

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