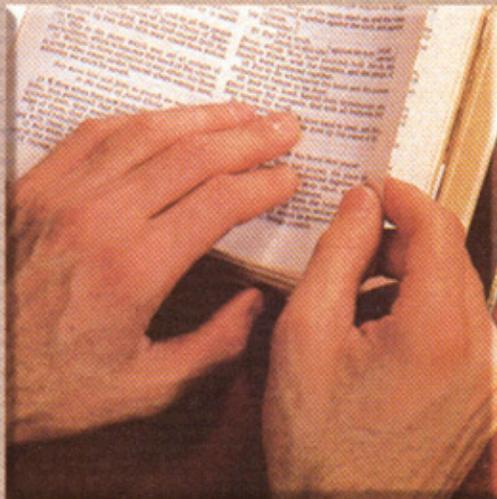


# Your Bible



# Your Bible

**Adapted by Judy Bartel  
from the book *Your Bible*  
by L. Jeter Walker**

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the Global University Staff*

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# First, Let's Have a Talk

## A Word From Your Study Guide Author

Have you ever wondered how the Bible can help you? Is it really God's message to humankind—the Word of God? Why and how was it written? Perhaps these questions and many others have come to your mind. If so, this book was written especially for you.

Many years ago, King David of Israel expressed his feelings about God's Word. He said, "Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). No matter who you are or where you are, no matter what difficulty you face or what decision you need to make, you can have the same assurance that King David had.

This study course will help you not only to understand how the Bible was written, but also to rely on it as a daily guide for your life. A modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and put them into practice immediately.

## What Are Your Goals?

To get the most out of your studies, you should set goals for yourself and then do everything possible to reach them. Why not make these goals yours?

- Learn how to use your Bible.
- Understand why believers accept the Bible as God's personal message to them.
- Read your Bible daily.
- Accept the Bible as a guide for faith and conduct.

## Your Study Guide

This book is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least one lesson per week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

## How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

*Example of Multiple-Choice Question*

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
  - b) 7 days.
  - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1** A week has a total of  
a) 10 days.  
**(b)** 7 days.  
c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

*Example of True-False Question*

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?  
**a** The Bible has a total of 120 books.  
**(b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.  
**c** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.  
**(d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

*Example of Matching Question*

**3** Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- |          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>a</b> Received the Law at Mt. Sinai        | 1) Moses  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>b</b> Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| <b>2</b> | <b>c</b> Marched around Jericho               |           |
| <b>1</b> | <b>d</b> Lived in Pharaoh's court             |           |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

### Your Student Reports

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the two Student Reports. The Student Reports and their answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your Student Report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

### About the Author

Reverend Louise Jeter Walker gave a lifetime in helping people understand Christian truths. She earned both B.A. and M.A. degrees in Christian education and was an ordained minister of

the Assemblies of God (U.S.A.). Her books and materials reflect the experience of over 62 years of missionary service in Peru, Cuba, Central America, the West Indies, and Belgium. She wrote 14 books and other materials for evangelism and Christian education.

Members of the Global University staff have worked with the author in the development of this book and its use of modern methods of independent study. It is a call to study the most important of all books—your Bible!

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 1. God bless you as you study!

### **Additional Helps**

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including an Instructor's Guide and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

Lesson  
1

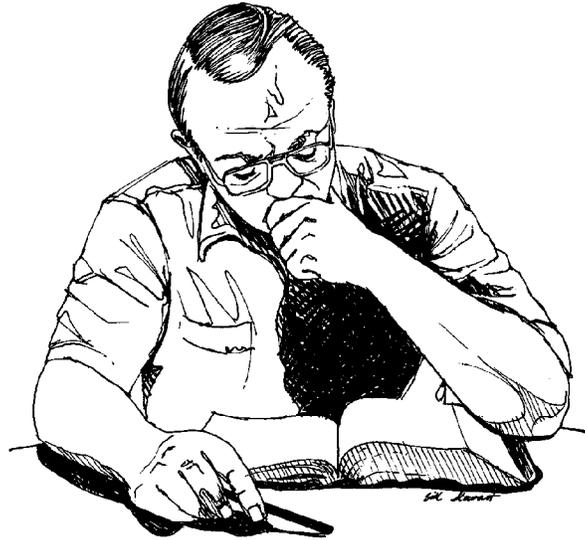
# Benefits of Bible Study

Many years ago a ship captain anchored his boat in the harbor of a lovely South Pacific island. He had heard that the people, who were formerly cannibals, were now very friendly and interested in trade.

As the captain talked with the island chief, he noticed a large Bible in the chief's hands. The captain laughed a little and said to the chief, "Surely you don't believe in that old book. It's out of date and no good to anyone."

The chief glanced at the strong warriors that stood around him and then turned to the captain. "Captain," he replied slowly, "you may think that this Book is of little benefit. What you don't know is that it is benefiting you. If it were not for this Book that has changed our lives, you would be in our cooking pot right now!"

When you study the Bible, it will affect your life, which will affect the lives of others. The captain of this story benefited because someone else had read the Bible. In this lesson you will learn how you will benefit from studying the Bible.



### **In this lesson you will study . . .**

Why Study the Bible?  
What Are Some Benefits?

### **This lesson will help you . . .**

- Explain why everyone should study the Bible.
- List eight benefits of Bible study.
- Explain the importance of studying God's Word regularly.

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## WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

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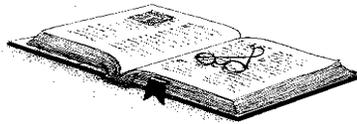
There are many reasons why everyone should study the Bible. Let's look at three of these: 1) it is a privilege, 2) it is a way to grow spiritually, and 3) it is a method of learning God's plan for us.

### A Privilege

**Objective 1.** *Identify reasons why studying the Bible is a privilege.*

One day my friends Don and Bonnie received a special letter. It contained an invitation to meet Princess Anne of England. Just to have received the letter from someone so important was counted a privilege, but what the letter offered them was an even greater privilege—the opportunity to meet royalty!

You and I have also received an important letter, a personal message to us from someone much greater than any earthly king—from God Himself! But even more important than receiving this letter and being able to read it, is the invitation that it gives us. In the letter, which we call the Bible, God Himself invites us to be His children and to live with Him forever! He tells us we can be His children by accepting His Son Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Isn't it a wonderful privilege that we can learn about God and His promises to us through the study of the Bible?



### For You To Do

In each one of the *For You to Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have just studied. Before doing the exercises, read carefully the instructions given. For long answers, write the answer in a notebook and use the notebook whenever you want to make notes about the lesson.

- 1 Draw a circle around the letter that best completes the statement. One of the greatest privileges a person can have is to receive a personal message from
  - a) the president of his or her country.
  - b) his or her best friend.
  - c) God.
- 2 Which of the following statements tell us why Bible study is a privilege? Circle the letters of the correct answers.
  - a) It is a personal letter from God to each of His children.
  - b) God wants to tell you things about yourself and about Himself.
  - c) Your study guide author says so.

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

## A Way to Grow

**Objective 2.** *Select statements showing how the Bible helps a believer to grow.*

To be healthy and normal, children must grow. Eating the right food is essential to that growth.

The Bible says that as God's children we must grow spiritually. In Ephesians 4:15 we read, "We must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head." Our spiritual food is the Bible and the way we "eat" is to study it. As we study, we get to know our Savior Jesus Christ better. This knowledge is what helps us grow and become strong Christians. "In our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people . . . Then we shall no longer be children" (Ephesians 4:13-14).



### For You To Do

**3** Choose the two answers that best complete this sentence. Studying the Bible helps a believer grow because

- a) he or she receives spiritual food.
- b) he or she learns more about Jesus Christ.
- c) his or her knowledge will make him or her important in the church.

Memorize the following verses so that you can repeat them as a promise to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I praise you, O Lord; teach me your ways. I study your instructions; I examine your teachings. I take pleasure in your laws; your commands I will not forget (Psalm 119:12, 15-16).

## A Method of Learning God's Plan for Us

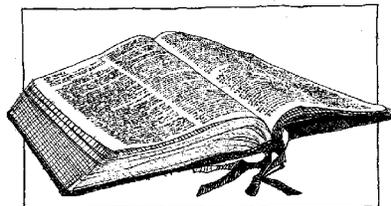
**Objective 3.** *Explain the importance of learning God's plan for us.*

A few years ago a friend of mine was not feeling well. She was not only sick physically, she was also feeling sad. Then she received a letter from the young man who was to become her husband. He encouraged her and told her that he loved her and that he was coming to marry her. It was amazing how quickly she recovered after receiving a letter from someone who really cared.

The Bible is like that letter because it tells us of God's love for us. In it He also gives us instructions on how to live, and promises that someday we will live with Him for all eternity!

If we are sad or not feeling well, it is wonderful to go to God's personal message and read of His plans for us. This study will help us feel better, will encourage us, and will teach us that each one of us is important to God.

In studying the Bible we not only learn of God's plans for our future, but of His promises for the present. We will study some of these promises in the next section.





## For You To Do

- 4 Circle the letter before each correct completion of the sentence. It is important to learn God's plan for us because it
- a) contains His promises for us.
  - b) offers hope and encouragement.
  - c) shows how worthless we are.
  - d) reveals God's love for us.
  - e) gives direction to our lives.
- 5 In your notebook write the verses that you learned from Psalm 119. Say them as a prayer and thank the Lord for His Word.

---

### WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS?

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**Objective 4.** *List eight benefits of sincere Bible study.*

A benefit is something helpful to you. We will choose eight of the many benefits we receive from Bible study and use the letters of the word BENEFITS to help us remember them.

**B**read for the soul  
**E**njoyment  
**N**earness of God  
**E**ncouragement  
**F**oundation  
**I**nspiration  
**T**ruth  
**S**ecurity

#### *B—Bread for the Soul*

The Bible is the food that keeps our souls alive. As we read it daily we receive health and strength for both soul and body. Jesus said, "Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks" (Matthew 4:4).

#### *E—Enjoyment*

We get real enjoyment from reading the Bible. Just as we experience joy in reading good news about those we love, we can feel joy in reading the good news of God's love for us. Even His instructions to us bring us joy because we know they are for our good. Psalm 119:111 says, "Your commandments are my eternal possession; they are the joy of my heart."

#### *N—Nearness of God*

We feel the nearness of God when we read His Word. He is there and speaks to us personally. This is one of the greatest benefits we could ever imagine.

#### *E—Encouragement*

God's Word is full of encouragement for us. He shows us examples of His loving care and promises to take care of us. In the book of Peter there is a wonderful verse that would be good to memorize. "Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

### *F—Foundation*

A foundation is what something is built on. Jesus said that His Word is a safe foundation for what we believe and how we live. Those who don't believe and study the Bible are like a house without a foundation.

### *I—Inspiration*

Through His Word, God inspires faith for His salvation, hope for our future, and love for others. Inspiration is an influence that leads us to good ideas or actions. Many poets, musicians, and artists have received their inspiration from the Bible. The Bible has brought beautiful ideas to their minds for poems, songs, or paintings.

### *T—Truth*

The truth that we find in the Bible answers our most important questions, giving us the meaning and purpose of life. It frees us from ignorance and error. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

### *S—Security*

Security not only means safety; it also means provision for the future. We find real security in God's Word as it guides us to safety in Christ and to an eternal home in heaven. It is our "sword and shield" against sin and Satan—our spiritual weapon—if we study it regularly.



### **For You To Do**

**6** In your notebook write from memory the eight benefits of sincere Bible study that we have listed. Can you add others that have come to your mind as you have read your Bible?

**7** Write in front of the description on the left the number of the benefit it matches.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| .... <b>a</b> It is food that strengthens us.                | 1) Security           |
| .... <b>b</b> God is always with us.                         | 2) Truth              |
| .... <b>c</b> God cares for us.                              | 3) Inspiration        |
| .... <b>d</b> The Bible's good news brings joy.              | 4) Foundation         |
| .... <b>e</b> Our lives are built on God's Word.             | 5) Encouragement      |
| .... <b>f</b> We are safe now and in the future.             | 6) Nearness of God    |
| .... <b>g</b> We receive good ideas and act on them.         | 7) Enjoyment          |
| .... <b>h</b> It brings us freedom from error and ignorance. | 8) Bread for the soul |



## Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

**1** c) God.

**5** I hope you have memorized these verses and that they will be your prayer many times.

**2** a) It is a personal letter from God to each of His children.

b) God wants to tell you things about yourself and about Himself.

**6** Bread for the soul.

Enjoyment.

Nearness of God.

Encouragement.

Foundation.

Inspiration.

Truth.

Security.

(You could add other benefits that have been mentioned in this lesson such as love, hope, spiritual growth, and eternal life.)

**3** a) he or she receives spiritual food.

b) he or she learns more about Jesus Christ.

**7** **a** 8) Bread for the soul.

**b** 6) Nearness of God.

**c** 5) Encouragement.

**d** 7) Enjoyment.

**e** 4) Foundation.

**f** 1) Security.

**g** 3) Inspiration.

**h** 2) Truth.

**4** a) contains His promises for us.

b) offers hope and encouragement.

d) reveals God's love for us.

e) gives direction to our lives.

Lesson  
2

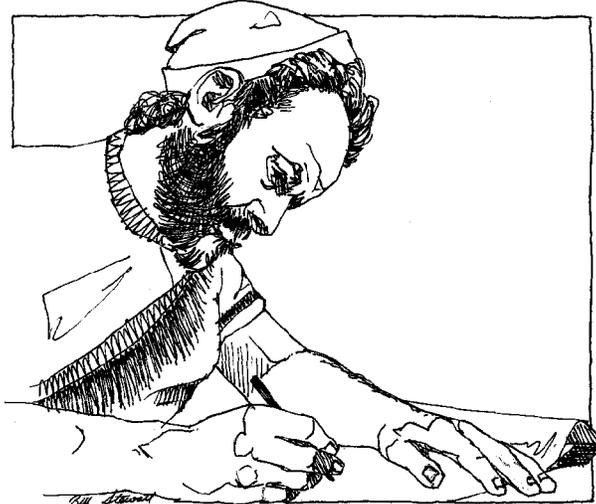
# The Book God Has Given Us

Have you ever wondered how God gave us the Bible? Was it perhaps put together by angels and left waiting for someone to “find” it? Or did someone spend his lifetime studying and searching that he might finally give us his philosophies?

God chose to use neither of these avenues to give us His Word. Instead, He used ordinary men from many walks of life and over a span of hundreds of years to give us the Book we call the Bible. And the agreement and harmony with which they wrote stand as a testimony to God who never changes.

The way in which the Bible was written is a miracle. Its preservation is another miracle. One of the prophets told how the king took the book of prophecies, threw it into the fire, and burned it. But the Lord told the prophet to take another scroll and write everything again (Jeremiah 36:27-28). His Word could not be destroyed.

In this lesson we will study facts about the Bible, who was used in the writing of it, how one part of the Bible relates to another, and how it all relates to us. As we get better acquainted with the Book we will appreciate it more and at the same time be preparing ourselves for further study.



### In this lesson you will study . . .

Its Origin  
Its General Structure  
The Relationship of the Testaments  
Its Different Translations

### This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.
- Explain how the New Testament is related to the Old.
- Explain why everyone needs to understand the Bible.

---

## ITS ORIGIN

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### Definition and Divisions

**Objective 1.** *Define what is meant by Holy Bible and tell how many books it contains.*

The Holy Bible is really a small library of 66 books that God has given us. We call it the Bible, the Scriptures, or the Word of God.

The word *Bible* means “books.” *Holy* means “something we respect because it belongs to God.” Each of the 66 books of the Bible is holy.



### For You To Do

Choose the best answer for each of the following exercises.

- 1 How many books are there in the Bible?
  - a) 29
  - b) 39
  - c) 66
  - d) 74
- 2 The title of the book God gave us is *Holy Bible*. This means that it
  - a) is the book of the saints.
  - b) contains two ancient books.
  - c) is from God, and we respect it because it is His.

Check your answers.

### Authors and Inspiration

**Objective 2.** *Recall how many biblical authors there were and how they wrote the books of the Bible.*

Approximately 40 men were divinely inspired to write the Bible. Some of these men wrote more than one book; a few books were not signed by their authors so we don't know who wrote them.

*Divinely inspired* means that the Holy Spirit gave the authors the thoughts and words that God wanted them to write. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is inspired by God. These writers could not have consulted each other about their work because they didn't all live at the same time. The first books were written about 1,500 years before Christ and the last were written about 100 years after Christ. Because these books of the Bible were inspired by God, we can call them holy.

Among the authors were kings and fishermen, workingmen and politicians, military and religious leaders, peasants, merchants, and poets. Even though they came from different places and with various interests and backgrounds, they all wrote about the same theme because God inspired them. This theme is the relationship between God and mankind.

Such order throughout all of the books, without contradictions, was possible because the Bible has only one principal author—God—who spoke through different men.

The following is a good verse for you to memorize:

For no prophetic message ever came just from the will of man, but men were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God (2 Peter 1:21).



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### For You To Do

- 3 Choose the answer that best completes the following sentence. When we say that the Bible is the *inspired Word of God*, we mean that the Holy Spirit impressed the writers to
- consult with one another about what to write.
  - write the thoughts and words of God.

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

- 4 How long was it from the time the first book of the Bible was written until the last one was written?
- About 50 years
  - About 500 years
  - About 1,600 years
- 5 Whom did God inspire to write the Bible?
- Forty men who met and worked together
  - Forty priests and prophets
  - Sixty-six men from different backgrounds
  - Approximately 40 men of different occupations and from different periods of history
- 6 These men wrote on the same theme and didn't contradict each other because
- God was the real author and they were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they wrote.
  - each one left instructions for the following writers.

Check your answers.

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### ITS GENERAL STRUCTURE

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**Objective 3.** List at least three differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

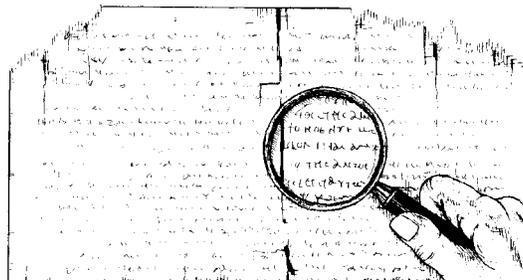
When two people or two nations want to make a special agreement, they can write a paper called a *treaty* or a *pact*. Once the treaty is signed it must not be broken.

The word *testament* means treaty, pact, or covenant. The Bible is divided into two Testaments, called the Old and the New. These are the pacts that God has made with mankind.

At the front of your Bible you will find a list of the books of the Old and New Testament. This list gives the page numbers where each book begins. You will notice that the Old Testament comes first, then the New Testament.

The Old Testament was given to the Jews, who were also called Hebrews or Israelites. God chose them to receive His truths, write them, and teach them to others. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew because it was the language of the Jews.

The Old Testament covers the history and terms of God's relationship with mankind, from the Creation to the coming of the Savior who would establish a new covenant.



The New Testament gives the history and the conditions of the new covenant, or pact, that God has made with all who accept His Son Jesus Christ as their Savior. It tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ, and also what He taught.

When the New Testament was written, Greek was a commonly known language. Since this new pact was for all people—not for the Jews alone—the New Testament was written in Greek, thus making it possible for most people to read it.



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### For You To Do

Choose the correct answers for the following exercises. Item 9 has more than one correct completion.

**7** Who were chosen to receive the revelation of God and the covenant which we know as the Old Testament?

- a) The Hebrews (Israelites)
- b) The Christians
- c) The Greeks

**8** The provisions and conditions of the covenant that God has made with those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior are in the

- a) Old Testament.
- b) New Testament.

**9** The Old Testament is different from the New Testament in that it

- a) was written in Hebrew, not in Greek.
- b) contains more books.
- c) was written especially for the Jews.
- d) has different authors from those who wrote the New Testament.
- e) is about a different period in history.

Check your answers.

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## THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TESTAMENTS

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**Objective 4.** *Give an example of how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament.*

The Old Testament is very important because it reveals God’s plan for mankind. But it was a temporary pact until Jesus Christ would come to establish a better pact—one that would be permanent. Since we are now living under the new pact—the New Testament—we suggest that you read it first.

The New Testament is based upon the Old Testament. It not only explains the relationship between the two pacts, but it relates the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies.

For example, the Old Testament book of Micah (chapter 5, verse 2) says that the Savior would be born in the Jewish town of Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1, in the New Testament, tells us that Jesus the Savior was born in Bethlehem.

Psalm 22:18 in the Old Testament tells us that men would gamble for and divide the Savior’s garments among themselves. When Jesus was dying on the cross, the soldiers took his clothes. Matthew 27:35 says, “They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice.”

There are hundreds of other examples that could be given. Special books have been compiled which give all of the Old Testament prophecies that are fulfilled in the New Testament.

It is wonderful that a book as ancient as the Old Testament was preserved for so many years. We should be grateful to God's chosen people who received God's Word, preserved it, and shared it with other nations.



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### For You To Do

**10** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** Since the Old Testament was given to the Jews, it is not necessary for us to read it.
- b** The New Testament is God's covenant with His people today, but the Old Testament has important lessons for us too.
- c** Both the Old and New Testament are God's revelation as to His plans for mankind.

**11** To what people do we owe special thanks for our Bible?

.....  
.....

**12** Match the Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament references that tell of their fulfillment. Write the number of the New Testament reference in the blank in front of each prophecy.

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| .... <b>a</b> 2 Samuel 7:13—descendant of David, eternal King                | 1) Revelation 5:5 |
| .... <b>b</b> Genesis 49:10—from royal tribe of Judah                        | 2) Matthew 21:4   |
| .... <b>c</b> Psalm 110:4—priest like Melchizedek                            | 3) Luke 1:17      |
| .... <b>d</b> Isaiah 7:14—conceived of a virgin                              | 4) Matthew 26:15  |
| .... <b>e</b> Isaiah 40:3—John, His forerunner, crying, "Prepare ye the way" | 5) Luke 23:50-51  |
| .... <b>f</b> Isaiah 7:14—His name, Immanuel                                 | 6) Matthew 1:1    |
| .... <b>g</b> Zechariah 9:9—enters Jerusalem on a donkey                     | 7) Matthew 1:23   |
| .... <b>h</b> Zechariah 11:12—sold for 30 pieces of silver                   | 8) Hebrews 5:6    |
| .... <b>i</b> Isaiah 53:9—burial in tomb of rich man                         | 9) Luke 1:31      |

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## ITS DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

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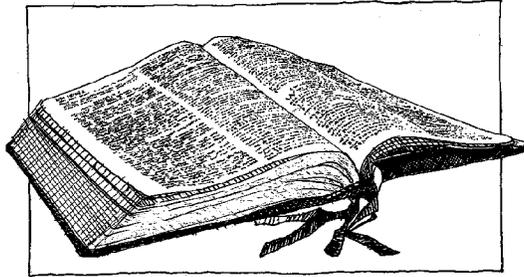
### Different Languages

**Objective 5.** *State one reason why we need the Bible in more than one language.*

God wants every person to accept His Son Jesus Christ as his or her Savior (2 Peter 3:9). Since this is God's desire, we know that He wants everyone to understand His Word. This is why the Old Testament was written in Hebrew for the Jews and the New Testament was written in Greek for the whole world.

Since most of us don't understand Hebrew or Greek today, we would have a difficult time understanding the Scriptures if they weren't translated into our language. If we are reading something in a language we don't know very well, even simple things can be misunderstood. This

is why we study the Bible, teach it, and translate and publish it. There are Bible Societies that are always working on new translations. The Bible has been translated into about 1,300 different languages!



When a new translation is completed there is much rejoicing because this means that another group of people will be able to read the Scriptures in its own language. There are still hundreds of languages into which the Bible has not yet been translated. Let's pray that those who do this work will have strength to continue their great task.



#### For You To Do

**13** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. The world needs many different translations of the Bible because

- a) God wants everyone to understand His Word.
- b) most people don't read Greek or Hebrew today.
- c) it is easier to understand something written in one's own language.

Check your answers.

#### Different Versions

**Objective 6.** *Define version and state one reason why there are different versions.*

Sometimes there is more than one translation of the Bible in a particular language because languages change. When a translation becomes outdated and a bit difficult to understand, it needs revision. Older words are replaced by newer words—words used in everyday speech.

Making a new version is not an attempt to change the meaning or the teachings of the Bible. All versions—old and new, Protestant and Catholic—are basically the same Bible. The translators have tried to give us the exact meaning that was in the original Greek or Hebrew copies.

The most popular of the English versions has been the *King James Version*. The English, however, is several centuries old and sometimes a bit difficult to understand. This textbook quotes from *Today's English Version*. For an interesting comparison we will look at Philippians 3:1 in both versions.

“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you, it is safe” (KJV).

“In conclusion, my brothers, be joyful in your union with the Lord. I don't mind repeating what I have written before, and you will be safer if I do” (TEV).

Some readers find the modern language easier to understand, while others still prefer the richness of the old versions.



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**For You To Do**

In these exercises, circle the letter before the phrase that best completes the sentence.

- 14** We have many different versions of the Bible in English because translators want to
- a) make it agree with their own doctrines.
  - b) put it into words that are easier for people to understand.
- 15** When we talk about a *version* of the Bible we mean its
- a) quality of binding.
  - b) translation.
  - c) difficult words.
- 16** In time we will probably see more versions of the Bible in our language because
- a) Bible publishers want to make money.
  - b) languages and word meanings may change.

**The Apocrypha**

**Objective 7.** *State some facts concerning the Apocrypha.*

Some versions of the Bible include the Apocrypha, a number of books of doubtful origin. Though these books contain some historical information, especially about the 400 year period between the Old and New Testaments, not all their historical data is accurate. They definitely lack evidence of divine inspiration and for this reason they were not accepted as part of the Jewish sacred writings which make up the Old Testament.

The collection of books was named *Apocrypha* from a Greek word meaning “hidden things.” They were considered as being beyond the ability of the average person to understand and appreciate—whereas Scripture is given for us all to profit by and enjoy. God wants everyone to be saved and “come to know the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).



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**For You To Do**

Choose the correct completion to each of the following sentences.

- 17** The word *apocrypha* means
- a) “hidden things.”
  - b) “doubtful.”
  - c) “semi-historical.”
- 18** Most versions of the Bible do not include the Apocrypha because these writings
- a) are too long.
  - b) lack evidence of divine inspiration.
  - c) are difficult to translate.



## Check Your Answers

- 1 c) 66.
- 10 Statements **b** and **c** are true.
- 2 c) is from God, and we respect it because it is His.
- 11 To God's chosen people.
- 3 b) write the thoughts and words of God.
- 12 a) 6) Matthew 1:1  
b) 1) Revelation 5:5  
c) 8) Hebrews 5:6  
d) 9) Luke 1:31  
e) 3) Luke 1:17  
f) 7) Matthew 1:23  
g) 2) Matthew 21:4  
h) 4) Matthew 26:15  
i) 5) Luke 23:50-51
- 4 c) About 1,600 years.
- 13 All three are reasons why the world needs different translations of the Bible.
- 5 d) Approximately 40 men of different occupations and from different periods of history.
- 14 b) put it into words that are easier for people to understand.
- 6 a) God was the real author and they were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they wrote.
- 15 b) translation.
- 7 a) The Hebrews (Israelites).
- 16 b) languages and word meanings may change.
- 8 b) New Testament.
- 17 a) "hidden things."
- 9 All of the answers are correct.
- 18 b) lack evidence of divine inspiration.

Lesson  
**3**

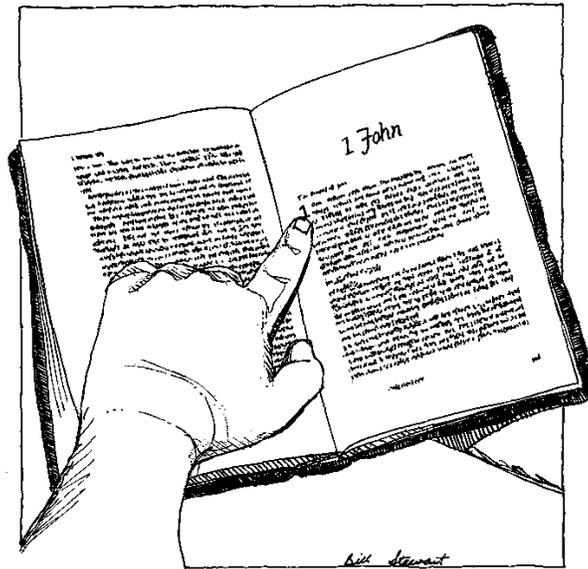
# How to Find What You Want in the Bible

No one could find anything in Grandma's kitchen. The flour was in a can marked "sugar" and the tea was in a box marked "salt." It didn't really matter as Grandma was the only one who worked in her little kitchen.

But the house across the street has a different kind of kitchen. Everything is properly labeled, because the mother isn't the only one who works there. Her husband likes to make his own breakfast and her daughters often take turns preparing dinner. There has to be a workable scheme at mealtime.

The Bible, too, has to be arranged so we can find our way and get what we need. The publishers of our Bibles know this. Regardless of the translation, they hold to the same chapters and verses so people don't get "lost" looking for what they want.

Also, books that are like an index help us find certain Bible verses. In this lesson we will learn how to say and write Bible references and how to use basic study helps that guide us to subjects and verses we would like to find.



**In this lesson you will study . . .**

The Bible Reference  
The Study Reference  
The Concordance

**This lesson will help you . . .**

- Write, say, or find any Bible reference.
- Describe how to use marginal references and a concordance.

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## THE BIBLE REFERENCE

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### Saying It and Writing It

**Objective 1.** *Say and write any Bible reference correctly.*

To help us in our reading and studying, every book of the Bible is divided into chapters. Each chapter is also divided into smaller sections that are numbered on the left side. These are called *verses* or *Bible texts*. We refer to any Bible text by saying first the name of the book, then the number of the chapter and the number of the verse. All of these together can be called the *Bible reference*.

Let's look at Genesis, the first book of the Bible. If the version you are using has an introduction, skip that and look for the big number *one* that marks the beginning of the first chapter. The first verse of the chapter, marked with a small *one* starts out, "In the beginning...." In order to refer to that text, we would say, "Genesis one, one." You will notice the small number marking the verses continuing throughout the chapter.

Now look for the next large number which is 2. That is the beginning of the second chapter. The first verse begins, "And so the whole universe was completed." In order to refer to that text we would say, "Genesis two, one." Chapter two has 25 verses.

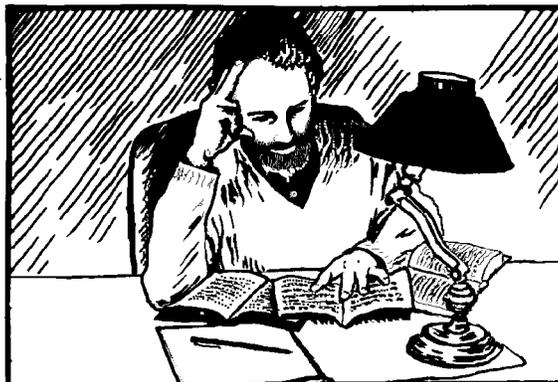
Skip ahead now to Genesis five, one. It begins, "This is the list..." When we give a Bible reference, we don't have to say the words *chapter* and *verse*—just the numbers that refer to them.

What would Genesis 5:1-5 be? You probably said it right, "Genesis five, one through five." A dash divides verses from verses and chapters from chapters that occur in sequence. If we are referring to several verses of the same chapter, but the verses are not consecutive, we write them like this: Joshua 1:5, 8, 10. We say it, "Joshua one, five, eight, and ten."

If the texts are in different chapters of a book, we separate the chapter references by a semicolon. Matthew 1:21; 2:1-6 refers us to chapter one, verse twenty-one and chapter two, verses one through six.

Some books, like 1 Kings and 2 Kings, have the same name and follow one after the other. The writer of John wrote three letters that also bear his name: 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. A reference from one of those books (First John, chapter one, verse nine) could be written as 1 John 1:9.

I'm sure you have found these punctuations relatively easy to learn. You will also find them helpful in your future studies.





For You To Do

1 Complete the missing information in the following chart. Write in every blank box.

Reference	How it is said
a John 3:16	
b	Romans six, twenty-three
c 1 John 1:8-10	
d	Romans twelve, fourteen, sixteen, and eighteen
e	Matthew one, one; and five, one through three

2 Matthew 1:1-4 is the reference for the first four verses in Matthew. How many verses are there in each of the following references?

- a Genesis 8:18-22 has .....
- b Genesis 8:18, 22 has .....

3 Find Matthew 1:21; 2:1; 3:13, 16. What are these verses about?

- a Jesus, the wise men, John the Baptist, and the disciples
- b Jesus, the wise men, John the Baptist, and the Holy Spirit
- c Jesus, Joseph, and the shepherds

**Finding References**

**Objective 2.** Find any Bible reference.

One day after a prayer and study meeting, a new believer said to me, “You must be very smart because you can find any Bible verse quickly.” Finding Bible verses quickly doesn’t mean that someone is extra intelligent. It only means that a person has learned what you are learning in this lesson.

In the front of your Bible there is a page that lists every book of the Bible and the page number where that book begins. At first you may need to use this index when you want to find a particular passage of Scripture.

The best way to find Bible references, however, is to memorize the books of the Bible in their proper order. Children learn these quickly and adults can too. You can learn five or six names each day by repeating them and writing them on cards to carry with you, and soon you will have them all committed to memory. You will appreciate being able to turn to any part of the Bible with minimum effort.



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**For You To Do**

4 Look up each reference on the left and match it with the correct verse on the right.

- |        |                  |   |
|--------|------------------|---|
| .... a | Philippians 4:19 | 1) "Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident!"                       |
| .... b | 1 John 1:8       | 2) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us."        |
| .... c | Joshua 1:9       | 3) "The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need."                                       |
| .... d | Psalms 23:1      | 4) "And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your need." |

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**THE STUDY REFERENCE**

**Objective 3.** *Identify the use of study references.*

Some Bibles have study references down the center, in side margins, at the bottom of each page, or after each verse. These are sometimes called cross references or marginal references and they help you find other related verses.

A tiny letter by certain words in a Bible verse tells you to look for the same letter in the reference area. By that letter you will find a Scripture reference which will lead you to a related verse. If you have a study Bible you can use this system to develop interesting studies on the topics you are reading.

The references and other comments in your Bible are helpful but they are not divinely inspired. They were given by Bible teachers and scholars to help us use and understand our Bibles more easily.



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**For You To Do**

Choose the correct completions to the following sentences.

- 5 The tiny letters by certain words in the Bible refer to
- a) special chapter divisions.
  - b) a different alphabet.
  - c) study references.
- 6 Marginal or cross references (study references) help you find other
- a) Bible verses on the same subject.
  - b) books to read on the subject.

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**THE CONCORDANCE**

**Objective 4.** *Describe ways to use a concordance.*

A concordance is an alphabetical index of the principal words in the Bible. This index gives the references in the Bible where a particular word is used. At the present time, most listings in a concordance are references to the *King James Version* of the Bible. However, we hope that the suggestions given here for using a concordance will be of help to you.

There are several instances when you may wish to use a concordance. Let's say that you wish to read several verses that contain the word *love*. Look up the word in your concordance. The references are listed, together with a few words from each Bible verse which uses the word *love*.

A concordance can also be of help to you when you wish to know where in the Bible to find a particular verse. Perhaps you know all of the verse, or only a part of it, but you do not know the reference. Choose a key word from the words you remember of the verse, and look up that word. It is possible that you will find among the references listed one with a phrase from the verse you are seeking.

For example, suppose you want to find in the Bible the verse that says "the love of money is the root of all evil." Perhaps the only words of the verse that you remember are, "money is the root of all evil." Notice that there are three key words which you can look up: *money*, *root*, and *evil*. The key word is usually identified in the concordance by only the first letter of the word. If you look up the word *money*, you will probably find something that looks like this:

Matthew 25:18. hid his Lord's m.

Mark 12:41. people cast m. into treasury.

1 Timothy 6:10. love of m. is root of all evil.

If you do not find in the concordance the Bible reference you are looking for, by looking under the word *money*, proceed to look up the other key words.

The verse just cited (1 Timothy 6:10) is often misquoted. An additional advantage, then, of using a concordance is that it enables us to discover errors such as this.

Does your Bible have marginal references and a concordance? These are important helps for teachers, preachers, and others who want to work for God. Perhaps you don't plan to be a preacher or teacher—but you can learn many new things if you will use your study references and a concordance. With these helps you can get better acquainted with God's Word; you will learn more about your relationship to Him and to others.



#### For You To Do

- 7 Which two statements below are TRUE?
- a A concordance is an index of the principal words of the Bible.
  - b A concordance is only for preachers and teachers.
  - c If you can remember only one or two words of a verse you want to find, you can probably find it using a concordance.
  - d A concordance and a marginal reference are the same thing.



## Check Your Answers

- 1 a** John three, sixteen.  
**b** Romans 6:23.  
**c** First John one, eight through ten.  
**d** Romans 12:14, 16, 18.  
**e** Matthew 1:1; 5:1-3.
- 5 c)** study references.
- 2 a** five.  
**b** two.
- 6 a)** Bible verses on the same subject.
- 3 b** Jesus, the wise men, John the Baptist, and the Holy Spirit.
- 7** Statements **a** and **c** are true.
- 4 a** 4) "And with all his abundant wealth..."  
**b** 2) "If we say that we have no sin..."  
**c** 1) "Remember that I have commanded you..."  
**d** 3) "The Lord is my shepherd..."

Lesson  
4

# The Books of the Old Testament

“Reading the Old Testament is like reading any other ancient history book,” commented a young man who had just joined our Bible study group. After he had read and studied some of the Old Testament, however, he changed his mind.

Although the Old Testament contains some history, such as creation and the story of the Jewish nation, there is much more. Sometimes a story is repeated or told from another viewpoint. Prophecies have been carefully recorded, some with their fulfillment and others yet to take place. The books also contain love stories, poems, songs, and proverbs in rich variety.

We can count on history books to tell us about their heroes, but the Old Testament includes the common folk of their day. These stories are no less important, for they give us a clear picture of God’s dealings with His people.

The books of the Old Testament can be divided into five major themes. In Lesson 3 we learned about the smaller divisions of the books—the chapters and verses. Now we will look at the major divisions or classifications.



**In this lesson you will study. . .**

Organizing the Classifications  
Explaining the Classifications

**This lesson will help you. . .**

- Identify the major classifications of the Old Testament.
- Describe one distinguishing characteristic about each book or author.

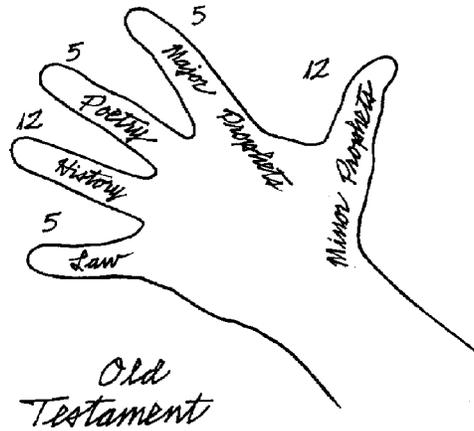
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## ORGANIZING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

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**Objective 1.** List the major classifications of the Old Testament books and state the number of books in each classification.

The simple sketch of a hand helps us to remember the major classifications of the Old Testament.



The 39 books of the Old Testament are grouped as follows:

Law	5 books
History	12 books
Poetry	5 books
Major Prophets	5 books
Minor Prophets	12 books

The table of contents in the front of your Bible gives a list of the books of the Old Testament. They may be classified as follows, but if not, the following chart will be a helpful guide.

LAW	HISTORY	POETRY
Genesis	Joshua	Job
Exodus	Judges	Psalms
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs
Numbers	1 and 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes
Deuteronomy	1 and 2 Kings	Song of Solomon
	1 and 2 Chronicles	
	Ezra	
	Nehemiah	
	Esther	

MAJOR PROPHETS	MINOR PROPHETS
Isaiah	Hosea
Jeremiah	Joel
Lamentations	Amos
Ezekiel	Obadiah
Daniel	Jonah
	Micah
	Nahum
	Habakkuk
	Zephaniah
	Haggai
	Zechariah
	Malachi

Perhaps you have wondered why the prophets are designated as being either major or minor. The classification has little to do with content as all the books are important. The major prophetic books (with the exception of Lamentations) are longer; the minor books are shorter.



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**For You To Do**

**1** Organize the following classification titles into their proper order. Put the number 1 in front of the title that belongs to the first classification, 2 in front of the second, etc.

.... **a** Major Prophets

.... **b** Law

.... **c** Poetry

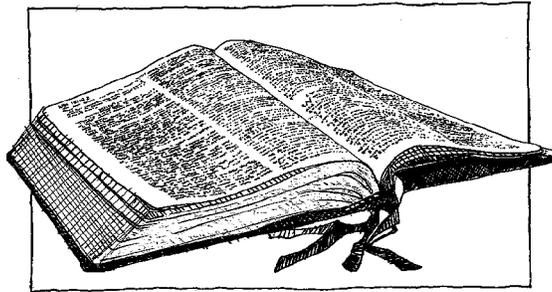
.... **d** Minor Prophets

.... **e** History

**2** How many books are there in each of the following classifications?

Law, Poetry, and Major Prophets each have .....

History and Minor Prophets each have .....



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**EXPLAINING THE CLASSIFICATIONS**

**The Law**

**Objective 2.** *Name and identify the five books of the Law.*

The first five books of the Bible are known as the books of the Law. They are also called the Pentateuch, which means “five books.” The Pentateuch was written by Moses, the great leader and liberator of the Jewish people. This is why they may also be referred to as the “Books of Moses.”

*Genesis* means “beginning” or “origin.” Genesis tells of the Creation, the origin of mankind, the Flood, and the call of Abraham.

*Exodus* means “going out.” It tells how God led His people out of slavery, opening the Red Sea before them, and providing for their needs. It contains the Ten Commandments and laws for the nation.

*Leviticus* takes its name from Levi, the priestly tribe. This book gives instruction for the priests and the offering of sacrifices—looking forward to Christ who would become the sin offering for the whole world.

*Numbers* records the numbering of the people. Recording the census was important to the young nation about to possess the land that was promised to their father Abraham.

*Deuteronomy* means “second law.” The book contains further instructions for God’s people, Moses’ farewell address, and his commission to Joshua who would assume leadership after Moses’ death.

The Pentateuch highlights God’s dealings with mankind for an estimated period of 2,500 years. It lays the foundation for the story of redemption.



**For You To Do**

**3** Read over the names of the five books of the Law until you are able to repeat them from memory. Then, without looking back, write the names of these books.

- a** .....
- b** .....
- c** .....
- d** .....
- e** .....

**4** Read the description on the left and write in front of each the number of the book title that it matches.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| .... <b>a</b> Freedom from slavery     | 1) Genesis     |
| .... <b>b</b> Rules for Jewish priests | 2) Exodus      |
| .... <b>c</b> Creation of mankind      | 3) Leviticus   |
| .... <b>d</b> Census recorded          | 4) Numbers     |
| .... <b>e</b> Moses’ farewell          | 5) Deuteronomy |

**5** Circle the letter of each correct completion to this sentence. The first five books of the Bible are called the Law because they contain

- a) rules for God’s people.
- b) 2,500 years of Jewish history.
- c) the Ten Commandments.
- d) instructions for the Levites.

## History

**Objective 3.** State some general facts about the contents of each of the historical books.

The 12 books of History give the history of the Jewish nation. They tell of God's dealings with individuals and with the nation as a whole.

*Joshua*, the general who led the Hebrew people after the death of Moses, went on to conquer the land of Canaan. The book of Joshua is about that conquest.

There were, however, a number of small kingdoms and cities that tried to fight back. *Judges* covers 400 years of defeats and victories in Canaan: defeat when the people forgot God, victory when they repented and God raised up judges as deliverers.

The book of *Ruth* tells of a dedicated girl from the land of Moab who lived in the time of the judges. She became the great-grandmother of David and one of the ancestors of Jesus.

*First and Second Samuel* take their name from Samuel, the last of the judges. He was also a priest, prophet, educator, and statesman who played an important role in his nation becoming an established kingdom.

*First and Second Kings and First and Second Chronicles* continue the nation's history and tell how it became divided into the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. The Chronicles also contain genealogies important to the Hebrew people.

God used *Ezra*, a priest, and *Nehemiah*, a prince, to lead the Hebrews back home after their captivity in Babylon. These two men helped rebuild the nation. God also inspired Ezra to write and to gather the sacred books that made up the Old Testament. He had copies made of the Scriptures so the people could read them.

The book of *Esther* tells how God used a beautiful Jewish girl to save her people from being massacred during the captivity.

If you will look in your Bible you will notice that the historical books add up to about a third of the Bible. Put a slip of paper before Joshua and another one after Esther. Practice finding each book as quickly as you can. Perhaps a friend will select names at random for you and time you as you look for them.

**6** Read the description on the left and write in front of each the number of the book title that it matches.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ... a Saved the Hebrews from being killed           | 1) Joshua                               |
| ... b King David's ancestor                         | 2) Judges                               |
| ... c 400 years of defeats and victories            | 3) Ruth                                 |
| ... d The priest who had copies made of Scripture   | 4) 1 and 2 Samuel                       |
| ... e The prince who led the Hebrews out of Babylon | 5) 1 and 2 Kings,<br>1 and 2 Chronicles |
| ... f The general who conquered Canaan              | 6) Ezra                                 |
| ... g The beginning of the kingdom of Israel        | 7) Nehemiah                             |
| ... h The history of Judah and Israel               | 8) Esther                               |

**7** The second classification of Old Testament books is called "Historical Books" because it tells the history of

- Moab and Babylon.
- Canaan and Egypt.
- Judah and Israel.

**8** The last three historical books tell of God’s protection over the Hebrews during their captivity and return from Babylon. They are:

- a) Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
- b) 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings.
- c) Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

**9** We remember Ezra for his important work in

- a) getting together the books of the Old Testament that existed then.
- b) writing the Pentateuch or the five books of the Law.

**10** Compare the first five chapters of 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles. Which book gives more genealogies or records of families with their ancestors?

- a) 1 Kings
- b) 1 Chronicles

### Poetry

**Objective 4.** Give a distinguishing characteristic of each of the poetical books.

Many of the books of the Bible contain poetical passages. Five books, however, are grouped under books of Poetry.

*Job* is a dramatic poem about the sufferings of a righteous man and how in the end his faith was rewarded. This book is believed to be the oldest in the Bible.

*Psalms* is the hymnbook and prayer book of the Bible. These poems were collected and used by the people of Israel in their worship. Though David and other leaders wrote many of the Psalms, a number of them are of unknown origin.

Solomon, a son of David and the third king of Israel, was the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote and compiled *Proverbs* to teach young people how to live a good and successful life. This is one of the “books of wisdom.”

*Ecclesiastes* is Solomon’s testimony of how empty life is without God. Pleasures, riches, accomplishments, and power cannot satisfy. Mankind was created to serve God.

*Song of Solomon* is like an opera, a dramatic song. It tells of the love between bride and groom and symbolizes God’s love for His people.

Hebrew poetry often differs from other poetry in both style and structure. But it doesn’t have to follow a pattern that we are familiar with for us to realize its beauty. Through it we see how God’s heart was moved toward His people and how they in turn responded to Him.



### For You To Do

**11** Let’s do a matching exercise again like those done with the first two classifications. Write in front of each description the number of the book title that it matches.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| ... a God loving His people like a groom loves his bride | 1) Job             |
| ... b Hebrew hymnbook                                    | 2) Psalms          |
| ... c Teaching young people how to live                  | 3) Proverbs        |
| ... d Why the righteous suffer                           | 4) Ecclesiastes    |
| ... e Life’s emptiness without God                       | 5) Song of Solomon |



## Major Prophets

**Objective 5.** State the general theme of each of the Major Prophets.

When God wanted to communicate directly with His people, He often used chosen men known as prophets. These prophets proclaimed God's message either by the spoken or the written word.

The books in this classification are called Major Prophets because of the length of the books and the long ministry and great influence of these prophets.

*Isaiah* was both a prince in Israel and a great prophet who lived during the time that Babylon was establishing its empire. He foretold the captivity of the Hebrew nation, but he also brought a message of hope. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah foretold His virgin birth, His death for our sins, and His resurrection.

*Jeremiah* also wrote about the Babylonian captivity and told that the Jews would return to their homeland after 70 years. Cyrus' decree allowing the Jews to go back to Palestine came just as Jeremiah had predicted (Jeremiah 25:11).

Jeremiah saw many prophecies fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem. He describes this in five mournful poems called *Lamentations*.

*Ezekiel* was one of the major prophets of the exile. He prophesied to the Hebrews during their 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

*Daniel*, a captive Hebrew prince, became the prime minister of the Babylonian empire. His accurate predictions of the rise and fall of empires are amazing. Many of them have already been fulfilled and some are now being fulfilled in our lifetime.



### For You To Do

**12** Which major prophet lived 700 years before Christ and predicted many details that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

- a) Isaiah
- b) Jeremiah
- c) Ezekiel
- d) Daniel

**13** Although poetical, a book telling about the destruction of Jerusalem is not grouped with the other books of poetry. What book is it?

- a) Proverbs
- b) Ecclesiastes
- c) Jeremiah
- d) Lamentations

Choose the answers that best complete the following sentences.

**14** The prophets who were captives in Babylon and preached to the Hebrews in exile were

- a) Isaiah and Jeremiah.
- b) Ezekiel and Daniel.
- c) Hosea, Joel, and Amos.
- d) Jeremiah and Lamentations.

**15** The name of the captive prince who became prime minister was

- a) Isaiah.
- b) Jeremiah.
- c) Daniel.

**16** Match the prophecy on the left to the prophet who gave it.

- |       |                                       |             |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| ... a | The virgin birth of Christ            | 1) Jeremiah |
| ... b | Rise and fall of empires              | 2) Isaiah   |
| ... c | Seventy years of Babylonian captivity | 3) Daniel   |

### Minor Prophets

**Objective 6.** Name one distinguishing characteristic of each of the Minor Prophets.

The 12 books of the Minor Prophets together do not equal in length the book of Isaiah. But these men loved God and valiantly proclaimed His message to people who were often indifferent or rebellious toward God. The first nine of these prophets lived before the captivity; the others lived after the Jews' return to their homeland. Each book bears its author's name.

*Hosea* preached of God's love for His people as that of a husband for an unfaithful wife. Hosea illustrated it by forgiving his own unfaithful partner.

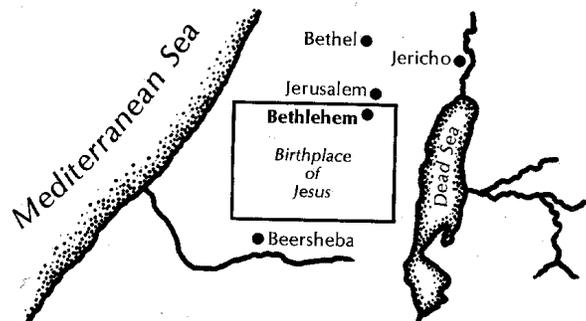
*Joel* prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and in the charismatic revival of these last days.

*Amos* was a shepherd whom God sent to the capital of Israel to preach against social injustice. He warned the people of coming judgment against sin.

*Obadiah* prophesied of judgment against the country of Edom. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. We know very little about the prophet himself.

God sent *Jonah* as a missionary to Nineveh, but he tried to run away by sailing to another city. After being swallowed by a big fish, he repented, was delivered, and then obeyed God.

*Micah* lived at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. He prophesied destruction of the Hebrew nation, but also gave hope for their future. He spoke of the Savior and in Micah 5:2 even mentions the town where Jesus would be born.



*Nahum* prophesied the destruction of Nineveh, the great city that had repented under Jonah's preaching. But the people turned again to their wickedness and God said He would destroy the city.

*Habakkuk* and *Zephaniah* warned of national defeat and captivity if the people didn't repent. They clung to their sins and went into Babylon as captives.

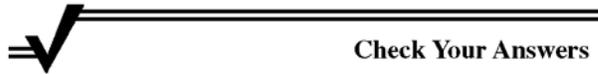
After the return from Babylon to Palestine, God used *Haggai* and *Zechariah* to encourage the rebuilding of the temple.

*Malachi*, the last of the Old Testament prophets, lived 400 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Read in *Malachi* 3:8-12 his message on tithing.

So ends the record of God's dealing with His people under the old covenant while they waited for the coming of Christ and His new pact.

**17** Read the characteristic on the left and write in front of each the number of the prophet it matches.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| .... <b>a</b> Judgment on Edom              | 1) Hosea                  |
| .... <b>b</b> Preached to Nineveh           | 2) Joel                   |
| .... <b>c</b> Love of God                   | 3) Amos                   |
| .... <b>d</b> Social injustice              | 4) Obadiah                |
| .... <b>e</b> The Holy Spirit               | 5) Jonah and Nahum        |
| .... <b>f</b> Christ's birthplace           | 6) Micah                  |
| .... <b>g</b> Message on tithing            | 7) Habakkuk and Zephaniah |
| .... <b>h</b> National defeat and captivity | 8) Haggai and Zechariah   |
| .... <b>i</b> Rebuilding of temple          | 9) Malachi                |



### Check Your Answers

- 1 a** 4  
**b** 1  
**c** 3  
**d** 5  
**e** 2

**10 b)** 1 Chronicles.

**2** five.  
twelve.

**11 a** 5) Song of Solomon.  
**b** 2) Psalms.  
**c** 3) Proverbs.  
**d** 1) Job.  
**e** 4) Ecclesiastes.

**3 a** Genesis.  
**b** Exodus.  
**c** Leviticus.  
**d** Numbers.  
**e** Deuteronomy.

- 12 a)** Isaiah.
- 4 a)** 2) Exodus.  
**b)** 3) Leviticus.  
**c)** 1) Genesis.  
**d)** 4) Numbers.  
**e)** 5) Deuteronomy.
- 13 d)** Lamentations.
- 5 a)** rules for God's people.  
**c)** the Ten Commandments.  
**d)** instructions for the Levites.
- 14 b)** Ezekiel and Daniel.
- 6 a)** 8) Esther.  
**b)** 3) Ruth.  
**c)** 2) Judges.  
**d)** 6) Ezra.  
**e)** 7) Nehemiah.  
**f)** 1) Joshua.  
**g)** 4) 1 and 2 Samuel.  
**h)** 5) 1 and 2 Kings; 1 and 2 Chronicles.
- 15 c)** Daniel.
- 7 c)** Judah and Israel.
- 16 a)** 2) Isaiah.  
**b)** 3) Daniel.  
**c)** 1) Jeremiah.
- 8 a)** Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
- 17 a)** 4) Obadiah.  
**b)** 5) Jonah and Nahum.  
**c)** 1) Hosea.  
**d)** 3) Amos.  
**e)** 2) Joel.  
**f)** 6) Micah.  
**g)** 9) Malachi.  
**h)** 7) Habakkuk and Zephaniah.  
**i)** 8) Haggai and Zechariah.
- 9 a)** getting together the books of the Old Testament that existed then.

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT ONE*. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.

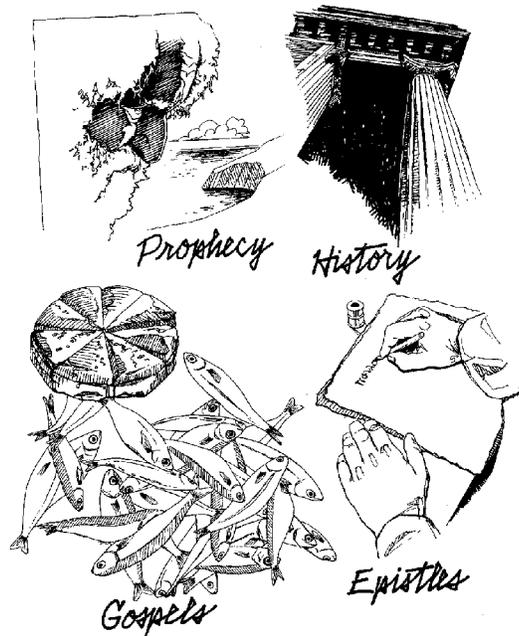
Lesson  
5

# The Books of the New Testament

At the time the New Testament was being written, the Old Testament picture had changed very much. The days of the prophets were gone and many of the people were indifferent to spiritual things. Like the rest of the Near East and Europe, the Jewish nation came under Roman rule. Though it was a difficult time for the Jewish people and they longed for freedom, outside influence did offer some benefits. A strong Roman army saw to it that roads were kept safe for commerce and increased travel allowed Greek culture with its music and art to spread throughout the empire.

It was not by chance that God sent His Son to the world at this time. The Greeks furnished a common language for communicating the gospel and the Romans gave reasonable protection and liberties for evangelism.

The New Testament is the story of the life of Christ and the beginning of Christianity. These books contain instructions and promises for all believers, prophecies concerning the future, and the hope of eternal life with Christ. As you study about these books I hope you will want to begin to read them to learn their truths firsthand.



### In this lesson you will study...

Organizing the classifications  
Explaining the classifications

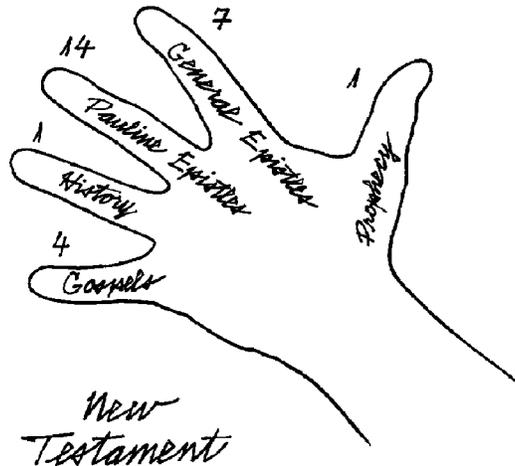
### This lesson will help you...

- Discuss the New Testament authors and what they wrote.
- Explain that the central message of the New Testament is the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

## ORGANIZING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

**Objective 1.** List the major classifications of the New Testament.

In Lesson 4, we learned that the Old Testament has five major classifications. The New Testament also has five classifications. It is easy to remember them using the same method we used with the Old Testament.



The New Testament has 27 books, as follows:

GOSPELS	HISTORY	GENERAL EPISTLES	PAULINE EPISTLES	PROPHECY
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews	Revelation



### For You To Do

1 Complete the following words with the correct letters.

<i>Classifications</i>	<i>Number of Books</i>
Go.....	4 books
Hi.....	1 book
Pauline E.....	14 books
General E.....	7 books
Pro.....	<u>1</u> book
Total	27 books

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## EXPLAINING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

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### The Gospels

**Objective 2.** Describe the different emphasis each Gospel places on Christ.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the life of Christ in the Gospels that bear their names. These writers are sometimes called *The Four Evangelists*. Each has a different focus or emphasis.

*Matthew* presents Jesus as King, or Messiah. Quoting the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah (the name the Jews gave to their expected king or deliverer), Matthew shows how Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures.

*Mark* wrote to the Romans, most of whom did not know the Scriptures. He filled his gospel with dynamic action as he showed his readers that Jesus came as Servant of God.

*Luke*, a physician, wrote his Gospel for a Greek friend. He emphasizes Christ's perfect manhood, presenting Him as the Son of Man.

*John* gives evidence to show that Jesus is the Son of God and that those who believe on Him have eternal life.

The first three Gospels are called "synoptic" as they give a synopsis or a complete view of Jesus' life. They are quite similar in their choice of events to relate. John, however, does not emphasize the history of Jesus as much as His sayings and teachings.



### For You To Do

- 2 The Gospel that quotes many prophecies to show that Jesus is the promised King is
  - a) Matthew.
  - b) Mark.
  - c) Luke.
  - d) John.
- 3 Read Luke 1:1-4. Here we find that Luke based what he wrote on
  - a) rumor or hearsay.
  - b) personal experience as a disciple.
  - c) careful investigation and talking to eyewitnesses.
  - d) legends and traditions that sprang up.
- 4 Mark filled his Gospel with
  - a) prophecies from the Old Testament.
  - b) sermons of Jesus.
  - c) the dynamic action in Jesus' work.
  - d) proofs of Jesus' divinity.
- 5 Read John 20:30-31. John explains that he wrote so that his readers would believe in Jesus as the
  - a) perfect man and follow His example.
  - b) Son of God, and have everlasting life in Him.
- 6 Luke's main emphasis about Jesus was that He was the
  - a) Son of Man.
  - b) Messiah of the Jews.
  - c) Son of God.
  - d) soon-coming King.

Check your answers.

## History

**Objective 3.** *State the key message of Acts.*

Luke wrote *The Acts of the Apostles* to tell how Christ sent the Holy Spirit and continued His work on earth after He went back to heaven.

*Apostle* means “sent” or “one who is sent.” Acts tells how the *sent ones* of the Lord took the gospel to their world.

One of the main characters in the book of Acts is Paul. He was the apostle to the Gentiles, all those who were not Jews. Luke went with him on some of his trips and tells of their exciting missionary adventures. He tells how the Holy Spirit used Paul to start the Christian church in many countries.

The key text is Acts 1:8. It is a verse every Christian should memorize.

But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).



### For You To Do

**7** The title “Acts of the Apostles” means acts of the

- a) successors.
- b) sent ones.
- c) representatives.
- d) leaders.

**8** Complete the following statement.

The physician named ..... accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys to the .....

**9** The key message of Acts is that

- a) Paul would convert all the Gentiles.
- b) Luke would be a missionary doctor.
- c) the Holy Spirit would witness in Jerusalem.
- d) the Holy Spirit would give power to witness.

Check your answers.

## Pauline Epistles

**Objective 4.** *Define epistle and give reasons why the Epistles are important.*

The thirteen or fourteen Pauline Epistles are letters that Paul wrote, some of them to churches he had founded. The book of Hebrews was not signed so we cannot say definitely that Paul wrote it. Most scholars feel, however, that he did and we are including Hebrews in the list of Paul’s Epistles.

Romans	1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Corinthians	1 and 2 Timothy
Galatians	Titus
Ephesians	Philemon
Philippians	Hebrews
Colossians	

Since there were no printing presses, the Epistles were passed from church to church. It is possible that at each place the members made a copy to keep and study.

*Romans* has been called “the cathedral of Christian doctrine” because of its clear, powerful explanation of salvation. Justification by faith is its theme.

Paul wrote *1* and *2 Corinthians* to the church that he had founded in Corinth. These letters were about problems of doctrine and conduct in the church.

The next Epistle, *Galatians*, has the same theme as *Romans*—justification by faith. It emphasizes that no one can save himself or herself by good works but only by faith in Jesus Christ.

While Paul was in jail for preaching the gospel he wrote *Ephesians*, *Philippians*, and *Colossians*. These Epistles, called “prison Epistles,” are about living the Christian life.

Both letters to the *Thessalonians* tell what will happen just before Jesus comes back from heaven. You can read about His return in *1 Thessalonians* 4:13-18.

Four of Paul’s Epistles are to individuals. The two letters to *Timothy* and the one to *Titus* are especially helpful to pastors. Just before Paul gave his life for the cause of Christ, he wrote his last letter to Timothy, charging him to be faithful in God’s work. Read *2 Timothy* 4:5-8.

Onesimus, Philemon’s runaway slave, was saved while he was in jail with Paul. Paul wrote asking *Philemon* to forgive Onesimus and receive him as a brother in Christ.

The key word of *Hebrews* is “better.” This letter to Hebrew Christians reminded them that the new covenant is better than the old. *Hebrews* shows how the symbolic rites and sacrifices under the Law were pictures of Jesus who became our high priest and the supreme sacrifice for our sins.



**For You To Do**

**10** Circle the letter that completes this sentence correctly. *Epistle* means

- a) doctrine.
- b) letter.
- c) copied.

**11** The main theme of each Epistle is listed on the left. Write in front of each the number of the book or books it matches.

- |       |                               |   |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|
| ... a | living the Christian life     | 1) Romans and Galatians                   |
| ... b | Jesus our high priest         | 2) Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians |
| ... c | Justification by faith        | 3) 1 and 2 Thessalonians                  |
| ... d | Jesus coming back from heaven | 4) 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus              |
| ... e | Forgiveness for a slave       | 5) Philemon                               |
| ... f | How a pastor should work      | 6) Hebrews                                |

**12** Circle the letter before the correct completions to this sentence. The Pauline Epistles are important because they

- a) give advice to believers.
- b) tell us how to be saved.
- c) tell how the prophets lived.
- d) give clear teaching on doctrine.
- e) were all written in prisons.
- f) tell pastors and churches how to work.

Check your answers.

### General Epistles

**Objective 5.** State one fact about the main teaching of each author of the general Epistles.

The Pauline Epistles carry the names of the persons to whom they are addressed, but the general Epistles go by the names of the ones who wrote them.

The *James* that wrote the book that has his name was pastor of the church in Jerusalem and was probably the brother of Jesus. James, John's brother, had already been beheaded.

James teaches that living faith in Christ will produce good works. Our works don't save us, but if we are saved we will do what we can for God and His people.

*Peter's* letters of encouragement for suffering Christians remind them that the Lord will come back someday and reward them for their faithfulness.

*John*, the beloved disciple, lived the longest of the twelve. He wrote a gospel and three Epistles bearing his name. The theme of God's love that makes us love one another carries through all his writings. He also wrote *Revelation*, the book that reveals Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*Jude*, the last Epistle, was written by a brother of James and probably a brother of Jesus. He warns the reader against false teachings and speaks of Jesus' return to judge the world.



### For You To Do

**13** What was the main theme of each of the Epistles listed below?

- James .....
- 1 and 2 Peter .....
- 1, 2, and 3 John .....
- Jude .....

Check your answers.

### Prophecy

**Objective 6.** Describe some of the contents and values of the book of Revelation.

The book of Revelation is also called the Apocalypse because it unveils the future. Its symbolic visions are similar to those in the book of Daniel. John, the author, was an old man in exile on the island of Patmos when he was given visions of the last days of this age, of heaven, and of the coming kingdom of God.

Though John had known Jesus when He carried out His earthly ministry, he saw Jesus again as the mighty conqueror. He saw Him as the one who holds all authority (Revelation 1:18).

As the revelation of Christ changed Patmos into the doorway of heaven for John, it also brings light into our darkness, joy into our lives, and hope into a chaotic world.



### For You To Do

**14** Circle the letters before the correct completions to the following statement. In the revelation on Patmos

- a) the future was made known.
- b) John could see no ray of hope.
- c) John saw visions of the last days.

**15** Two books that are very similar in their symbolic pictures of world conflicts, the rule of the Antichrist, and the final triumph of Christ are

- a) Isaiah and 1 Peter.
- b) Daniel and Revelation.
- c) Ezekiel and Revelation.

**16** Read Revelation chapters 1, 21–22. How do you feel when you read these chapters? Are you thrilled to think that Christ will be coming back soon? Is John's prayer in 22:20 yours? Pray that God will help you remember this as you live and work for Him.



## Check Your Answers

- 1** Gospels.  
History.  
Pauline Epistles.  
General Epistles.  
Prophecy.
- 9** d) the Holy Spirit would give power to witness.
- 2** a) Matthew.
- 10** b) letter.
- 3** c) careful investigation and talking to eyewitnesses.
- 11** a) 2) Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.  
b) 6) Hebrews.  
c) 1) Romans and Galatians.  
d) 3) 1 and 2 Thessalonians.  
e) 5) Philemon.  
f) 4) 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.
- 4** c) the dynamic action in Jesus' work.
- 12** a) give advice to believers.  
b) tell us how to be saved.  
d) give clear teaching on doctrine.  
f) tell pastors and churches how to work.
- 5** b) Son of God, and have everlasting life in Him.
- 13** Check your answers by referring back to the discussion about each book.
- 6** a) Son of Man.
- 14** a) the future was made known.  
c) John saw visions of the last days.
- 7** b) sent ones.
- 15** b) Daniel and Revelation.
- 8** Luke, Gentiles.
- 16** Your answers.

Lesson  
**6**

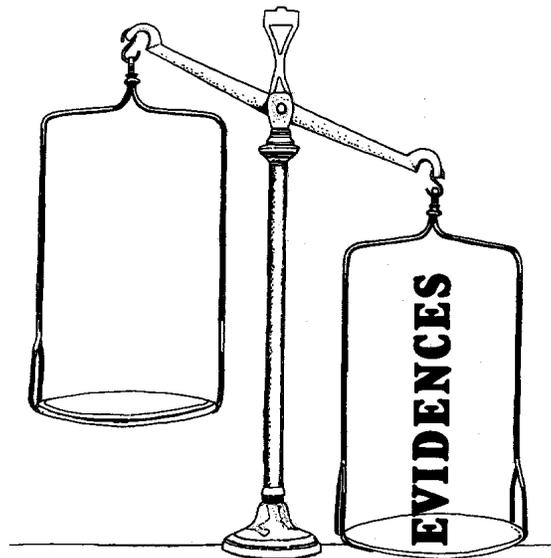
# How We Know the Bible Is the Word of God

Almost every Christian faces the question sooner or later: “How do you know that the Bible is true?”

The question is not a new one. Mankind’s first temptation began with an attack on God’s Word. The devil in the form of a serpent said to Eve, “Did God really tell you. . . ?” (See Genesis 3:1.) The devil still suggests the same doubt, “Did God really say that?”

God’s Word is our defense against the devil. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, His defense against the enemy was the Word. We also use the Word when we want to help others who are assailed with doubts and fears. And we use His Word to guide those who come to us sincerely questioning, for they want to know the right way. “Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15-16).

In the last two lessons we learned about the content of the books of the Bible. Now let’s find the answer to why we believe it to be true.



**In this lesson you will study. . .**

- Effects of Scripture
- Variety and Unity of Scripture
- Inerrancy of Scripture
- Discoveries About Scripture
- Excellence in Scripture
- Name of Author in Scripture
- Completion of Prophecy in Scripture
- Elimination of Alternatives in Scripture
- Survival of Scripture

**This lesson will help you . . .**

- Give reasons why the Bible is the Word of God.
- Realize that the Bible is truth and that it applies to your own life.

The word *evidence* means *to prove or to show clearly*. We will study nine of the many evidences that prove the Bible to be the true Word of God. To help us remember we can use the letters of the word EVIDENCES. These are the titles of the evidences we will look at.

Effects  
Variety and Unity  
Inerrancy  
Discoveries  
Excellence  
Name of Author  
Completion of Prophecy  
Elimination of Alternatives  
Survival

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**EFFECTS OF SCRIPTURE**

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**Objective 1.** *Recognize that fulfilled promises of the Scripture in transforming lives are an evidence that the Bible is of God.*

The supernatural **effects** of the Bible are evidences of its supernatural origin. The fulfillment of its promises proves that these are true and authentic.

Miraculous healings, deliverance from drugs and alcoholism, the transformation of lives, and millions of answers to prayer are some evidences which convince us that God made the promises in the Bible.

An atheist once challenged an evangelist to a debate. The evangelist accepted the challenge on the condition that he could bring 100 people who would testify how Christianity had transformed their lives. The atheist would likewise bring 100 people to testify how atheism had transformed their lives. Needless to say, there was no debate as the atheist could not meet the conditions.

As God speaks to us through the Bible, He transforms lives and raises the moral standard of individuals, families, and even nations.



**For You To Do**

- 1 A survey made in Brazil showed that over a span of two generations, Christians had more family unity and economic stability than non-Christians. On the basis of that evidence, complete the following statement. The effect of the Bible as it changes lives for the better verifies that the Bible is
- a) God's Book through which He works.
  - b) a clever fraud that deceives people.
  - c) a book of advanced psychology.

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**VARIETY AND UNITY OF SCRIPTURE**

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**Objective 2.** *Describe how the concepts of variety and unity can be applied to Scripture.*

Imagine 40 men writing the Bible: doctors of law and medicine, fishermen, kings, farmers, poets, soldiers, businessmen, and shepherds. They wrote over a period of 1,600 years—Moses wrote the Law 1,500 years before Christ; John wrote Revelation 100 years after the birth of Christ. It would seem that the variety of background and the wide range of time and location of the biblical authors would prevent unity or harmony in their books.

But the Bible has just that. The unity of theme and harmony of teaching by such a variety of writers is evidence that they received their inspiration from the same source—God.



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**For You To Do**

- 2 Circle the correct completions to this sentence. The words *variety* and *unity* can be applied to Scripture because
- a) the Book was inspired by one person, God.
  - b) it is important to vary the theme and unity.
  - c) a variety of writers wrote on a unified theme.
  - d) men of different backgrounds often think exactly the same.

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**INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE**

**Objective 3.** *Identify two evidences that show the inerrancy of Scripture.*

The Bible's *inerrancy*, or freedom from mistakes, includes its historical accuracy in events, people, places, genealogies, social customs, and political developments.

Textbooks have to be changed—as knowledge increases, mistaken ideas are discarded. But not the Bible—its writers were exposed to the mistaken beliefs popular during their times, but God kept them from putting any of these errors in the Bible. He kept it free from error and its advice is practical today.

Although no two persons think just alike, God also kept these writers from contradicting each other as they presented different phases of their theme.

Writers of secular history may purposely hide the guilt of their leaders or their nations. But the Bible is impartial and accurate, showing facts as they were. The Bible records not only the uprightness of a people, but their failure and sin as well. It is written that we may learn from the mistakes of others. Since the Bible does not try to hide anything, its inerrancy shines through.



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**For You To Do**

- 3 As Hebrew history, the Bible records the sins and punishment of the Hebrew nation and of its heroes. This is
- a) characteristic of histories because nations want to hear the truth of their failures.
  - b) evidence of its inerrancy and shows that it was written from God's viewpoint.
- 4 One evidence of inerrancy in the Bible is that the writers
- a) included the popular beliefs of their time.
  - b) consulted other writings to avoid mistakes.
  - c) were kept by God from writing contradictions.

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**DISCOVERIES ABOUT SCRIPTURE**

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**Objective 4.** *Identify how students of various sciences are realizing the accuracy of the Bible.*

*Archaeology*, the science that studies ancient cultures, has discovered manuscripts and monuments which prove that Bible records are true.

For instance, Sargon, mentioned in Isaiah 20:1, was thought of as a legend by critics of the Bible. But his palace was discovered by a French archaeologist in 1843. Isaiah 20:1 tells the story of Sargon conquering Ashdod, the Philistine city. This very story was found painted on one of the walls of Sargon’s palace!

Scoffers can no longer laugh at historical accounts in the Bible because too many of them have been proven true through archaeological discoveries.

*Philology* is the science of languages. By the words used and the way they are spelled, experts in this science can tell when something was written. Using these methods, philologists have verified that Bible prophecies were predicted before the events took place. One example found in the Dead Sea Scrolls gave positive proof that the prophecies about the captivity were written before it happened.

Other sciences are also discovering how true the Bible is. Men exploring for oil have based their findings on biblical history; medical doctors have learned from the health laws given to the Jewish people. To hear of more discoveries in the future won’t surprise believers because the Bible is God’s Word. We know that it doesn’t need to be proven, but for the doubter there is ample evidence of its authenticity.



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**For You To Do**

- 5** Circle the letter that best completes this sentence. The authenticity of the Bible has been further confirmed by archaeologists and philologists and their
- a) debates.
  - b) speculations.
  - c) scientific discoveries.

- 6** For years philologists thought that all languages of the world stemmed from four basic languages. Later the number was reduced to two. Their latest conclusion should not surprise you. On the basis of Genesis 11:1, what do you think they discovered?

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**EXCELLENCE IN SCRIPTURE**

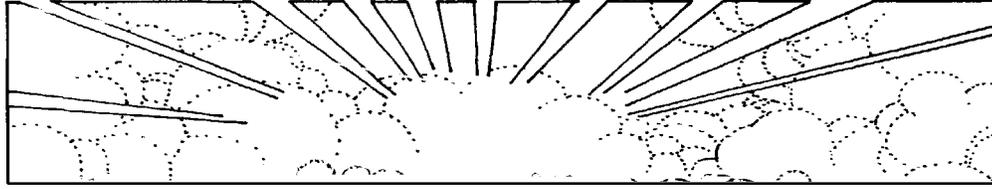
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**Objective 5.** *Identify examples of moral excellence in literary Scripture.*

A book that is inspired by an all-wise, holy, and loving God should *excel* all other books in its moral teaching. The Bible does.

The simple expression of its stories invites children to read it. At the same time brilliant scholars cannot fully comprehend the depths of its truths. If you read the Bible a hundred times, you will always find something new to appreciate—something you never saw before. God continues to speak to you through His Book.



The laws Moses received from God were far superior to any others of that day. In the centuries that have followed, many countries have based their statutes on those given so long ago.

The Bible's literary excellence has been recognized by scholars in universities. The teachings of its proverbs, the uplifting of its psalms, and the honesty of its history is still reaching people today and being used as examples of what good literature should contain.

The excellence of the Bible, so far superior to anything else that mankind has produced, also leads us to believe that its concepts are from a supernatural source.



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#### For You To Do

- 7 Which of the following qualities point to the excellence of Scripture?
- a Superior moral teaching
  - b Precise word definitions
  - c Relevance to all intellectual levels
  - d Fine leather binding
  - e Laws that are applicable today
  - f Literary excellence

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#### NAME OF AUTHOR IN SCRIPTURE

**Objective 6.** Give examples of internal evidence that God is the real author of the Bible.

If a serious, reliable book gives the name of its author, we believe that person wrote it. The Bible names God as its real author and tells how He inspired it.

Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living."



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#### For You To Do

- 8 Which of the following Scriptures tell us the name of the author of the Bible? Look them up in your Bible and read each one.
- a) Exodus 24:12
  - b) Deuteronomy 5:31
  - c) Malachi 4:4
  - d) 2 Timothy 3:16
  - e) 2 Peter 1:21
  - f) Revelation 1:1

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## COMPLETION OF PROPHECY IN SCRIPTURE

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**Objective 7.** *Identify one way prophecies were given and state what conditions they must meet in order to be judged as from God.*

As in a moving picture, the prophets of the Bible saw and described the rise and fall of empires, the destruction and rebuilding of Jerusalem, and other future events. These things that they saw and wrote down were prophecies, or the telling of what would happen in the future. The completion or fulfillment of the prophecies points to their inspiration.

But it is more than just fulfillment that proves a prophecy is inspired of God. The Bible prophets were devout men who never made money telling about the future. Most of the prophecies for people were warnings of punishment for their bad ways but also promises that if they changed, they would not be punished. The prophecies came true.

Bible prophecies are evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, not only because they came true but because they always pointed people to God and a closer relationship with Him.



### For You To Do

**9** Read Obadiah 1:1; Micah 1:1; Nahum 1:1; and Habakkuk 1:1; 2:2. They say that their prophecies came to them through a

- a) strong impression.
- b) vision that God showed them what would happen in the future.
- c) study of the world conditions and probable events.

**10** Each of the following pairs of Scriptures tell of a prophecy and its fulfillment. Read them carefully and write a title or brief statement of the event they refer to.

- a) Genesis 41:25-32 and Genesis 41:53-54
- b) Jeremiah 25:11;29:10 and Ezra 1:1
- c) Judges 13:5 and Judges 15:14-15



**11** Read Matthew 1:22; 2:4-6, 16-18; 4:12-16; 8:16-17; Isaiah 53; Acts 2:14-21, 31; 3:18. Scores of prophecies about The Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus. Some about the Church are taking place now, while others are still in the future. There are certain conditions that prophecies should fulfill if we are to consider them inspired of God. Which of the following statements should be TRUE if the prophecy is from God?

- a) The prophet should charge money to tell the future.
- b) A prophecy should come true.
- c) The prophet should be a devout, godly person.
- d) The prophecy must be consistent with God's character.
- e) The prophecy should move people to seek God.

Check your answers.

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## ELIMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES IN SCRIPTURE

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**Objective 8.** *Identify reasons for believing the Bible is inspired by God.*

One way to discover who has done a deed is to examine all the possibilities and eliminate the least likely ones. There are three possibilities, or alternatives, in deciding what the writers of the Bible were like:

1. Good, bad, or deluded men, writing their own ideas.
2. Men inspired by Satan.
3. Men inspired by God.

The writers of the Bible say they were inspired by God. Good men would not say this if they knew that it wasn't true. They would say this only if they were deluded and mistaken. But the wisdom, excellence, and inerrancy of the Bible could not have come from unbalanced, self-deluded minds.

Likewise, sinful men could not have produced such noble and sublime concepts as the Bible contains; neither would they have condemned their own sins as the Bible does.

The impossibility of mankind's foreseeing the future accurately makes us rule out self-proclaimed prophets without supernatural inspiration. So the accurate fulfillment of Bible prophecy eliminates the possibility of either good, bad, or deluded men putting out their own ideas.

The Bible combats evil, condemns Satan, and predicts his final failure and punishment. Satan could not have inspired the writing of the Bible because he would not promote good and condemn evil as the Bible does.

By the logical process of the elimination of alternatives, we arrive at the conclusion that men inspired by God were most likely the writers of the Bible.



### For You To Do

**12** Which of the following statements are TRUE reasons why we believe the Bible to be God-inspired?

- a Sublime and noble concepts come from good men who are not self-deluded.
- b Good men will not make false claims.
- c Accurate fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates supernatural inspiration.
- d Satan would not inspire writers to condemn him.

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## SURVIVAL OF SCRIPTURE

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**Objective 9.** *Identify time factors that confirm the Bible's authenticity.*

Parts of the Bible are at least 3,500 years old. The newest parts are about 1,900 years old. Its survival shows God's care for His Word.

Time is the worst enemy of most books. They get out-of-date and old-fashioned, lose their popularity, and then disappear. But not so with the Bible. The fact that the Bible, as old as it is, has the solution for 20<sup>th</sup> century problems and is an up-to-date best-seller today is one evidence that the Bible is true and is God's Word. It has stood the test of time.

A French writer, Voltaire, predicted that within 100 years his words would be read everywhere and the Bible would be found only in museums. But the Bible is read more widely now than ever.

No book has been copied, translated, and printed more carefully than the Bible. In ancient times, before there were printing presses, the copier had to throw away the entire page and begin again if he made one mistake. Today many scholarly people are working on every translation and printing to make sure that it is accurate and free from error.

Some kings have tried to destroy every Bible in their countries and have sentenced its readers to death. Critics have attacked it savagely. But the Bible outlives its enemies. First Peter 1:24-25 says, "All mankind are like grass, and all their glory is like wild flowers ... but the word of the Lord remains forever."



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**For You To Do**

- 13** Which of the following statements are indications that the Bible has stood the test of time?
- a** It is applicable to us today.
  - b** It has been a best seller over hundreds of years.
  - c** It is often leather-bound.
  - d** It could never be destroyed.



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**Check Your Answers**

- 1 a)** God's Book through which He works.
- 8** You should mark them all. Each of these Scriptures show that God is the real author.
- 2 a)** the Book was inspired by one person, God.  
**c)** a variety of writers wrote on a unified theme.
- 9 b)** vision that God showed them what would happen in the future.
- 3 b)** evidence of its inerrancy and shows that it was written from God's viewpoint.
- 10 a)** Famine and plenty in Egypt.  
**b)** Cyrus would authorize Jewish restoration.  
**c)** Samson would rescue Israel from the Philistines.
- 4 c)** were kept by God from writing contradictions.
- 11** Statements **b**, **c**, **d**, and **e** are true.  
**5 c)** scientific discoveries.
- 12** You should mark all the statements because they are all true.  
**6** That at first all the people of the world had one language.
- 13 a)** It is applicable to us today.  
**b)** It has been a best seller over hundreds of years.  
**d)** It could never be destroyed.
- 7 a)** Superior moral teaching.  
**c)** Relevance to all intellectual levels.  
**e)** Laws that are applicable today.  
**f)** Literary excellence.

Now you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT TWO*. Review the lessons in unit two, then follow the instructions in your student report for filling out the answer sheet. When you send your answer sheet to your instructor, ask him or her about another course of study.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second section of your student report and return the answer sheet to your instructor. As soon as we receive both answer sheets we will check them over and send you your seal or certificate.

### **One Final Word**

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are joyful people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems that trouble almost everyone in the world. These people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave His life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.

# Your Bible

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## UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

### STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

### EXAMPLE

*There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.*

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
  - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
  - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

<b>1</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
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Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

## STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

*For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.*

- 1** Studying the Bible is a privilege mostly because
  - a) not many people have copies of it.
  - b) it is God's personal letter to us.
  - c) its literary style is unsurpassed.
- 2** In order to grow spiritually, a believer in Christ must
  - a) read the Bible.
  - b) learn the original languages of the Bible.
  - c) think pure thoughts.
- 3** Those who put their trust in God's Word will
  - a) crumble in the time of testing.
  - b) have to look elsewhere when tested.
  - c) stand firm during times of testing.
- 4** The most important thing about the Bible is that it shares
  - a) stimulating ideas.
  - b) a historical record.
  - c) God's plan for us.
- 5** For truth, the Christian looks to
  - a) God's Word.
  - b) great books.
  - c) priests.
- 6** The name *Holy Bible* means that
  - a) half of its books are inspired by God and without error.
  - b) most of its books are holy.
  - c) each of its 66 books is holy.
- 7** About how many men did God use to write the Bible?
  - a) 14
  - b) 40
  - c) 66
- 8** The New Testament was written
  - a) before Jesus came to earth.
  - b) during Jesus' stay on earth.
  - c) after Jesus returned to heaven.
- 9** The relationship of the New Testament to the Old Testament is this:
  - a) the New does away with the Old.
  - b) the New fulfills the Old.
  - c) the New is a continuation of the Old.
- 10** In order to understand the Bible it is best to read it in
  - a) its original languages.
  - b) one's own language.
  - c) Latin.

- 11** Which statement is TRUE?
- a) All versions of the Bible have the exact same words in them.
  - b) The various versions of the Bible have different meanings.
  - c) The new versions of the Bible are written in modern language.
- 12** Why are the books of the Apocrypha not accepted as part of the Old Testament?
- a) They are written in Greek.
  - b) They lack evidence of divine inspiration.
  - c) They are too difficult to understand.
- 13** The first fourteen verses of the first chapter of the Gospel of John would be written as,
- a) 1 John 14.
  - b) 14 John 1:1.
  - c) John 1:1-14.
- 14** Study references and concordances are
- a) included in many Bibles.
  - b) primarily for pastors and teachers.
  - c) inspired additions to the Bible text.
- 15** The Psalms and the Proverbs are in which category of the Old Testament?
- a) Poetry
  - b) History
  - c) Prophecy
- 16** Which book in the Old Testament tells us how humans first sinned?
- a) Deuteronomy
  - b) Exodus
  - c) Genesis
- 17** Which books tell about the first king in Israel?
- a) 1 and 2 Samuel
  - b) 1 and 2 Kings
  - c) 1 and 2 Chronicles
- 18** The book of Ecclesiastes is classified as
- a) Poetry.
  - b) Prophecy.
  - c) History.
- 19** The prophet who also served as a prime minister was
- a) Isaiah.
  - b) Daniel.
  - c) Ezekiel.
- 20** A prophet who lived after the Jews' return to their homeland was
- a) Hosea.
  - b) Micah.
  - c) Haggai.

*This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.*

## STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

*For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.*

- 1** How many books are in the New Testament?
  - a) 27
  - b) 39
  - c) 66
  
- 2** The General Epistles were written by
  - a) 3 authors.
  - b) 4 authors.
  - c) 6 authors.
  
- 3** Which of the Gospel writers was a doctor?
  - a) Matthew
  - b) Mark
  - c) Luke
  
- 4** The emphasis of the Gospel of Mark is on
  - a) eternal life.
  - b) Christ the King.
  - c) the Servant of God.
  
- 5** Which Gospel writer wrote the book of Acts?
  - a) Mark
  - b) Luke
  - c) John
  
- 6** The key text of Acts has to do with
  - a) power given by the Holy Spirit to witness.
  - b) faith in Jesus Christ leading to salvation.
  - c) the mission of the church to reach the needy.
  
- 7** Paul taught that we are saved by
  - a) good deeds.
  - b) grace through faith.
  - c) long prayers.
  
- 8** Who wrote the books of Titus and Philemon?
  - a) John
  - b) Luke
  - c) Paul
  
- 9** Which of these groups of books are called “Prison Epistles”?
  - a) Galatians, Ephesians, Thessalonians
  - b) Timothy, Titus, Philemon
  - c) Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
  
- 10** The Epistle that has the same theme as Romans is
  - a) Ephesians.
  - b) Galatians.
  - c) Philippians.

- 11** The Epistle that encourages suffering Christians is
- 1 Peter.
  - James.
  - Jude.
- 12** The focus of Peter's Epistles is on
- Christ's judgment of the world.
  - good works that accompany faith.
  - the suffering of Christians.
- 13** The book of Revelation is classified as
- mystery.
  - prophecy.
  - allegory.
- 14** The power of the Bible to transform lives is
- similar to the effects of positive thinking.
  - evidence of its supernatural origin in God.
  - something shared by all the major religions.
- 15** We can know that the Bible was inspired by God because it
- was written so long ago.
  - is made up of 66 books.
  - agrees throughout, even though it was written by different people.
- 16** The inerrancy of the Bible is seen in its
- exclusion of mistaken beliefs.
  - exclusion of the sins of leaders.
  - inclusion of contradicting views.
- 17** The truth of the Bible is supported by the science called philology, which deals with
- patterns of thought.
  - systems of belief.
  - the use of words.
- 18** The Proverbs of the Bible and Egyptian proverbs are sometimes similar. What is the major difference between them?
- The biblical proverbs are based on legal precepts.
  - The biblical proverbs are based on moral precepts.
  - The Egyptian proverbs are often untrue.
- 19** Which is internal evidence of the author of the Bible?
- The composition of Bible words with words used in secular literature.
  - The findings of archaeology.
  - The claims made within the Bible itself.
- 20** Which of the following is true of prophecies concerning the future?
- They were given by devout men who had nothing to gain from prophesying.
  - They had reference to the sins of the people among whom the prophet lived.
  - They all came true within the lifetime of the prophet and proved his ministry valid.

*End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.*

# Your Bible

## Answer Sheet for Unit One

### CL2120

*Please fill in the blanks below:*

Your name .....

Your ICI Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....  
.....

City ..... State or Province .....

Zip or Postal Code .....

Country .....

Age ..... Sex .....

Occupation .....

How many members are in your family? .....

How many years have you studied in school? .....

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?  
.....

What responsibility do you have in your church? .....

How are you studying this course: Alone? ..... In a group? .....

What other ICI courses have you studied?  
.....

*Now, turn the page and answer all questions.*

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

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Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

**Christian Life Program**

For ICI Office Use Only
Date..... Score of UPE 1 ..... Score of UPE 2 .....

# Your Bible

## Answer Sheet for Unit Two

**CL2120**

*Please fill in the blanks below:*

Your name .....

Your ICI Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....

.....

City ..... State or Province .....

Zip or Postal Code .....

Country .....

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

*Now, turn the page and answer all questions.*

*Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.*

<b>1</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

<b>15</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name .....

**Christian Life Program**

For ICI Office Use Only		
Date .....	Score of UPE 1 .....	Score of UPE 2 .....

**CL2120 Your Bible**  
Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

.....

SIGNATURE .....



**THE GREATEST OF ALL  
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

To begin preparing for God's service, we suggest enrolling in courses offered from our **Christian Service Program**.

Some courses from the **Christian Service Program** are:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

*If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.*

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES  
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of  
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

Name .....

Mailing Address .....

City.....

Province or State .....

Country .....

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City.....

Province or State .....

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E-mail.....

Name .....

Mailing Address .....

City.....

Province or State .....

Country .....

E-mail.....

Your Name .....

Mailing Address .....

City .....

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Country .....

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