

Bible Basics 101

The Bible is an amazing book made up of 66 letters (also called books – yes, it's a little strange). The Bible has one author (God) who used over 40 human writers to communicate His message to the world. The Bible letters were written over a 1,500 year time span (another strange but true fact).

Here's some things that will help you get familiar with the Bible so you can begin to study it deeper.

- The Bible is broken into 2 main parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament
- The Old Testament was written before the time of Jesus and the New Testament was written after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
- The word "Testament" means covenant or agreement. The Bible is God's covenant with humans for their eternal salvation.
- The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew with a few short passages in Aramaic.
- The New Testament was originally written in Greek.
- There are 39 books (letters) in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Old Testament Books:

Books of the Law (first 5 books of the Bible; also called the Pentateuch meaning "5 volumes") - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

History Books – Joshua through the book of Esther

Poetic Books – Job through Song of Solomon

Prophetic Books – Isaiah through Daniel are the five major prophets ("major" meaning larger letters); Hosea through Malachi are the twelve minor prophets ("minor" meaning smaller letters).

New Testament Books:

Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – books written about the life of Jesus.

Church History Book – Acts is written about the birth of the New Testament church

Paul's Epistles (another word for "letters") – Romans through Philemon were written by the apostle Paul to specific churches or individuals.

General Epistles – Hebrews through Jude

Prophetic book – Revelation is the New Testament's one prophetic book about the future.

Numbers:

- The larger numbers in a bible text are called "chapters."
- The smaller numbers in a bible text are called "verses."
- If someone says, "Turn to John 3:16," they mean the book of John – the 3rd chapter and the 16th verse.