

APPROACHING THE BIBLE

A. The _____ of the Scriptures

➤ Introduction: Names Designated to the Scriptures

- **The Bible** – taken from the Greek words, “*biblion, biblos*” which means literally a book, scroll or writing. The canon of the 66 books of Scripture is called “The Bible” because it is in fact “The Book of Books.” Mark 12:26; Luke 3:4; 20:42.
- **The Law** – “*torah*” God’s unalterable directive revelation to man. It can refer to the Pentateuch or to the whole of Scripture. It is not there for interest, but rather obedience, Psalm 119:1.
- **Testimonies** – being God’s declaration or witness to man, Psalm 119:2.
- **The Ways** – the paths showing God’s people how we should walk in life, Psalm 119:3.
- **The Precepts** – The word carries the picture of an overseer or officer who attends closely to the work caring about the details. Therefore it refers to, specific instructions from the Lord given to men to direct their conduct, Psalm 119:4.
- **The Statutes** – from a word meaning “to engrave,” God’s Word is fixed and engraved by God, to be adhered to precisely. It speaks of the binding force and permanency of Scripture, Psalm 119: 5.
- **The Commandments** – speaks of authority declaring any violation to be absolute rebellion, Psalm 119:6.
- **The Judgements** – referring to the final decrees laid down by God, with no further court of appeal, Psalm 119:7.
- **The Word of God** – plainly declaring the source and authority of the Scriptures to be found in God, Psalm 119:9; Hebrews 4:12
- **The Scriptures** – taken from the Greek word, “*graphe*” meaning “a writing” is always translated in the N.T. as “scripture/s” for it refers to that which was revealed by God through His prophets, being both inspired and authoritative, Matthew 21:42; Mark 15:28; Luke 24:27; John 10:35.
- **The Oracles** – taken from the Greek word, “*logion*” meaning “utterance” and referring to that which God has spoken, Acts 7:38; Romans 3:2; Hebrews 5:12; 1 Peter 4:11.
- **The Old Testament & New Testament** – taken from the Greek word, “*diat heke*” meaning a contract, agreement, will, covenant or testament. A covenant is a relationship between two parties in which each is bound to fulfil certain conditions, and by which are promised certain advantages. The Old Testament was a covenant made by God, through Moses, concerning Israel. The New Testament was a covenant made by God, through Christ, concerning all believers.

“...one of the primary goals of the Bible student is to understand the whole before interpreting the parts.” John Phillips

a. **Its** _____

1. Sixty-six individual books in the Bible.
 - a) The Old Testament (O.T.) has 39 books
 - 1.It contains 929 chapters, and 23,145 verses.
 - b) The New Testament (N.T.) has 27 books
 - 1.It contains 260 chapters, and 7,957 verses.
 - c) The Testaments combined contain 1,189 chapters, and 31,102 verses.
 - d) The Bible is divided into 1189 chapters. This was done by Stephen Langton in AD 1227.
 - e) The Bible is divided into 31,102 verses by Robert Stephens in AD 1550.
2. The Bible is One unified Book
 - a) It bears witness to ONE God.
 - b) It forms ONE continuous story.
 - c) It has ONE plan of Salvation.
 - d) It has ONE central theme – Jesus Christ – John 5:39

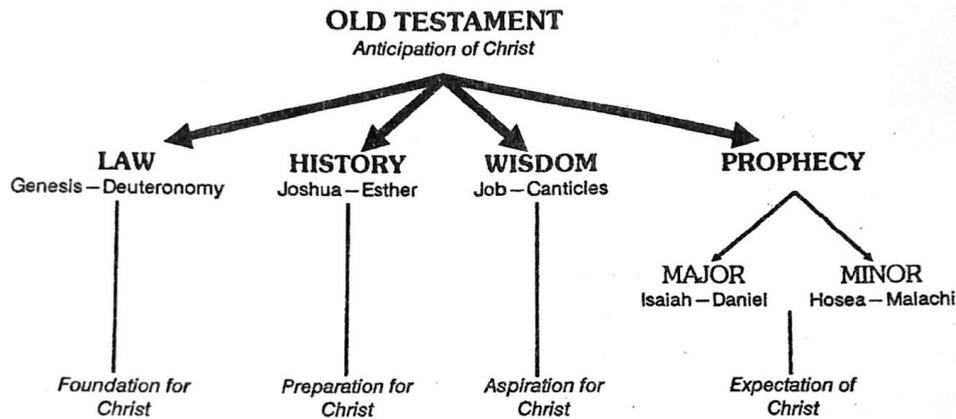
b. **Its** _____

1. Its Writers
 - a) There were 40 human authors who penned the Word of God. They were from all walks of life: prophets, kings, respected leaders, fishermen, ex-Pharisees, shepherds etc.
2. Its Time Span
 - a) The Bible was written by these 40 authors spread over a period of approx. 1,600 years. From Moses who wrote around 1,500 B.C. to John at 100 A.D.
 - b) Its historical record spans from the beginning of Creation approx. 6,000 B.C. until around 95 A.D. If we consider the book of Revelation it records even until the end of time.
3. Its Languages
 - a) *Hebrew* is the language the O.T. was written in. There are some parts of the O.T. which are written in *Aramaic*.
 - b) *Koine Greek* is the language the N.T. was written in. *Koine* means “common” and therefore it was common Greek.

c. **Its** _____

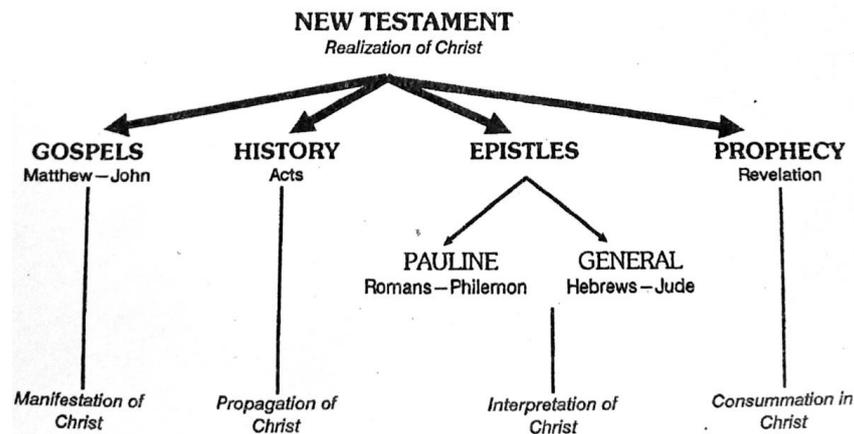
1. Divided Into Testaments – Old and New
2. O.T. Division of books:
 - a) Pentateuch – 5 books, Genesis to Deuteronomy
 - b) History – 12 books, Joshua to Esther
 - c) Poetry – 5 books, Job to Song of Solomon
 - d) Prophets – 5 books, Major Prophets; Isaiah to Daniel
 - e) Minor Prophets – 12 books, Hosea to Malachi

According to Luke 24:44 the Jewish divisions of the O.T. were categorized as: Law, Prophets, and Psalms.



3. N.T. Division of books:

- a) Gospels – 4 books, Matthew to John
- b) History – 1 book, Acts
- c) Epistles – 21 books, Romans to Jude
 - 1. Pauline Epistles, Romans to Philemon
 - 2. General Epistles, Hebrews to Jude
- d) Prophecy – 1 book, Revelation



Homework:

➤ Reading & Quotations: Bible Explorers Guide, J. Phillips – Part 2 – Ch. 1-3

“This book contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the Judgment, and is established forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour, and condemn all who trifle with its contents.”