

CHRISTIAN LIFE INSTITUTE

BIBLE BASICS

An Introduction to the Bible

What's in a name?

- ▣ Holy Bible
- ▣ Sacred Scripture
- ▣ God's Word

- ▣ Bible, *biblios*



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The Old Testament

- First Testament
- *TaNaKh*
- Hebrew Bible

Three Divisions: *Torah*,
Nevi'im, *Ketuvim*

39 Books

Books of the Old Testament

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1&2 Samuel

1&2 Kings

1&2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Songs

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel, Daniel,

Hosea, Joel,

Amos, Obadiah,

Jonah, Micah,

Nahum

Habakkuk,

Zephaniah,

Haggai,

Zechariah,

Malachi

The New Testament

- ▣ Christian Scriptures
- ▣ Second Testament
- ▣ 27 books

Books of the New Testament

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1&2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1&2

Thessalonians

1&2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1&2 Peter

1,2&3 John

Jude

Revelation

Apocrypha/Deuterocanon

- ▣ Apocrypha means
- ▣ Deuterocanon means “second canon”

Books in the Apocrypha/Deuterocanon

Tobit

Judith

Esther (additions)

Wisdom of Solomon

Sirach

Baruch

Letter of Jeremiah

Daniel (additions)

1&2 Maccabees

1 Esdras

Prayer of Manasseh

Psalms 151

3 Maccabees

2 Esdras

4 Maccabees

Chapter and Verse

<u>Books</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Verses</u>
Old Testament	929	23,214
New Testament	260	7,959
Apocrypha	183	6,081

LANGUAGES

Biblical Hebrew

Aramaic

Ezra 4:6-6:18, 7:12-26

Daniel 2:4-7:28

One sentence in Jeremiah 10:11

Two words in Genesis 31:47

A few phrases in the NT

Koine Greek

Translation of the Bible into English

- ▣ 1382: First complete English version of the Bible By John Wycliffe
- ▣ 1530s: William Tyndale translated the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament
- ▣ 1535: First complete English Bible to be published by Miles Coverdale
- ▣ 1539: The Great Bible, also by Coverdale

- ▣ 1560: Geneva Bible
- ▣ 1568: Bishop's Bible
- ▣ 1606-1610: The Douay Version
- ▣ 1611: The Authorized Version/KJV
- ▣ 1885: Authorized Revised Version

20th Century Translations

- ▣ 1976: Today's English Version
- ▣ 1952: Revised Standard Version (RSV)
- ▣ 1966: The Jerusalem Bible
- ▣ 1970: New English Bible (NEB)
- ▣ 1970: New American Bible
- ▣ 1975: New American Standard Bible (NAS)
- ▣ 1978: New International Version (NIV)

- ▣ 1979: New King James Version (NKJV)
- ▣ 1982: Completion of the TaNaKh
- ▣ 1989: New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

21st Century Translations

- ▣ Contemporary English Version (CEV)
- ▣ New New International Version
- ▣ The Message (paraphrase)
- ▣ Contemporary English Bible (CEB)

Canonization

- ▣ The books of the Bible comprise what we call the Canon
- ▣ Canon - etymology
- ▣ Canon - definition: The body of scripture that is deemed authoritative and standard for use by the community of faith

Two understandings of Canon

1. The term has to do with restriction, limitation...a decision by an external deliberating body re: the order and number of books. The closing of a canon is an ending or limitation

2. Another view of canon uses terms like stability, order and completion. This view of canonization sees the process as gradual and anonymous.

Three Stages of Canonization

1. The Pentateuch was canonized first (400 BCE)
2. The Writings 200 CE
3. The Prophets around 200 BCE

The Canon

STABILITY

- ▣ God word stands firm
- ▣ Scripture worked for our ancestors
- ▣ The Bible speaks to God's unchanging characteristics

FLEXIBILITY

- ▣ God's word is relevant
- ▣ Scripture works for us
- ▣ The Bible speaks to God's flexibility

WE AFFIRM:

- ▣ All Scripture is inspired
- ▣ All Scripture is authoritative
- ▣ Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation

One Bible - 4 Worlds

- ▣ Historical-Geographical World
- ▣ Literary
- ▣ Contemporary
- ▣ Theological

Reading the Bible

- ▣ Boundaries
- ▣ Type of literature
- ▣ Pay attention to language
- ▣ Themes
- ▣ Structure
- ▣ Bring it all together

When reading the Bible...

Text / Context
+ Reader / Context
Dialogue

A Dialogic Reading...

- ▣ The many voices in scripture are in conversation with each other
- ▣ Meaning comes from the conversation
- ▣ The conversation is theological
- ▣ Multiplicity of Consciousness
- ▣ Chronotope
- ▣ Unfinalizability