**Bible Bowl Study Guide 2**

***The Old Testament***

How many books are in the Bible? *(66)*

How many testaments, or main parts, are in the Bible? *(2)* What do we call those testaments? *(Old and New.)*

How many books are in the Old Testament? *(39)* How many does that leave in the New Testament? *(27)*

How many people wrote the Bible? *(40)*

Over how much time was the Bible written? *(1,500-2,000-ish years.)*

The Old Testament is divided into 5 parts:

1. 5 books of law

2. 12 books of history

3. 5 books of poetry

4. 5 books of Major Prophets

5. 12 books of Minor Prophets

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## Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it’s considered a book of law. The theme of Genesis is "beginnings." That is what the word "genesis" means.

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## Exodus is also a book of Law and written by Moses. The theme of the book of Exodus is, as its name implies, the exit of a large group of people. In this case, it is the mass exit of Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

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## Leviticus. Leviticus instructs priests specifically. The Levites were the priestly tribe of Israel who served the community. Leviticus outlines the guidelines by which the priests were supposed to serve in a holy way.

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## Numbers. The census of the people; the story of the wanderings in the wilderness.

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## Deuteronomy. Its name literally means second law, and that’s the major theme of the book: second law.

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## Joshua. The story of the conquest and partition of Canaan.

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## Judges is filled with stories about how these people rescued the nation of Israel, after falling captive to foreigners because of their own sin.

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## Ruth. One of the life-lessons in Ruth is that no matter how important you think you are, if you are faithful, God can use you. Never forget that.

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## 1 & 2 Samuel. Originally one book, 1 and 2 Samuel was probably authored by a few people, most notably Samuel, the prophet Nathan, and Gad. It was likely completed just after David’s reign as king, around 930 BC.

## 1 and 2 Kings. 1 Kings goes from Solomon’s reign to the division of the kingdom into two parts. 2 Kings goes from that point to the deportation of Judah into captivity. After the kingdom divided into Israel and Judah, each nation had kings of their own. Israel had 20 kings, and all of them were evil. Israel went into captivity in 722 B.C. Judah had 20 kings as well, and some of them were God-fearing. Judah went into captivity in 586 B.C.

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## The Books of Chronicles. 1 and 2 Chronicles are just that, a record of events. And, in many ways, they are repetitive. 1 Chronicles covers the same events as 1 & 2 Samuel, and 2 Chronicles covers the same events as 1 & 2 Kings.

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## Ezra & Nehemiah. Speaking of Ezra, he also authored the next two books of Old Testament history, Ezra, and Nehemiah. In Ezra, what is being rebuilt? *(The Temple.)* In Nehemiah, what is being rebuilt? *(The walls of Jerusalem.)*

## Esther. The story of a Jewess who becomes queen of Persia and saves the Jewish people from destruction.

## Job. While Job is odd in that it was written well before the rest of the books of poetry, and in that Job lived during the time of Abraham, not David, much of the book is written in Hebrew verse. Because of the timing of the book, many believe Moses wrote Job, although it is not certain. Job was written around 1400 BC.

## Psalms is probably the most popular of the poetry books. A lot of our worship songs are born out of the Psalms. The word "psalm" actually means sacred song or poem used in worship. Witten between 1440-500 BC.

## Proverbs. The wise sayings of Solomon were written around 900 BC.

## Ecclesiastes. The theme of Ecclesiastes is the meaning of life. The answer is found at the end of the book, after exploring all manner of philosophy and morality.

## Solomon's Song. An allegory relating to the church.

## Isaiah is the first prophet is the first of the five Major Prophets, Isaiah. Isaiah is considered the greatest writing prophet. His book has 66 chapters.

## Jeremiah. Jeremiah is known as the “weeping prophet.” In fact, we’ll cover another book by him next, and the title of it is “Lamentations.” To lament something means to mourn over it, and Jeremiah was a sad character.

## Lamentations. The utterance of Jeremiah's sorrow upon the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple.

## Ezekiel writes during captivity. His message is to those who are displaced in exile in Babylon. He himself was captive, taken from his homeland in about 597 BC.

## Daniel was in captivity just like Ezekiel, but wrote a little later, around 535 BC according to events that took place between 605 and 535 BC.

## Hosea was called by God to marry a woman named Gomer, a prostitute. He was to do this because Israel, like Gomer, had been unfaithful, and Hosea needed to understand how God felt to be able to preach effectively.

## Joel Prediction of woes upon Judah, and of the favor with which God will receive the penitent people.

## Amos focus, and the theme of his writing, is social justice. He talks a lot about the poor being oppressed. He is concerned with fairness for all people, as God is.

## Obadiah Prediction of the desolation of Edom.

## Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25, telling us he ministered around 790-750 BC. His audience was the Assyrians, a rebellious people who he feared wouldn’t listen, and might kill him, so he ran away.

## Micah. Predictions relating to the invasions of Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, the Babylonish captivity, the establishment of a theocratic kingdom in Jerusalem, and the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem.

## Nahum. Prediction of the downfall of Assyria.

## Habakkuk. A prediction of the doom of the Chaldeans.

## Zephaniah. A prediction of the overthrow of Judah for its idolatry and wickedness.

## Haggai. Prophecies concerning the rebuilding of the temple.

## Zechariah. Zechariah prophesied from about 520 to 480 BC. It seems like his book is split into two sections, with the first half being written in about 518 and the second half being written around 480.

## Malachi. Prophecies relating to the calling of the Gentiles and the coming of Christ.

***The New Testament***

There were about 400 years that went by for which the Bible is silent. There are writings from that period, but they have never been included in our Scriptures. There are 4 gospels, 1 book of history, 13 letters from Paul, 8 letters from others, and 1 book of prophecy. The first 4 books in the New Testament are all considered gospels. What is the meaning of the word “gospel"? *(Good news, truth.)* The gospels are four accounts of the same thing: Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection. Two of the gospels have accounts of Jesus’ birth.

## Gospel of St. Matthew was written about 30-35 years after Jesus was resurrected, around 65 AD. Matthew writes to a Jewish audience.

## Gospel of St. Mark. It is the shortest Gospel, at only 16 chapters. Like Luke, it is a Gospel written by a non-disciple. It is written with a Gentile (or non-Jewish), audience in mind

## Gospel of St. Luke. Luke is the only Gentile author of a book of the Bible. Luke was a physician, a Greek, and a devout historian.

## Gospel of St. John. If it weren’t for John, we wouldn’t know that Jesus’ ministry lasted 3 years. John spends almost half of his Gospel talking about the last week of Jesus’ life

## Acts of the Apostles. Luke wrote Acts, and as a traveler with Paul on his missionary journeys, he records the early history of the church after the resurrection of Jesus. Acts was written by Luke somewhere between 60 and 70 AD.

## Romans is considered one of the most theologically intense books of the Bible. Paul writes it to the church in Rome to set some things straight as well as to announce that he would be visiting.

## 1 & 2 Corinthians. Again, Paul wrote these two letters to the church at Corinth. His purpose is to help identify some of the problems in the Corinthian church and counsel them towards solutions, and then congratulate them on their progress.

## Galatians was one of the earliest of Paul’s letters, written in about 49 AD. The theme is the free gift of salvation through Jesus.

## Ephesians was written in about 60 AD to the Ephesians, but may have been meant to be a circular letter. The theme is unity in the body of Christ.

## Philippians. Unlike some of the other letters Paul wrote to correct churches, the letter to the Philippians is meant to encourage them and thank them. He wrote it from jail in Rome in about 61 AD, just one year after he wrote to the Ephesians.

## Colossians. It was written in about 60 AD. The purpose was to correct errors in the theology held by some in that city

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians. These two letters were written by Paul. Obviously, 1 Thessalonians was written first, but probably only by a few months before 2 Thessalonians. The purpose was specifically to encourage the church to continue in their new faith.

## 1 & 2 Timothy. 1 and 2 Timothy, along with Titus, are called the Pastoral Epistles, or the Pastoral Letters. This is because of how they are written. The content of these two, the Timothies, and Titus is geared towards instruction about how the church should care for people. They even get into how the church should function organizationally. As for 1 & 2 Timothy, the audience is Timothy, a young helper of Paul who Paul calls "a son in the faith.

## Titus. Again, this is also a Pastoral Letter. In it, Paul gives Titus instructions on how to manage the church.

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## Philemon. Philemon is the last book of the New Testament that we are certain Paul wrote. He wrote it to a man named Philemon, who was a member of the Colossian church, in about 60 AD. The purpose of Philemon is simple: Paul is encouraging Philemon to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and not to mistreat him.

## Hebrews. This is the first book of what we call the general epistles, or general letters. All that really means is that they were written by someone other than Paul. There are 8 of these letters, and the first is Hebrews. The theme of Hebrews is sufficiency of Christ.

## James. As Jesus’ brother, James did not believe in Him until after His resurrection. At that point he became a leader in the early church, and writes this letter to expose hypocrisy amongst Jewish Christians of his day.

## 1 & 2 Peter. Peter writes 1 Peter in 62-64 AD and 2 Peter in approximately 67 AD, Christians empire-wide are being tortured and are suffering for their faith. That sets the backdrop for his letters, which are themed around encouragement for the suffering.

## 1, 2, & 3 St. John. What makes the three epistles of John unique is that they don’t seem to be addressed to any church in particular. 1 John is addressed to no one. 2 John is addressed to a “chosen lady,” and 3 John to Gaius.

## St. Jude. The last of the general letters is Jude, whose author bore the same name. Jude was also a brother of Jesus and, like James, did not believe in His brother from the beginning. The theme is to avoid evil-doers and do good.

## Revelation. Revelation is the only New Testament book of prophesy. The apostle John recorded the words of Revelation as they were spoken to him by Jesus when he was in captivity on an Island called Patmos.