

# The Nature of the Bible

Introduction:

## I. Its Names and Titles

Many names are used for the Christian's Book, the "Holy Bible."

### A. The Book

See: Mark 12:26-"book of Moses"; Luke 3:4-"book of Esaias"; 20:42-"book of Psalms"; Acts 1:20-"book of Psalms"; 7:42-"book of the prophets"

The common name "Bible," is actually comes from the Greek words "Biblos" ('book') and "Biblia" ('books'). In time, the word came to refer to the sacred Books of Scripture.

The Bible is not a book, but THE Book!

### B. The Old and New Testaments

See: Luke 22:20; I Corinthians 11:25; II Corinthians 3:6, 14; **Hebrews 9:15**; 12:24.

The word "testament" means a "covenant" or an "agreement."

The simple two-fold division of the Bible into the Old and New Testaments is the division of it into the Old Covenant of the LAW and the New Covenant of GRACE.

### C. The Scriptures

See: II Timothy 3:15, 16

The word "scripture" is a translation of the Greek word "graphe" - "to write."

Thus the Scriptures are the holy Writings.

### D. The Word of God

See: Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12.

This is the most significant, pictorial, and complete name. Such a name causes us to recognize the Bible as God's Book.

### E. Psalteric Titles

See: Psalm 19:7-9; 119:1-7.

Psalm 119 is the "Word of God Psalm," and it uses a number of names for the Bible:

1. Law - vs. 1
2. Testimonies - vs. 2
3. Precepts - vs. 4

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4. Statutes - vs. 5
5. Commandments - vs. 6
6. Judgments - vs. 7

## II. Its Contents

### A. The Bible consists of 66 Books

1. The Old Testament has 39 Books
2. The New Testament has 27 Books

### B. The Bible is One Book

1. It bears witness of ONE God.
2. It forms ONE continuous story.
3. It has ONE plan of salvation.
4. It has ONE central theme - Jesus Christ.

## III. Its Composition

### A. Its Writers

Approximately 40 human writers were used to pen the Word of God. These men were separated by time and in their station in life.

Some of the occupations of the Bible writers were: prophets, kings, statesmen, herdsmen, fishermen, pastors, soldiers, and ex-Pharisees

### B. Its Period of Writing

The Bible was written down over a period of approximately 1,600 years: from Moses (c. 1500 B.C.) to John (c 100 A.D.)

### C. Its Languages

1. Generally speaking, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and the New Testament in koine (common) Greek.
2. Some parts of Daniel were written in Syriac.
3. Some words in the New Testament are Aramaic.

### D. Its Construction

The divisions of the Old Testament are given in Luke 24:44.

1. The Law of Moses - "Torah"

The Books of the Law: Genesis - Deuteronomy

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2. The Prophets - "Nebhiim"
  - a) Former (The Historical Books: Joshua - Kings, except Ruth)
  - b) Latter (The Prophetic Books: Isaiah - Malachi, except Daniel and Lamentations)
3. The Psalms - "Kethubhim"  
The sacred Writings: Chronicles - Canticles, plus the exceptions above
4. The 4x4 Construction
  - a) Old Testament
    - (1) Law - Genesis to Deuteronomy
    - (2) History - Joshua to Esther
    - (3) Wisdom - Job to Song of Solomon
    - (4) Prophecy
      - (a) Major - Isaiah to Daniel
      - (b) Minor - Hosea to Malachi
  - b) New Testament
    - (1) Gospels - Matthew to John
    - (2) History - Acts
    - (3) Epistles
      - (a) Pauline - Romans to Philemon
      - (b) General - Hebrews to Jude
    - (4) Prophecy - The Revelation

## E. Its Symbols

1. A Mirror  
Revealing power - James 1:23-25
2. A Seed  
Regenerative power - I Peter 1:23
3. A Lamp  
Illuminating power - Psalm 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23; II Peter 1:19.
4. A Sword

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Convicting power - Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12

5. A Hammer

Destructive power - Jeremiah 23:29

6. A Tree

Flourishing power - Proverbs 3:18; 4:7-9

7. Water

Cleansing power - John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Psalm 119:9, 11

8. Milk, Meat, Bread, and Honey

Nourishing, sustaining, and satisfying power - I Peter 2:2; I Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 19:10; 34:8; 119:103; Amos 8:11; Matthew 4:3-4

## IV. Its Theme

The theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ, John 5:39 "Search the scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

- Old Testament
  - LAW - Foundation of Christ
  - HISTORY - Preparation for Christ
  - POETRY - Aspiration for Christ
  - PROPHECY - Expectation for Christ
- New Testament
  - GOSPELS - Manifestation of Christ
  - HISTORY - Propagation of Christ
  - EPISTLES - Interpretation of Christ
  - PROPHECY - Consummation in Christ