

The Holy Bible: An Introduction

What is the Holy Bible? The Holy Bible is a library of books which are accepted by Christians as the inspired Word of God. The Bible is the foundation for all Christian beliefs and doctrine. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the final authority of all matters of faith and practice. Therefore, the Bible gives us key guidance for spiritual and virtuous living. The Bible is the best guide for mankind to live by. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

The Holy Bible has been given to us by Almighty God, no question about it. The English word "Bible" comes from the Greek word Biblia (singular biblion) which when translated into English means "books". The Holy books are available in most languages of the world and is very important to our society and culture as they are the living Word of God. The King James Version of the Holy Bible is the world's best-selling book. It is reported that over 3.9 billion copies of the King James Version have been sold worldwide.

In total the Bible has 66 books. There are 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Old Testament covers the 2,000 plus years before the birth of Jesus Christ. It is otherwise known as the Hebrew texts as it was used by the Jewish leaders and people at the time.

The 27 New Testament books covers the earthly life and times of Jesus Christ, letters from the apostles such as Paul and Peter and also includes clear guidance, help and solace for our Christian life. It is the foundation of the New Testament Christian Church. As we are now under the grace of the New Testament and not the law of the Old Testament.

When addressing Old Testament passages, we ought to look if there is a New Testament passage that says the Old Testament passage is done away with. The New Testament interprets the Old Testament, not the other way around.

The Holy Bible has sold more copies than any other book ever printed in English. God has given us His books, His Son, and His love. How will you respond to this? The Bible is the manual of life, given to us by the Creator.

The Old Testament (OT)

The Old Testament starts with the Book of Genesis and ends with the Book of Malachi. The Old Testament is the first of the two sections of the Christian Bible. The Old Testament tells the story of the Jewish people and their relationship to God. It was written from approximately 1400 B.C. to 400 B.C. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew.

The Old Testament is just as important to Christians as the New Testament. The Old Testament contains important books to read and key guidance in spiritual matters such as the Psalms and Proverbs. Creation in the Book of Genesis is crucial to believers. Christians should not miss out on what the Old Testament offers to the New Testament.

The Jewish Old Testament tells us the many prophecies of the Messiah to come such as Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2. Jesus Christ is the central figure in Christianity. He was born a Jew. Christianity is following the teachings of Jesus Christ, (Christ-ian). Christianity began as a section of Judaism and was made a separate religion in the middle of the 1st Century. Jesus Christ is the Messiah of both the Jew and Gentile. When God sent the Messiah, He was rejected. The Jews were hoping for God to send them a political or military leader to set

them free from Roman rule and regain all their land. They were hoping for a King; they got an infant Saviour to be the King of kings.

Perhaps a more apt name for the Old Testament would be the First Testament. The word old implies that the Old Testament is outdated and does not apply to us today. The books of the Old Testament are relevant and offers us a wealth of spiritual nourishment.

The New Testament (NT)

The New Testament starts with the Gospel according to Matthew and finishes with the Book of the Revelation to John.

The New Testament books are very important and key to all Christendom. The books of the New Testament were all originally written in Koine Greek over a period of 60's A.D. to 90's A.D. Originally the Bible did not have chapter numbers or verse numbers. This was added in the 13th Century by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton (1150-1228). The Wycliffe English Bible published over a period between 1382 to 1395 was the first Bible to use this chapter and verse system. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Archbishop Langton's chapter and verse divisions.

Paul wrote letters to believers and churches. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote their accounts of the ministry of Jesus. The Book of Acts was written as an account of what happened after the Lord left this earth. The New Testament also tells us the Good News of Jesus Christ, the way of salvation, his birth, his life, his earthly ministry, his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead.

How to use Bible addresses

As you study and read God's Word you must be able to use Bible addresses so you can learn the truths of God and most importantly grow in your faith in Christ. Here are some examples of Bible Scripture addresses and how to use them.

Some Examples

Luke 5:14 means the Gospel of Luke chapter 5 and verse 14.

1 Peter 2:10 means the First Epistle of Peter, chapter 2 and verse 10.

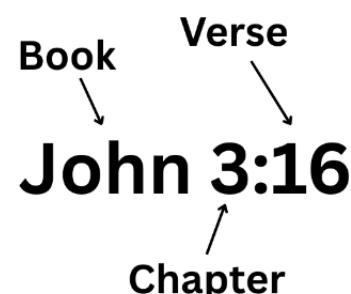
Romans 2: 8-10 means the Book of Romans chapter 2 verses 8 through to 10.

2 Corinthians 8:10, 13 means the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians chapter 8 verse 10 and verse 13.

Acts 3:11-14, 22 means the Book of Acts, chapter 3 verse 11 through to 14 and verse 22.

Now you know how to use Bible addresses begin by buying a good copy of the Holy Bible. I recommend you get a wide margin version as you can write notes as you go through each book. I recommend you buy the New American Standard Bible 1995 as this series of studies is based on this translation. This translation is also known as the NASB.

I also recommend you buy the Ryrie Study Bible and/or the Scofield Reference Bible. These two study Bibles will help you when studying the Bible. Another good Bible to buy for study is the Thompson Chain Reference Bible.



These studies are produced using the NASB, so it is best to use this translation for the series of studies before us. Other translations that I recommend are the New King James Version (NKJV), Authorised (King James) Version (KJV/AV), and the Darby Bible which is a translation of the Holy Scriptures by John Nelson Darby published towards the end of the 19th Century.

