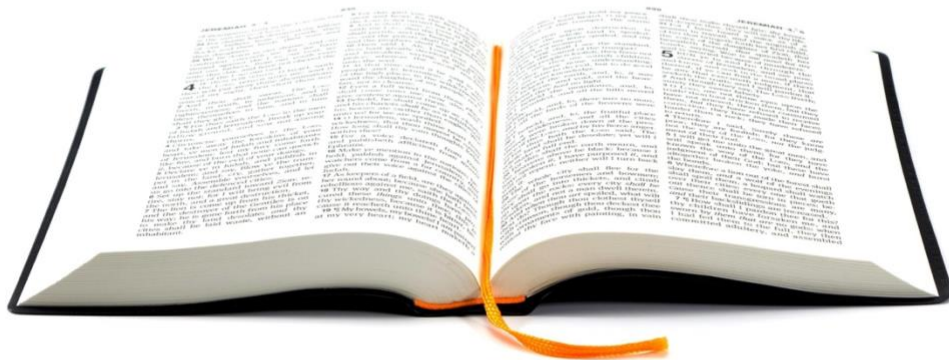


# The Bible

Teens' Sunday School Lesson  
June – July 2023

Mt. Zion Baptist Mission Philippines - Taguig



## The Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17

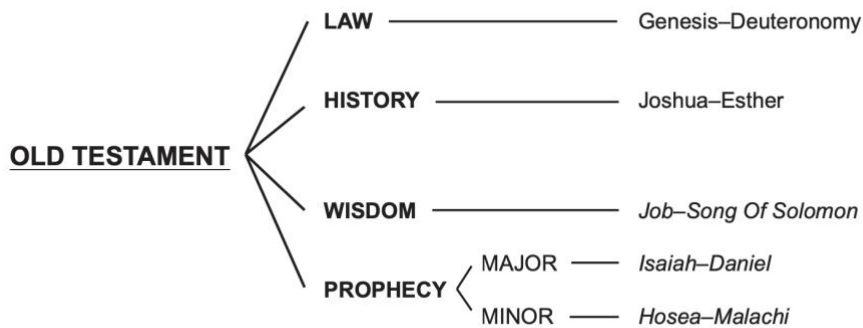
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- The main theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ and salvation through Him.
- The Bible is the book that God has given to reveal Himself to mankind. It answers all of life's important questions,
  - Who is God?
  - Where did man come from?
  - What is the purpose of life?
  - Why is the world filled with suffering?
  - Why does man die?
  - What happens after death?
  - How can man get into right relationship with God?
  - Who is Jesus?
  - Why did he die?
  - What will happen in the future?
- The Bible was written by about 40 different prophets that God chose, and they wrote the words that God gave them (2 Peter 1:21).
- It was written over a period of about 1,600 years, from about 1500 B.C. to 90 A.D.
- The word "bible" is from the Greek word *biblios*, which means a book.
- The Bible is one Book that speaks with one voice, but it is divided into two major sections--the Old Testament and the New Testament. "Testament" means covenant or agreement.
- Further, there are 66 individual books in the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New.
- The books are divided into chapters and each chapter is divided into verses for ease in locating passages. For example, John 3:16 refers to the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16.

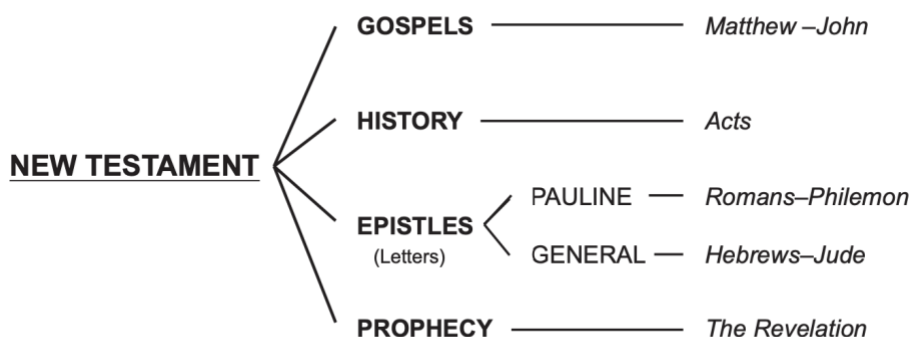
### THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Old Testament is God's covenant with man through the Law of Moses.
- The Law was given to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus by revealing God's holiness and man's sinfulness (Romans 3:19-20).
- The Old Testament is divided into the following major sections:
  - The Law -- Genesis to Deuteronomy. This section is also called the Pentateuch (meaning "five books"). It describes the creation of heaven and earth and man, the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, the worldwide flood of Noah's day, the Tower of Babel and the multiplication of the languages, the call of Abraham and the beginning of the Jewish nation through Abraham's sons, Israel's Egyptian bondage and exodus, and the giving of God's Law (including the 10 Commandments).
  - The History -- Joshua to Esther. This section contains the history of Israel, the Jewish nation, from the time of the conquering of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Captivity.
  - The Poetic Books or Wisdom -- Job to the Song of Solomon. This section deals with the worship of God and profound questions of life, such as the purpose of suffering and the seeming vanity of earthly existence.
  - The Prophecy -- *Isaiah to Malachi*. This section contains prophecies concerning Israel, mankind as a whole, and Jesus Christ.



## THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The New Testament is God’s covenant with man through the salvation purchased by Christ.
- The New Testament contains the account of Christ’s miraculous birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, the teachings of Christ’s apostles, and prophecies of the future.
- The New Testament was written in the Greek language.
- The New Testament is divided into the following major sections:
  - The Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. The four Gospels give the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. They also contain prophecies of His second coming.
  - The Acts of the Apostles. The book of Acts contains the history of the establishment and spread of the first churches.
  - Paul’s Epistles -- Romans to Philemon. These are letters written by the apostle Paul to instruct various churches and individuals in Christian doctrine.
  - The General Epistles -- Hebrews to Jude. These are called the “general epistles” because they were not written to churches but were written for Christians in general. They were written by Paul, James, Peter, Jude, and John.
  - Prophecy -- Revelation. This book contains prophecies about the end of the age.



- The relationship between the Old Testament and the New can be seen in the following comparison:

Old Testament	New Testament
Promise	Fulfillment
Preparation	Presentation
The Foundation	The Building

## THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

- The Bible was written by prophets that were chosen of God. They wrote the words that God gave them. This is called “divine inspiration.” Consider two major passages that teach this:

*2 Timothy 3:13-17 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. [14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them ; [15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. [16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

1. The Bible is set apart from all other books (2 Tim. 3:15). Here the Scriptures are called “holy.” This means “set apart, different.” The Bible alone is God’s divine Word to mankind.
2. The Bible is from God (“given by inspiration of God,” 2 Tim. 3:16). This verse literally says the Scriptures are God-breathed. Though written by men, the Bible was breathed out by God. This is the Bible’s claim for itself. If it contains mistakes and myths, it would be proven to be a lie. When discussing its own inspiration the Scripture does not focus on the mechanics of inspiration but on the product. God spoke in many diverse ways (by dreams, visions, angels, directly as on Mt. Sinai, etc.) but the result in all cases was that the writings were divinely inspired.
3. The Bible is from God in its entirety (“all scripture,” 2 Tim. 3:16). All Scripture is said to have come from God. The word for Scripture here, *graphe*, means “writing” or “book.” This refers to “plenary inspiration,” which means full, complete, entire.
4. The Bible is from God in its smallest detail (2 Tim. 3:15). The word for Scripture here is *gramma*, referring to a letter. Thus, even the smallest details of the Bible are from God. This is called “verbal inspiration.”
5. The Bible is one book with an all-encompassing theme, which is salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 3:15). The Bible is not just a group of disconnected religious writings. It is a unified Book planned by God to reveal Himself, the way of salvation, and His plan for the ages. Each part of the Bible has an important place in the whole.
6. The Bible can protect believers from error (2 Tim. 3:13-15). If the Bible contains myths, mistakes, and untrue claims concerning authorship, miracles, and prophecies, it would not be absolutely authoritative and would not provide protection from false teachings!
7. The Bible is sufficient to make the Christian complete and mature (2 Tim. 3:17). An imperfect, incomplete book could not produce perfection, and since the Bible is able to make the man of God perfect it is obvious that nothing else is needed. The Scripture is thus the sole authority for faith and practice in the individual believer’s life and in the church.

*2 Peter 1:19-21 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

1. The Scripture is a light shining in a dark place (2 Pet. 1:19). The dark place is the world. Though containing some truth mixed with error, the world is pictured as dark because man is not able to know spiritual truth without revelation from God. The Bible is that revelation which is shining in the midst of the darkness.
2. The Bible is not a product of man’s will (2 Pet. 1:21). Other books are products of the will of the human author, but not the Bible. God chose certain men and moved in them to deliver His message. As the Holy Spirit moved, the chosen men spoke and wrote the words of God.
3. This passage explains the method whereby the Bible was given. God used men, but He used them in such a way that what they wrote was God’s Word.
4. The phrase “private interpretation” refers to the writers of the Bible (2 Pet. 1:20). In the context, this refers to the giving of revelation rather than to the understanding of it. The Bible writers did not interpret God’s revelation to mankind through their own thinking; they were given God’s revelation by the Holy Spirit. They did not always even understand what they were writing (1 Peter 1:10-12).

## THE DIVINE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

- The doctrine that God has preserved His Word pure through the ages. The same God that inspired the Scripture has promised to preserve it—not merely its teachings, but its very words.
- Faith stands on the Word of God. Let us see exactly what the Bible says about this matter of its own preservation:

*“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” Ps. 12:6-7*

*“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Ps. 119:89*

*“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Is. 40:8*

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Mt. 24:35*

*“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” 1 Pe. 1:25*

- The teaching of these passages is that God would preserve His Word in detail to every generation. This, and this alone, is the biblical doctrine of preservation.
- God has providentially kept His Word from destruction and corruption in two ways:
  1. Down through the centuries, the Lord has raised up men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm.
    - a. Zealous Jewish patriots, then simple Bible-loving Christians (in particular, our Baptist forefathers), have kept the scriptures available to all generations.
    - b. Satan has on numerous occasions attempted to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. Hellish decrees have seen the Bible banned, burned, banished, and battered by scornful men.
  2. The Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been faithfully preserved by fastidious Jewish scribes - it is called the Masoretic Text. The Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved by the churches in what is called the Textus Receptus, or Received Text.

## THE BIBLE'S FACTUALNESS PROVES THAT IT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

- Everything the Bible says is true and factual. The Bible says man is a sinner, and that is not difficult to confirm. Just look at the world! The Bible is not a scientific manual, but it is scientifically accurate, even from its earliest pages.
  1. *Job says the earth is hung upon nothing* (Job 26:7).
  2. *Job says the air has weight ("the weight for the winds,"* Job 28:25).
  3. *Job describes the amazing balance of the atmosphere and hydrosphere* (Job 28:24-25).
  4. *Job describes the amazing process of cloud formation and rain making* (Job 26:8; 36:27-28; 37:11; 37:16; 38:25-26).
  5. *Job describes the rotation of the earth that produces the night and day sequences* (Job 38:12-14).
  6. *Job describes the springs of the sea* (Job 38:16).
  7. *Job understands that light has a way and that darkness has a place* (Job 38:19).
  8. *The Bible describes the parting of light* (Job 38:24).
  9. *The Bible says that the light creates wind* (Job 38:24),
  10. *Job describes the amazing hydrological cycle* (evaporation, atmospheric circulation, condensation, precipitation, run-off) (Job 38:25-30).
  11. *The Bible says plants and animals reproduce after their kind* (Genesis 1).
  12. *The Bible says the heavens cannot be measured and the stars are without number* (Genesis 22:17; Jeremiah 31:37).
  13. *The Bible says the life is in the blood* (Leviticus 17:11).
  14. *The Bible describes the circuit of the winds* (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
  15. *The Bible says the earth is a circle* (Isaiah 40:22).
  16. *The Bible says there are paths in the sea* (Isaiah 43:16).
  17. *The Bible says the stars differ in glory* (1 Corinthians 15:41).

## FULFILLED PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE THAT IT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

- The Bible contains a vast amount of prophecy, much of which has been fulfilled. The predictions are precise and detailed, and the fulfillment is exact.
1. Prophecies Pertaining to Jesus Christ Jesus' entire life was written down in the Old Testament before He was born. There are 191 Messianic prophecies. The following examples are from three great prophecies: Psalm 22; Micah 5:2; and Isaiah 53:
    - a. His birthplace (Micah 5:2 - Luke 2:4-7)
    - b. His rejection by the Jewish nation (Isaiah 53:2 - Mat. 27:22)
    - c. His betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9 - Mat. 26:14-26, 47-49)
    - d. His trial and death
      - i. The perversion of justice (Isaiah 53:7-8 - Mat. 26:57-60; 27:11-14)
      - ii. Numbered with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12 - Mat. 27:20-22, 38)
      - iii. The piercing of his hands and feet (Psalm 22:16 - John 19:16-18)
      - iv. The words spoken on the cross (Psalm 22:1 - Mat. 27:46)
      - v. The mocking of the people (Psalm 22:7-8 - Mat. 27:39, 41-43)
      - vi. The people sitting and staring (Psalm 22:17 - Mat. 27:36)
      - vii. No bones broken (Psalm 22:17 - John 19:33-36)
      - viii. The soldiers gambling for his garments (Psalm 22:18 - Mat. 27:35)
      - ix. His burial in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9 - Mat. 27:57-60)
  2. Men Running to and fro (Daniel 12:4).
  3. The Knowledge Explosion (Daniel 12:4).
  4. Global Rebellion against God's Law (Psalm 2:1-9)
  5. Willful Skepticism (2 Peter 3:3-7)
  6. The Peace Movement (1 Thessalonians 5:3).
  7. The Me Generation (2 Timothy 3:1-2).
  8. The Explosion of Apostasy (2 Timothy 3:13; 4:3-4).
  9. The Homosexual Rights Movement (Luke 17:28-32).
  10. Governmental Surveillance (Rev. 13:17).
  11. The European Union (Daniel 2:41-44).
  12. Babylonian Commercialism (Rev. 18:1-3; Rev. 18:9, 12-15, 22-23).
  13. Israel Back in the Land (Ezekiel 37:4-8).
  14. Preparation for Building the Third Temple (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

## KING JAMES BIBLE

- The King James Bible is based on the Hebrew Masoretic and the Greek Received Text.
  - Masoretic Hebrew and the Greek Received Text was the text given by divine inspiration and preserved through the centuries.
- Modern Bible versions today are based from the modern Greek text is called the “critical text,” because it is the product of “modern textual criticism.”
  - This was invented in the 19th century (largely) by theological modernists and Unitarians. It was not based on the belief that the Scripture is the infallible Word of God and that God has preserved the Scripture.
- Consider some facts about this Critical Text as compared with the Received Text:
  - It is shorter than the Received Greek text by 2,886 words, which is the equivalent of the omission of the entire books of 1 and 2 Peter.
  - It omits or questions 45 entire verses -- Mt. 12:47; 17:21; 18:11; 21:44; 23:14; Mk. 7:16; 9:44; 9:46; 11:26; 15:28; 16:9-20; Luke 17:36; 22:43-44; 23:17; Jn. 5:4; John 7:53--8:11; Acts 8:37; 15:34; 24:7; 28:29; Ro. 16:24; and 1 Jn. 5:7.
  - It omits significant portions of 147 other verses.
  - It weakens the doctrine of Christ’s deity (e.g., it omits “who is in heaven” from Jn. 3:13; it omits “God” from 1 Tim. 3:16) and other key doctrines.
- This table compares various verses in the KJV, NIV (New International Version), NASB, and NWT.

	KJV	NIV	New American Standard	New World Translation
<a href="#">Mt 9:13</a>	for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners <b>to repentance</b> .	For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners.
<a href="#">Mt 18:11</a>	For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt	OMITTED
<a href="#">Mt 19:17</a>	<b>Why callest thou me good?</b>	"Why do you ask me about what is good?"	"Why are you asking me about what is good?"	"Why do you ask me about what is good?"
<a href="#">Mt 25:13</a>	Ye know neither the day nor the hour <b>wherein the Son of man cometh</b> .	You do not know the day or the hour.	You do not know the day nor the hour.	You know neither the day nor the hour,
<a href="#">Mk 10:24</a>	...how hard it is <b>for them that trust in riches</b> to enter into the kingdom of God!	...how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	...how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	...how difficult a thing it is to enter into the kingdom of God!
<a href="#">Lk 2:33</a>	And <b>Joseph</b> and his mother,,,	The child's father and mother.	His father and mother.	its father and mother.
<a href="#">Lk 4:4</a>	Man shall not live by bread alone, <b>but by every word of God</b> .	Man does not live on bread alone.	Man shall not live on bread alone.	Man must not live by bread alone.
Lk 4:8	<b>Get thee behind me, Satan</b> .	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
<a href="#">Jn 6:47</a>	He that believeth <b>on me</b> hath everlasting life.	He who believes has everlasting life.	He who believes has eternal life.	He that believes has everlasting life.
<a href="#">Jn 8:9</a>	And when they heard it, <b>being convicted by their own conscience</b> , went out.	...those who heard began to go away.	...when they heard it, they began to go out one by one.	OMITTED
<a href="#">Jn 9:4</a>	I must work the works of him that sent me.	We must do the work of him who sent me.	We must work the works of Him who sent Me.	We must work the works of him that sent me.
<a href="#">Jn 10:30</a>	I and <b>my</b> Father are one	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.



<u>Ac 2:30</u>	that of the fruit of his loins, <b>according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ</b> to sit on his throne;	...he would place one of his descendants on his throne.	...to seat one of his descendants upon his throne.	...he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne.
<u>Ac 8:37</u>	<b>If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.</b>	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt (some editions just omit it)	OMITTED
<u>Ac 23:9</u>	<b>Let us not fight against God.</b>	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
<u>Rom 13:9</u>	<b>Thou shalt not bear false witness.</b>	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
<u>Col 1:14</u>	In whom we have redemption <b>through his blood</b> , even the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	By means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins.
<u>1Ti 3:16</u>	<b>God was</b> manifest in the flesh.	He appeared in a body.	He who was revealed in the flesh.	He was made manifest in the flesh.
<u>1Ti 6:5</u>	Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: <b>from such withdraw thyself.</b>	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted	"from such withdraw thyself" is omitted
<u>1Pe 1:22</u>	Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth <b>through the Spirit.</b>	you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth.	Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls.	Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth.
<u>1Jo 4:3</u>	And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus <b>Christ is come in the flesh</b> is not of God.	But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.	And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.	But every inspired expression that does not confess Jesus does not originate with God.
<u>Re 5:14</u>	Four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped <b>him that liveth for ever and ever.</b>	...the elders fell down and worshipped.	...the elders fell down and worshipped.	...the elders fell down and worshipped.
<u>Re 20:9</u>	Fire came down <b>from God</b> out of heaven.	Fire came down from heaven.	Fire came down from heaven.	Fire came down out of heaven.
<u>Re 21:24</u>	And the nations <b>of them which are saved</b> shall walk in the light of it.	The nations will walk by its light.	And the nations shall walk by its light.	And the nations will walk by means of its light.