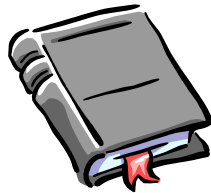


# ***Words Of Eternal Life***

*A Survey Of The Bible*



*“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*



# Survey Of The Bible

Format For Study

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*A brief Introduction to the format used for this study.*

*The first three will be in a worksheet. The last two will be in an information sheet.*

## Marking Time

*Putting Your Study In Time*

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**Know What Time It Is!** One key to understanding Scripture correctly is determining when the events under consideration took place. It is a helpful habit to begin your study by asking the question, “When? When did these events take place?” To help us set the Biblical events in their proper time context a *Timeline Survey Of The Bible* has been provided.

**A Textured Timeline.** You will find that the timeline is textured. When the family of Jacob goes down to Egypt the line goes downward. When they come out of Egyptian bondage the line goes upward. When a bad king reigned the line goes down. When a good king reigned it goes up. The aim of this textured timeline is to aid in your memorization of key Biblical periods.

**Know It Like The Back Of Your Hand.** Over the course of this study thoroughly familiarize yourself with this timeline. In short, memorize it! Each lesson will have a section entitled “*Marking Time*” where you will record on a blank timeline when the events you’ve read about that week fit in Biblical history.

## Finding Your Place

*Putting Your Study In Place*

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**Know Where You Are At!** Another key to understanding Scripture correctly is determining where the events under consideration took place. Add to your study habit asking “Where? Where did these events take place?” Make sure to have a good Bible Atlas in your library that will have maps of all the Bible lands and times.

**Read Your Map Before You Drive.** Each lesson will have section entitled “Finding Your Place” where you can locate where the events of your reading took place. Sometimes the map will be blank and you’ll be asked to fill in where the cities, rivers, lands, seas are located.

## Bringing It Home

*Record Your Own Discoveries & Applications*

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**Reading That Transforms.** Our goal is not just to read through God’s Word, but to let God’s word go through us! Therefore, in this final section questions will be asked to help us turn the information we have read into transformation of our lives. This section will help you be prepared to interact in Bible class more effectively.

# Storing Up Treasures:

Discovering The Rich Teaching Of Scripture



**Get Ready To Dig.** Each lesson will have a section called, “*Storing Up Treasures.*” This section will develop the outline of the material, identify the key themes, and show how each section fits into the theme of the Bible. This is where the real substance of our study will take place.



# Seeing The Savior

Hearing The Message Of The Bible






**Don't Miss The Point!** The message of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is salvation through Jesus. The Old Testament points to Jesus through types and shadows. The New Testament reveals Jesus in the flesh and in His teachings. Each lesson will have a section called “*Seeing the Savior*” where many of the key characteristics of Jesus found in that specific text will be explored. Look for Jesus on every page and your study will be more rewarding.

## Sample Information Sheet

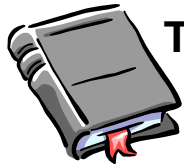
Genesis Genesis 1-11 Information Sheet	
Storing Up Treasure	
Seeing The Savior	

## Sample Work Sheet

Genesis Genesis 1-11 Work Sheet	
Marking Time	
Knowing Your Place	
Bringing It Home	

### A Challenging Story!

The folks at Oxford University Press took the time to number the words of the King James Bible and there are 810,697 words. That doesn't seem so insurmountable. In fact, G. Campbell Morgan once challenged a congregation to read the Bible through, and told them they could it in 78 – 80 hours. An attorney was there who took him up on the challenge and kept a record of his time, reading at a normal pace. When he was finished it had taken him 80 hours! It seems like a horrendous task, but in two weeks, two forty hour weeks, you can read the Bible through!



# The Bible

Introduction To THE Book – Information Sheet

A brief Introduction to the Bible as a whole.

## Storing Up Treasures:

Discovering The Rich Teaching Of Scripture



### An Enduring Book

*“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:8).*

John Cummings has written, “The empire of Caesar is gone; the legions of Rome are moldering in the dust; the avalanches that Napoleon hurled upon Europe have melted away; the pride of the Pharaohs is fallen; Tyre is but a rock for bleaching fishermen’s nets; Sidon has scarcely left a wreck behind... but the word of God still survives. All things that threatened to extinguish it have only aided it; and it proves every day how transient is the noblest monument that man can build, and how enduring is the least word that God has spoken.”

Bernard Ramm adds, “A thousand times over the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow, the corpse never stays put.”

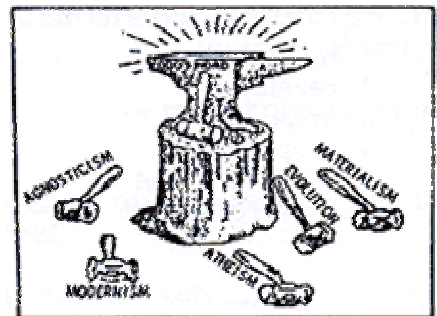
John Clifford so beautifully penned this his poem,

### *The Hammer and The Anvil*

Last eve I passed a blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime,  
When, looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

How many anvils have you had, said I  
To wear and batter all these hammers so?  
Just one, said he, then said with twinkling eye  
The anvil wears the hammers out you know.

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word  
For ages skeptics blows have beat upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unharmed; the hammer's gone!



## The Title – The Bible!

Why do we call God's word, the Bible? Two passages from Luke help us understand why.

*Luke 3:3-4* "And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"

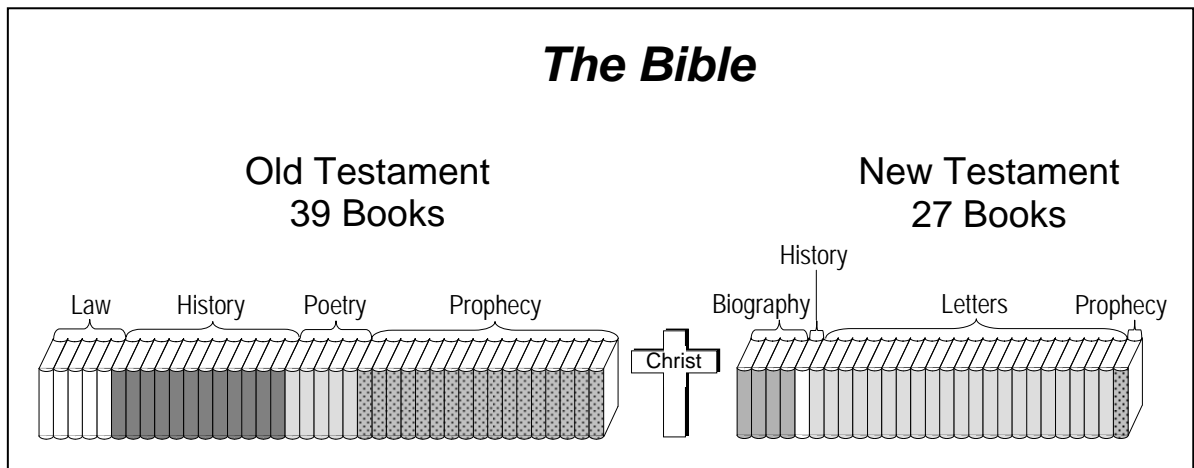
*Luke 4:16-17* "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:"

Didn't see the word Bible? Yes you did. Three times you read the word "book." Book in Greek is the word "biblos," which gives us our word Bible. It is a word that originally described the pulp of the papyrus reed. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC the Egyptians discovered that through a process of stretching and weaving, they could put together a scroll that was made of this pulp that could be up to 30 feet long. The scrolls made of this plant became known as biblos, which simply means "book."

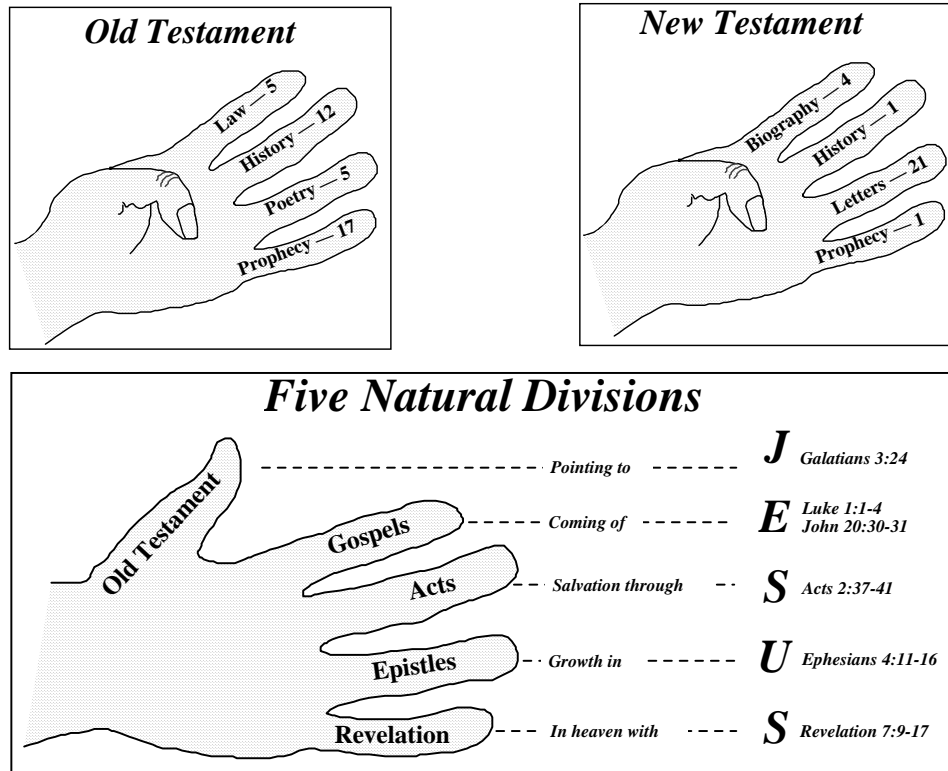
As early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Christians adopted the word biblos to describe inspired writings. So today we call those writings the Bible, or literally, THE Book. And that's a good title, because we don't have a number of books, we have one book with a unified message from beginning to end.

## The Divisions

In 1560 the Geneva Bible was released, and for the first time, the Bible was put in manageable sections. Originally, the Bible was a collection of books made up of letters that were run together one after the other, with no punctuation, chapters or verses. Today the Bible is in such a simple layout it's easy to find your way around. In almost any Bible you pick up you'll find it neatly divided into sections, typically as follows,



Perhaps another method of picturing the major divisions in the Bible might be helpful.



See, "Training for Service" Orrin Root

## Two Major Divisions

The two most obvious divisions are the Old and New Testaments. A testament is a covenant, or arrangement between two parties. The Old Testament was first called the covenant in Moses' day (Exodus 24:8). Later Jeremiah announced that God would make a "new covenant" with His people (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Jesus initiated this new covenant at the cross, which is what the Lord's Supper celebrates (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:6-8).

*"The Old Testament revealed in the New, the New veiled in the Old"*

*"The New is in the Old contained; and the Old is in the New Explained"*

The Old Testament foreshadows Christ, while the New Testament presents Him in all His fullness.

**Old Testament:** The 39 books of the Old Testament were written to guide people before the coming of Christ. They tell us how the world began, and show us how God has dealt with people in the past. The main purpose of the Old Testament was to point people to the Christ (Gal. 3:24).

**New Testament:** The 27 books of the New Testament are God's standard for all people who have lived since the coming of Christ. They show us the character of Christ as an example for our lives. They reveal God's will for our life. Most significantly they tell us what God did and what we must do that we might be saved from sin's consequences.

It would be helpful for you to remember the four sections of the Old Testament, and the four sections of the New Testament.

## **Old Testament**

- Books Of Law:* (Genesis through Deuteronomy) The first 5 books can be called the books of Law. These are the writings of Moses. They describe events from creation to the death of Moses. The special focus is on the birth and growth of the nation of Israel, and the laws of God that were to govern this chosen nation. They are often referred to as the Torah, which is a Hebrew word meaning "Law." They are also called the Pentateuch, Penta – book, and teach – book.
- Books of History:* (Joshua through Esther) The next 12 books are the historical section of the Old Testament. In this section the history of the Jews is traced from development, to disobedience, to downfall, to deliverance.
- Books Of Poetry:* (Job through Song of Solomon) There is a change in style from the narrative to the poetical in the next five books. Those who wrote the poetical books are, for the most part, Job, David, and Solomon.
- Books Of Prophecy:* (Isaiah through Malachi) The final section of the Old Testament is the prophetic section. In this section we have a number of predictions concerning physical Israel, spiritual Israel, and the Messiah. The prophets are often divided into Major and Minor Prophets. What distinguishes them is not the importance of their message, but rather the size of their book.
- Language:* The Old Testament writers wrote in Hebrew and some Aramaic.

## **Between The Testaments:**

Between the Old Testament and New Testament there was 400 years when God did not reveal any new information to His people. Not until 400 years after Malachi's ink dried did God lead a man to begin writing the New Testament.

## **New Testament**

*Biographical:* (Matthew through John) The gospel accounts give us snapshots of Jesus. None of the gospel writers tried to be exhaustive. They could not have been if they had tried (John 21:25). (However, it is the largest section in the New Testament.) What we have in this biographical section is not a moving picture of Christ, but 35 mm snapshots with the camera hung around the necks of four men.

Matthew Presents:	Jesus The King
Mark Presents:	Jesus The Servant
Luke Presents:	Jesus The Man
John Presents:	Jesus The Son Of God

- Historical:* (Acts) The book of Acts is the only genuinely historical book in the New Testament. Acts, tells how the church began and carried on its work, and how people became Christians. Its purpose is to show people today how to become Christians and carry on the work of the church.
- Letters:* (Romans through Jude) 21 Letters follow, written by five different pens, Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude. Some are written to individuals, other's to local churches, still others are written to Christians in general. They are intended to establish the faith of the believers and are full of doctrine and it's implication.
- Prophetical:* (Revelation) Revelation, tells of the final victory of Christ and His people. Its purpose is to encourage us to keep living as Christians ought to live. Its message is summed up as follows: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).
- Language:* The New Testament was recorded in Koine (Common) Greek, except for an occasional phrase in Aramaic.

### ***The Point Of This!!***

A failure to understand the divisions of the Bible correctly can lead to misunderstanding the Bible's message. The divisions are just that important. For example, it will cause you to misread the ***purpose of the Bible***. The two Testaments have different purposes. The Old, to reveal sin, and the new to redeem from sin. The Old Testament was for a nation, the New for every person in the world. To use the Old Testament today as the means of approaching God is a contradiction of it's purpose.

Similarly, not understanding the Biblical divisions will cause one to misunderstand the ***literature of the Bible***. Narratives call for a different style of writing than poetry, and prophecy calls for a different style than biography. Each style of writing has different rules for proper interpretation. Each style of writing must be understood in light of the culture in which it was penned. The divisions help you quickly understand the style of writing used.

## **Seeing The Savior**

*Hearing The Message Of The Bible*



### **The Theme**

The central theme of the Bible is God's plan to save us from sin and it's results through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is in every book. He is the one to whom each sacrifice points to, each Law illustrates, each prophecy illuminates. The whole Bible points us to Christ. If you miss that the Bible becomes a confusing jumble of events and people that don't fit together. But Jesus is pattern that makes it all fit together.

It is extremely difficult to put together a puzzle without a picture of the finished product, but when you know what it's supposed to look like in the end the pieces fit more easily into place. Jesus is what the whole Bible is about. When you read Scripture with Him in mind it all begins fitting into place.