

**Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 1***

**Scripture: *2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17***

We are to be diligent in our study of the Bible. We are to be accurate in study, seeking to understand what the Bible means in its original setting and then applying it to our lives. We are to “rightly divide the word of truth.” This may refer to Paul’s occupation as a tentmaker. He would lay out his material carefully and sow it together with precision and skill. We are not called to be Bible scholars, but we are called to be Bible students.

If we are to make sense of the Bible, we need to have a clear idea of how it is laid out and how it fits together. We need to get a handle on the layout and contents of the Bible. This takes work, but it is well worth the effort. For the next few weeks we are going to look at the whole Bible, see how it all fits together, and get to understand it better. When we finish we will be much better equipped to study the Bible for ourselves and to better understand the individual books. The old proverb says, “Give a man a fish, he will eat today. Teach him how to fish, and he will eat from now on.”

- “It is indispensable to any interesting and fruitful study of the Bible that a general knowledge of it be gained” - *Scofield Study Bible*
- “In Scripture, the person of God and the Word of God are everywhere interrelated, so much so that whatever is true about the character of God is true about the nature of God’s Word. God is true, impeccable, and reliable; therefore, so is His Word. What a person thinks about God’s Word, in reality, reflects what a person thinks about God” - *MacArthur Study Bible*

**To gain a better understanding of the Bible we must...**

- 1) Understand *the layout* of the Bible
- 2) Identify *key people* of the Bible
- 3) Locate *key places* of the Bible
- 4) Understand *key events and subjects* of the Bible
- 5) Understand *the historical stages* of the Bible

**Layout of the Bible:**

**Old Testament (4 sections) – covers about 3,600 years (4,000 B.C. – 400 B.C.)**

- 1) *Law* (Pentateuch; Books of Moses): Genesis—Deuteronomy
- 2) *History*: Joshua—Esther
- 3) *Poetry* (Wisdom Books): Job—Song of Solomon
- 4) *Prophecy*: Isaiah—Malachi

**New Testament (4 sections) – covers about 100 years (4 B.C. – 95 A.D.)**

- 1) *Gospels*: Matthew—John
- 2) *History*: Acts
- 3) *Epistles*: Romans—Jude
- 4) *Prophecy*: Revelation

### **Key People of the Bible:**

Aside from the names of God which are found more than 10,000 times in the Bible and the names of Christ which are found about 1,400 times, these are the names mentioned most frequently in the Bible.

### **Old Testament:**

David (1,118 times); Moses (804); King Saul (388); Aaron (339); Abraham (307); Solomon (297); Jacob (252); Joseph (214); Joshua (201); Joab (138); Jeremiah & Samuel (134); Isaac (128); Hezekiah (124); Elijah (95); Ezekiel (93); Daniel (87); Nebuchadnezzar (91)

### **New Testament:**

Peter (183); Paul (180); John the Baptist (90); the Apostles

### **Key Places of the Bible:**

#### **Old Testament:**

- 1) *Genesis*: Garden of Eden, Babel, Ur, Canaan, Egypt
- 2) *Exodus—Deuteronomy*: Egypt, Red Sea, Mt. Sinai
- 3) *Joshua—1 Kings*: Jordan River, Canaan, Jerusalem
- 4) *2 Kings—Malachi*: Assyria, Babylon, Nineveh

#### **New Testament:**

- 1) *Gospels*: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Judea, Samaria
- 2) *Acts—Revelation*: Jerusalem, Antioch, Asia Minor, Corinth, Athens, Rome

### **Key Events and Subjects of the Bible:**

*Genesis 1-11*: Creation, Fall of Man, the Flood, Tower of Babel

*Genesis 12-50*: Lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

*Exodus*: Plagues, Israel freed from slavery, the Law, the tabernacle

*Leviticus—Numbers*: Instructions for worship, wilderness wanderings

*Deuteronomy*: Final instructions of Moses

*Joshua*: Conquest of the Promised Land

*Judges*: Israel's rebellion, Samson, Gideon

*Ruth*: Marriage of Boaz and Ruth

*1 Samuel—1 Kings 11*: United Kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon

*1 Kings 12—2 Chronicles*: Divided Kingdom and captivity

*Ezra—Esther*: Return and restoration of the Jews

*Job*: A suffering saint and the sovereignty of God

*Psalms*: Songs of worship

*Proverbs*: Wisdom for daily life

*Ecclesiastes*: Search for the meaning of life

*Song of Solomon*: Celebration of love

*Isaiah—Jeremiah*: Final warnings of judgment and promise of restoration

*Lamentations*: Grieving and learning from Israel's fall

*Ezekiel*: Israel in captivity and promise of restoration

*Daniel*: Israel in captivity, future world empires, and the Messiah

*Hosea*: God's love for Israel

*Joel—Amos*: Warnings of judgment and promise of the Messiah

*Obadiah*: Judgment on Edom

*Jonah*: A disobedient prophet and the repentance of Nineveh

*Micah*: Warning to Judah

*Nahum*: Judgment on Nineveh

*Habakkuk—Zephaniah*: Judgment and restoration of Judah

*Haggai—Zechariah*: Encouragement to rebuild the temple

*Malachi*: Warning to Israel after restoration and promise of the Messiah

*Malachi—Matthew*: No Scripture given by God (400 “silent years”)

*Matthew—John*: Life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ

*Acts*: Ascension of Christ, early history of the church, and spread of the Gospel

*Romans—Jude*: Letters to Christians; doctrinal and practical teaching

*Revelation*: God’s plan for the future

**Historical Stages of the Bible:**

4,000 – 2165 B.C.	<i>Creation Stage</i>	Genesis 1-11
2165 – 1804 B.C.	<i>Patriarchal Stage</i>	Genesis 12-50; Job
1804 – 1405 B.C.	<i>Exodus Stage</i>	Exodus—Deuteronomy
1405 – 1382 B.C.	<i>Conquest Stage</i>	Joshua
1382 – 1043 B.C.	<i>Judges Stage</i>	Judges—1 Samuel 7
1043 – 931 B.C.	<i>United Kingdom Stage</i>	1 Samuel 8—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles—2 Chronicles 9; Psalms—Song of Solomon
931 – 605 B.C.	<i>Divided Kingdom Stage</i>	1 Kings 12—2 Kings; 2 Chr. 10—36; Isaiah—Lam.; Hosea—Zephaniah
605 – 538 B.C.	<i>Captivity Stage</i>	Daniel—Ezekiel
538 – 400 B.C.	<i>Return Stage</i>	Ezra—Esther; Haggai—Malachi
400 – 4 B.C.	<i>Inter-Testament Stage</i>	No Scripture given by God
4 B.C. – A.D. 30	<i>Gospel Stage</i>	Matthew—John
A.D.30 – 68	<i>Early Church Stage</i>	Acts
A.D.45 – 100	<i>Epistle Stage</i>	Romans—Revelation

# Know Your Bible – Part 1

## General Overview of the Bible

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**New Testament (4 sections) – covers about 100 years (4 B.C. – 95 A.D.)**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_: Matthew—John
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_: Acts
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_: Romans—Jude
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_: Revelation

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