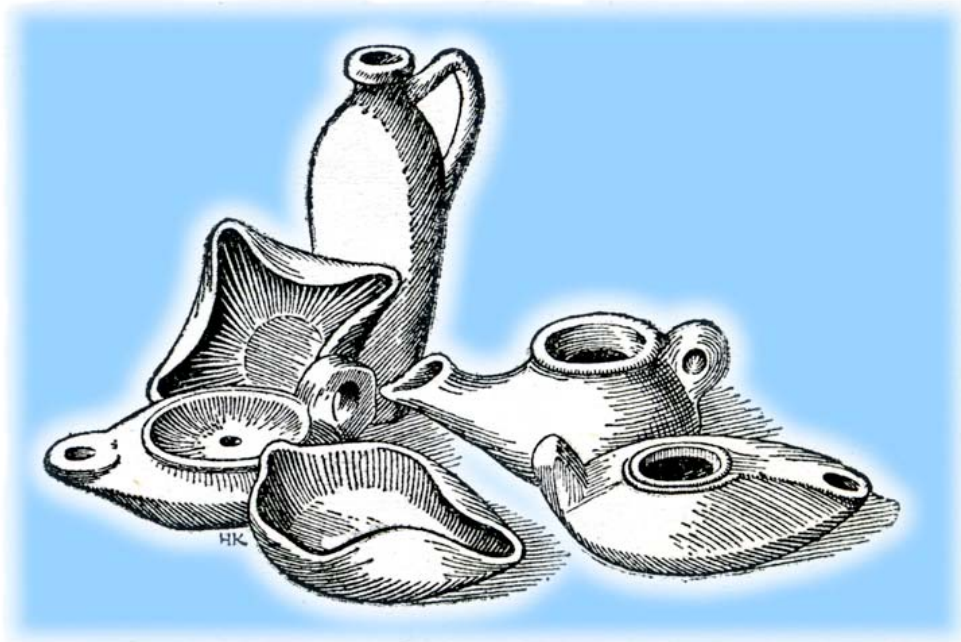


Looking at the Bible

An overview of the books of the Bible



Early lamps

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for
my path. Psalm 119:105

Mike Adkins

The Overview

This simple overview has been prepared particularly, but not exclusively, with new Christians in mind to provide short descriptions of all the books of the Bible. Each page also contains some basic Bible facts.

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In the preparation of this and other material I am grateful for the teaching found in the New International Version Thompson Chain Reference Bible, Dake's Annotated Bible, PC Study Bible and the teaching received over many years from numerous Christian writers, leaders and other godly people. Also for the constant encouragement of my wife, Jean, who loves the Lord, and has always been a source of inspiration, love and patience. She is also my finest critic and sounding board and I owe so much to her.

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Looking at the Bible - Part 1

The First Five Books

The Bible is made up of 66 different books written by many different authors all of whom were writing under the influence of God. It is divided into two main sections called The Old Testament and the New Testament. The entire Bible is centred on the cross of Jesus.



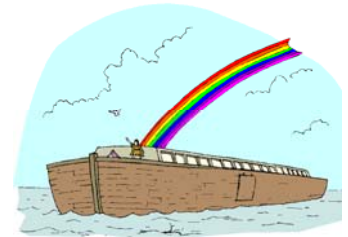
The **Old Testament** is largely concerned with the history of the Jewish people and looks towards the day when Jesus will die on the cross and rise again.

The **New Testament** is mainly concerned with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the growth of Christianity in the seventy or so years that followed.

The books of the Bible are divided into chapters and verses. To find any book, you can look in an index at the front of your Bible. A particular chapter and verse in a Bible book will normally be written like this:- Genesis 7:14 which is Genesis chapter 7 and verse 14. Where a passage of the Bible is being referred to it will be written as Genesis 7:14-22. Sometimes the name of the book is shortened to look like this:- Ge. 7:14.

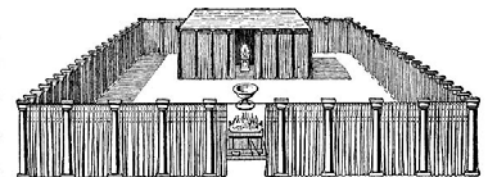
In Part 1, we take a look at the first five books of the Old Testament and mention some of the events in them which are fairly well known. We begin at the book Genesis and move forward from there.

Genesis. Here we can read about creation (Ge.1:1), Adam and Eve (Ge. 1:26-28), Noah's ark (Gen. 7:14) and Joseph with his coat of many colours (Ge. 37:3) who became an important man in Egypt and whose family moved to Egypt to live with him (Gen. 47:11). The name of Joseph's father was Jacob which was changed to Israel (Ge. 32:28)



Exodus. Here we see Joseph's family (often called the Israelites, the Children of Israel, Israel or the Jews) growing into a large nation in Egypt and being enslaved (Ex. 1:7-14).

Moses was born and was hidden in bulrushes but was found by a princess (Ex. 2:3-10) who brought him up in Egypt. Moses ran away from Egypt but came back to free the Israelites from slavery after God spoke to him at a burning bush (Ex. 3:4). After God performed miracles in Egypt such as turning water blood (Ex.7:14 to Ex.12:42), Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt following an event called Passover (Ex.12:1-28) which is a picture of the death of Jesus. Later they crossed the Red Sea on dry land (Ex. 14:22) ready to cross a wilderness and go to the Promised Land which is largely called the Holy Land today. We also see God giving the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and giving instructions to build a portable church called "The Tabernacle" (Ex. 35 to Ex. 39) which the Israelites took with them.



Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Here we see God giving Moses various laws, that the Israelites were expected to keep in those days covering things such as food (Lev. 11:1-47), hygiene (Lev. 15:1-33), marriage (Lev. 18:1-30) and social behaviour (Lev. 19). In Numbers we read about a census of the Israelites who were grouped in twelve tribes (Nu 26:1-65). We also read of the Israelites refusing to enter the Promised Land (Nu. 14:1-3) and God turning them back to wander in the wilderness for forty years until a new generation would enter instead (Nu. 14:26-39). In Deuteronomy we see summaries and repetition of the laws for that new generation of Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land. It also tells us about the death of Moses (Dt. 34:1-12)

So those are the first five books in the Bible known as the Torah or Pentateuch and were written by Moses.

Looking at the Bible - Part 2

Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles

Of the 66 books of the Bible, 39 are in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. There is a gap of about 500 years between the Old and New Testaments. Writing to Timothy in the New Testament, Paul the Apostle states “All scripture (the Bible) is inspired by God...” (2 Timothy. 3:16).



In this part we take a look at more books of the Old Testament.

Joshua. After Moses died, Joshua took his place and led Israel from the wilderness across the river Jordan into the Promised Land – often called Canaan in the Old Testament. Joshua won the battle of Jericho where its walls fell down (Jos. 7:20). Israel was helped in no small way by a working girl named Rahab (Jos. 2:1-20) who is in the family line of Jesus (Matt. 1:5). More battles were fought and won. God wanted Israel to drive out the people of Canaan as they worshipped false gods. Not all those people were driven out but, eventually, the land was divided up allotting land to the various tribes of Israel.



Judges Israel’s king was God and God used people called Judges to lead Israel at this time. During the period of the judges, Israel was troubled by other nations and they often cried to God for help. Two well known judges are Gideon who defeated an army with a handful of men (Jdg. 7) and



Samson who was physically strong but weakened by a scheming woman named Delilah who had his hair cut off. (Jdg. 16:15-19). Samson killed more enemies by his death than during his life (Jdg. 16:29-31).

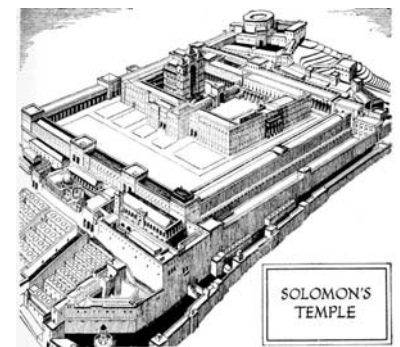
Ruth. This is a heart warming story concerning a widow from a land called Moab who had lost her Israelite husband but found love again after gleaning corn in the field of a landowner called Boaz. They married and had children. Ruth was the grandmother of David mentioned below and is in the family line of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

1 & 2 Samuel Samuel was born as an answer to his mother’s prayers (1 Sa.1:9-20) and grew up to be a godly judge in Israel.



However, in his day, Israel said that they wanted a king like other nations. Through Samuel, God warned Israel of problems they would face if they chose a man, rather than God, to be their king but the people of Israel insisted on having their way. Samuel appointed a handsome man named Saul as king (1 Sa. 9 to 11). In 1 Samuel we read of the shepherd boy David who killed Goliath with a sling and a stone (1Sa. 17:1-51). Eventually David succeeded Saul as King when Saul was killed in battle (1Sa. 31:1-13). David committed adultery with a woman called Bathsheba (2 Sa. 11:1-5). When David heard she was pregnant he schemed to ensure that her husband Uriah was killed in battle (2 Sa. 11: 6-27). David then married Bathsheba, her child died but later they had a son - Solomon (2 Sa. 12:19-24).

1 & 2 Kings Here we read of the death of David and how Solomon succeeded him (1 Ki. 2: 10-12). Solomon was given wisdom by God and built a magnificent temple in Jerusalem part of which (the Wailing Wall) still exists (1 Ki. 5 to 1 Ki. 7). Eventually, Solomon married many wives from nations which worshipped other gods and backslid from his former devotion to the God of Israel (1 Ki. 11:1-8). Solomon worked his people hard and when his son Rehoboam succeeded Solomon as king, his threat to do the same caused the nation to split into northern and southern tribes (Israel and Judah). From then on Israel and Judah had their own kings. In 1 Kings we read about Jezebel, her evil husband Ahab king of Israel (1 Ki. 16: 29-34) and the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Ki. 18:20-46). In 2 Kings we read of the prophet Elisha (2 Ki. 2 to 13) and how the disobedience of Israel and Judah caused them to be taken into captivity in Babylon. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed (2 Ki. 25:1-21).

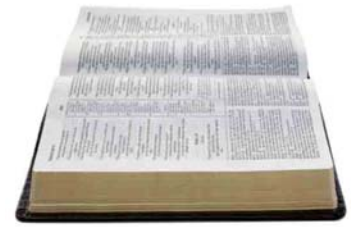


1 & 2 Chronicles record some of the events referred to in Samuel and Kings, especially about Judah. © M.Adkins 2010

Looking at the Bible - Part 3

Ezra Nehemiah Esther Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon

When finding your way around the Bible it can be helpful to know that with a Bible which does not have additional reference material at the back, if you open it about one quarter of the way through you find 1 Samuel, open it about half way through you find the book of Psalms and open it about three quarters of the way through you find the book of Matthew which is the first book of the New Testament.



In this part we take a look at more books of the Old Testament.

Ezra and Nehemiah After being in captivity for about fifty years it became possible for Israel to return to their homeland. Under Ezra the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ezr. 3:8-13) and under Nehemiah the city walls were rebuilt (Ne. 2:17-18) despite opposition from neighbouring people. However the temple was not as great as the one built by Solomon.



Esther Here we read a story of how a lovely Jewish woman named Esther becomes queen to the King of Persia after he separates from his first queen because she embarrasses him at a banquet (Est.1:9-21). As the new queen, Esther risks her life to save her people from being exterminated by a prince named Haman who is eventually hanged on a gallows he had built for her relation

Mordecai (Est. 7:1-10). God is not mentioned in the book but it is clear that God used Esther to save the Jews in the region.

Job This is believed to be the oldest Bible book. Job was a godly man who faced difficulties after satan attacked his family and health with a view to making Job turn his back on God (Job 2:1-7). Job had three friends who were mostly of little comfort to him. Even Job's wife told him to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9) because of the state he was in. However, Job maintained his trust in God and, in the end, God restored to Job more than he had before satan's attacks (Job 42:12). He is an example of patience in suffering.



Psalms This is a Jewish book of songs, many of which were written by David who was a recognized musician (1Sa. 16:16-18). Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd" is known by many. The longest Psalm is 119. Some of them are full of praise to God (Ps. 148) while others show how David was sometimes low in spirit (Ps. 13). Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. Psalm 91 brings assurance of God's care for those who trust in Him.



Proverbs This book is a collection of sayings and proverbs. Frequent reference is made to "Wisdom" and "Fear of the Lord". They were written by Solomon at a time when he was following God. Proverbs 3:5-6 are well used by Christians and some sayings used in everyday life today can be traced back to this book. For example "Pride goes before a fall" (Pr.16:18) and "If you play with fire you get burned" (Pr. 6:27)

Ecclesiastes This was written by Solomon but when his relationship with God was on a downward path. Some emphasis is laid on his frustrations such as his view that he "hated life" and "All is vanity and chasing after wind". One of the better known passages appears in Chapter 3 where we read that "...there is a time to every purpose under heaven, a time to be born, a time to die, a time to...." and Ecc. 12:1 reminds you to "Remember now your creator in the days of your youth".

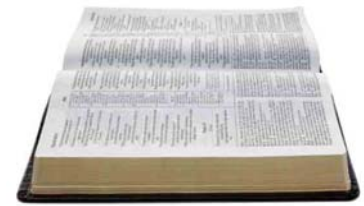
Song of Solomon This is beautifully poetic and is believed to be like a coded marriage manual describing love between a husband and wife. More often it is taken to show the love between Christ and the church – his bride.

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Looking at the Bible - Part 4

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



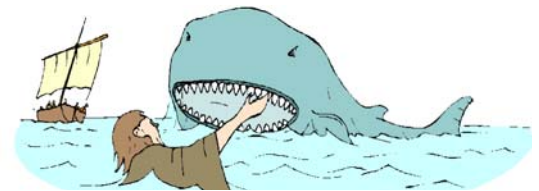
Originally the books of the Bible were written by hand on material such as paper or vellum (animal skin). They have perished over time but many ancient manuscripts have been preserved in the dry climates of the Middle East. For example a copy of the book of Isaiah was preserved on scrolls found in caves near the Dead Sea. The Bible was the first book to be printed and its sales still outstrip the sales of any other book in the world.

In this part we take a look at the remaining books of the Old Testament.

Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel These books are known as the “Major Prophets”. **Isaiah** prophesies before the captivity and refers to the coming of Jesus (Isa. 9:6-7, Isa. 53). **Jeremiah** prophesies up to and beyond the captivity. He was not well treated (Jer 37:11-21, Jer 38:1-13). His book of **Lamentations** concerns the afflictions of Israel. **Ezekiel** describes the state of God’s people before the captivity and is famous for the “dry bones” prophecy (Eze. 36&37). **Daniel** was a captive in Babylon and prophesied about future events somewhat like the book of Revelation. Here you read about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were kept safe by God in a fiery furnace (Da. 3) and about Daniel in the lions’ den (Da. 6).



Hosea to Malachi These books are known as the “Minor Prophets”. **Hosea** was told by God to marry a working girl and have children through her (Hos 1:2-8). The book refers to the way in which Israel had been unfaithful to God but also tells of God’s love for Israel (Hos 11:1-11). **Joel** refers to locusts, speaks of turning back to God and forgiveness. He prophesies about the giving of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32) as later recorded in Acts 2. **Amos** raised sheep but received messages from God to deliver to Israel. He condemned those who lived in luxury and made slaves of the poor (Am. 3) and told the people to choose good instead of evil (Am. 5:15). **Obadiah** is a book comprising a single chapter and is concerned about God’s punishment of the Edomites south of the Dead Sea who had been cruel to Israel. **Jonah** was a prophet who tried to avoid giving a warning to the sinful city of Nineveh by taking a ship to Tarshish (Spain). On the way Jonah was thrown overboard, swallowed by a large fish (Jnh. 1:17) and eventually vomited up on a beach. He then went on to Nineveh to deliver God’s message (Jnh. 3:4). **Micah** is concerned with the bad moral state of Israel and Judah who had used temple prostitutes to generate money, had worshipped other gods and exploited the poor. God promised good to them if they returned to Him and the time would come when nations would “Beat their swords into ploughshares” (Mic. 4:3). He also prophesies that Jesus will come out of Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2-3). **Nahum**



speaks of the destruction of the crime-capital Nineveh - the city of murder and treachery (Na. 3:1) but says God will be good to those who trust in Him in times of trouble (Na. 1:7). **Habakkuk** complains to God about lawlessness which seems to go unpunished. God tells him He will send the Babylonians to punish lawless people. In Hab 2:4 God says that “the righteous will live by faith” which is repeated in the New Testament (Galatians 3:11). A well known part is in Hab 3:17 which begins “Though the fig tree may not blossom...”. **Zephaniah** Although this is a sombre book of threatened judgement, it ends with the news of God’s promise to punish

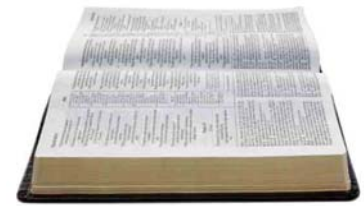
those who have ill treated His people. **Haggai** wrote this after many of the Jews had returned from captivity. God pointed out to Haggai that some of His people had nice homes while His temple was in ruins. Harvests were failing though and water was short and God said it was necessary to rebuild the temple before conditions for the people would improve (Hag. 1:2-13). **Zechariah** records a number of visions at the time of rebuilding the temple. He prophesies about the Lord riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zec. 9:9). **Malachi** is the last book of the Old Testament written after the temple had been rebuilt and he challenges the people to be faithful in bringing tithes (ten percent of income) into God’s “storehouse” and see if God will not bless them (Mal. 3:10).



Looking at the Bible - Part 5

Matthew Mark Luke John Acts of the Apostles

We now begin looking at the New Testament. Whereas most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament was written in Greek. Translations of the Bible have been made with great care into more than two thousand five hundred languages. People have given their lives to enable us to have access to the Bible in a language we can understand. Therefore, we should treasure the Bible and read it often.



In this part we take a look at the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. The word Gospel means “Good News”

Matthew Matthew was one of the disciples of Jesus and was originally a tax collector called Levi (Mt. 9:9) His gospel presents Jesus as the King of the Jews and is written primarily for Jewish people. Hence the gospel refers to many prophecies from the Old Testament which was the “Jewish Bible” at that time (e.g. Mt. 12:15-21) as well as many quotations from the Old Testament (e.g. Mt. 21:13). In this Gospel we read about King Herod who wanted to kill Jesus after the visit of the wise men (Mt. Chapter 2), a detailed account of “The Sermon on the Mount” (Mt. 5 to 7), Peter walking on water (Mt.14:28-31), Jesus betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver (Mt. 26:15) and soldiers being bribed to say that the disciples stole the body of Jesus from the tomb (Mt. 28:12-13). Examples of parables found only in Matthew’s gospel include the unmerciful servant who would not forgive another of a small debt even though he himself had been let off a large one (Mt.18:23) and the wise and foolish virgins (Mt.25:1-13). This gospel contains what is known as “The Great Commission” (Mt. 29:19-20).



Mark This is the shortest gospel. Mark is also known as John Mark and is referred to in Acts 12 and 13. This Gospel is written in a fast moving way and presents Jesus as the tireless servant God who sometimes didn’t have time even to eat (Mk 3:20) or rest ((Mk 6:31-34) and the word “immediately” is used often (e.g. Mk 6:45). Some believe that Peter supplied much of the information and Mark wrote it down. Mark begins with John the Baptist and it is made clear in Mk.1:24 that Jesus is Holy One of God. Mark records how Jesus wanted his identity to be kept quiet (Mk 1:25, 5:43) no doubt to prevent people recognizing prematurely who He was. In Mark, Jesus encourages us not to be afraid but to have faith (Mk 4:4, 5:36).

Luke This gospel portrays Jesus as a friend of tax collectors, “sinners” and outcasts (Lk.15:1, 17:12). Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) and based his gospel on eye-witness accounts. He wrote to a gentile man named Theophilus which means “God friendly” but it is uncertain who Theophilus was. In Luke we read about a working girl who anointed the feet of Jesus (Lk.7:36-50), Zacchaeus the tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus (Lk.19:1-10), the widow’s mite (Lk.21:1-3) and the dying thief (Lk.23:39-43). We can also read the parables of the Good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37), the Prodigal Son (Lk.15:11-32) and the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk.16:19-31).

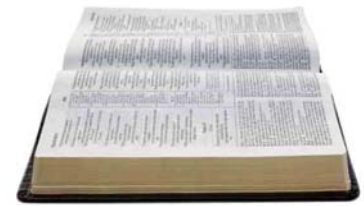


John This Gospel was written to show that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn.20:31). It was the last of the gospels to be written. John was a fisherman before he followed Jesus (Mt.4:18-22) and wrote his gospel in old age. In this Gospel, John shows how Jesus acknowledges his own divinity by referring to Himself as the “I Am”. For example Jesus said “I am the bread of life” (Jn.6:35) “I am the light of the world” (Jn.9:5) and “I am the good shepherd” (Jn.10:11). I Am was the name used by God to describe Himself to Moses in the Old Testament (Exodus 3:13-14). Jesus refers a great deal to God as “Father” (e.g. Jn.14 and 17) and describes in detail what the work of the Holy Spirit will be (Jn.14:15-17, 25-26, Jn.15:26 and Jn.16:7-15).

Acts of the Apostles This was written by Luke, again to Theophilus. Luke records the ascension of the Lord Jesus (Ac.1:7-9), the power encounter of the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Ac.2:1-41), the formation and growth of the early church initially made up of Jewish people who had turned to Jesus Christ (Ac.2:42-47), the conversion of Saul (who became Paul the Apostle) as he travelled to Damascus to persecute Christians (Ac.9:1-19), the first gentile converts to Christianity (Ac.10:1-48), Paul’s travels as a Christian missionary establishing churches and finally his imprisonment in Rome (Ac.28:16 & 30, Philippians 1:12-13) where he wrote some letters (or Epistles) to churches before he died. It is thought that he was beheaded in Rome during the time of the Roman emperor Nero.

Looking at the Bible - Part 6

Romans 1&2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1&2 Thessalonians



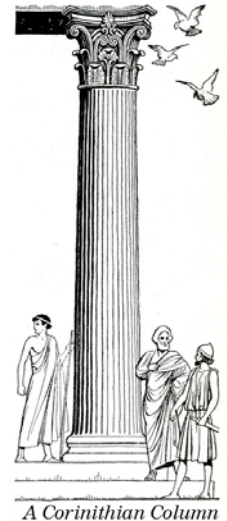
The chapter numbering that we have in our Bibles was not in the original texts and was believed to have been added around 1227 AD. The Wycliffe Bible of 1382 was the first one to have numbered chapters to help readers find their way around the Bible. Verse numbering was added in the 16th Century. When considering any verse of scripture, it is important to read verses which come immediately before and after it to make sure that the verse is read in the correct context.

Now we come to letters written by the Apostle Paul to various churches. The letters are commonly called “Epistles”. Three of them namely Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians were written when Paul was in prison in Rome.

Romans Paul was writing to Christians in Rome and he makes it clear that both Jews and Gentiles are sinners (Ro.3:23) and need to be justified, that is made right with God, by faith in the in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ (Ro.3:21-31, Ro.4:4-5) and not by works or by keeping the Jewish law. A well loved verse is Ro.8:1-2 which begins “Therefore, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...” Ro.12-16 relate to spiritual and social obligations and Ro 12:1 is a much quoted verse. The book ends with a long list of greetings from Paul to friends.



1&2 Corinthians Corinth was a sea port in which were many former slaves, business men, merchants and sailors. The place lacked moral standards and the temple of Aphrodite was a place where worship involved sexual excesses. People converted to Christ from such lifestyles (1 Co.6:9-11). However, living the Christian life was proving difficult and in 1 Co. Paul spends time correcting issues including disunity (1Co.1:10-12), immoral behaviour (1Cor:6:15-16) and chaotic meetings (1Co.14:33). A well loved passage is found in 1 Co.13 which describes the character of true love and chapter 14 looks at the way certain Spritual Gifts (listed in 1 Cor.12: 4-11) – particularly tongues and prophecy - should be used in Christian meetings. In 2 Co. Paul comforts those who had taken heed of his corrections in 1 Cor. and responds to those who are critical of his ministry, describing the hardships he has endured (2 Co.4:8-9 and 6:4-10) A well quoted verse is 2 Co.5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creation...”.



Galatians This epistle, like Romans, deals with justification by faith (Gal.3:10-12). It also looks at not allowing freedom in Christ to justify committing sin (Gal.5:1&13). A well quoted passage concerns the “Fruit of the Spirit” (Gal.5:22-23).

Ephesians Paul describes how salvation is by grace not works (Eph.2:8-9) and how the wall between Jews and Gentiles has been broken down (Eph. 2:14). A well known passage concerns the Armour of God (Eph.6:11-17).

Philippians Joy and rejoicing are mentioned many times (Php.1:2, 3:1, 4:4) along with Paul’s desire that the Philippians should have the mind of Christ (Php.2:5-11). Paul’s ambition above all is to know Christ (Php 3:7-10) and we should be like minded (Php.3:15).

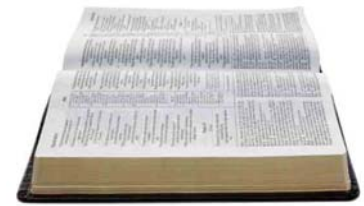


Colossians Christ is described as supreme, the creator of all things and head of the church (Col. 1:15-20). Paul speaks of deceptive philosophies and traditions, false humility and worship of angels which were trying to divert the Christians at Colosse but they were to set their minds on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (Col.2:6-10, 16-23 and Col.3:1-4). There is advice for godly family life (Col.3:18-24) and encouragement to pray (Col.4:2-4).

1&2 Thessalonians 1Th. is believed to be Paul’s earliest epistle and he encourages the Thessalonians by saying how they are model Christians (1Th.1:7). Paul describes how to live to please God (1Th.4:1-8) and brings comfort to those who were concerned about what would happen to those Christians who were dead already when Christ returns to collect His church (1Th. 4:13-18). 2Th describes events which will take place before Christ’s return. The epistle includes a familiar verse “...be not weary in well doing” (2Th.3:13 KJV).

Looking at the Bible - Part 7

1&2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1& 2 Peter, 1, 2 &3 John Jude Revelation



The books of the New Testament had all been written by the end of the first century and the majority were referred to in the writings of early church Fathers and accepted as inspired by God. The New Testament comprising the 27 books as we know them today took its final shape at the Council of Carthage in AD 397. The same Council accepted the Old Testament as the Word of God based on a translation from the Hebrew into Greek existing at that time known as the Septuagint.

Now we come to personal letters written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy, Titus and Philemon. We also look at the epistle to Hebrews, to letters written by individuals to Christians in general and, finally, look at the book of Revelation.

1&2 Timothy Timothy was a young minister (1Ti.4:12) and in these epistles Paul gives Timothy advice on how to do his ministerial work amongst Christians. For example, Paul deals with requirements for church officers (1Ti.3:1-13), reading and teaching scripture (1Ti. 4:13) and being respectful to older men and women (1Ti.5:1-2). An often misquoted verse is “For the love of money is the root of all evil:..” In 2 Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord (2 Ti.1:8), to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2Ti.2:3) and to be aware that all who live godly lives will suffer persecution (2Tim.3:12). A well quoted verse is “All Scripture is inspired by God...” (2 Ti. 3:16)

Titus Titus was a pastor and Paul advises him on matters of church order including requirements for church officers (Tit.1:5-9), actions of older men and women and servants (Tit. 2:1-10), obedience to authorities (Tit. 3:1) and doing good deeds (Tit. 3:8).

Philemon In this letter Paul beseeches Philemon to take back a runaway slave, Onesimus, who had been helpful to Paul (Phm. 10-16).

Hebrews The writer of Hebrews is not known. It is written to Jews believed to be in Rome and speaks of the greatness of Christ compared to angels (Heb. 1:4) and men (Heb 3:3), the greatness of the new covenant compared to the old (Heb.8:6) and the importance of Christ’s shed blood (Heb. 9:11-14). A famous chapter is Heb. 11 known as the “Faith Chapter”



James James is believed to be the Lord’s brother. It is a practical book which tell us to avoid favouritism (Jas. 2:1), stresses the need for good deeds as well as having a profession of faith (Jas. 2:14-26) and to watch for the power of the tongue (Jas.3 1-12).

1&2 Peter Peter was one of the disciples of Jesus and he wrote these letters to Christians to stimulate them into wholesome thinking (2 Pe.3:1). In 1 Pe. his main theme is suffering as a Christian. He teaches us to obey those in authority and to show respect to everyone (1Pe.2:1-3-17). A well quoted verse is 1Pe.5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”. In 2 Pe. godliness is encouraged and 2 Pe.1:3-11 describe steps to help us to become effective Christians. 2 Pe.2 & 3 warns of false teachers and describes the state of the world in the “Last days”.

1, 2 and 3 John 1 Jn. 1:6-9) teaches us to live in fellowship with God and with each other. Assurance of forgiveness is taught in 1 Jn.1:9. The love God the Father has for us is emphasised (1 Jn. 3:1) along with the importance of loving each other (1 Jn.4:7-19). John teaches us to turn away from a sinful lifestyle in 1 Jn.5:18. 2 Jn is written to a lady and warns her to watch for deceivers who preach wrong doctrine. 3 Jn is written to a kind Christian named Gaius telling him to look out for a malicious minister called Diotrophes.

Jude Jude is believed to be a brother of Jesus and he writes about contending for the faith and about those who use the faith as a cloak to cover their immorality and even deny that Jesus is Lord (Jude:3-4).

Revelation. A vision given to John while in exile on the Isle of Patmos. John receives vision of things “Which are” including Jesus glorified (Rev.1:11-18) and conditions in seven churches in Asia (Rev.2 &3). He continues by writing of things “Which are to come” through to final judgement and ends by stating that Jesus is coming soon (Rev. 22:20).