

How to Study Your Bible

Session 1: Overview

I. Why the Bible?

- The Holy Bible was _____ by men, divinely _____ by God and perfectly communicates God's instruction to man. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- The Bible tells the story of God's _____ for man, man's _____, and God's eternal _____ of man starting with the beginning of time until the end of time.
- **IMPORTANT:** The Bible was NOT written to be a _____. If you read it like one, you'll get tripped up.

II. Structure of the Bible

- There are 66 "books" of the Bible separated into two major sections. The Old Testament (39) and The New Testament (27).
- The Old Testament
 - Begins with _____ and tells of God's interaction with his chosen people, _____.
 - The Old Testament represents the complete Holy Scriptures of _____ people to this day (Hebrew Bible)
 - The 39 Books of the Old Testament are separated into three different sections:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - If you know what kind of book you are reading, then you will know what kind of information to expect, and you can follow the flow.
 - Many of us make the mistake of assuming that the whole Bible is one long, unbroken story and that it flowed congruently from one book to the next.

- The New Testament
 - Begins with the incarnation of _____ and tells of His life and ministry as well as that of His _____ as they carried on after his death & resurrection.
 - The 27 Books of the New Testament are separated into 3 different sections
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - If you know what kind of book you are reading, then you will know what kind of information to expect, and you can easily follow the flow.
- Canonization
 - There are certain books that are _____ as “canon,” and others that are not.
 - The primary requirements were _____ of authorship, and with the undisputed teachings of Jesus.
 - Synod of Laodicea (363) – Forbade the reading of “non-canonical” books. 26 books.
 - Council of Hippo (393) – Confirmed the list of 27 New Testament Books.

III. Translation of the Bible

- The Bible was originally written in the native languages of _____, _____, and _____.
- The Bible began to be translated in _____ in the early 17th Century from the most reliable original scripts at the time.
- Know Your Versions!
 - Translations (KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV, NLT, ESV)
 - Paraphrases (The Living Bible; The Message)

Session 2: The Old Testament

I. Historical/Narrative Books

A. The _____ Era (Genesis 1-11)

- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four major sections of the Creation Era
 - _____: Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1-2)
 - _____: Sin entered the world (Genesis 3)
 - _____: Judgment for Sin (Genesis 6-10)
 - _____: Beginning of the Nations (Genesis 11)

B. The _____ Era (Genesis 12-50)

- The birth of the _____ people through a family of patriarchs, covering a period of two hundred years
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four main men of this era:
 - _____: Father of the Hebrew People (Genesis 12-23)
 - _____: Second Father of Promise (Genesis 24-26)
 - _____: Father of the Nation of Israel (Genesis 27-35)
 - _____: Leader in Egypt (Genesis 37-50)

C. The _____ Era (Exodus-Deuteronomy)

- The _____ of the Hebrew people as they are delivered out of four hundred years of slavery in Egypt.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four major sections of this era:
 - _____: Freedom from Slavery in Egypt (Exodus 1-18)
 - _____: God's Commandments at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-40)

- _____: Place of Rebellion Against God
(Numbers 10-14)
- _____: Consequences of Rebelling Against God
(Numbers 20-36)

D. The _____ Era (Joshua)

- The conquest of the _____ by the Hebrew people upon their return from Egypt.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four main events of the Conquest Era
 - _____: A Miraculous Parting of the Water (Joshua 1-5)
 - _____: A Miraculous Conquest of a City (Joshua 6)
 - _____: The Defeat of Canaan (Joshua 7-12)
 - _____: Finalizing Dominion (Joshua 13-20)

E. The _____ Era (Judges-Ruth)

- A four hundred year period during which Israel is governed by rulers called Judges.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four main subjects in the Judges Era:
 - _____: The Leaders of Israel
 - _____: The Breaking of God's Law
 - _____: Repetition of Israel's Misfortunes
 - _____: A Model Woman

F. The _____ Era (1 Samuel-2 Chronicles)

- An additional four hundred year period during which Israel becomes a full-fledged nation ruled by a monarchy.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four main periods of the Kingdom Era:
 - _____ (1 and 2 Samuel)

- _____: A Civil War (1 Kings)
- _____ (2 Kings)
- _____ (2 Kings)

G. The _____ Era (Daniel-Ezekiel*)

- A seventy-year period during which Israel's leaders live in exile, having been _____ by foreign countries.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____

H. The _____ Era (Ezra-Esther)

- The return of exiled Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple.
- Major Figure: _____
- Main Location: _____
- There are four major subjects in the Return Era:
 - _____: Destruction from War & Neglect (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
 - _____: Rebuilding the Temple (Ezra 1-6)
 - _____: Spiritual Rebuilding (Ezra 7-10)
 - _____: Restoration Complete (Nehemiah)

I. The _____ Era

- A final four-hundred year period between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament.
- Major Figures: _____
- Main Location: _____

II. Poetic Books

A. Three Major Types of Hebrew Poetry

- _____ Poetry – to be accompanied by music, like a song (i.e. Psalm 3; Psalm 42; Psalm 121; Psalm 150)
- _____ Poetry – to teach principles of living through short sayings (i.e. Proverbs 21)
- _____ Poetry – a narrative that tells a story in poetic form (i.e. Proverbs 7; Job)

B. Five Poetic Books

- _____: Suffering and God's Sovereignty
- _____: Praise in Public Worship
- _____: Wisdom, Skill for Living
- _____: Futility of Temporal Pursuits
- _____: God's Marriage Manual

III. Prophetic Books

- *Prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God, both for the future and in the present.*
- Designation: Types of Prophets
 - _____ Prophets
 - Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel
 - _____ Prophets
- Time Period
 - _____ (12)
 - To Israel: Hosea; Amos
 - To Judah: Habakkuk; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Joel; Micah; Zephaniah; Lamentations
 - To Assyria: Jonah; Nahum
 - To Edom: Obadiah
 - _____ (2)
 - Ezekiel; Daniel
 - _____ (3)
 - Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi
- Types of Prophecy
 - _____: Predicting the Future
 - _____: Proclaiming the Teachings of God
 - Exposing sin and calling people to a higher moral standard
 - Warning of judgment if the people don't reform
 - Proclaiming the Coming Messiah

Session 3: The New Testament

I. Historical/Narrative Books

A. The _____ Era (Matthew-John)

- Jesus comes in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a _____ that offers _____ and the true kingdom of God. While some _____ Him, most _____ Him and He is crucified, buried, and resurrected.
 - Matthew: Written to _____ to portray Jesus as _____
 - Mark: Written to _____ and portrays Jesus as the _____.
 - Luke: Written to _____ as a _____ of Jesus' life.
 - John: Written to a wide audience to portray Jesus as _____.
- Four Main Divisions in the Gospel Era
 - Early _____: Childhood to Baptism
 - _____ Ministry: Initial Acceptance
 - _____ Ministry: Growing Rejection
 - Death & Resurrection: Final Rejection

B. The _____ Era (Acts 1-12)

- Peter, shortly after the ascension of Jesus, is used by God to establish the church, God's next major plan for man.
- Four Major Subjects in the Church Era
 - _____: Birth of the Church (Acts 1-5)
 - _____: Organization of the Church (Acts 6)
 - _____: The First Christian Martyr (Acts 7)
 - _____: A Missionary to the Gentiles (Acts 8-12)

C. The _____ Era (Acts 13-28)

- Paul expands the church into the _____ over the next two decades
- Four Major Subjects in the Missions Era
 - i. First Missionary Journey: _____ for 2 Years (Acts 13-14)
 - ii. Second Missionary Journey: _____ for 3 Years (Acts 15-17)

iii. Third Missionary Journey: _____ for 4 Years (Acts 18-21)

iv. Trials & Imprisonment: _____ Prison for 2 Years (Acts 22-28)

II. Epistles & Revelation

A. What is an Epistle?

- _____ written to churches, individuals, or in some cases, the Christian public at large.
- Deal with specific problems and issues of the day, but do so in a way that the information is _____ and _____.
- Typical pattern is to write a section of _____ truth and follow up with practical _____ of that truth.

B. Pauline Epistles to the _____.

- Romans
- 1 and 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 and 2 Thessalonians

C. Pauline Epistles to _____.

- 1 and 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

D. _____ Epistles

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

III. Revelation

Session 4: Observation

I. The Setting

A. Who?

- Who _____ this?
- Who is _____?
- Who are they speaking _____?
- Who are the speaking _____?
- Who are the _____ characters?
- Who are the _____ characters?
- What do you _____ about these people?

B. What?

- What is the _____ of the passage?
- What is _____?
- What is being _____?
- What are the _____ in the passage?
- What do these terms _____?

C. When?

- When does this take place in _____?
- What _____ or _____ markers does the text offer us?
- When did these events take place within the overall _____?
- When did this take place in the _____?

D. Where?

- What do you know about the _____ in the story?
- What do you know about the _____ of the setting?

II. Learn How to Read

- A. Read _____
- B. Read _____
- C. Read _____
- D. Read _____
- E. Read _____
- F. Read _____
- G. Read _____
- H. Read _____
- I. Read _____

III. What to Look for

- A. Things that are _____.
- B. Things that are _____.
- C. Things that are _____.
- D. Things that are _____ or _____.
- E. Things that are _____.

Session 5: Interpretation

I. What is Interpretation?

A. Interpretation answers the question, “what does this _____?”

B. Getting Over the Barriers

1. _____ Barriers
2. _____ Barriers
3. _____ Barriers
4. _____ Barriers

C. Understanding types of literature

1. Narrative and Biography
2. Parables
3. Poetry
4. Epistles
5. Proverbs/Wisdom Literature
6. Prophecy/Apocalyptic Literature

II. 5 Keys to Interpretation

A. Content

B. Context

1. A text without context is _____.
2. Consider the text in light of:
 - The surrounding _____ and _____.
 - The _____ in which it is found

C. Comparison

1. To Other _____
 - Scripture will Never _____ Scripture
 - Is my interpretation consistent with what the entire _____ says?
2. To Proper _____
 - Is my interpretation consistent with trusted Christian _____?
 - If you have a new interpretation, it's likely _____.

D. Culture

- The _____ of the day shed light on what the text is saying.
- We err when we superimpose _____ culture on the Biblical text.

E. Consultation

- An Exhaustive Concordance
- A Bible Dictionary
- Bible Handbooks
- Atlases
- Bible Commentaries
- Study Bibles

III. Figuring out the Figurative

- A. Use the _____ sense unless there is good reason not to
- B. Use the figurative sense when the _____ tells you to do so
- C. Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning is _____ or _____.
- D. Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning would involve something _____.
- E. Use the figurative sense if the expression is an obvious _____.
- F. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the _____ and _____ of the passage
- G. Use the figurative if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the general _____ and _____ of the book
- H. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation involves a _____ of other Scripture.
- I. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation would involve a contradiction in _____.

Session 6: Interpretation

I. Principles of Application (2 Timothy 3:16)

- *"To know and not do is not to know at all."* ~Hendricks
- There is one _____, but can be countless _____.
- If you get the interpretation _____, you'll probably get the application _____.

- A. Teaching
- B. Reproof
- C. Correction
- D. Training in Righteousness

II. Four Steps in Application

A. _____

- The Biblical _____
- _____ (Romans 12:3)
- Sound _____ (1 Timothy 4:16)

B. _____

- Connecting the _____ with your _____.
- Christocentrism – Making Jesus Christ the central _____ of the text and your life.

C. _____

- Think on the text throughout the _____.
- Spend quiet time prayerfully _____ the text

D. _____

- Is there someplace in my life where this truth is needed?
- Build _____ and _____ into your life around the issue.

III. Nine Questions to Ask

- A. Is there an _____ for me to follow?
- B. Is there a _____ to avoid? *(i.e. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13)*
- C. Is there an _____, _____, or _____
that I need to shift?
- D. Is there a _____ to embrace? *(i.e. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*
- E. Is there a _____ to repeat? *(i.e. Psalm 51; Matthew 6)*
- F. Is there a _____ to obey? *(i.e. Matthew 26:36-40)*
- G. Is there a _____ to meet? *(i.e. John 15:7)*
- H. Is there a verse to _____?
- I. Is there an _____ to mark?
- J. Is there a _____ to face?