



The Bible in One Year

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

January 8, 2023

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The Bible in One Year

Introduction

Read the Bible in one year? Really?

- Yes. You can read the Bible in one year.
 - Set aside time everyday
- Focus of the Michigan District for 2023

Michigan District Theological Conference

- *The Word Works*

Building an Ethic of Bible Reading

February 4 - Our Savior Lansing

The Bible in One Year

Introduction (continued)

How?

- Read one book of the Bible a week (usually, see the schedule)
 - 20 to 30 minutes a day
- Discuss each book in this class
 - *answer questions*
 - *find Christ*
- *grow in faith and understanding*
 - *know the truth*





The Bible in One Year

Introduction (continued)

More how?

Pick the right translation to read

ESV - English Standard Version: used by the church (LCMS and COS)

NIV - New International Version: easier to read, used by the church previously, very common (lots of helps), fairly easy to read

NLT - New Living Translation: very easy to read



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Introduction (continued)

More how?

Pick the right translation to read

AV/KJV - Authorized Version or the King James Version: many of us grew up with this Bible, very hard to read, minor translation problems

Updated to the **NKJV**: solves the problems but still hard to read (easier than the KJV though)



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Introduction (continued)

More how?

Other translations

Easy: **God's Word, CEV**

Harder: **NRSV, NASV, CSB**

Paraphrased version (caution): **The Message, Living Bible**

Questions about other translations?



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What is the Bible?

The best-selling book of all time

- Approximately 20 million Bibles are sold every year (in the US alone)
- Over 100 million are printed every year

Hmm...why isn't the Bible, or even its individual versions, on the New York Times best-seller list every week?



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What is the Bible?

- The Bible was the first book ever printed:
The Gutenberg Bible - 1452
- Even atheists acknowledge the Bible's value in literature
- It is the foundational book of Western Civilization
- The most banned, burned, read and revered book of all time



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What is the Bible?

The Book of Books

- Inspired Word of God

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17



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Have you ever wondered why God doesn't talk with us like He used to talk with the people of the Bible?

The Bible is literally God speaking to us today.

- The Bible and prayer work hand-in-hand
- The Bible is central to worship services
- Reading the Bible should always be a daily habit

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What is the Bible

A Book of Books

- 66 canonical books (Protestants)
- 14 books of the Apocrypha - good but not inspired (Catholic Church)
- 5 other apocryphal books - not recommended but used by some Christians (Eastern Orthodox)
- Heretical books (i.e., Book of Mormon)



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What is the Bible

Old Testament (39 books)

- Books of Moses (Pentateuch, Torah)
 - History (more history)
 - Poetry and Wisdom
 - Prophecy





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What is the Bible

New Testament (27 books)

- Gospels (Good News of Jesus)
 - History (Acts)
 - Epistles (letters)
- Prophecy (Revelation)



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How to Read the Bible

Yes, there is a recommended **way** to read the Bible

- **Pray**

Ask God for guidance - the Holy Spirit's direction

- **Read**

- **Write down questions**

Bring them to class, study Bible, commentaries

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How to Read the Bible

Things to remember while reading

- God is speaking, not man
- It's all about Jesus Christ
- First use the Bible to interpret the Bible
- God (the Bible) does not lie or err
 - Context
 - Law and Gospel
 - Promises





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Brief History of the Bible

Compiled and written by about 40
different authors

Written over 1500 years (about 1450 BC
to about 100 AD)

Written on 3 continents (Asia, Africa,
Europe)

Written by kings and commoners, by
sages and sceptics

An open Bible is shown in the lower-left corner of the slide. The pages are filled with text, and a small illustration of a figure is visible on the left page. Sunlight streams down from the top left, creating a bright, hazy glow over the Bible and the text on the right.

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Brief History of the Bible

The Bible was initially oral (passed down by word of mouth)

Originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic (a little) and ancient Greek

First written on stone and animal skin (vellum)

Much later it was written on parchment



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Brief History of the Bible

It was passed down and spread through hand copying by scribes for the first 2 thousand years

Yet we have more early copies of the Bible - Old and New Testament - than any other ancient writing (by a lot), and the copies are closer to the dates of the original writings



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Brief History of the Bible

Example:

The significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls

The King James Version of the Bible



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Brief History of the Bible

What is Canon and why?

The books of the Old testament were selected by the Jewish religious authorities shortly after their return from exile

But they were selected based on common use (i.e., Enoch)

There was and is very little disagreement over what is canon in the OT

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Brief History of the Bible

The books of the New Testament were never “selected” by the Christian Church but were agreed upon by common use.

The myths surrounding the Council of
Nicaea

- 325 AD in Nicaea
- Constantine
- Irenaeus - about 180 AD





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Why We can Trust the Bible

It is the very Word of God

It's been preserved down through the
ages

History backs up the Bible

Science backs up the Bible

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Why We can Trust the Bible

The Bible is Truth

This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge
in him. Psalm 18:30

[Jesus said] Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 24:35



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Why We can Trust the Bible

Apologetics

Unlike other religions' scripture, the Bible is filled with history - verifiable history.

Our God walks through history boldly. You would expect to see footprints of that stroll. History, archeology, science, anthropology show us those footprints, as if the Bible wasn't enough.



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Next Week

Genesis



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What is



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