wrote all the books of the Bible. That person is God himself.

The Bible says that God's Holy Spirit told the prophets and disciples what they should speak and write. In this way God made sure the prophets and disciples (also called apostles) wrote the exact words he wanted in the Bible.

Because of this, we say the Bible is verbally inspired.

This means every word in the Bible comes from God. Inspired means breathed into. God breathed his words into the men who wrote the Bible. Verbally means word by word. God did not just breathe in his ideas; he breathed in the exact words of his message to us. Since the Bible is verbally inspired, it can truly be called the Word of God.

9. We can say that _____ person wrote all the books of the Bible. That person is _____.
10. The Holy Spirit told the prophets and some disciples (apostles) what to _____ in the Bible.
11. The two words _____ _____ mean that every word in the Bible is God's.



Answers for page 31: 1. prophets; 2. Hebrew.

12. This is why the Bible can be called the _____ of _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 37)

It is incorrect to say that the Bible only contains the Word of God. A city sewer might contain water, but no one could drink it. The sewer also contains many filthy and harmful impurities. When good water and dirty water are mixed, the good water all becomes useless.

The Bible not only contains the Word of God; the Bible is the Word of God. It is pure and has no mistakes mixed in. God himself made sure there were no mistakes in it. And since God does not lie, we can be sure that the words of the Bible are true. We can trust everything the Bible tells us.

13. The Bible _____ the Word of God.

14. There are _____ mistakes in the Bible.



Answers for pages 31-32: 3. disciples; 4. New; 5. Greek; 6. English, Spanish; 7. Hebrew; 8. Greek.

15. Everything the Bible says is _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 37)

Review Of Chapter Three

Before Jesus was born, prophets spoke God's message to the people. These prophets wrote the Old Testament in the Hebrew language. Some of Jesus' followers, the disciples, wrote the New Testament in the Greek language. We use English or other language translations of the Bible.

Many different prophets and disciples wrote Bible books. But God was the real author of the whole Bible. He told the men to write down his message with the exact words that he wanted. That is why we say the Bible is verbally inspired, and call it the Word of God. And that is why there are no mistakes in the Bible. It is all true. Everything it says can be trusted.

Test On Chapter Three

Tell what the words in the first column mean by placing a letter from the second column on each line:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. verbally | a. another name for the Bible |
| _____ 2. inspired | b. word by word |
| _____ 3. disciples | c. men who wrote New Testament books |
| _____ 4. God | d. breathed |
| _____ 5. The Word of God | e. the author of the entire Bible |
| _____ 6. prophets | f. men who wrote Old Testament books |

In each sentence below two words are underlined. Circle the word that makes the sentence into a true statement.

7. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew/Greek language.
8. The New Testament was written in the English/Greek language.

9. The Bible contains/is God's Word.

10. The prophets and disciples were allowed/inspired by God to write the words of the Bible.

11. The Bible contains few/no mistakes.

(Check your answers on page 58)



Answers for pages 33-34: 9. one, God; 10. write;
11. verbally inspired; 12. Word, God.
Answers for pages 34-35: 13. is; 14. no; 15. true.



The Holy Spirit gave the friends of Jesus the power to tell others of God's love.



Chapter 4

HOW DO I USE THE BIBLE?

To get around in a large city you need to know the names of the streets and where certain buildings are found. Once you know the names of the streets and the places where certain buildings are found, life is a bit easier.

The same is true with the Bible. In the past lessons you have learned some of the more important terms and information about the Bible. In this lesson we will teach you how to

find your way around that big book. By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- * use the Bible's Table of Contents to find Bible books; and
- * know how to find a Bible reference by chapter and verse.

When you turn to the opening pages of your Bible, you should find a page that says on the top: TABLE OF CONTENTS. Underneath are listed the names of all the books of the Bible. The TABLE OF CONTENTS in your Bible will look very much like the one printed on page 41. Take a close look at this page before you continue reading.

The books written before Jesus was born are listed first. Read through the names of the 39 books in the Old Testament. The names of some books may sound strange. Sometimes the books of the Old Testament were named after the prophets who wrote them. For

Table of Contents

The Old Testament

Genesis	1	Ecclesiastes	708
Exodus	55	Song of Songs	719
Leviticus	99	Isaiah	726
Numbers	134	Jeremiah	807
Deuteronomy	184	Lamentations	882
Joshua	225	Ezekiel	890
Judges	254	Daniel	945
Ruth	281	Hosea	962
1 Samuel	285	Joel	974
2 Samuel	320	Amos	979
1 Kings	350	Obadiah	988
2 Kings	386	Jonah	990
1 Chronicles	422	Micah	993
2 Chronicles	459	Nahum	1001
Ezra	498	Habakkuk	1004
Nehemiah	511	Zephaniah	1008
Esther	529	Haggai	1012
Job	538	Zechariah	1014
Psalms	576	Malachi	1024
Proverbs	673		

The New Testament

Matthew	1029	1 Timothy	1255
Mark	1065	2 Timothy	1260
Luke	1087	Titus	1264
John	1125	Philemon	1266
Acts	1153	Hebrews	1267
Romans	1188	James	1279
1 Corinthians	1204	1 Peter	1283
2 Corinthians	1219	2 Peter	1288
Galatians	1229	1 John	1291
Ephesians	1235	2 John	1295
Philippians	1241	3 John	1296
Colossians	1245	Jude	1297
1 Thessalonians	1249	Revelation	1299
2 Thessalonians	1253		

example, the prophet Isaiah wrote the book of Isaiah. At other times the name of the book tells us something about what is in the book. The word "genesis" means beginning. The book of Genesis tells us about the beginning of the earth, of human life, and of God's special people.

1. You might guess from the title that the Old Testament book of "Joel" was written by the prophet _____.
2. The story of the Exodus (leaving) of the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt is found toward the beginning of the Bible. Can you guess which Old Testament book you might find this story in?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 44)

Look again at the Table of Contents. Read through the books of the New Testament. Remember, all of these books were written after the birth of Jesus. Some of these books are named after the people who wrote them.

The first book in the New Testament is called Matthew. The disciple Matthew wrote it.

3. The disciple named _____ wrote the New Testament Gospel called John.
4. The third book of the New Testament was written by the disciple _____.
(Look at the Table of Contents to find the answer.)

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 44)

In some cases the books of the New Testament are named after the people to whom the books or letters were sent. For example, the book of Galatians, is a letter written by the Christian named Paul to a group of people living in a place called Galatia.

5. Can you find the name of a letter written by Paul to the Christians living in the city of Rome? _____
6. Just by looking at the titles, how many books of the New Testament can you find that could have been written by the disciple Peter? _____

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 44)

Look again at the Table of Contents. If you look closely, you will see that some of the names of the books have numbers in front of them. In the Old Testament, for example, there is 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel. The book of Samuel was so long that it was divided into two parts. We call the two parts "First Samuel" and "Second Samuel."

Now look at the New Testament part of the Table of Contents. There, too, some of the books have numbers in front of their names. Can you find 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians? This was not a long book divided into two parts. These are two different letters that Paul wrote to the church in the city of Thessalonica. That is why we have "First Thessalonians" and "Second Thessalonians" in the New Testament.



Answers for page 42: 1. Joel; 2. Exodus.
Answers for page 43: 3. John; 4. Luke; 5. Romans;
6. 2 (1 Peter, 2 Peter).

7. In the Old Testament there are books called 1 Kings and 2 Kings. The book of Kings was so long that it was _____ into _____ parts.
8. In the New Testament there are books called 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. These are 3 different _____ written by John.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 46)

Many years after the Bible was written, it was divided into sections called chapters and verses. Chapters usually contain many sentences, sometimes a whole page or more of the Bible. Each chapter is divided into smaller sections called verses. Verses are usually one sentence long.

Maybe you have heard a Christian say something like this: "My favorite part of the Bible is John three sixteen." Or maybe you have seen it written like this: John 3:16. They are talking about words found in the Gospel of John, chapter three, verse sixteen. When referring to a Bible passage, the book of the

Bible is listed first, followed by the chapter number, two dots (:), then the verse number, as in John 3:16.

9. The large sections into which Bible books have been divided are called _____.
10. Chapters are divided into small one sentence divisions called _____.
11. When one person wishes to tell another person where to find something in the Bible, the _____ of the Bible is given first, followed by the _____ number, two dots, and then the _____ number.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 49)

When you read your Bible, the chapter number is usually printed as a large number. The verse number is printed much smaller. On pages 47 and 48 we have printed two pages from the Bible. Carefully look at these pages.



Answers for page 45: 7. divided, two; 8. letters.

Mark 3: 35 - 4:12

³⁵ Anyone who does what God wants is my brother or sister or mother.”

The Story of the Farmer

4 Again Jesus began to teach by the Sea of Galilee. The crowd that gathered around him was very large. So he got into a boat. He sat down in it out on the lake. All the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. ² He taught them many things by using stories.

In his teaching he said, ³ “Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. ⁴ He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn’t much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶ When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. So the plants did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60 or even 100 times more than the farmer planted.”

⁹ Then Jesus said, “Those who have ears should listen.”

¹⁰ Later Jesus was alone. The Twelve asked him about the stories. So did the others around him. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of God’s kingdom has been given to you. But to outsiders everything is told by using stories. ¹² In that way,

“They will see but never know
what they are seeing.

They will hear but never understand.

Otherwise they might turn and be
forgiven!” (Isaiah 6:9,10)

Mark 4:13 - 23

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this story? Then how will you understand any stories of this kind? ¹⁴ The seed the farmer plants is God’s message. ¹⁵ What is seed scattered on a path like? The message is planted. The people hear the message. Then Satan comes. He takes away the message that was planted in them. ¹⁶ And what is seed scattered on rocky places like? The people hear the message. At once they receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message. ¹⁸ And what is seed scattered among thorns like? The people hear the message. ¹⁹ But then the worries of this life come to them. Wealth comes with its false promises. The people also long for other things. All of those are the kinds of things that crowd out the message. They keep it from producing fruit. ²⁰ And what is seed scattered on good soil like? The people hear the message. They accept it. They produce a good crop 30, 60 or even 100 times more than the farmer planted.”

A Lamp on a Stand

²¹ Jesus said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a large bowl or a bed? Don’t you put it on its stand? ²² What is hidden is meant to be seen. And what is put out of sight is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³ Everyone who has ears should listen.”

12. On pages 47 and 48 draw a line under all numbers which indicate a chapter.
13. Circle all numbers which identify a verse.
14. Using those same pages, look up the proper verses and fill in the missing words:

A. Mark 4:8 Still other seed fell on the good _____ . It _____ up and produced a _____ .

B. Mark 4:3 "Listen! "A _____ went out to plant his _____ ."

C. Mark 4:10 Later, Jesus was _____ . The Twelve _____ him about the stories.

15. To find any passage in the Bible, first find the book, then the chapter, then the _____ .

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)



Answers for page 46: 9. chapters; 10. verses;
11. book, chapter, verse.

Sometimes the names of Bible books are shortened or abbreviated. For example, Matthew is sometimes shortened to "Matt.," and Isaiah is shortened to "Is." So, "Jn. 3:16" means "The book of John, chapter 3, verse 16."

A list of common abbreviations is found below. Use the list to complete the exercise on the following page:

Some Abbreviations used for Bible Books:

Old Testament

Gen. = Genesis

Ex. = Exodus

Num. = Numbers

1 Sam. = 1 Samuel

2 Chron. = 2 Chronicles

Ps. = Psalms

Is. = Isaiah

New Testament

Matt. = Matthew

Mk. = Mark

Lk. = Luke

Jn. = John

Rom. = Romans

Phil. = Philippians

2 Tim. = 2 Timothy



Answers for page 49: 12. underline the large 4; 13. all numbers should be circled except those on the top of each page and the large 4 on page 47; 14. A) soil, grew, crop; B) farmer, seed; C) alone, asked; 15. verse.

16. Matt. 5:6 means: The book of _____,
chapter _____, verse _____.
17. 2 Tim. 1:3 means: The _____ letter of
_____, chapter _____, verse _____.
18. Gen. 3:15 means: The book of _____,
chapter _____, verse _____.

Write the proper abbreviation for the following references:

19. The book of Philippians, chapter 4, verse 2
_____.
20. The book of Second Chronicles, chapter 5,
verse 5 _____.
21. The book of Mark, chapter 10, verse 13
_____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 52)

Review Of Chapter Four

The Table of Contents in the front of the Bible lists all 66 Bible books in their proper order. Some books are named after the men who wrote them. Some have names that describe what the book is about. Some Old Testament books have numbers in front of their names because they were so long that they were divided into two parts. Some New Testament letters have numbers in front of their names because several letters were written by the same person or to the same church or person.

Each book is divided into chapters, and each chapter is divided into verses. Most verses are one sentence long. To identify a particular sentence in the Bible, we can name it by the book it is in, the chapter, and the verse (John 3:16). This helps us to find a sentence in the Bible very quickly.



Answers for page 51: 16. Matthew, five, six; 17. Second Timothy, one, three; 18. Genesis, three, fifteen; 19. Phil. 4:2; 20. 2 Chron. 5:5; 21. Mk. 10:13.

Test On Chapter Four

You may use the Table of Contents in your Bible or in this booklet when completing this test.

In the spaces provided, write whether the following books are in the "Old Testament", the "New Testament", or are "not in the Bible."

1. _____ Mark
2. _____ Revelation
3. _____ Isaiah
4. _____ Psalms
5. _____ Genesis
6. _____ Koran
7. _____ 1 Corinthians
8. _____ Jude

9. _____ Malachi
10. _____ Mormon
11. _____ Proverbs
12. _____ Romans

Write out the reference for the following Bible passages:

13. Book of Titus, chapter 2, verse 14

14. Book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 6

15. Book of First Chronicles, chapter 29,
verse 11 _____

16. Book of Leviticus, chapter 23, verse 3

17. Book of Acts, chapter 4, verse 20

(Check your answers on page 58)



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

abbreviated	shortened
apostles	another name for Jesus' disciples
consequently	as a result
describe	to tell what something is like
disciples	Jesus' friends and followers
divided	made into parts
division	a part
epistle	letter
Gospel	1. one of the four books about Jesus' life
gospel	2. the good news of what God has done to save us
history	facts from the past
identify	to show or prove who or what someone or something is
immoral	wrong and sinful
impurities	things that are not clean and good

inspired	breathed into
particular	a certain kind of thing
poetry	poems and songs
prophecy	messages which God wrote through men
prophets	men through whom God spoke or wrote
publish	to print out as in a book
sewer	a pipe used to transport human waste
verbally	word by word



Conclusion

Congratulations! You have now finished your study of the "Bible Handbook." You may have known some of the information in the book before you started. But we hope you learned much more about that wonderful book God has given us, the Bible. No matter how much you read it, there is always much more to learn. We hope your study of this little book will help you study the "big book" better.



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter Test One: (Page 14-15)

1. Check the picture on page 7 and page 10 for the correct answers;
2. Old Testament; 3. New Testament; 4. poetry; 5. history;
6. Gospels; 7. prophecy; 8. letters.

Chapter Test Two: (Page 26-27)

1. law, gospel; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b; 5. b; 6. law; 7. gospel;
8. gospel; 9. law; 10. gospel.

Chapter Test Three: (Page 36-37)

1. Verbally - b. word by word; 2. inspired - d. breathed;
3. disciples - c. men who wrote New Testament books;
4. God - e. the author of the entire Bible;
5. The Word of God - a. another name for the Bible;
6. prophets - f. men who wrote Old Testament books;
7. Hebrew; 8. Greek; 9. is; 10. inspired; 11. no.

Chapter Four Test: (Page 53-54)

1. New Testament; 2. New Testament; 3. Old Testament;
4. Old Testament; 5. Old Testament; 6. Not in Bible;
7. New Testament; 8. New Testament; 9. Old Testament;
10. Not in Bible; 11. Old Testament; 12. New Testament;
13. Titus (or Tit.) 2:14; 14. Hebrews (or Heb.) 11:6;
15. 1 Chronicles (or 1 Chron.) 29:11; 16. Leviticus (or Lev.) 23:3;
17. Acts 4:20.



Final Test

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals (marked with a star *) at the beginning of each lesson. When you are sure that you know all the goals, you are ready to take the final test.

Complete the final test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address at the end of this book. You may also ask for more Bible study books in this series.

When you are ready, remove the sheets containing the test, and put this book away. Complete the test without opening the book again.



The Bible Handbook *Final Test*

On the blank line write:

O.T. if the statement is talking about the Old Testament,

N.T. if the statement describes the New Testament,

Both if the statement describes both Old and New Testaments.

1. _____ 39 books written before Jesus was born
2. _____ Teaches the good news of salvation
3. _____ Teaches about God's law
4. _____ Written by men known as "prophets"
5. _____ Written by Jesus' disciples or apostles
6. _____ Originally written in the Hebrew language
7. _____ Originally written in the Greek language

8. _____ 27 books written after the time Jesus was born
9. _____ Contains 1 Corinthians, a letter written by the apostle Paul
10. _____ Contains 1 Chronicles, a book about Israel 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.
11. _____ The four Gospels are found here.

Complete the following statements:

12. The 3 shelves in the Old Testament
bookcase hold _____,
_____ and
_____ books.
13. The 3 shelves in the New Testament
bookcase hold _____,
_____ and
_____ books.

14. While different men wrote the books of the Bible, the true author of the Bible is _____.
15. We say the Bible is verbally inspired because God _____ into the writers each _____ he wanted them to use.
16. The Bible contains _____ mistakes.
17. The two main teachings of the Bible are _____ and _____.
18. God put his law in the Bible to show us the _____ we have done.
19. God revealed the gospel in the Bible to show us our _____.
20. John 3:16 refers to the Bible book of _____, the third _____, the sixteenth _____.

Draw lines to show in which book of the Bible you would look to find the following things:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 21. Old Testament prophecies | Mark |
| 22. New Testament prophecies | Genesis |
| 23. The beginning of the world | Psalms |
| 24. Poems about God | Isaiah |
| 25. The story of Jesus' life | Revelation |

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