

IV. The Construction of the Bible

A. The Old Testament

1. The _____—Foundation for Christ (Genesis–Deuteronomy)
2. _____—Preparation for Christ (Joshua–Esther)
3. _____—Aspiration for Christ (Job–Song of Solomon)
4. _____—Expectation of Christ
 - Major Prophets (Isaiah–Daniel)
 - Minor Prophets (Hosea–Malachi)

B. The New Testament

1. _____—Manifestation of Christ (Matthew–John)
2. _____—Propagation of Christ (Acts)
3. _____—Interpretation of Christ
 - Pauline epistles (Romans–Philemon)
 - General epistles (Hebrews–Jude)
4. _____—Consummation in Christ (Revelation)

Discipleship Course

Understanding the Scriptures

Introduction to the Bible (Psalm 138:2)

The Bible is the most important Book in a Christian's life and the most important Book on earth. It contains absolute truth about where we came from, why we are here and where we are going. It reveals to us who God is and the relationship we can have with Him through Jesus Christ. The next few lessons will be concerning the Bible and its importance in our lives.

I. The Bible's Names and Titles

- A. _____—Writings (Matt. 21:42; II Tim. 3:16)
 - The word "Scriptures" comes from the Latin equivalent of the Greek word *graphe*—to write
- B. _____—Book (Psa. 40:7; Heb. 10:7)
 - The title "Bible" is from the Greek word *biblios* meaning "book."
- C. The _____—written covenant or agreement (Luke 22:20; I Cor. 11:25; II Cor. 3:6, 14; Heb. 9:15; 12:24)
- D. The _____ of God (I Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12)
 - This is an authoritative title. This title reveals God's method of revealing Himself to mankind.
- E. The _____ of God (Psa. 28:2; Rom. 3:2; I Peter 4:11)

- The original meaning of the word “oracle” is the person or place where the Word of God can be found. It can only be found in the Bible today.

F. The Psalteric Titles (Psa. 19:7–9; 119:1–7)

- Psalm 119 is the Word of God chapter. It is the longest chapter in the Bible, and the longest Psalm containing 176 verses. All but two of these verses (119:122, 132) refer directly to the Scriptures in relation to its many descriptions or titles.

1. Law (Psa. 119:1; Matt. 5:15; John 1:17; John 10:34; 12:34; 15:25; I Cor. 14:21)

- The Law can refer to the five Books of Moses or to the whole of the Old Testament.

2. Testimonies (Psa. 119:2)

3. Precepts (Psa. 119:4)

4. Statutes (Psa. 119:5)

- A statute is an absolute principle. Its root meaning means “to engrave.”

5. Commandments (Psa. 119:6)

6. Judgments (Psa. 119:7)

II. The Composition of the Bible

A. The Bible’s writers

- Forty different men at different periods of time with various occupations from kings, soldiers, and statesmen to herdsmen, fishermen and pastors were used to pen the Books of the Bible.

1. The OT prophets were led by God to say and to write God’s Words (Ex 17:14; 34:27; Isa. 30:8; Jer. 1:5–9; 23:16; Heb. 1:1).

2. The NT was written by the apostles and prophets as they were led by the Holy Spirit (Heb.1:2; John 15:26–27; 16:13; Eph. 2:18-22).

B. The Bible’s time period for writing

- The Bible was written over 1,600 years, starting with Moses (c.1500 B.C.) to the apostle John (c.100 A.D.).

III. The Contents of the Bible

A. The Bible contains _____ books

- The Bible contains 1,189 chapters, 31,102 verses, 788,280 words.

1. The Old Testament has _____ books—it contains 929 chapters, 23,145 verses.

2. The New Testament has _____ books—it contains 260 chapters, 7,957 verses.

B. The Bible is one Book

1. It bears witness to one _____ (Isa. 45:5–8).

2. It forms one continuous _____ (Mic.1:3).

3. It has one plan of _____ (Isa. 45:23–24).

4. It has one central theme—_____ (John 5:39).