

# The BIBLE (Part 1)

## Lesson 12- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

**Intro:** What is the authority in your life?!? Those who believe something must have a reason for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in government, and in education. The Christian needs an absolute standard for his/her beliefs, duties, and whole conduct.

Many people have their inner conscience as their authority. "Let your conscience be your guide!" they say. This sounds good, but according to Titus 1:15, the conscience may be \_\_\_\_\_; according to 1 Timothy 4:2, \_\_\_\_\_; and according to 1 Corinthians 8:7, \_\_\_\_\_.

**For the Christian, the BIBLE (the word of God) ALONE, is the unchanging authority for faith and practice.**

### A. What is the Bible?

1. The Bible is a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ books, divided into two major sections known as the OLD and NEW \_\_\_\_\_.

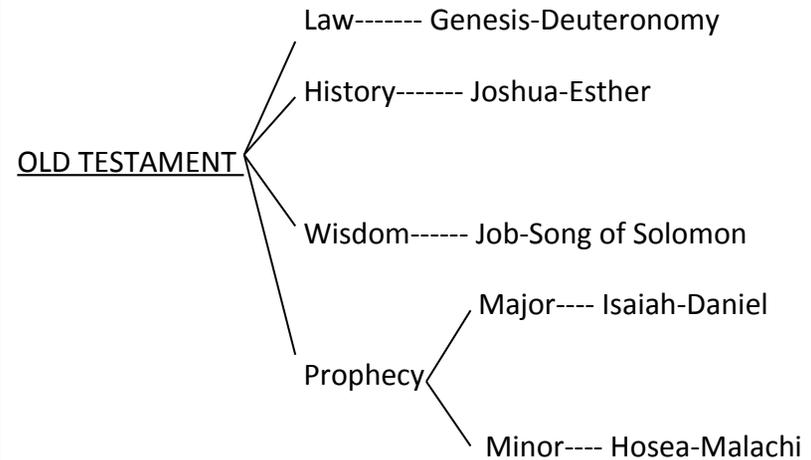
2. Other names given to the Bible are:

a. The \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 10:17

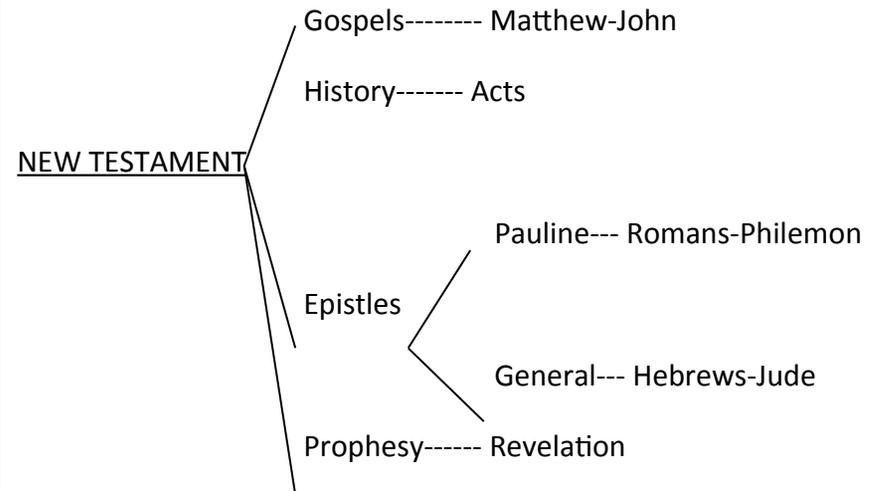
b. The \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Timothy 3:15

3. The books of the Bible are not arranged in strict chronological order. Both the Testaments have their books arranged in groups.

(All Christians at some point in their life have experienced difficulty in finding the books of the Bible, especially during a preaching service. Don't be embarrassed to use the table of contents or to accept the assistance of another Christian. The more you use your Bible, the easier you will become familiar with the location of its books.)



From the close of the Old Testament (Malachi) to the birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew), over 400 years transpired. These years are called the "Silent Years"



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### B. How Did We Receive the Bible?

1. The Bible is not just a book, it is THE BOOK. It is different from any other book that has or will be written. The Bible is a supernatural Book because of the way in which God gave it to mankind. 2 Peter 1:21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

This verse of scripture teaches us three vital facts concerning how we got the Bible:

- a. It wasn't made up by men- "...came \_\_\_\_\_ by the will of man..."
- b. Men of God wrote the Bible- "...\_\_\_\_\_ men of God spake..."
- c. God authored the Bible- "...as they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Ghost..."

2. God uses human writers to pen His words:

- a. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to write down the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of roughly 1600 years, with incredible unity of teaching and fact.
- b. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. The New Testament was originally written in Greek.

Does anyone know the third language the Bible was written in? \_\_\_\_\_

3. God authored the Bible:

- a. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words of God, though they wrote in their own literary style.

b. The way in which God gave us the Bible is called inspiration.

Because the Bible is the inspired Word of God, we can take it as the authority for all we believe and do.

Beware of men who say, "The Bible becomes the Word of God" when it speaks to you personally. Matthew 24:35 and 1 Corinthians 2:13. According to these passages, God has inspired the very \_\_\_\_\_ (not just the ideas & thoughts).

Beware of men who say, "The Bible contains the Word of God," meaning there are parts of it which are not God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16. According to this verse, how much of the Bible is inspired? \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Because the Bible is inspired of God, it is \_\_\_\_\_ from beginning to end. Psalms 119:160

**Closing:** I'll leave you today with 2 quotes:

"The doctrine of the atonement is to my mind one of the surest proofs of the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture. Who would or could have thought of the just Ruler dying for the unjust rebel? This is no teaching of human mythology, or dream of poetical imagination. This method of expiation is only known among men because it is a fact; fiction could not have devised it. God himself ordained it; it is not a matter which could have been imagined."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

"Either this book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book" —John Bunyan (written in the cover of his Bible)