

An Overview of the Bible

1. Make a Word out of Each Letter:

B _____
I _____
B _____
L _____
E _____

2. The Bible is *From God and For Our Benefit*:

- NIV 2 Peter 1:21** “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but _____ spoke from _____ as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
- NIV 2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is _____-breathed and is useful for _____, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly _____ for every good work.”

3. A Summary of the Bible:

The Holy Bible tells us about:

- God’s creation
- People’s sin
- God’s love
- Jesus’ saving work
- God’s call for repentance
- Jesus’ promised return

4. The Primary Person of the Bible:

Jesus said: **NIV John 5:39** “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me...”

5. How Many Books are in the OT / NT?

Count the letters in each word:

- Old = ____
- Testament = ____
a b = ____ in the OT
- New = ____
- Testament = ____
c x d = ____ in the NT

6. Bible Book Names and Explanations:

- OT – Historical Books:** Genesis → Esther (4000 BC to 433 BC) – *Basically in chronological order.*
- OT – Poetic Books:** Job → Song of Solomon – *Fit into the time of the historical books.*
- OT – Prophetic Books:** Isaiah → Malachi – *Fit into the time of the historical books (5 Major Prophets, 12 Minor Prophets).*
- NT – Gospels (Good News):** Matthew → John – *Jesus’ conception, birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.*
- NT – Historical Book:** Acts – *30-year history of the Church (right after Jesus’ lived, died, and was raised).*
- NT – Epistles / Letters:** Romans → Jude
 - Romans – Thessalonians: *Written by Paul to Christians living in certain locations.*
 - Timothy, Titus, and Philemon: *Written by Paul to certain Christians.*
 - Hebrews: *Written to Jewish converts.*
 - James, Peter, John, Jude: *Named after their writers.*
- NT – Prophetic Book:** Revelation – *John describes the entire NT era (from Jesus’ saving work to His promised return) and God’s ultimate victory over the forces of evil.*

7. Bible Interpretation:

Using the right method leads to the right interpretation!

- Two Primary Methods:**
 - Historical Grammatical** – The Bible _____ what it _____.
→ GOD tells us the truth!
 - Historical Critical** – What does the Bible _____ mean?
→ PEOPLE determine the truth!
Which method do you think we use at Bethlehem? **HG** or **HC**

b. Historical Grammatical Examples:

- i. **Creation:** ^{NIV} **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

→ *We believe God created!*

- ii. **Lord's Supper:** ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 10:16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

→ *We believe wine, blood, bread, and body are received in the Supper!*

c. Scripture Interprets Scripture:

- i. To rightly understand a particular teaching (*doctrine*), ALL PASSAGES RELATING TO THAT TEACHING are found in the Bible and understood – *each in its own context.*
- ii. The *easy-to-understand passages* are used to interpret the *more difficult passages.*
- iii. Example: **Revelation 20:1-6** has five references to a “*thousand years.*” *What do they mean?*
1. Some use those verses to interpret the rest of the Bible.
 2. We, at Bethlehem, use the rest of the Bible to interpret those verses.

8. **Bible Book Summary:**

- a. Genesis Chapters 1 – 11 (covers about 2,000 years and all people):
- i. _____ (chap. 1-2)
 - ii. First Marriage (chap. 2)
 - iii. Fall into _____ (chap. 3)
 - iv. Promise of the _____ (chap. 3)
 - v. Clothes (chap. 3, *The First Blood Sacrifice – It Pointed to Christ!*)
 - vi. First Murder (chap. 4; chap. 5 – *the first genealogy list*)
 - vii. Decline into Much Evil (chap. 6)
 - viii. Worldwide _____ (chap. 6-9, *The LORD's Preliminary Judgment on Evil; chap. 10 – the second genealogy list*)

- ix. Languages of the World (chap. 11, *The LORD's action to call the people to repentance and move them to “fill the earth” Genesis 1:28*)

- b. Genesis Chapter 12 – Acts Chapter 9 (covers about 2,000 years and focuses on Abraham's descendants – especially Jesus)

^{NIV} **Genesis 12:1-3** “The LORD had said to Abram... **I will make you into a great nation... I will make your name great... ..all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**”

- c. Acts 10 – Revelation 22 (covers the time until Jesus returns and focuses on God's call for all people to repent, which includes these five key words: sin, hell, helpless, sorrow, and faith)

9. **Two Main Messages of the Bible:**

- a. **Law** – God commands us what to do and what not to do!

- i. Can anyone **perfectly** follow God's commands? Y N

1. ^{NIV} **Ecclesiastes 7:20** There is **not a righteous man on earth** who does what is right and never sins.
2. ^{NIV} **Romans 3:10, 20, 23** There is **no one** righteous, **not even one... ..no one** will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.... **...all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God...

- ii. **Law Summary:** SOS → Shows Our _____!

- b. **Gospel** – God's work through Jesus to save us from our sins!

- i. How are those blessings received? By _____ through _____!

^{NIV} **Ephesians 2:8-9** “...it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.”

- ii. **Gospel Summary:** SOS → Shows Our _____!