

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)