

Subject: Know Your Bible – Part 2

Scripture: Psalm 119:18-24

It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Some people can see beauty where others cannot. The psalmist asks God to open His spiritual eyes so that he will see (and appreciate) the wonderful truths of God's Word. Some people cannot read and study the Bible. Some are blind and cannot read. Others can read, but they don't have a Bible. But there are others who have a Bible and they have eyes to see, but they are actually no better off because they will not read and study it. Someone wrote this:

“As the vivid rainbow hearkens every eye to an upward glance, so the Bible draws men irresistibly to its message. The rainbow does not distinguish between the eye of a poor man and the eye of a king. Its attraction and promise are the same for all who behold, if only they have eyes to see.” – Wilkinson and Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible*

Genesis – Deuteronomy (Law, Books of Moses, Pentateuch):

The Old Testament was originally divided into two sections: the Law and the Prophets (Mt. 7:12; Lk. 16:16, 29, 31). This was later expanded into a threefold division of the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings (Lk. 24:44). The Greek translation of the Hebrew text (Septuagint) arranged the Old Testament into the four divisions we use today: Law (5 books); History (12); Poetry (5); and Prophecy (17).

- 1) These five books follow a chronological order
- 2) These books were written by Moses (between 1445-1405 BC)

Jesus attributed these books to Moses. These five books have a unity of content, theme, purpose, and style that point to one writer. God not only revealed the truth to Moses, but He also protected him from error. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of Egypt which would likely have included false views about creation and the nature of man (Acts 7:22).

Genesis is the book of beginnings

The title “Genesis” means origins. The Hebrew title is “In the beginning.”

- 1) The beginning of created things
- 2) The beginning of people and languages
- 3) The beginning of families
- 4) The beginning of sin and corruption
- 5) The beginning of God's covenants
- 6) The beginning of pictures and prophecies of Christ

Genesis also tells about the beginning of time, the nation of Israel, and God's unfolding plan of salvation. Genesis provides the foundation for the whole Bible in its history and doctrine.

Genesis 1-11: History of the Human Race

Genesis covers more time than all the other books of the Bible combined, about 2,200 years (ca. 4000-1804 BC). Genesis 1-11 covers around 2,000 years and describes four key events:

- 1) Creation
- 2) Fall of man
- 3) Flood
- 4) Nations (Tower of Babel)

Genesis 12-50: History of the Hebrew Nation

This section covers about 300 years and describes four key men:

- 1) Abraham
- 2) Isaac
- 3) Jacob
- 4) Joseph

Genesis 12 is a major turning point in the Bible.

God chose a special person (Abraham) and a special people (the Jews) to accomplish His plan and purpose for the world. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised him: 1) a land; 2) many descendents; and 3) a blessing on those who blessed them and a curse on those who cursed them. Genesis begins with the Garden of Eden and ends with a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus is the book of deliverance

The title “Exodus” means going out or departure. Exodus tells about God’s power in rescuing Israel after 400 years of Egyptian slavery.

Exodus involves several important people:

- 1) Moses (God’s chosen and reluctant leader)
- 2) Pharaoh’s daughter (God’s agent to rescue Moses)
- 3) Aaron (Moses’ brother and Israel’s first high priest)
- 4) Pharaoh (Egypt’s powerful and proud ruler)
The name “pharaoh” was an official title rather than a personal name.

Exodus 1-12: The Jews living in Egypt

Exodus 13-18: The Jews traveling to Mt. Sinai

Exodus 19-40: The Jews camping at Mt. Sinai

Four important events take place in Exodus:

- 1) God sends the ten plagues (Ex. 7:14-11:10)
- 2) God establishes the Passover (Ex. 12)

- 3) God gives the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)
- 4) God directs construction of the Tabernacle (Ex. 35-40)

Leviticus is the book of worship

The title “Leviticus” means “pertaining to the Levites.” Levites were descendants of Levi, the priestly tribe of Israel. The Book of Leviticus is a guidebook for God’s redeemed people, showing them how to worship and live as His holy people.

Leviticus covers a period of one month after the Law was given at Mt. Sinai

The main theme of Leviticus is holiness (mentioned 152 times, more often than in any other Bible book)

Leviticus 1-17: Acceptable Worship of God (holy sacrifices)

Leviticus 18-27: Acceptable Walk with God (holy living)

This section includes instructions for the sacrificial system and the priesthood. It also contains warnings about kinds of behavior that were unacceptable for God’s people. Israel was to be separate and different from the surrounding heathen nations.

Leviticus 16 is an important chapter about the annual Day of Atonement. God forgave sins only through the sacrifice of an innocent substitute. Removal of guilt was pictured through the scapegoat being led into the wilderness.

Numbers is the book of wandering and wasted years

Numbers covers almost 40 years

Numbers reveals the consequences of unbelief and rebellion

An entire generation of rebellious unbelievers died in the desert. This has been called “The Book of Murmuring.” The people often murmured against God and His servant Moses.

Numbers tells how an 11-day journey turned into a 40-year death march

The title “Numbers” comes from two “numberings” (censuses, Num. 1, 26). Numbers begins where Exodus ends, at the base of Mt. Sinai. The book ends in the plains of Moab near the Jordan River and the city of Jericho.

Numbers 1-9: Preparation (Israel at Mt. Sinai)

Numbers 10-20: Frustration (from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea)

Numbers 21-36: Anticipation (from Kadesh-Barnea to Moab)

Numbers 13-14 describe the tragic turning point in the story:

- 1) Twelve spies (scouts) are sent into Canaan
- 2) Conflicting reports are given about Canaan
- 3) The people refuse to enter Canaan
- 4) God punishes them for unbelief

Deuteronomy is the book of remembering

The title “Deuteronomy” means “second law.” In a series of farewell messages Moses reminded the people about the importance of knowing and obeying God’s Law. This was a time of transition for Israel. They would soon cease from their wilderness wanderings and begin a settled way of life in Canaan. Numbers ends with Moses blessing the people, viewing the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo, dying, and being buried by God Himself in a hidden site.

Deuteronomy 1-11: Looking Back on Israel’s Past

Deuteronomy 12-34: Looking Ahead to Israel’s Future

Deuteronomy stresses the importance of obeying God’s Word.

The words “do, keep, and observe” are found 177 times. Jesus quoted three times from Deuteronomy when He was tempted by Satan (Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13). Moses reminded Israel of two important lessons:

- 1) God will surely bless obedience
- 2) God will surely punish disobedience

God’s relationship with Israel in Genesis through Deuteronomy:

- *Genesis* reveals the selection of God’s people
- *Exodus* reveals the redemption of God’s people
- *Leviticus* reveals the sanctification of God’s people
- *Numbers* reveals the direction of God’s people
- *Deuteronomy* reveals the instruction of God’s people

God’s basic commands in Genesis through Deuteronomy:

- In Genesis God says: *Let there be!*
- In Exodus God says: *Let my people go!*
- In Leviticus God says: *Be holy even as I am holy!*
- In Numbers God says: *Go in and possess the land!*
- In Deuteronomy God says: *Remember and obey my words!*

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Genesis through Deuteronomy

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Genesis is the book of _____

The title “Genesis” means origins. The Hebrew title is “In the beginning.”

- 1) The beginning of _____
- 2) The beginning of _____
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- 4) The beginning of _____
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Genesis also tells about the beginning of time, the nation of Israel, and God’s unfolding plan of salvation. Genesis provides the foundation for the whole Bible in its history and doctrine.

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God chose a special person (Abraham) and a special people (the Jews) to accomplish His plan and purpose for the world. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised him: 1) a land; 2) many descendents; and 3) a blessing on those who blessed them and a curse on those who cursed them. Genesis begins with the Garden of Eden and ends with a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus is the book of _____

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Leviticus covers _____ after the Law was given at Mt. Sinai

The main theme of Leviticus is _____ (mentioned 152 times, more often than in any other Bible book)

Leviticus 1-17: Acceptable Worship of God (holy sacrifices)

Leviticus 18-27: Acceptable Walk with God (holy living)

Leviticus 16 is an important chapter about the annual _____

Numbers is the book of _____

Numbers covers almost _____

Numbers reveals the consequences of _____

Numbers tells how an 11-day journey turned into _____

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- 1) _____ are sent into Canaan
- 2) _____ are given about Canaan
- 3) _____ to enter Canaan
- 4) _____ for unbelief

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- 1) God will surely_____
- 2) God will surely_____

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