

Bible Overview



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Canon

- The word "canon" comes from the Greek "κανών" (Kanon), meaning "rule" or "measuring stick".
- 66 books of the bible are the "canon".
- 39 books in the Old Testament (called the Tanakh by Jews)
- 27 books in the New Testament.

Parts of the Bible

- Table of Contents – List of the books in the main text of the Bible.
- Main Text – Contains the 66 books of the Bible and is split up into chapters and verses.
- Appendix – Contains useful information that can be used to help or enhance understanding of the main text. Usually has things like maps, charts, genealogies, specific explanations of certain topics, timelines, etc.

Bible Divisions

- The Bible is commonly divided into 9 different major sections or divisions.
- Some books in the bible are chronological (in the order that they occurred) but many are not.

The Law (Pentateuch/Torah)

- 1-Genesis
- 2-Exodus
- 3-Leviticus
- 4-Numbers
- 5-Deuteronomy

Historical Books

- 6-Joshua
- 7-Judges
- 8-Ruth
- 9-1st Samuel
- 10-2nd Samuel
- 11-1st Kings
- 12-2nd Kings
- 13-1st Chronicles
- 14-2nd Chronicles
- 15-Ezra
- 16-Nehemiah
- 17-Esther

Poetry and Wisdom

- 18-Job
- 19-Psalms
- 20-Proverbs
- 21-Ecclesiastes
- 22-Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

- 23-Isaiah
- 24-Jeremiah
- 25-Lamentations
- 26-Ezekiel
- 27-Daniel

Minor Prophets

- 28-Hosea
- 29-Joel
- 30-Amos
- 31-Obadiah
- 32-Jonah
- 33-Micah
- 34-Nahum
- 35-Habakkuk
- 36-Zephaniah
- 37-Haggai
- 38-Zechariah
- 39-Malachi

The Gospels and Acts

- 40-Matthew
- 41-Mark
- 42-Luke
- 43-John
- 44-Acts

Paul's Epistles

- 45-Romans
- 46-1st Corinthians
- 47-2nd Corinthians
- 48-Galatians
- 49-Ephesians
- 50-Philippians
- 51-Colossians
- 52-1st Thessalonians
- 53-2nd Thessalonians
- 54-1st Timothy
- 55-2nd Timothy
- 56-Titus
- 57-Philemon

General Epistles

- 58-Hebrews
- 59-James
- 60-1st Peter
- 61-2nd Peter
- 62-1st John
- 63-2nd John
- 64-3rd John
- 65-Jude

Revelation

- 66-Revelation

Bible Translations

There are 3 major types of bible translations:

- **Literal** (Word for word - as close to the original Hebrew & Greek as possible).
- **Dynamic** (thought for thought – each verse is a general meaning of the original text)
- **Free** (Paraphrase – the translator changed the verses into “story like” or “easy reader” form.)

Original Hebrew & Greek Texts

- There are 2 thoughts behind what was the best original text:
 - 1) The oldest text is the most reliable or
 - 2) the most common text is the most reliable.
- ALL English bibles are translations and not the original/exact word of God.

Most Important Translation Aspects

- Only the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts given directly by God to the author were perfect.
- We read translations and all translations have poorly chosen words and minor corruptions (errors) because they are done by men.
- The most important aspect of bible translations is that it comes from the best original manuscripts.
- For the Old Testament, it is the “Masoretic Texts” maintained by Hebrew scholars.
- For the New Testament, it is the “Textus Receptus” or “Received Text”.

Good Translations

- King James Version (KJV)
- New King James Version (NKJV)
- New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- English Standard Version (ESV)

Bible Commentaries

- Godly men (theologians) have written explanations of what the verses/passages of the bible mean.
- This is separated from the main bible text (by a line) and is usually at the bottom of each page.
- These are the words and opinions of men...not God.
- Use more than one commentary if you are researching a difficult topic.
- Pray for understanding...The Holy Spirit wrote the bible so He is the best helper to help us understand the bible.

Some Good Commentaries

- E.W. Bullinger (The Companion Bible)
- Clarence Larkin
- Dr. Thomas Constable
- Believer's Bible Commentary

Concordance

- A word reference index for every word in the bible.
- You can search for a particular word and it will tell you every instance of that word in the bible.
- “Strong’s” (James Strong) concordance is one of the most popular for Hebrew & Greek.
- Also, Thayer, Vines, Brown-Driver-Briggs, and Easton.

Types of Concordances

- **Word (English) concordance** – Also called an “exhaustive concordance” Lists typical definitions of a particular word and all of the verses that the word is used in.
- **Hebrew Concordance** – A number is assigned to every unique Hebrew word in the bible as it was translated and the concordance lists the original Hebrew definition as well as all the places the word is used.

- **Greek Concordance** – A number is assigned to every unique Greek word in the bible as it was translated and the concordance lists the original Greek definition as well as all the places the word is used.

Bible Software

- Software that can be used to read the bible electronically.
- Usually contains one or more versions of the bible, one or more commentaries, and a concordance.
- The best free software I have found is called “e-Sword” (www.e-sword.net).
- There are also many online resources on the internet.

Lost Books

- Books mentioned in the bible that are not part of the bible (Lost Books).
- 23 books mentioned but not included.
- Most are lost but only one complete book is available (Book of Enoch).

1. Book of the Covenant (Exodus 24:)
2. Book of the Wars of the Lord (Numbers 21:14)
3. Book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13) and (2 Samuel 1:18)
4. The Manner of the Kingdom / Book of Statutes (1 Samuel 10:25)
5. Book of Samuel the Seer (1 Chronicles 29:29)
6. Nathan the Prophet (1 Chronicles 29:29) and (2 Chronicles 9:29)
7. Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41)
8. Shemaiah the Prophet (2 Chronicles 12:15)
9. Prophecy of Abijah (2 Chronicles 9:29)
10. Story of Prophet Iddo (2 Chronicles 13:22)

11. Visions of Iddo the Seer (2 Chronicles 9:29)
12. Iddo Genealogies (2 Chronicles 12:15)
13. Book of Jehu (2 Chronicles 20:34)
14. Sayings of the Seers (2 Chronicles 33:19)
15. Book of Enoch (Jude 1:14)** – **AVAILABLE**
16. Book of Gad the Seer (1 Chronicles 29:29)
17. Epistle to Corinth (1 Corinthians 5:9)
18. Epistle to the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:3)
19. Epistle from Laodicea to the Colossians (Colossians 4:16)
20. Nazarene Prophecy Source (Matthew 2:23)
21. Acts of Uziah (2 Chronicles 26:22)
22. The Annals of King David (1 Chronicles 27:24)
23. Jude, the Missing Epistle (Jude 1:3)

Apocryphal Books

- Non-Canon books.
- These books are not mentioned in the bible.
- Referred to as “secret” or “hidden” books.
- Accepted by Roman Catholics.
- 15 books are common but there are others also.

1. 1 Esdras
2. 2 Esdras
3. Tobit
4. Judith
5. Additions to Esther
6. Wisdom of Solomon
7. Ecclesiasticus
8. Baruch
9. Letter of Jeremiah
10. Prayer of Azariah
11. Susanna
12. Bel and the Dragon
13. Prayer of Manasseh
14. 1 Maccabees
15. 2 Maccabees