

How to Read the Bible

LESSON PREFACE

for All Its Worth

Getting to Know myBible

Some Introductory Comments

This lesson series is loosely based upon the fourth edition of How to Read the Bible for All its Worth by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. It is not intended to replace the reading of this excellent book, but to provide a guide for group or private study and some examples of how to apply the principles taught.

Before you begin a deeper study of how to dig out the precious truths of Scripture, it is useful to have an understanding of the basic terms used to describe the Bible, its structure, and organization. To complete this lesson, read the first lesson in the myBible series, "The Structure and Organization of the Bible" posted at: www.anchoredresources.org

The myBible lesson will provide you a foundation for going forward in this study. If you want to learn more about the origin, inspiration, transmission, and translation of Scriptures, feel free to continue with the myBible series. However, only the first lesson is necessary to complete this worksheet.

What is the Bible?

Fill in the blanks:

- There are over **6 billion** Bibles in print
- Scripture exists in at least **2,798** languages.
- The Bible consists of **66** books.

Where did the word, "Bible" come from?

It comes from the Greek *biblion*, derived from the word *byblos*, a name for papyrus. Papyrus was the earliest paper, made from a reed plant common in Egypt. Sheets of papyrus were spliced together to form scrolls. Eventually codexes (or books) replaced scrolls and sheets of biblion were stacked on top of each other, making a biblia (plural). The word Bible, really just means "book".

Circle the words that should be capitalized.

- I like to use the dictionary as my bible for word origins.
- I read the bible last night
- The preacher brought a message about the origin of the bible.
- The Fish and Game regulations are the bible for hunters and fishermen in Alaska.

What are the Testaments?

Define the following terms:

Testament – the word, "testament" has changed meaning since it was first used. The best word is probably, "covenant"

Covenant – agreement, contract, or alliance

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Lesson Preface – Getting to Know myBible

What is meant by the “Old Testament”? Provide the Scriptural support for your answer and explain it.

The Old Testament is God’s revealed relationship with His people prior to Christ. The Old Testament is the “Old Covenant” and was made between God and Israel at Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 24:8).

What is meant by the “New Testament”? Provide the Scriptural support for your answer and explain it.

The New Testament is God’s revealed relationship with His people after Christ came. The New Testament is the “New Covenant” and was prophesied by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34) and referenced by Christ at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:28, 1 Cor. 11:23-25).

The following passage provides a comparative perspective of both the Old and New “Testaments”:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” (NASB95)

How do you enter into the “New Testament” today?

It comes by salvation, when an individual repents of their sins and puts their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. See Hebrews 8:6-10.

The Old Testament

Fill in the blanks:

- The Old Testament has **39** books
- It was written from around **1500** BC to around **400** BC
- Historically, it covers the time from creation (around **4000** BC) to **400** BC.

What do Jews call the Old Testament?

The Bible

Describe the four Christian categories of Old Testament scripture. How many books are in each category?

1. **The Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy) - 5**
2. **Historical Books (Joshua – Esther) - 12**
3. **Poetic or Wisdom Literature (Job – Song of Solomon) - 5**
4. **Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi) - 17**

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Lesson Preface – Getting to Know myBible

The Jews have a different order of Old Testament scriptures. Is a specific order divinely inspired? Why or why not?

No, it has been different over time. The order is not important, the content is what matters.

What is the oldest book of the Old Testament?

Job

List seven writers that God inspired to write the Old Testament.

Answers may vary.

Where does the Hebrew language come from? Can we trace it back to Babel?

Yes, the Hebrew language is a Semitic language (coming from Shem's descendents) back at the Tower of Babel.

What is the other language used in writing the Old Testament?

Aramaic

The New Testament

Fill in the blanks:

- The New Testament has 27 books.
- It was written from late 40's AD to early 90's AD.
- Historically, it covers from 0 AD through 60's AD.
- Prophetically, it provides a preview God's dealing with man through the end of time.

Which five (possibly six) books of the New Testament were not written by an apostle?

Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, James, and possibly Jude (a sixth).

What language was used in writing the New Testament?

Greek