

**Through the Bible:  
Part 1  
Genesis–Malachi**

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## An Overview of the Bible

The Bible was written over a period of more than \_\_\_\_\_ generations (1500 to 2000 years) by over \_\_\_\_\_ different human authors who were inspired by the one Divine Author. It is one volume made up of \_\_\_\_\_ separate books.

### How The \_\_\_\_\_ is Divided Up:

Modern day Bibles are normally divided into \_\_\_\_\_ **major sections:** the Old and New Testaments.

Catholic and Orthodox Christians also include the Apocrypha (meaning “\_\_\_\_\_”), written primarily \_\_\_\_\_ the Old and New Testament periods. The Apocryphal books were \_\_\_\_\_ accepted by the \_\_\_\_\_, were \_\_\_\_\_ quoted by \_\_\_\_\_ or by any of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament, and are \_\_\_\_\_ by Protestants.

Over the years, the \_\_\_\_\_ has been divided up in several different ways based on \_\_\_\_\_:

### The \_\_\_\_\_-fold Division:

The Jews referred to the Old Testament Scriptures as “**The Law and the Prophets,**” as did Jesus Himself. This is demonstrated in Mt. 22:35–40 in the conversation between a lawyer (an expert in the Mosaic Law) and Jesus.

One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole **Law and the Prophets.**”

While giving the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave this instruction, “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the **Law and the Prophets**” (Mt. 7:12).

We see this **two-fold division of the Old Testament** used by others as well in Jn. 1:45; Acts 13:15; 24:14; Rom.3:21.

“**The Law**” refers to the Pentateuch, the first \_\_\_\_\_ books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, all written by Moses. “**The Prophets**” refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the “Old Testament.

### **The \_\_\_\_\_-fold Division:**

By the fifth century A.D., the Jews were regularly using a **three-fold division** in reference to the Old Testament: “**The Law, the Prophets, and the \_\_\_\_\_,**” thus making a distinction between the prophetic books, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, from the more \_\_\_\_\_ books, like Psalms and Proverbs.

Present day Jews often use the acronym **TaNaKh** to refer to the Hebrew Scriptures (O.T.) derived from the names of its \_\_\_\_\_ divisions: **Torah** (Law), **Nevi'im** (Prophets), and **Ketuvim** (Writings).

### **The \_\_\_\_\_-fold Division of the Old Testament:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament was translated into \_\_\_\_\_ during the third and second centuries B.C. and was called the Septuagint, meaning \_\_\_\_\_, referring to the 70 Jewish scholars (some traditions say 72) who translated the Hebrew into the Koine (common) Greek of the people. The Septuagint arranged the order of the Old Testament books by \_\_\_\_\_ matter into four divisions: **Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy**. It is this **four-fold division** that is followed in \_\_\_\_\_ Christian editions of the Old Testament.

| Four Sub-divisions of the Old Testament |              |                 |                |                |
|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Law                                     | History      | Poetry          | Major Prophets | Minor Prophets |
| Genesis                                 | Joshua       | Job             | Isaiah         | Hosea          |
| Exodus                                  | Judges       | Psalms          | Jeremiah       | Joel           |
| Leviticus                               | Ruth         | Proverbs        | Lamentations   | Amos           |
| Numbers                                 | 1 Samuel     | Ecclesiastes    | Ezekiel        | Obadiah        |
| Deuteronomy                             | 2 Samuel     | Song of Solomon | Daniel         | Jonah          |
|   | 1 Kings      |                 |                | Micah          |
|   | 2 Kings      |                 |                | Nahum          |
|   | 1 Chronicles |                 |                | Habakkuk       |
|   | 2 Chronicles |                 |                | Zephaniah      |
|   | Ezra         |                 |                | Haggai         |
|   | Nehemiah     |                 |                | Zechariah      |
|   | Esther       |                 |                | Malachi        |

## Why study the Old Testament?

1. Because without a proper understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament, the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament cannot be fully, and correctly, understood.

For example, there are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ direct quotes from, or allusions to, the Old Testament in the Book of \_\_\_\_\_. That amounts to about \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament references per chapter! One reason the Book of Revelation remains such a mystery to most people is because they \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament!

2. Because while the New Testament emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, with an emphasis on the Person of Jesus, the Old Testament reveals to us the \_\_\_\_\_, the majesty, the power, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
3. Because the Old Testament answers man's most fundamental questions:

\_\_\_\_\_ did all "this" come from?

\_\_\_\_\_ am I?

\_\_\_\_\_ am I here?

Why is the world so beautiful yet so \_\_\_\_\_ and broken at the same time?

4. Because the Old Testament explains and demonstrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nation of \_\_\_\_\_ (the Jewish people) in God's \_\_\_\_\_ for the past and present ages, as well as for the world to come.

## **The Central \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible:**

Oddly enough, scholars \_\_\_\_\_ as to the central theme of the Bible.

Some say the central theme of the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ of man. But as important and extensive as this theme is, there is another theme that is even more central and more extensive. Yes, Jesus redeems mankind, but long before man was created and fell into sin, God's \_\_\_\_\_ was being manifested. And long after man is redeemed and in Heaven, God will continue to be glorified, worshipped, and magnified! So perhaps it is better to see the Bible's central theme as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, a glory that is clearly demonstrated in the redemption of fallen mankind. The latter suggestion sees the Bible as theocentric (\_\_\_\_\_ -centered) rather than anthropocentric (\_\_\_\_\_ -centered).

## **The Central \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible:**

To fully understand both the Old and New Testaments, as well as mankind's future, one must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ people in God's plans for all of His Creation, an important theme running throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

Over \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, God promised a Middle Eastern man named Abram (later called \_\_\_\_\_, meaning the father of a multitude), "... in you, \_\_\_\_\_ the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:3b). God revealed at that time that He had a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Jewish people, the descendants of this one man, Abraham. And this plan included the coming of the \_\_\_\_\_, a direct descendant of Abraham, to save mankind.

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, it is God's \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with the nation of \_\_\_\_\_ that is the central focus. The Bible is not a history of the \_\_\_\_\_, but rather, it is a history that centers around the \_\_\_\_\_ people. But more than that, both the Old and New Testaments take a

prophetic look into the future and reveal \_\_\_\_\_ affect on the future of the \_\_\_\_\_!

Without a proper understanding of the role of the \_\_\_\_\_ people in God's divine plans, it is \_\_\_\_\_ to have a correct understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ future as first revealed in the Old Testament and later expanded in the New Testament. The Old and New Testament prophecies reveal that the Jewish people are \_\_\_\_\_ to the Second Coming of Christ and His future Millennial reign on earth.

It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel as a whole that will usher in the Second Coming of Christ: "...and thus all Israel will be \_\_\_\_\_; just as it is written. 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.'" (Rom. 11:26)

I will go away and return to My place until they [Israel] acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me. (Hos. 5:15)

For I say to you, from now on you [Israel] will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mt. 24:39)

The Bible's central \_\_\_\_\_ is the glory of God, it's central \_\_\_\_\_ is on the \_\_\_\_\_ people, and it's main \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ men and women to God so they can experience His great love for them and in return glorify Him and enjoy Him forever!

God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)