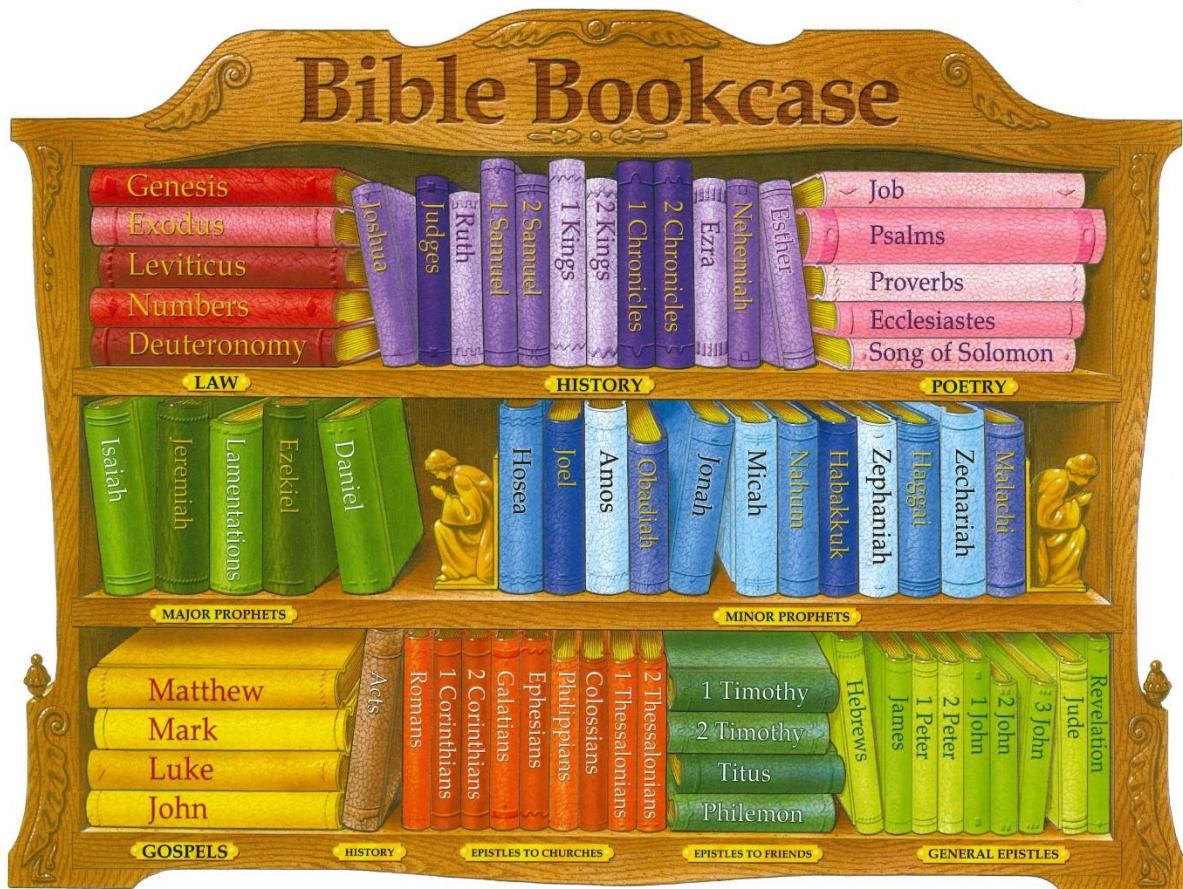


KNOWING CHRIST THROUGH THE BIBLE

Overview



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The Bible is . . .

1. Made up of 66 books written by 40 human authors (inspired by God) over a 1500-year period
2. Divided into two testaments
 - a. The Old Testament with 39 books
 - b. The New Testament with 27 books

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.”

- Augustine of Hippo (North Africa), 354-430, paraphrased

3. Inspired

God “breathed out” the Bible. He guided the human authors of the Bible to compose and record his message to humanity in their original writings. The Holy Spirit carried along the human authors so that what they recorded, in their own personality and vocabulary, was God’s Word to us. The Bible is the Word of God. When the Bible speaks, God speaks.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:21

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

4. Inerrant

The Bible in its original manuscripts is true and trustworthy in everything it claims about what was, what is, and what will be. It does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

Proverbs 30:5

⁵ Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

John 17:17 (Jesus speaking)

¹⁷ “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

5. Authoritative

All the words in the Bible are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word is to disbelieve or disobey God. The Bible is the ultimate rule for all people and the standard they should use to evaluate what is true, false, right, and wrong.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Joshua 1:8 (God speaking to Joshua)

⁸ “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

6. Sufficient

The Bible contains all the words God intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and it now contains all the words we need for salvation and for trusting and obeying God. It tells us everything we must believe in order to be saved and what we must do in order to please God. We don't need any more special revelation. We don't need any more inspired, inerrant words.

2 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵ And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Moses speaking)

² "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you."

7. About Jesus

Every book of the Bible points to Jesus in some way, either by foreshadowing his coming, describing his life and work, explaining the implications of his death and resurrection, or revealing His future reign. He is the central figure who provides the hope, salvation, and purpose that the Bible offers to humanity.

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

John 5:39

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."

2 Corinthians 1:20

²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

