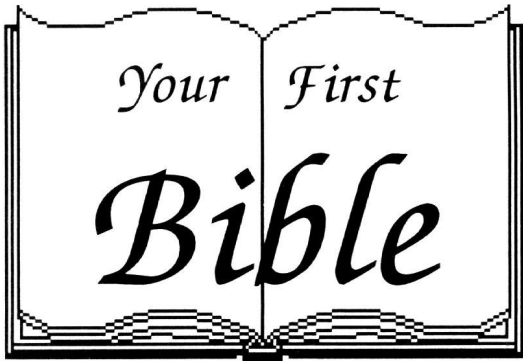


This pamphlet was written to help you understand how to begin reading the Bible. If you have never read from the Bible, or if you did not understand what you were reading, then hopefully the information presented here will be valuable to you as you open



The Books of the Bible

Revelation 20:12 — “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six “books” of scriptures. The scriptures are the words of God written down by men who were inspired by God to write them (II-Timothy 3:16). The scriptures explain God’s will for man; how God revealed Himself to man; and how God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son

to be sacrificed so that anyone who believes in him can be saved and have eternal life.

The Bible is divided into two major sections. The first section, the Old Testament, begins where God creates heaven and earth, and it ends a short time before God's Son Jesus is born into the world. The second section, the New Testament, begins by telling about the life of Jesus, and it ends by telling how Jesus will rule the earth from his Father's throne.

How do I find Bible verses?

The books of the Bible are divided into numbered chapters, and the chapters are divided into numbered verses. A particular verse is referred to by telling the name of the book, the chapter number, and the verse number. For example, "John three sixteen" (written John 3:16) is the sixteenth verse in the third chapter of the book of John.

Where should I start reading the Bible?

The best place to begin reading the Bible is at the beginning of the New Testament where the story of Jesus is told. Four books called the "gospels"—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—each tell about

the life of Jesus and contain his important teachings. These books, named after the writers (four of the first twelve disciples of Jesus), retell many of the same events, but each repeated story is told from the different perspectives of the four writers. Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus' birth. All four of the gospels tell about his death, burial, and resurrection from the dead.

After John, the book of Acts describes how the disciples travelled into different parts of the world to tell others about Jesus. The book records Jesus' ascension into Heaven, the coming of the Holy Ghost, and the conversion of Paul (an important disciple who wrote most of the New Testament). It is in the book of Acts that the followers of Jesus are first called Christians, and it is where the Church is recorded as being started.

The rest of the Bible after Acts contains letters written by the disciples to the churches. These books are important to read because they explain the basic beliefs of Christianity and tell how Christians should live day by day.

Why is my Bible different from other Bibles I have seen?

Bibles can be different from each other because of content, translation, or publishing.

Content

The Bible in its entirety consists of no more and no less than Old and New Testament (the books listed on the inside fold of this pamphlet). Be cautious of "new" Bibles. Don't put faith in any other book which claims to contain the words of God or Jesus! The Bible says this:

Revelation 22:18,19 — "...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book...God shall take away his part out of the book of life..."

Translation

The Old Testament was written several thousand years ago, mostly in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written during the first century A.D. in the Greek language. Since then, the Bible has been translated into many other languages. A very commonly used English translation is called the King James Version.

Publishing

Study Bibles are available that contain maps, explanations, cross-references, and an index or concordance to help find important verses.

Red-Letter Edition Bibles print the words spoken by Jesus in red ink.

Parallel Bibles have two or more translations of the scriptures printed side-by-side on the same page.

Old Testament Books

Genesis	Ecclesiastes
Exodus	Song of Solomon
Leviticus	Isaiah
Numbers	Jeremiah
Deuteronomy	Lamentations
Joshua	Ezekiel
Judges	Daniel
Ruth	Hosea
I Samuel	Joel
II Samuel	Amos
I Kings	Obadiah
II Kings	Jonah
I Chronicles	Micah
II Chronicles	Nahum
Ezra	Habakkuk
Nehemiah	Zephaniah
Esther	Haggai
Job	Zechariah
Psalms	Malachi
Proverbs	

New Testament Books

Matthew	I Timothy
Mark	II Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
I Corinthians	I Peter
II Corinthians	II Peter
Galatians	I John
Ephesians	II John
Philippians	III John
Colossians	Jude
I Thessalonians	Revelation
II Thessalonians	

What is God trying to say in the Bible?

Everywhere in the Bible, God is trying to say that HE LOVES YOU! The Bible tells us that every human being is sinful and deserves to be punished in hell. But God loved us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to be punished in our place. If you believe what the Bible says and accept Jesus as your Savior, YOU CAN BE SAVED! Pray to God a prayer like this:

"Father, I believe what the Bible says, that Jesus died for the sins of the world. I am sorry for my sins, and I confess them to You and ask You to forgive me. I ask you to save me and for Jesus to come live in my heart. Thank you, Father, for saving me! Amen."

If you prayed that prayer and sincerely meant what you told God, then you are now God's child and new person in Jesus!

Where do I learn more?

If you aren't attending a church, find one that teaches about Jesus from the Bible and go to every service. The leader of the church (pastor, minister) will help in any way he can. Also, you may write to:

Spirit and Truth Ministries
P.O. Box 734
Seymour, TN 37865