



SESSION 1: Introducing the Bible

Welcome to *How to Get the Most from Your Bible!* In this class we will provide an introduction to the Bible and suggest ways to approach its study to gain the most benefit. In this session we will consider the basic facts about this amazing book.

QUICK FACTS

1. The Bible was written over the course of 1500 years and covers over 4000 years of human history.
2. The Bible is really a library of 66 books, with 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New.
3. It is believed that about 40 different authors working largely independently of one another put together the books that are contained within the covers of our Bible.
4. The biblical authors were a very diverse group. Here are a few of their occupations:
 Shepherds
 Kings
 Fishermen
 Doctor, etc
5. Although written in the words of men , believers have long accepted that the Bible is in truth the Word of God. The method whereby such a thing was made possible is called Inspiration .
6. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, the Scriptures are God - Breathed . This is the literal meaning of the word "inspired."
7. 2 Peter 1:21 describes how prophecy (and this would equally apply to all Scripture) came about: "men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
8. The Scriptures are given to us for at least these purposes (according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17):
 teaching
 rebuking
 correcting
 training/ equipping
9. The Old Testament is divided into these sections according to content:



5 Books of ___Moses / Law___

12 Books of ___History___

5 Books of ___Poetry___

5 Books of ___Major Prophets___

12 Books of ___Minor Prophets___

Although these descriptions are not always entirely accurate, this does help us to orient ourselves in the book.

10. The New Testament is divided into these sections according to content:

4 Books of ___Gospels___

1 Book of ___History___

13 Books of ___Pauline Letters___

8 Books of ___General Letters___

1 Book of ___Prophecy___

11. The Broad Chronology of the Bible:

a) ADAM to NOAH — 1656 years

b) NOAH to ABRAHAM — 427 years

c) ABRAHAM to MOSES — 430 years

d) MOSES to the KINGDOM — 396 years

e) The KINGDOM Period — 508 years

f) END of OT to CHRIST — 587 years

g) Life of CHRIST — 33 years

h) WRITING of NT — 37 years

12. The Bible is not a history of world, nor is it even a history of God's people. It contains history, but it is more what might be termed: salvific history (that is, the story of God's involvement with humanity).

13. The Bible traces the story of God's plan to restore humanity to its original relationship with God.

a. Garden — complete fellowship

b. Garden to Exodus — occasional appearances

c. Exodus to Christ — presence in a building

d. Christ — God with us

e. Christian Age — God in us

f. Eternity — complete fellowship

