

Part 2: How to Study the Bible for All It's Worth

Revived by The Word: Nehemiah 8:1-12

How was the Bible put together?

Canon = an authoritative collection of books. (66 books in the bible)

Correct View of Canonicity

- The authority of the church is found in the authority of the Bible
- God determined the Canon (the 66 books of the bible), people discovered it
- The Holy Spirit convinced people that a God Inspired Canon existed
--There was subjective and objective reasons--

Five Foundational Questions

1. Was the book written by a prophet or an apostle of God (spokespersons)?
2. Does the message tell the truth about God?
3. Did it come with the power of God?
4. Was it accepted by the people of God?
5. Were the writer and what was written confirmed by acts of God?

Overview of the Bible

66 different books in one volume--39 in the Old Testament; 27 in the New Testament

1. The Bible contains a wide variety of literature: history, poetry, letters, teaching, epic, wisdom, apocalyptic & parables
2. The Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek & Aramaic
3. The Bible was written on three different continents: Asia, Africa, Europe
4. The Bible was written by more than forty different authors from different cultures, backgrounds & time periods
5. The Bible was written over a period of about 1,600 years
6. The Bible contains Great Diversity yet One Single Theme: "There's One True, Living, Loving, Almighty God who created & sustains all things and who reached out to humanity to save them from the penalty of sin for His glory."

2 Major Divisions: Old Testament & New Testament

Testament: covenant or agreement

Old Testament = Old Agreement or Arrangement between God and People (ex.: Mosaic Covenant or Covenant of The Law—see Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

New Testament: New Covenant or agreement or arrangement between God & People brought to us by The Trinity—see John 3:16 & Ephesians 2:8-10)

Major Sections in the Old Testament

The Law(Pentateuch/Torah):Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History: Joshua thru Esther

Poetry/Wisdom: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, (Lamentations), Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Hosea thru Malachi

InterTestament Times = 400 years

Major Sections of the New Testament

Gospels (biographies of Jesus Christ): Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

History of the Early Church: Acts

Paul's Letters: Romans thru Hebrews

Other Letters: James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2 & 3 John, Jude

Apocalyptic: Revelation

How do you study the Bible for All It's Worth?

Begin by choosing a sound readable study bible in the correct print size (visit the Bible Station Today and get a study bible)

Establish a Daily Appointment with God

- Private place with NO DISTRACTIONS
- Comfortable yet workable place
- Put it in your Schedule
- Select best time when you are ready

Devise a Bible Study Plan

- Book in the Bible (suggestion: Philippians)
- Person in the Bible
- Topic in the Bible
- Chapter in the Bible
- Word in the Bible

CAUTION: It Takes Hard Work! (2 Timothy 2:15 & Acts 17:11)

Priority #1 Discover the Original Intended Meaning of the Text

Step 1: Pray!

Step 2: REVIEW the Basics of the Book

Step 3: READ the Text Over & Over

ALWAYS read what comes before & after selected text

NEVER Only Read 1 Verse

Steps 4-9: Next Sunday

Challenge (also known as homework): Do some research on and then read through Philippians in the New Testament of the bible ALL 4 chapters

The Bible: Given not only to Inform but to Transform!