

Our Bible

- I. Bible: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. II. A collection of books; a library.
- II. Introductory thoughts.
 - A. Imagine a society without a standardized code of law to which all can repair and to which all are accountable: a society where every man does what is right in his own eyes.
 - B. Imagine a society where the code of law is continually subject to change by that society's leaders who discourage the masses from seeing the code and who punish anyone who questions their authority.
 - C. Imagine a professional sport without a rule book, or where the rules are established by a pretended revelatory spirit: "The Lord told me to throw a beanball at your head..."
 - D. Imagine having received an elaborate machine which has the ability to do fantastic things but also is full of bewildering circuitry, intricate physics and potential dangers for anyone who tinkers with it: all directed by a sealed CPU which will not allow the machine to function properly or safely contrary to its code.
 1. Wouldn't it be nice if it came with a manual, maybe even a manual which provides the CPU's code? What if it didn't and a curious ignoramus tried to fiddle with its design or the CPU, only to cause disaster?
 2. Life is such a machine. Without a manual, the user is a guesser about life, its meaning, utility and Source.
 3. The Maker of life, though, has provided a manual about life and Himself, an amazing manual that explains and concurs with all true natural revelation and which resonates with His Spirit in men.
 - E. The Bible is the authoritative encyclopedia about God, man, beginnings, ending, living, the invisible past and certain future, the afterlife, spiritual powers, the soul, sin, death, judgment, right and wrong, hope, the world to come, etc.
 1. It is such a complete masterpiece of knowledge that if a man never had another book, he would have what was necessary for fullness so that a shepherd who studies it is wiser than the genius who ignores it. **2TI 3:16-17; PSA 119:97-100.**
 2. Its insights into human nature and the human condition are so compellingly accurate that sinful man rejects it even as he rejects its Author. **JOH 3:19-20.**
 3. It binds up the defiant wisdom of man in inescapable logic that overcomes all objections to it so that the brightest luminaries are proven lightless against it. **ISA 8:20; 1CO 1:19-20; ROM 1:22.**
 4. It is the greatest source of intelligence about the enemy, Satan, exposing his beginning, ambition, tactics, weakness, defeat, leash and final destruction by Jesus Christ.
 - a. Satan therefore hates the Bible and has no use for it other than to cherry-pick parts of it to wrest them for his own deceptive ambitions. **MAT 4:6-7.**
 - b. He could not corrupt Christ and cannot now corrupt Christ but his efforts at corrupting the Bible which declares Christ have never stopped. **2CO 2:17; 2TH 2:2.**
 - c. Ever the ape of God, as God inspired men to write His word, Satan inspires men to write his counterfeit word (**EPH 2:2 c/w 1TI 4:1-3**) and never forget that the best counterfeit is not obviously so.
 - d. NOTE: Satan seeks to corrupt or counterfeit everything that is a witness to the Person and work of Jesus Christ: Scripture, church, marriage. What God will not allow him to destroy, he will seek to corrupt or he will build a

false substitute to rival it.

III. Here is a simple overview of the Bible.

- A. It consists of 66 books and epistles (letters) in two major divisions: the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books and letters). All of it is inspired. **2TI 3:16.**
1. The O.T. consists of the Pentateuch/Books of Moses (**GEN to DEU**), the historical books (**JOS to EST**), the Writings (**JOB to SON**), and the Prophets (**ISA to MAL**).
 2. The N.T. consists of the four gospels which are the record of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ (**MAT to JOH**), the **Acts of the Apostles** of Jesus Christ, the epistles/letters of the apostles (**ROM to JUDE**) and the **Book of Revelation**.
 3. The O.T. is Christ *veiled*; the N.T. is Christ *revealed*.
 4. The N.T. is the clearer, superior revelation from God; the O.T. must be interpreted according to the explanations given of it in the N.T. **2PE 1:19-21; 1JO 4:6.**
- B. The O.T. was the peculiar blessing of the nation of Israel (**PSA 147:19-20; ROM 3:1-2**) whereas the N.T. marked the going forth of God's word to all nations. **ROM 16:25-26.**
- C. The central Person of the entire Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. The O.T. anticipated His coming and testified of Him. **ISA 7:14; JOH 5:39.**
 2. The N.T. declares His arrival, saving work and victory in fulfillment of prophecy and that He has been made King and Judge over all. **1CO 15:1-4; ACT 10:39-43.**
- D. The major events of the O.T. are:
1. The record of creation and the entrance of sin. **GEN 1-3.**
 2. The worldwide flood in Noah's day because of great sin. **GEN 6-9.**
 3. The calling out of Abraham whose descendants would end up in Egyptian bondage. **GEN 12 to EXO 1.**
 4. The exodus of Abraham's descendants from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. **EXO 1 to DEU 34.**
 5. The giving of the Law / the Ten Commandments. **EXO 20.**
 6. The Jewish conquest of the land of Canaan and their establishment as a nation there. This is the record of the Book of Joshua.
 7. The establishing of a messianic royal lineage in Israel, beginning with King David. This is the record of the Books of **1SAM, 2SAM; 1CH.**
 8. The overthrow and captivity of Israel because of sin. This is recorded in the historical books of **2KI** and **2CH.**
 9. The return and restoration of Israel to their land to await the coming of Messiah. This is the record of the Books of **Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.**
- E. The major figures of the O.T. are:
1. Adam, the first man. He was created perfect but sinned and brought sin, death and the curse into the creation (**GEN 1-3**) and serves as a type/picture of the next Perfect Man Who should come and Who would not fail: Jesus Christ. **1CO 15:45; ROM 5:19.**
 2. Noah, the lone righteous man for whose sake his family was spared from a worldwide flood brought on by sin (**GEN 6-9; 2PE 2:5**) and so also forms a picture of Jesus Christ Whose entire spiritual family will be saved because of His righteousness from universal judgment. **1PE 3:18-22 c/w LUK 17:26-27.**
 3. Abraham, whom God suddenly called out of his idolatrous land and family, to whom God made great promises of eternal significance, and with whom God made an everlasting covenant. **GEN 12-25.**
 - a. Abraham was the ancestral father of the Jewish people.
 - b. Abraham was a model of great faith in God's word and his faith was a token

- or evidence of righteousness. **ROM 4:1-5.**
- c. Abraham was given the sign of circumcision for himself and all his male descendants *after* he had been declared to be righteous. **ROM 4:9-13.**
 - d. God's promises to Abraham were only to Abraham and Christ. **GAL 3:16.**
4. Isaac, the miraculously produced child of the reproductively dead Abraham and Sarah through whom the true Seed would come. **ROM 4:17-20; 9:7.**
 5. Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, the progenitor of the twelve sons whose descendants became the twelve tribes of Israel and who serves as a model of God's election of grace and love. **GEN 32:28; ROM 9:11-13.**
 6. Moses, the deliverer who brought God's people out of bondage and gave them God's law (**EXO**), who also forms a picture of Christ Who delivered His people out of the bondage of sin and gave them His law, the N.T. **HEB 3:1-6.**
 7. Joshua, who brought God's people into their *earthly* inheritance and rest, which Moses could not do.
 - a. *Joshua* is spelled *Jesus* in the N.T. **ACT 7:45; HEB 4:8.**
 - b. This all serves as a beautiful picture of the overall message of the Bible: Jesus alone brought God's people into their *heavenly* inheritance and rest, not Moses or his law. **ROM 3:20-22; HEB 9:12.**
 - c. Also, it was Joshua that conquered the Gentiles, not Moses. So, the Gentiles were converted with Jesus' gospel, not with Moses' Law.
 8. David, a prophet and the first king of a royal dynasty in Israel which would culminate in Jesus Christ, David's descendant and the Eternal King. **ACT 13:21-23; LUK 1:30-33.**
- F. The major events of the N.T. are:
1. The conception of Jesus Christ in the virgin Mary's womb which was God becoming a man who was the Son of God. **MAT 1:23; LUK 1:35.**
 2. The ministry of John the Baptist who prepared Israel for Christ's public ministry and who baptized Jesus Christ. **MAR 1:1-11.**
 3. The sinless life and public ministry of Jesus Christ which was rejected by His own people and which culminated in His crucifixion death. **ACT 13:27-29.**
 4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ after being buried for three days and nights. **ACT 13:30; MAT 12:38-40.**
 5. The ascension of Jesus Christ to take the eternal throne. **EPH 1:19-23; REV 3:21.**
 6. The coming of the promised Holy Spirit to indwell and empower the church which Jesus Christ established on earth. **JOH 14:15-17, 26 c/w ACT 2:1-6.**
 7. The building of Christ's church in fulfillment of promises of a Divine Kingdom. **DAN 2:44 c/w MAT 16:18-19.**
 8. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus from being the chief enemy of Christ to become the chief apostle of Jesus Christ with a special ministry to the Gentiles. **ACT 9:1-6, 15.**
 9. The conversion of the first uncircumcised Gentile believer, which was the breaking down of a barrier that had separated Jews and Gentiles. **ACT 10; EPH 2:11-18.**
- G. The major figures of the N.T. are:
1. Jesus Christ, the virgin-born son of God Who fulfilled all of the requirements of God's holy Law for righteousness by living a sinless life, dying for sinners, and rising from the grave in victorious conquest over death and the grave. **ROM 10:4; 4:23-25.**
 2. John the Baptist, who announced Christ's arrival and baptized him. John's ministry marked the sunset of the O.T. economy. **LUK 16:16.**

3. The Twelve Apostles whom Christ called out to be the ministers of His New Testament and foundations of His church. **LUK 22:14, 29-30; EPH 2:20.**
 4. The Apostle Paul, the once sworn enemy of Christ and His church who was called out for a special ministry to the Gentiles. **1CO 15:9-10; 1TI 1:12-15.**
- H. The N.T. is not only a clearer, superior revelation from God, it has *legally replaced* the O.T.
1. testament: A formal declaration, usually in writing, of a person's wishes as to the disposal of his property after his death; a will.
 2. It is always the Last Will and Testament of a deceased person through which heirs receive their inheritance.
 3. Jesus Christ made a New Testament just before He died which abolished the Old Testament. **LUK 22:20; HEB 9:15-17; 2CO 3:13.**
 4. Therefore the heirs of God do not receive their inheritance according to the terms of the O.T. but rather of the N.T. and their inheritance therefore is "...a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (**1PE 1:3-4**).
- I. Another way to describe the two testaments is that the O.T. is the Mosaic Covenant and the N.T. is the Messianic Covenant.
1. The *message* of the Mosaic Covenant is "do and live" righteousness. **ROM 10:5.**
 2. The *message* of the Messianic Covenant is "Christ did, you live." **GAL 2:20-21.**
- J. The foregoing points show a continuity, correspondence and consistency between the two testaments of the Bible.
1. There is also a connectivity established concerning the true canon of O.T. Scripture.
 2. The Hebrew canon of Scripture happens to contain the same books/writings as we have in our AV1611 Bible (with differences of organization), and excludes The Apocrypha.
 3. Jesus Christ upheld the Hebrew canon (which later came to be known as the Masoretic Text) and therefore authenticated our Bible.
 - a. He referred to the historic three-fold division of the Hebrew canon as being the Scriptures which spoke of Him (**JOH 5:39; LUK 24:44-45**). If the Apocrypha was scripture, why did He not reference it as proof of Himself?
 - b. He also limited the line of prophets as being those associated with *that* canon of Scripture (**LUK 11:50-51**), affirming the "dry spell" of prophets that lasted until the coming of John the Baptist (**LUK 7:24-28**): the same period during which the Apocrypha was supposed to be written. And note that John the Baptist is the one "prophet to come" mentioned in the last book of our O.T. **MAL 3:1; 4:5-6 c/w MAT 11:14.**
 4. Thus, our N.T. not only is the superior perfection of the O.T., it authenticates the true O.T. Scriptures.
- K. In summary, the Bible is:
1. the account of Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Circumcision, Christ, Cross, Conquest, Church, Consummation (the ten C's of history).
 2. the account of God's, plan, power and performance of His will through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is God and man.
 3. the account of the victory of God, the Supreme Good over Satan, the supreme evil.
 4. the account of humanity's bondage to Satan, to sin and to death being remedied by the sinless, victorious work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 5. the record of Jesus Christ's exaltation to the throne of God to reign over all things.
 6. the announcement of His certain return to judge all things. **ACT 17:31.**
- L. The Bible is also the record of the longest unbroken *genealogy* from Adam. It terminates

in Jesus Christ. **MAT 1:1-17; LUK 3:23-38.**

1. Nowhere else is there found such a preserved lineage. After the arrival of Christ, the genealogical records ceased to be of great significance and the keeping of such was frustrated.
 2. One of the Herods actually burned genealogical records kept in the temple in an attempt to distract from his Idumean heritage.
 3. “The [Hebrew] Rabbis affirm that after the [Babylonian] Captivity the Jews were most careful in keeping their pedigrees (Babyl. Gemar. Gloss. fol. xiv, 2). Since, however, the period of their destruction as a nation by the Romans, all their tables of descent seem to be lost, and now they are utterly unable to trace the pedigree of any one who might lay claim to be their promised Messiah”
(*McClintock and Strong Cyclopedia*).
 4. So obvious is this dilemma that some of the noted rabbis have concluded that when their messiah does come, he will restore the needed genealogies by the Holy Spirit, in which case the genealogical record of *that* messiah will be conveniently provided by the messiah who needed the proof.
 5. NOTE: The old Jewish genealogies served their purpose in preserving the lineage of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messianic King-Priest.
 - a. Paul commanded Timothy to *not give heed to endless genealogies (1TI 1:4)*, a very relevant order in light of the fact that Messiah had already come and the Jewish genealogies had been and were being compromised.
 - b. Here then is a great contrast: the Messianic priesthood is not after the *powerlessness of endless genealogies*, but “...after the **power of an endless life**” (**HEB 7:16**).
 6. Also, Jesus Christ's fleshly genealogy from Adam *has an end*: He is the last of the line. And He is the only descendant of Adam who never gave in to lust's temptation, that other “genealogy” which *has an end*. **JAM 1:14-15**.
- M. Correspondingly, the Bible is also the best *chronology* on record, giving an intact timeline from Adam to Christ.
1. “We note then at the beginning of our study, that the Bible is absolutely the only available source of information concerning the chronology of the human race prior to the seventh century B.C., when the first vague historical records of existing nations such as Greece, Rome, China, &c., begin. In other words, if we take it that the lifetime of mankind has been something less than six thousand years (and there is no evidence at all for a longer term of human existence) then we have the remarkable fact that for about *three-fifths of the entire period* there is no chronological information whatever *except in the Bible*; whereas, on the other hand, during that same period (wherein other records are, as regards chronology, a perfect blank) *the chronology of the Bible is most definite and complete*.”
(Philip Mauro, *The Wonders of Bible Chronology* (1933), p. 4)
 2. “It is a fact of great significance that the count of the years, so carefully preserved in the Bible, is bound up closely with *one definite subject*, namely, with the line of descent along which the promised Redeemer was to come. The details of this peculiarity of Bible chronology, which we propose to discuss later on, are worthy of our most careful attention; for it invests the subject with special interest. It is as if the Author of the Holy Scriptures would have us take notice of the fact that, in the long process of the unfolding of years and centuries and eras of time, there is *only one line* of succession of persons and events which is of importance in His eyes, and that is the line which was to lead to the coming into the world of the Divine

Redeemer. Let it be realized that, starting with Adam, and following the ever widening circles, from generation to generation, of his rapidly multiplying offspring, there were countless *millions of directions* which any selected chronological and genealogical line might have taken. It is, therefore, to be reckoned among the clearest evidences of Divine superintendence in the writing of the Scriptures that the *one line*, to which alone dates are unfailingly attached, is that which led finally “unto the Messiah, the Prince” (Dan. 9:25).

“It is well worth while to dwell further upon this immensely significant fact, because of the proof it affords of the inspiration of the Bible. Let it be observed then that the chronological table of Genesis 5 goes no further than the flood; and that the table of Genesis 11 stops abruptly at Abraham; and that neither in Genesis, nor in any Book of Moses, nor indeed in any of the Old Testament, is there any indication of God's reason for counting the years *along this particular line only*; nor was any indication given that the line of dated events was to be continued any further; nor was there any indication as to where that line was to lead. The purpose of God in all this comes not into view *until the Bible is completed by the addition of the New Testament Scriptures*, in the light of which (particularly of the genealogical tables of Matthew 1 and Luke 3) that purpose may be clearly seen. Here then is proof of the most convincing sort that He Who alone sees the end from the beginning is the Author of the Books of Moses, and of all the later Books of the Old Testament, through which runs this marvellous chronological line. For the Old Testament concerns itself, from beginning to end, with but *one subject*, namely, the coming of the Redeemer. All other matters of an historical nature which are found recorded in it are seen to be in some way connected with the main subject. *That is never lost sight of.*” (Ibid, pp. 8-9)

3. The facts of a uniquely preserved *genealogy* of One Man and a uniquely intact *chronology* from Creation to Christ played into the credibility of the Messiah in His appearance to Israel. Jesus Christ's enemies could have discredited Him by demonstrating that His genealogy was incorrect and/or that He did not appear on the scene at the proper time as declared in the Scriptures. But they could not do so: everything about Him was in perfect order: *bloodline, birth date, birthplace.*
 - a. This is another form of “...They hated me without a cause” (**JOH 15:25**).
 - b. Further, whereas the written genealogies of other Jews disappeared in the years after Christ's resurrection, God preserved the *chronological* timeline of Messiah's arrival in the O.T. and His *genealogy* in the N.T. so that unbelieving Israel will ever only come to the truth about Messiah through the Scriptures He authored and preserved in the writings of godly Jewish believers (or those like Luke who was authenticated by Jewish apostles).
 - c. The Scriptures are the only thing guaranteed to be preserved.
ISA 30:8; 40:8; MAT 24:35.

N. The Bible is a very special Book of books.