

Intro To The Bible

Lesson 1: The Bible is a Library, not a Book

a brief introduction on how to read the Bible

What is the Bible? Why is it called the Bible?

The word "bible" comes from a Greek word *biblia* which means (1)

_____.

While often printed in a single bound book, the Bible is actually a collection of (2) _____ books.

In other words, it is a one volume (3) _____.

This library is diverse. It was originally written in (4) _____ different languages over a (5) _____ period by various people from different cultures.

The Bible has many (6) _____: stylistic categories of literature. Such as narratives, laws, letters, psalms, poetry, apocalypse and many more.

Genre matters!

Example: From the *Sachsenspiegel*, in the *Landrecht* (law of the land)...Book I, Article 20 "*Sone ervet vor dochter an erve*" which can be translated as "a son inherits before a daughter in landed inheritance."

- This law was created and applied to 1200s Saxony (German) time and culture. It is not applicable for us today.
- Laws change over time and there are different laws for different times and places.
- 13th century German law needs to be read and interpreted quite differently from other genres, such as poetry.

First and Second Testaments are combined into one volume

First section is called the Old or First Testament or Covenant.

Testament means covenant, which means (7) _____ between parties.

The **Old** Covenant (or testament) is the agreement God made with the people of Israel (ethnically Jewish people) outlining in detail how they would relate to God and know him.

The **New** Covenant (or testament) is the agreement God made with all people through Jesus, and in making this agreement, he did away with the Old Covenant.

The Bible is a library that features approximately (8) _____ human authors

- These authors come from various walks of life: shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests, and kings
- They lived in different time periods and had different experiences, education, perspectives on the world, and different temperaments and personalities.
- They wrote in three different languages: (9) _____, (10) _____, (11) _____.

The original manuscripts were written on various materials: stone, parchment, and scrolls.

The Bible is unique, that is written by one Author; that is, God's Spirit inspired and guided the human authors.

READ

2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Questions:

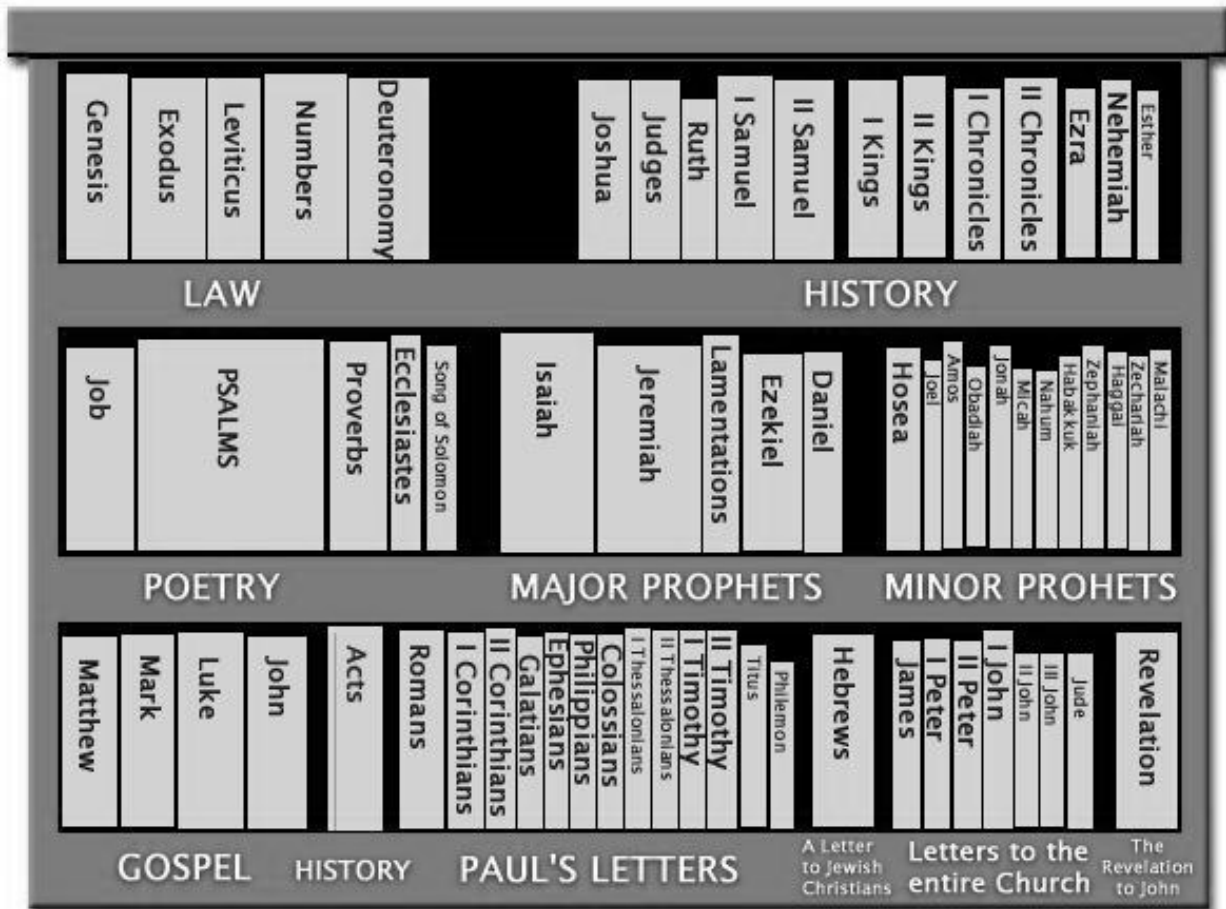
1. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself through a library rather than one single document?
2. What are some advantages of thinking about the Bible as a library instead of just "a book"?
3. What happens when we ignore genre and read everything the same way?
4. Can you name any key differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?
5. How does knowing the authors had different personalities and backgrounds help you understand Scripture better?
6. When you open your Bible, do you usually consider what genre you're reading? Why or why not?

Homework:

Read **Psalm 100** and **Luke 15:11-24**.

Then answer these questions:

1. Is this a song/poem or a story?
2. How can you tell?
3. What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?



Two words not to confuse:

Literally: reading words in their usual or most basic sense

Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock..."
 God is a natural aggregate of minerals.

Literarily: reading in a way that relates to literature (and genre)

Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock..."
 God is described with poetic imagery as a rock, which in ancient times symbolized strength, stability, and permanence.