

The New Testament

Matthew – Luke: Known as the synoptic gospels, all write about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The three views of the life of Jesus, the culture, and miracles, give the reader a more complete understanding of the only person in human history, “...*who is the Savior of all men...*” **1 Timothy 4:10.**

John: Presents Jesus in His glory and gives accounts that are not included in the synoptic gospels. John writes of Jesus’ command to be born again (**John 3:1-5**), the revelation of the Word in flesh (**John 1:1, 14**) and the promise of the Holy Ghost to come (**John 14**).

Acts of the Apostles: This book is a record of some of the acts of the church that Jesus purchased (**Acts 20:28**), established (**Acts 1:4-5**) and empowered (**Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 4:31**) that the whole world (**Acts 2:39**) would have the opportunity to know and experience the risen Savior, Jesus Christ (**Acts 3:19-20**).

Romans – Hebrews: Known as the Pauline Epistles, these are written for the establishment, correction and encouragement of the various congregations scattered throughout the regions. The letters are named for the cities or regions they were sent to. The Pastoral Epistles of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus were written to young pastors instructing them on how they should conduct themselves and set the churches in order. Philemon is a personal letter written by Paul concerning the treatment of an escaped servant who has converted to Christianity.

James – Jude: These books are named for the authors and contain practical and spiritual instruction, warning and encouragement to the Christian believer.

Revelation: Known as the apocalyptic book. It is an account by the Apostle John of a vision that he had, concerning future events to come upon the world. It describes the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to the earth, the final judgment of mankind and the devil and closes with a promise to those who await his return, “...*Surely I come quickly*” **Revelation 22:20.**

Are you ready for His return? Have you experienced the author of the greatest Book ever written? Don’t miss out!

If you have any questions or comments please write or call.

Additional Studies

- Baptism
- Deliverance from Fear
- Praise & Worship
- Q&A About Knowing God
- The Acts of the Apostles
- The Bible
- The Gift of the Holy Ghost
- The Gifts of the Spirit

THE BIBLE



“These were nobler than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Acts 17:11

The Bible, the inspired Word of God is the eternal book, *“my words will never pass away”* Matthew 24:35. It was penned by prophets, kings, priests and the apostles of the Old and New Testament *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* **2 Peter 2:21**.

The Bible is a small library of sixty-six books. But, this library is alive and brings life to those who study and obey it *“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life”* **John 6:63**. The Word of God is, *“...quick (alive) and powerful”* **Hebrews 4:12**, and by, *“hiding the word in my heart...I might not sin against God”* Psalm **119:11**.

History: There are no known *autographs* (original writings of the authors); there are several *manuscripts* (hand copied texts until the printing press) of the Old Testament that exist dating as far back as 200 B.C. and almost 5,600 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament in existence today. The original writings of the Old Testament were in Hebrew but were translated into the Aramaic (400 B.C.) and Greek (250 B.C.) languages. By 195 A.D. early translations of the bible were being written, one of the first in Latin.

In 1456, the first bible is printed by Gutenberg. In 1611 A.D. the King James Version is printed and for many years acknowledged as the most complete and accurate translation of both the Old and New Testaments. During the last century there have been many different translations of the Bible for various reasons, the most common being to simplify the words for modern readers, and have had both positive and negative attributes.

The Old Testament

Genesis – Deuteronomy: Known as the Pentateuch or the Book of the Law. These books cover the creation of the universe and mankind, the fall of humanity into sin, the flood, the call of Abraham, the promise of a new nation (Israel), the emancipation from slavery of the fledgling nation and the laws, customs and traditions of Israel as a nation. Deuteronomy is a record of the law being given to the second generation of Israel before crossing into the promise land.

Joshua – Esther: These are the historical books of Israel. These books contain the record of Israel’s conquest of Canaan, the various judges that God anointed to lead the nation of Israel, and Israel’s propensity for backsliding, and God’s mercy by delivering them when they repented. 1 and 2 Samuel cover approximately 180 years of Israel’s history. It records the life and times of Israel’s last judge (Samuel), the glory and demise of their first king (Saul), and the life and times of King David and his son, King Solomon along with their failures and accomplishments. The respective reigns of David and Solomon are the “golden years” of Israel’s national history. 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles record the fragmentation of the nation of Israel into the divided kingdom Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom). Ultimately both kingdoms are defeated by the Gentile nations of Babylon and Syria respectively, because they refused to serve the Lord as He had commanded them to do. Ruth and Esther are portraits of Israeli life under the reign of Gentile kings. Ezra and Nehemiah are the record of the remnant of Israeli’s who returned to Israel after being in Babylonian captivity for 70 years.

Job – Song of Solomon: The book of Job is known as the account of a man who suffers great tragedy and remains faithful to God and is blessed abundantly for his steadfast faith. Psalms was used as the songbook of the nation of Israel as well as the early New Testament church and is a source of many of the prophecies of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah – Daniel: Known as the Major Prophets, largely due to the length of material. It is Isaiah who penned many of the wonderful prophecies concerning Jesus (**Isaiah 9:6**). Jesus also began his ministry based upon **Isaiah 61**, compare with **Luke 4:17-19**. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet and prophesied to Israel both before and after they became captives of Babylon. Ezekiel prophesied the rebirth of Israel and the judgment to come upon the enemies of Israel. Daniel wrote mainly of things to come concerning world events and nations (Daniel chapter 2 and chapters 7-12) and offers some of these final words, *“...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits”* **Daniel 11:32**.

Hosea – Malachi: Known as the Minor Prophets because of the brevity of their writings. These writings contain the story of Jonah (the prophet swallowed by a whale), the place of Jesus’ birth (**Micah 5:2**), the promise of God’s spirit to be poured out upon all flesh (**Joel 2:28**), and many other prophecies and stories of God’s relationship with Israel and the world. It is important to note that all of these prophets prophesied to either the Northern (Israel) or Southern Kingdom (Judah) before the Exile, during the Exile and after the Exile. The Old Testament ends with the promise of a prophet that would come in the spirit of Elijah preparing the people for the coming of the Lord compare **Malachi 4:5** with **Matthew 17:11-12**.