

THE NATURE OF THE BIBLE

- This lesson concerns itself with an overall survey of the English Bible, in preparation for a detailed study of the doctrine of the Scriptures.

I. ITS NAMES AND TITLES

- Several names are used for the Christian's Book, the "Holy Bible."
- Some of the more common names and titles are:
 - 1. THE B_____** (Mark 12:26; Luke 3:4; 20:42; Acts 1:20; 7:42)
 - The word "Bible" is an anglicisation of the Greek words 'biblos' - "book;" and biblia - "books."
 - In time, the word came to refer to the sacred Books of scripture.
 - The Bible is not a book, but THE Book!
 - 2. THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS**
(Luke 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6,14; Hebrews 9:15; 12:24)
 - The word "testament" means a "c_____" or an "a_____."
 - The division of the Bible into the Old and New Testaments is the basic division of the Old Covenant of the L_____ and the New Covenant of G_____.
 - 3. THE SCRIPTURES** (II Timothy 3:15,16)
 - The word "scripture" is a translation of the Greek word 'graphé' - "writing."
 - The scriptures are the holy writings.
 - 4. THE WORD OF GOD** (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12)
 - This is the most significant, pictorial, and c_____ name.
 - It is a name that causes us to recognise the Bible as God's Book.
 - 5. THE PSALTERIC TITLES** (Psalm 19:7-9; 119:1,2,4-7)
 - Psalm _____ is the "Word of God Psalm," and it uses a number of names for the Bible:
 - i. L_____ (v.1)
 - ii. T_____ (v.2)
 - iii. P_____ (v.4)
 - iv. S_____ (v.5)
 - v. C_____ (v.6)
 - vi. J_____ (v.7)

II. ITS CONTENTS

1. THE BIBLE CONSISTS OF SIXTY-SIX BOOKS:

- The Old Testament has 39 Books.
- The New Testament has 27 Books.

2. YET THE BIBLE IS ONE BOOK:

- It bears witness of ONE God.
- It forms ONE continuous story.
- It has ONE plan of salvation.
- It has ONE central theme — Jesus Christ.
- Augustine (354-430 A.D.) made at least one true statement: “The NEW is in the OLD c_____ — the OLD is in the NEW r_____.”

III. ITS COMPOSITION

1. ITS WRITERS:

- Approximately ___ human writers were used to pen the Word of God.
- These men were separated by t_____ and their s_____ in life.

2. ITS PERIOD OF WRITING:

- The Bible was written down over a period of approximately _____ years: from Moses (c.1500 B.C.) to John (c.100 A.D.).

3. ITS LANGUAGES:

- Generally speaking, the OLD Testament was written in H_____, and the NEW Testament in koiné (common) G_____.
- Some parts of Daniel were written in Syriac.
- Some words in the New Testament are Aramaic.

IV. ITS CONSTRUCTION (Luke 24:44)

- The three divisions of the Old Testament are given in Luke 24:44.

1. M_____ — “The Torah.”

- The five Books of the Law: Genesis – Deuteronomy.

2. THE P_____ — “The Nebhiim.”

i. Former Prophets (Zechariah 1:4; 7:7,12)

- Generally referred to as the historical Books: Joshua – Kings, except Ruth.

- ii. Latter Prophets
 - The prophetic Books: Isaiah – Malachi, except Daniel & Lamentations.
- 3. THE P_____ – “The Kethubhim.”
 - The sacred writings: Chronicles – Canticles (Song of Solomon), plus the exceptions noted above.
 - The Megilloth (“The Scrolls”) consists of five of books of the Kethubhim – namely, The Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther.
- In dividing the Books of the Bible in our English Bibles, we generally use the “4 x 4 Construction,” as follows:
 - i. OLD TESTAMENT
 - a. LAW - Genesis – Deuteronomy
 - b. HISTORY - Joshua – Esther
 - c. WISDOM - Job – Song Of Solomon
 - d. PROPHECY - Isaiah – Daniel (major prophets)
 - Hosea – Malachi (minor prophets)
 - From the close of the Old Testament (Malachi) to the birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew), approximately _____ years transpired.
 - These are termed the Four Hundred S_____ Years.
 - ii. NEW TESTAMENT
 - a. GOSPELS - Matthew – John
 - b. HISTORY - Acts
 - c. EPISTLES - Romans – Philemon (Pauline)
 - Hebrews – Jude (general)
 - d. PROPHECY - The Revelation

V. **ITS SYMBOLS**

- A number of symbols are used to describe the Bible:
 1. MIRROR (James 1:23-25)
 - This shows its r_____ power.
 2. SEED (1 Peter 1:23)
 - This shows its r_____ power.
 3. LAMP (Psalm 119:105,130; Proverbs 6:23; 2 Peter 1:19)
 - This shows its i_____ power.

4. SWORD (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)
 - This shows its c_____ power.
5. HAMMER (Jeremiah 23:29)
 - This shows its d_____ power.
6. TREE (Proverbs 3:18; 4:7-9)
 - This shows its f_____ power.
7. WATER (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Psalm 119:9,11)
 - This shows its c_____ power.
8. MILK, MEAT, BREAD, AND HONEY
(1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 19:10; Amos 8:11; Matt 4:3,4)
 - This shows n_____, s_____, and s_____ power.

VI. ITS THEME (John 5:39)

- The theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Christ in the Old Testament was a_____.
- Christ in the New Testament became r_____.
- In the Old Testament:
 - i. Law - Foundation for Christ
 - ii. History - Preparation for Christ
 - iii. Poetry - A_____ for Christ
 - iv. Prophecy - E_____ of Christ
- In the New Testament:
 - i. Gospels - M_____ of Christ
 - ii. History - Propagation of Christ
 - iii. Epistles - Interpretation of Christ
 - iv. Prophecy - C_____ in Christ

VII. BIBLE STATISTICS

- The following interesting statistics apply to the English Authorized, King James Version:
 - i. There are _____ chapters in the Bible — 929 in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament.
 - ii. The shortest chapter is Psalm _____.
 - iii. The longest chapter is Psalm _____.
 - iv. The middle chapter of the Bible is Psalm _____.

- There are 594 chapters before it, and 594 chapters after it.
- v. There are 31,174 verses in the Bible.
- vi. The middle verses (#s 15,587 & 15,588) are Psalm 118:8,9.
- vii. The longest verse is Esther 8:9.
- viii. The shortest verse is John 11:35.
- ix. There are 774,746 words in the Bible.
- x. The shortest Book in the Bible is 2 John; Obadiah is the shortest Book of the Old Testament.

MEMORY VERSE

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.