

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

LESSON 1.b

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Supplemental Class Notes

ROAD MAP

1. We will discuss revelation: both natural and special.
2. We will look at the Bible: general information, structure, and themes.
3. We will look at the Bible's claim of inspiration.

REVIEW

- **Natural/General Revelation**
 - Creation – Romans 1:18-20
 - Conscience – Romans 2:14-15
- **Special Revelation** – Hebrews 1:1-2

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE SURVEY

Sections of the Old Testament

39 Old Testament books are divided into 3 major sections:

- 17 Historical books - in chronological order
- 5 Poetical/Wisdom books
- 17 Prophetical books

IMPORTANT OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE AND EVENTS

4000 B.C.	Creation
2300 B.C.	Flood
2000 B.C.	Abraham (Abram)
1860 B.C.	Isaac
1820 B.C.	Jacob
1700 B.C.	Joseph Egypt; Famine; Jacob -4 Egypt
1446 B.C.	Exodus (10 plagues/Passover instituted)
1000 B.C.	Kings (Saul, David, Solomon)
900 B.C.	Divided kingdom
700 B.C.	Assyria destroys Israel
606 B.C.	Babylonian captivity of Judah (70 years)
536 B.C.	Jews return to Jerusalem—Ezra (rebuilds temple); Nehemiah (rebuilds wall)

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE SURVEY

Sections of the New Testament

27 New Testament books are also divided into three major sections:

- The first 5 books of the New Testament are historical
- The next 21 books are doctrinal epistles
- The last book, Revelation, is prophetical

KEY POINTS AND EVENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew, Mark, Luke are called the **Synoptic Gospels**

They cover the following key events and people:

- Birth of Christ
- John the Baptist
- Christ's temptations
- Choosing of the 12 disciples
- The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29)
- The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25)
- Christ's miracles
- Christ's parables
- Lazarus raised from the dead
- Christ's arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection

The Gospel of John presents Christ as God.

- The book of seven signs (miracles of Christ)
- The book of I AMs

The Book of Acts - transition from Judaism to the church.

- Ascension of Christ
- Pentecost-50 days after Passover
- Key people: Peter, Paul
- Paul's conversion and missionary journeys (use a map)

Epistles

- Letters to churches (13)
- Letters to individuals (8)

Revelation (the only prophetical book)

- The tribulation and the return of Christ
- The kingdom and final judgment

CHRIST IN THE BIBLE (*lesson #1, section III*)

Christ is seen throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. A few examples are:

- Christ is promised through the blessing of Abraham's line (Genesis 12:1-3).
- Christ is pictured in the Passover, as He was to be the true Passover Lamb (Ex 12; John 1:29, 36).
- Christ's crucifixion was predicted (Psalm 22:1-8; Isa 53:4-7).
- Christ's birthplace was predicted (Micah 5:2).
- Christ' future kingdom, dominion, and glory were predicted (Dan 7:14).

WHY IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT? (*lesson #1, section IV*)

THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

What does inspiration mean?

Inspiration is...

A process by which God, as the instigator, moved men by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God.

What are some of the misconceptions regarding the Bible in the lives of unbelievers as well as some believers?

How do we know the Bible is the inspired Word of God?

THE SCRIPTURE _____ TO BE THE _____ OF _____.

Paul claimed that the message he and the other apostles were proclaiming was from God.
1 Thessalonians 2:13

Paul writes "*All Scripture is inspired by God*". - 2 Timothy 3:16

Paul makes explicit claims of receiving his words from the Spirit of God. - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

All the words in the Scriptures are of divine inspiration.

- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Psalm 16:7-10
- Acts 13:32-35

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN _____ HIS _____ WORD.

God's purpose cannot be challenged in any realm.

- Isaiah 46:10

God's purposes and will preserve His Word.

- Isaiah 40:8
- Matthew 5:18
- 1 Peter 1:25

THE CANONIZATION OF THE BIBLE

God not only superintended the writing of the books, but also providentially collected and preserved those writings He inspired. Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11

WHY THESE 66 BOOKS?

There are eight prospective reasons for the 66 books.

1. Testimony of God the Holy Spirit to the authority of His own Word.
2. Prophetic authorship (2 Peter 1:20-21)
3. God's providential care in preserving that which He desires to preserve according to His own will (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25).
4. God's people responding in recognition of God's Canon in faith and submission.
5. Many of the books in the present Canon claim to be the Word of God.
6. In regard to the O.T., Christ validated the O.T. books (Luke 24:44; 11:51; Matt 4:4, 7, 10; 22:29-30).
7. In regard to the N.T., Peter recognized Paul's writings as being equal with Scripture (2 Pet 3:15-16).
8. Paul recognized Luke 10:7 as Scripture in 1 Timothy 5:18.

THE BELIEVABILITY OF THE BIBLE

Believers cannot prove to unbelievers that the Bible is God's Word. The reason is because unbelievers are spiritually dead (Romans 3:10-18) and thus incapable of affirming Scripture's believability.

Some Of The Reasons To Find The Bible Believable:

- Ordinary men wrote the Scriptures.
- The Bible is also internally consistent. The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years by 40 different authors in three different languages.
- The Bible is a powerful and dynamic book that has not only changed the lives of millions of people, it also convicts God's people of sin and leads them down the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. The Bible has had more influence than any book ever written.
- The Bible is historically accurate giving credible evidence for creation, fossil records, and so on.
- Jesus Christ Himself confirmed the believability of the Scriptures. Jesus believed in the law and prophets (Matthew 5:17-18), believed in Jonah (Matthew 12:40-41), and believed the historical narrative of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15).
- There are various prophecies concerning the Messiah that confirm the believability of the Bible.
 - The birthplace of the Messiah was predicted 700 years before His birth, saying that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 fulfilled in Luke 4-7).
 - Christ would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14 fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25).
 - Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was predicted 700 years before it occurred (Zechariah 9:9 fulfilled in John 12:12-15).
 - Christ's crucifixion and suffering were also prophesied 700 years before fulfillment (Psalm 22:14-18 fulfilled in John 19:23-37; Isaiah 53:4-7 fulfilled in Matthew 26:63).