



2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

## 2 - THE BIBLE

John 5:39 *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. (John 1:1)*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### Suggested reading

- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart
- Understanding Scripture: How to Read and Study the Bible by Alvera and Berkeley Mickelsen
- Exploring The Old Testament by Samuel Schultz and Gary Smith

### BACKGROUND OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible was written in different lands over a period of 1,500 years by more than 40 authors from all walks of life: shepherds, farmers, tentmakers, physician, fishermen, philosophers, tax collector and kings.
2. The Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ of how God acted in human history to establish His Kingdom, to save man and glorify Himself. Jesus Christ is the Center of that activity (John 5:39) and the Promised Redeemer (Genesis 3:15; John 3:3).
3. The Bible is a collection of 66 books divided into two main sections. The Old Testament is the record of God's relationship with people before and in the Law. The New Testament is the record of God's relationship with people after Jesus' Birth, Sacrifice and Resurrection as well as the unfinished record of the Church, His Body in the earth.
4. The books are not all in chronological order but are grouped according to \_\_\_\_\_ of writing.

- A. There are \_\_\_\_\_ books in the Old Testament
- Pentateuch (The law) - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  - Historical Books - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
  - Books of Poetry - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs or Solomon
  - Major Prophets (Longer) - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel
  - Minor Prophets (Shorter) - Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- B. There are \_\_\_\_\_ books in the New Testament
- Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
  - Historical Book - Acts
  - Epistles (Letters, mostly by Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles) - Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
  - Prophecy, Apocalyptic Book - Revelation
- C. **Go to our website**, [discipleshipdevelopment.org](http://discipleshipdevelopment.org) where you can read short descriptions of each book of the Bible. You'll find the link on the Understanding Scripture page.

## A BRIEF OUTLINE OF OLD TESTAMENT EVENTS

Many have difficulty seeing the major Bible events in chronological order simply because the books are grouped in the type of writing not in chronological order. Below is a very brief chronological order of Old Testament events. You can download a more detailed version on our Discipleship Development website under the Discipleship tab.



1. **The Beginnings** (Genesis 1 - 11:26).
  - A. The Creation account.
  - B. The fall of man and the consequences.
  - C. The flood: God's judgment upon a corrupted mankind.
  - D. New beginnings for the human race and the dispersion.
2. **The Patriarchal Era** (Genesis 11:27 - 50:26)
  - A. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
  - B. Joseph's life.
  - C. Israel in Egypt.

3. **The Exodus From Egypt** (Exodus)
  - A. Moses, the plagues of Egypt and the deliverance out of Egypt.
  - B. The Covenant at Mount Sinai.
  - C. Establishing the Priesthood and the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.
4. **The Wilderness Years** (Numbers 10:11 - 25:18; Numbers 33)
  - A. Twelve spies sent into the Land of Canaan; the evil report of the ten.
  - B. God's judgment and Israel's forty year wanderings in the wilderness.
5. **Possessing the Promised Land** (Numbers 26:1 - 36:13; Joshua 1 - 24)
  - A. After Moses dies, Joshua crosses the Jordan, brings Israel into the Promised Land and begins the conquest.
6. **The Judges and Transition to the Monarchy** (Judges, 1 Samuel)
  - A. Israel's seasons of revival, apostasy, servitude and deliverance by Judges.
7. **The Monarchy** (1 Samuel 8:1 - 15:35; 1 Kings 1 - 11; 2 Chronicles 1- 9)
  - A. Samuel anoints Saul, Israel's first King.
  - B. Samuel anoints David; David's years fleeing from Saul; David becomes King in Judah, then Israel.
  - C. Solomon anointed as King and greatly enlarges Israel in every way.
8. **The Divided Kingdom** (1 Kings 12 - 22; 2 Kings 1 - 17; 2 Chronicles 10 - 27)
  - A. The Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) After the death of Solomon the north ten tribes created the Northern Kingdom of Israel and ruled under Jeroboam with Samaria as the capital and religious center.
  - B. The Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes)
  - C. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, retained only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and continued to use Jerusalem as the capital. The Kings of Judah, known as the Southern Kingdom, with one exception, retained continuous leadership in Jerusalem.
9. **The Fall, Captivity and Exile of the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms**
  - A. The fall of Israel, the Northern Kingdom, in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:7 - 23).
  - B. The fall of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, in 597 BC (2 Chronicles 36:15 - 23).
  - C. Note the addendum on page 17 showing the Kings and Prophets during the divided Kingdom.
10. **The Restoration of Israel** (Ezra and Nehemiah)
  - A. The Hebrew remnant returned home in three contingents between 536 and 423 BC to rebuild the Temple (Zerubbabel), to establish the priesthood (Ezra), and to rebuild the wall (Nehemiah).

## **THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE**

1. The Bible was written in three languages:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ the language in which most of the Old Testament was written which died as a spoken language about 300 BC.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ a kind of “first-cousin” to Hebrew. This was the everyday language of the Jewish people in Palestine from 350 BC up to the time of Christ.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ the language in which the New Testament was written.
2. Serious Bible students soon learn that New Testament writers frequently quote the Old Testament and find that the Old Testament text is many times quite different from the quotation in the New Testament. (Example: Hebrews 12:6 from Proverbs 3:12) Majority of the quotes are from the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament. During the time of Greek supremacy, many Jews left Palestine and settled in the countries around the Mediterranean where Greek was the everyday language. Many who grew up in these areas never learned Hebrew and could not read the Old Testament.

## **TWO MAJOR TYPES OF BIBLE TRANSLATIONS**

1. Committee translations are done by groups of scholars who work together on certain books or sections and usually are specialists in Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic and who are also extremely knowledgeable about the history, culture and the book they are translating.
  - A. Examples:
2. Some translations are produced basically by one person who is skilled in literary style and often have scholars advising them. These translations are basically easier to read but often reflect the doctrinal framework of the translator.
  - A. Examples:

## **A UNIFIED AND INTEGRATED STORY**

1. The Old and New Testaments are an integrated story of the coming Messiah and the growth of God's Kingdom in the earth.
  - A. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. — Chuck Missler
2. There are dozens of examples where the Old and New Testament messages are linked such as in Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-17.

- A. When Israel grumbled insistently against God, He sent fiery serpents (venomous snakes) who bit the people and a very large number of people died. Because of this, Moses was instructed to raise a brass serpent and everyone who looked upon it would be healed. (Read Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-17)
- Serpent is the Hebrew word Nachash meaning a hissing creature, serpent, snake, Satan in the garden. (Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 12:9)
  - Brass (bronze) was the Levitical symbol for judgment. Brass was the metal that was associated with fire (the brazen altar, etc.). Unpolished brass was the only metal allowed to make contact with the ground in the design of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. (Eventually worshipped the pole with the serpent in 2 Kings 18:4)
- B. John 3:14-17 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,...*
3. The central message of the Bible focuses entirely on Jesus Christ, God's Son, sent in fulfillment to a large number of prophetic passages as the Savior of mankind.
- A. John 5:39-40 *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me...*
- B. Luke 24:13-35 *...Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself... And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*
- C. A few Old Testament Messianic Prophecies...
- Genesis 22:1-22 (a foretelling of Christ); Psalm 22 (written in the first person!) and Isaiah 53 (this is more clear than even Paul's writing about Christ!).

## **SUGGESTED BIBLE STUDY HELPS**

1. Study Bibles (NKJV, NIV, RSV, NAS) — The Spirit Filled Life Bible; Thompson Chain Reference; Life Application Bible
2. Bible Handbooks — Hayford's Bible Handbook; Halley's Bible Handbook; Eerdman's Handbook
3. Concordances — Strong's Concordance; Young's Concordance
4. Bible Dictionaries — The New Unger's Bible Dictionary; Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary
5. Word Study Books — The Complete Word Study of the Old and New Testaments (Zodhiates); Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words
6. Theology — Foundations of Pentecostal Theology (Guy P. Duffield and N.M Van Cleave)

7. Cross reference — Nave's Topical Bible
8. Bible Atlas
9. Other resources...

## HOW TO USE A STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

1. Strong's Concordance was written by Dr. James Strong, a professor of Exegetical Theology from Drew Theological Seminary in the late nineteenth century. A concordance is a practical tool for studying Scripture because...
  - A. It helps the us locate any verse in Scripture if the we can remember only one or more words from that verse.
  - B. It helps us understand the Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic meaning behind any word in Scripture.
  - C. In-depth word studies such as The Complete Word Study of the Old and New Testaments by Zodhiates are keyed to the KJV Strong's Concordance.
2. The main sections of the concordance are the Scriptural reference for the words, the Hebrew Dictionary (Old Testament א ב ג ד ), and the Greek Dictionary (New Testament α β γ δ ).
3. Suppose you want to find the passage in Scripture about putting on the armor of God. All you can remember is that it is somewhere in the New Testament. You would then look up the word "armor" in the main section. Skip the Old Testament listings until you reach the New Testament. Luke 11:22 is the first New Testament passage listed and does not sound like the passage you are looking for. The next passage is Romans 13:12 and the third passage is Ephesians 6:11. The phrase in Ephesians: "Put on the full armor of God" sounds like the passage you are looking for.
4. On the far right hand column of each entry is a number code. This code refers you to where you can find this word in the dictionary section located in the back of the concordance (in this case, the word would be "armor").
5. Since you are looking up the word "armor" from Ephesians 6:11, you will notice the code number is 3833. If you want to know where else the same word in Greek is translated "armor," look for other entrees that have the same number code. You will want to look in the Greek dictionary instead of the Hebrew dictionary.
6. Under 3833, you will find the Greek word "panoplia". This is the Greek word for "armor." Next you will find numbers 3956, meaning all, every, etc. and 3696, meaning an implement, tool or utensil, a weapon of war. By reading Ephesians 6:11, you will discover that it means to uses every Scriptural weapon available in our spiritual battle.



## USING YOUR CONCORDANCE

Use a concordance and give the the chapters and verses to the following...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The fall of man.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The call of Abram.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The story of Joseph.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The story of the Passover.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The Ten Commandments (two locations).
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The story of Samson.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The story of David fighting Goliath.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel in the lions' den.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The "Beatitudes."
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The parable of the ten virgins.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ The parable of the prodigal son.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ *... the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*
13. \_\_\_\_\_ *...no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.*
14. \_\_\_\_\_ *...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he remove our transgressions from us.*
15. \_\_\_\_\_ *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully all His commands I give you today,... All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you...*