



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 1. Introduction

- **What Is a Bible Survey?**

- We will work through each of the books of the Bible in condensed form (think '30,000-ft. view').
- The goal is to feel more comfortable reading *all* Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

- **Some Basics about the Bible**

- The English Bible is made of _____ separate texts.
 - As a whole, the Bible makes up God's complete revelation to man.
 - Nonetheless, each of the texts is its own entity with its own content, ways of communicating that truth, concerns, and unique contribution to the canon.
 - We have to learn how to read each individual text to best understand how they add up to the whole.
- The Bible is divided into an Old Testament (or _____) and a New Testament (or _____).
 - You should know 'what time it is' when reading a passage.

○ The Old Testament (Covenant)

- It is comprised of 39 texts in _____ Bibles written over ~1,000 years, but they are arranged differently in Hebrew Bibles.

| Hebrew Bible (<i>tanakh</i>) | Protestant Bible |
|---|---|
| Books of Moses (<i>torah</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis • Exodus • Leviticus • Numbers • Deuteronomy | Law (Pentateuch) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis • Exodus • Leviticus • Numbers • Deuteronomy |
| Prophets (<i>nevi'im</i>) Former <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua • Judges • Samuel • Kings Latter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah • Jeremiah • Ezekiel • The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) | Historical Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua • Judges • Ruth • Samuel (books 1 and 2) • Kings (books 1 and 2) • Chronicles (books 1 and 2) • Ezra • Nehemiah • Esther |
| | Wisdom Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job • Psalms • Proverbs • Ecclesiastes • Song of Solomon |
| Writings (<i>khetuvim</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalms • Proverbs • Job • Song of Solomon • Ruth • Lamentations • Ecclesiastes • Esther • Daniel • Ezra-Nehemiah • Chronicles | Prophets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations • Ezekiel • Daniel • The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) |

- It primarily details God's relationship with _____ and how He intends to work out His redemptive plan through them.

- The New Testament (Covenant)
 - It is comprised of 27 texts written over ~50 years recognized by the Church as the divinely inspired record of Jesus Christ and His instructions to the Church through the _____.
 - It details Christ's first advent, the formation of the Church, and instructions for the Church about what it should believe and how it should conduct itself in light of what Christ did.
- The Bible is written in several different _____:
 - Historical narrative (including covenant law and biography)
 - Poetry (including song and wisdom)
 - Prophecy (including apocalyptic)
 - Epistle

- **How We'll Approach This Survey**

- The format of each lesson:
 - Background information and main theme(s) for each text
 - Outline of the text
 1. Review major hermeneutical principles as necessary
 2. Major interpretive challenges
 - Questions YOU have about the text
 - Discussion about how we use the text

- YOUR responsibility:
 - Each week, read the *upcoming* text at least once all the way through→SKIM as much as necessary!
 - Come to class ready to share any questions you had about what you read

Discussion:

1. Why is it important to read the Bible as *both* a whole *and* as 66 separate texts?
2. What difference does the genre of a particular text make for interpreting it correctly?
3. How might the historical background of a text help us understand it better?
4. Respond to the following statement: “Since we’re not Israel, we should only focus on the New Testament.”
5. What are some things YOU hope to learn in this class?

Blanks: 66, Covenant, Covenant, Protestant, Israel, Apostles, genres