

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**

**FOUNDATIONAL BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES AND HOW THEY RELATE TO SCRIPTURE**

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## Section 1 STRUCTURE AND DIVISIONS OF THE TEXT

The Bible is a biblos, a single book.

- ❖ The key to the Bible can be found in Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 *“In the beginning God “* without believing this- you will never have a clear understanding of all that the Bible has to say.
- ❖ Why is this important to know? The Word is only complete when you have each part- only then does it complete the work.
- ❖ The *Bible* is also used synonymously with Scripture or *Word of God*.

### Divisions

- ❖ It has two testaments (the Hebrew word berith, meaning covenant or compact or arrangement between two parties) between God and His people.
- ❖ The Old Testament was first called the covenant in Moses day (EX 24:8)

**Definition: Septuagint:** The oldest Greek version of the Old Testament, traditionally said to have been translated by 70 or 72 Jewish scholars

Diagram 1

| IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CHRIST IS:  | IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRIST IS:  |
|--|--|
| <b>In Shadow</b><br><b>In Pictures</b><br><b>In Type</b><br><b>In Ritual</b><br><b>Concealed</b><br><b>Prophesied</b><br><b>Virtually Revealed</b> | <b>In Substance</b><br><b>In Person</b><br><b>In Truth</b><br><b>In Reality</b><br><b>Patent</b><br><b>Present</b><br><b>Categorically Reveled</b> |

Diagram 2

| OLD TESTAMENT ARRANGED  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>The Law</b><br><i>Torah</i>  | <b>Poetry</b>  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis</li> <li>• Exodus</li> <li>• Leviticus</li> <li>• Numbers</li> <li>• Deuteronomy</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job</li> <li>• Psalms</li> <li>• Proverbs</li> <li>• Ecclesiastes</li> <li>• Song Of Solomon</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| <b>History</b>  | <b>The Prophets</b>  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua</li> <li>• Judges</li> <li>• Ruth</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Kings</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles</li> <li>• Ezra</li> <li>• Nehemiah</li> <li>• Ester</li> </ul> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <b>A. Major Prophets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> <li>• Daniel</li> </ul> </td> <td> <b>B. Minor Prophets</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hosea</li> <li>2. Joel</li> <li>3. Amos</li> <li>4. Obadiah</li> <li>5. Jonah</li> <li>6. Micah</li> <li>7. Nahum</li> <li>8. Habakkuk</li> <li>9. Zephaniah</li> <li>10. Haggai</li> <li>11. Zechariah</li> <li>12. Malachi</li> </ol> </td> </tr> </table> | <b>A. Major Prophets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> <li>• Daniel</li> </ul> | <b>B. Minor Prophets</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hosea</li> <li>2. Joel</li> <li>3. Amos</li> <li>4. Obadiah</li> <li>5. Jonah</li> <li>6. Micah</li> <li>7. Nahum</li> <li>8. Habakkuk</li> <li>9. Zephaniah</li> <li>10. Haggai</li> <li>11. Zechariah</li> <li>12. Malachi</li> </ol> |
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Diagrams 1& 2<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Greek translation known as the Septuagint (LXX) Classified in the Alexandrian Tradition.

To this arrangement the Early Church Fathers added the books of the New Testament which were classified in four groups: The Gospels (4 books), History (1 book), Epistles (21 books) – [of which the Epistles were sub divided into Pauline (13) and General (8)] and Prophecy (1 book).

| <b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>GOSPELS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew</li> <li>• Mark</li> <li>• Luke</li> <li>• John</li> </ul>  | <b>HISTORY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts</li> </ul>   |
| <b>EPISTLES</b>   |   |
| <b>PAULINE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romans</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians</li> <li>• Galatians</li> <li>• Ephesians</li> <li>• Philippians</li> <li>• Colossians</li> <li>• 1 Thessalonians</li> <li>• 2 Thessalonians</li> <li>• 1 Timothy</li> <li>• 2 Timothy</li> <li>• Titus</li> <li>• Philemon</li> </ul> | <b>GENERAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrews</li> <li>• James</li> <li>• 1 Peter</li> <li>• 2 Peter</li> <li>• 1 John</li> <li>• 2 John</li> <li>• 3 John</li> <li>• Jude</li> </ul> |
| <b>PROPHECY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revelation</li> </ul>  |   |

### Diagram 3<sup>2</sup>

#### Definitions:<sup>3</sup>

#### Epistle

A letter, esp. a formal or didactic one; written communication/ one of the apostolic letters in the New Testament.

**Christocentric** - Having as the theological focal point the teachings and practices of Jesus Christ.

| <b>TOPICAL REASON FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE</b>          |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>NAME</b>   | <b>CHRISTOCENTRIC ASPECT OR FOCUS</b>  | <b>VIEWPOINT</b>   |
| <b>Law</b><br><b>History</b><br><b>Poetry</b><br><b>Prophecy</b>      | <b>Foundation of Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Preparation for Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Aspiration for Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Expectation of Jesus Christ</b>                       | <b>Downward Look</b><br><b>Outward Look</b><br><b>Upward Look</b><br><b>Forward Look</b> |
| <b>Gospels</b><br><b>Acts</b><br><b>Epistles</b><br><b>Revelation</b> | <b>Manifestation of Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Propagation of Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Interpretation and Application of Jesus Christ</b><br><b>Consummation in Jesus Christ</b> |  |

### Diagram 4<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This grouping of the New Testament follows the that of the Septuagint (LXX) or Greek Version

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of Dictionary.com

<sup>4</sup> Christocentric Structure in works such as Norman L Geisler, *Christ The Theme of the Bible*; W. Graham Scroggie, *Know Your Bible and in many others*.

## Section 2 DEFINITIONS OF INSPIRATION & REVELATION (DIVINE COMMUNICATION)

### INSPIRATION DEFINED

Inspiration is derived from *inspirare* (Latin), means to breathe upon or into something.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, Inspiration is that process by which the divine nature worked through the human prophets without destroying their individual personalities and styles to produce divinely authoritative and inerrant writings.

### REVELATION DEFINED

**Revelation** concerns the origin and giving of truth. Revelation involves disclosure not discovery (1 Cor 2:10)<sup>6</sup>

- The Hebrew word for revelation is *galah*, which translated means “to uncover”, and the Greek word *apocalyptein* which translates “to unveil”. It is the removal of objects to perception or understanding. Divine disclosure.
- Revelation is an objective disclosure of God. Whereas Inspiration is the process and product God used in communicating.

Another concept that should be understood while looking at *Revelation*

**Inspiration** is the reception and recording of divine truth.

Inspiration involves activity from man- Revelation is purely a God thing. (Mark’s Paraphrase)

### INTERPRETATION DEFINED

**Interpretation (hermeneutics)** focuses on the apprehension and understanding of the truth. (1Cor 2:14-16) Interpretation emphasizes the apprehension and understanding of God’s revelation to man.

By Revelation God unveils His truth; by interruption man understands that truth.

Revelation and Interpretation they form 3 necessary links to God’s communication:

1. Revelation is the fact of divine communication.
2. Inspiration is the means of divine communication.
3. Interpretation is the process of understanding.

The Bible is equally inspired equally authoritative and true. The result of this process is a verbal (the words), plenary (extending to all parts), inerrant (errorless) and authoritative record.

**2 Tim 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**2 Cor 2:13** This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

**Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

**Heb 10:7** Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'

**Rom 15:4** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**Mat 5:18** I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

**Heb 5:12** In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

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<sup>5</sup> According to the Oxford English Dictionary

<sup>6</sup> C.F. Merrill F. Unger *Introductory Guide to the Old Testament*

**Jer 26:2** "This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word.

**Rev 22:18-19** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **19** And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

### ALL SCRIPTURES<sup>7</sup>

#### Home Work

1. Find the Table of Contents
2. Find the Concordance
3. Locate the following books: and write the page number it starts on beside the name
  - Genesis \_\_\_\_\_
  - Deuteronomy \_\_\_\_\_
  - Mathew \_\_\_\_\_
  - Habakkuk \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jeremiah \_\_\_\_\_
  - Micah \_\_\_\_\_
  - Amos \_\_\_\_\_
  - Leviticus \_\_\_\_\_
  - Revelation \_\_\_\_\_

Look up Colossians 1:9-12

List some things it asked for:

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<sup>7</sup> Scriptures taken from the New International Version