

Bible Basics - Chapter 1

1. The English word “Bible” is derived from the Latin word Biblia and the Greek word Biblios. Bible means book, or books.

Other terms used for Bible are Scriptures, Holy Scriptures or Holy Writ.

2. The Bible is a compilation of 66 books written by more than 40 authors during a period of approximately 1,500-1600 years.

3. The first part of the Christian Bible is the Old Testament, which contains thirty-nine books and the second part is the New Testament, containing twenty-seven books.

There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the New Testament.

There are 23,145 verses in the Old Testament and 7,957 verses in the New Testament.

4. Old Testament Divisions

Pentateuch-5- Books of the Law- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History-12- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry/Wisdom-5- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song Of Solomon

Prophetic– Major-5- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor-12- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

5. New Testament Divisions

A. Gospels- 4- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

B. History- Acts of the Apostles

C. Epistles- Pauline- 13- Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

– General-8- Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1, 2&3 John, Jude

D. Revelation

6. What is the meaning of “Biblical Canon”? Biblical Canon basically means that the books included are divinely inspired and thus justified as part of the Bible. Jewish Scholars, Rabbis and Leaders of the Early Christian Church all played a definitive role in this. It was finalized by the end of the 4th century.

7. The Bible was divided into chapters in the 13th century by Stephen Langton and into verses in the 16th century by French printer Robert Estienne.

8. The books of the Old Testament were written over a period of approximately 1,000 years, beginning with Moses (around 1450 B.C.) until the time when the Jewish people returned to Judah from exile (538-400 B.C.) during the Persian Empire. The English Bible follows the order of the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint), and thus differs in order from the Hebrew Bible.

9. Books of the New Testament were written between 45-96 A.D. The only means of duplication until the fifteenth century was by manual handwriting. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in A.D. 1454.

New Testament means New Covenant, Contract or Will

It was written in Greek, a few verses in Aramaic

27 Books, 9 Authors,

8 Authors- Jewish, 1 Author- Greek- Luke

260 Chapters

Luke wrote the most part of New Testament [volume wise] – 28%

Paul wrote 23%

27 books were written over a span of 50 years [45-96 AD]

10. The Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh, contains twenty-four books divided into three parts; the five books of the Torah (“teaching” or “law”), the eight books of the Nevi'im (“prophets”), and the the eleven books of Ketuvim (“writings”).