

Four Things We Know About the Bible:

“I prefer to believe those writers who get their throats cut for what they write.” Pascal, *French philosopher and mathematician, developed the modern theory of probability, 1623-1662*

1. The Bible is the _____ word of God
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - i. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.¹
2. The Bible we have today is an _____ representation of what the original manuscripts (autographs) said.

Transmission Exorcize

- a. Manuscript A:
 - i. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
 - b. Manuscript B:
 - i. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
 - c. Manuscript C:
 - i. Don't copy the behavior of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
 - d. Manuscript D:
 - i. Copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you by changing the way you think.
-
-

3. “When all the facts become known, they will demonstrate that the Bible in its _____ and _____ is entirely true and never false in all it affirms, whether relative to doctrine or ethics or the social, physical or life sciences.” (P. D. Feinberg, s.v. “inerrancy, Evangelical Dictionary of Theology)
4. The _____ of Scripture is _____.

¹*The Holy Bible : New International Version.* 1996, c1984 (2 Ti 3:16-17). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Bible Basics

“The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world.”

~Charles Dickens~

1. There are ___ Books in the Bible, ___ in the Old Testament and ___ in the New Testament.
 - a. There were more than ___ authors who wrote it over a period of _____ years.
2. The old Testament was written in _____ and _____.
3. The New Testament was written in _____.
4. Chapters and Verses
 - a. In 1205 a Theology Professor named Stephen Langton was the first to make chapter divisions to facilitate his work with Bible commentaries
 - b. A Jewish rabbi named Isaac Nathan adopted Langton’s chapter divisions for the Old Testament and added verses (early 1500’s)
 - c. A Protestant book printer from France named Robert Stephanus made verse divisions within Langton’s chapter divisions in the New Testament (He was considered a Heretic)²

How Do I Find Stuff?

1. Understanding the Reference:
 - a. Name of the book Chapter:Verse; Genesis 1:1; Psalm 139:8-12; Hosea 14:1-3; Romans 12:1-2; John 3:16; Hebrews 12:-1-2
2. Concordance
 - a. A concordance is usually located in the back of a bible and helps find passages using _____.
 - i. Look up these words in your concordance
 1. Scripture
 2. Workman
 3. Word
3. Topical Helps
 - a. Back of the Bible
 - b. Naves Topical Bible

² <http://helpmewithbiblestudy.org/5Bible/TransHowDidBibleChaptersVerses.aspx>

Old Testament Overview

1. The Old Testament Canon

“The _____ of Scripture is the list of all the books that belong in the Bible.”³

- a. The first words recorded in the OT (Old Testament) are that of the _____ or _____. These were literally written by God himself. He etched them on two pieces of stone. (Exodus 20:1-17; 31:18)
- b. The authors of the OT were considered to be men who wrote with the _____ of God. This was recognized throughout Jewish History.

Josephus said, “From Artazerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of _____ with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact _____.”⁴

Wayne Grudem, “The Qumran community...also awaited a prophet whose words would have the _____ to supersede any existing regulations.”⁵

Wayne Grudem, “According to one count, Jesus and the New Testament authors quote various parts of the Old Testament Scriptures as _____ over _____ times, but not once do they cite any statement from the books of the _____ or any other writings as having _____.”⁶

c. The Law (Pentateuch)

i. Genesis-Deuteronomy

1. The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses
2. Genesis 12:1-3 lays out the divine _____ and themes for _____ and all of _____, but especially the _____.

d. History

i. Joshua-Esther

1. It is important to remember that the Bible is not put together in _____ order.

e. Poetry & Wisdom

i. Job-Song of Solomon

1. There are different _____ in the Bible. Each _____ requires a different _____ of interpretation.

³ *Systematic Theology*, by Wayne Grudem, 1994 Inter-Varsity Press

⁴ *Against Apion* 1.41

⁵ Grudem

⁶ *ibid*

f. Major Prophets

i. Isaiah-Daniel

1. Though the Prophets did tell us about the _____, their _____ message was the _____ message itself, _____.

g. Minor Prophets

i. Hosea-Malachi

1. The Minor Prophets are shorter books and hard to remember, but they are as much the _____ as the other books.

New Testament Overview

1. Five _____ for being accepted in the New Testament Canon⁷

a. Was the book written by someone with _____?

“Hence the early church, with closer ties and greater information than is available to us today, examined the testimony of the ancients. They were able to discern which were the authentic and authoritative books by their apostolic origin.”⁸

b. Was the writer confirmed by _____?

c. Did the message tell _____ about God?

“Incontrovertible consistency of doctrine in all the books, including the sometime contested ones, was perhaps a subordinate test.”⁹

d. Does it come with the _____ of God?

e. Was it accepted by the _____ of God?

“Full acceptance by the original recipients followed by a continued acknowledgment and use is an essential factor in the development of the canon.”¹⁰

2. The Gospels

a. The first three gospels are called the _____ gospels

1. Synoptic means _____, the first three gospels are very similar. For some this is a problem, they seem too similar. In reality there are plenty of differences, but Mark was probably the first one written and the other two likely used a significant amount of material from Mark.

ii. Matthew

iii. Mark

⁷ *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

⁸ Milton Fisher, *The Origin of the Bible*, p. 76

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

- iv. Luke
 - b. John
 - i. John is different from the other gospels both in _____ and in the fact that it does not appear to have a common source with the synoptic gospels. John's gospel is more theological in nature and heavily focused on the _____ of Jesus.
- 3. Acts
 - a. Acts is a _____ of the early church written by Luke.
 - b. Acts primarily covers the life and ministry of Peter and Paul.
- 4. Paul's Epistles
 - a. Romans-Philemon
 - b. Paul wrote the _____ of the New Testament including these letters to a variety of churches.
- 5. General Epistles
 - a. Hebrews-Jude
 - i. The author for Hebrews is not known for sure, some think it could be Paul, some think it could be Apollos, and some think it could be another author. Hebrews was accepted by the early church as Scripture and is _____ with the teaching in the rest of the New Testament.
- 6. Revelation
 - a. Written by John on the Island of Patmos.
 - b. The first three chapters are epistles to the seven churches.
 - c. The rest of Revelation is _____ in its genre. Much has been made about the meaning of various portions of Revelation. We should be careful about how we understand Revelation and about our certainty regarding our own understanding.

How to Study the Bible

Why Study

- To _____ God
- To _____ and _____ God
- To Know God's _____
- To _____ the Word
- To learn _____ for love
- To find _____ and hope
- To let God expose our _____ and _____
- To become _____ and _____
- To obey the _____

How to Begin

- Plan a study _____
- Pray
- Read and _____
- Take _____
- Make the Bible your _____
- Get in a small group

Basic Principles

- Look for God's _____ Plan
- Ask Questions:
 - Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
- Never Read a _____
 - Remember verses were not there when this was written and verses were never intended to be read by themselves.
- _____ interprets Scripture
- Discover the authors _____ meaning
- Know the _____ of the text and how it should be understood

Ways to Study

- Bible Studies/Small Group
- Reading Plans
- Discuss the Bible with others

Tools

- Study Bibles
 - The Reformation Study Bible

- The ESV Study Bible
 - NIV Study Bible
 - Quest Study Bible
- Concordances
 - Hard Copy
 - <http://www.biblegateway.com>
- Bible Software
 - Logos
- Bible Dictionaries
- Commentaries
- Topical Bibles

Bibles: Translations/Paraphrases

Four Types of Bibles

1. Word-for-Word
2. Balance
3. Thought-for -Thought
4. Paraphrase

Why Do New Translations Continue to Appear?

- Language changes
- Our understanding of the original languages

What are the main Translations/Paraphrases?

- King James Version
- New American Standard
- New International Version
- New King James Version
- New Living Translation
- English Standard Version
- The Message