

## Discipleship Discussion Series—Bible—Introduction (7)

All Needs Met © 2022

This introduction is a broad overview of the Bible.

The Perspectives column has information that I've come across over years as a Follower of Jesus.

I thought it would be good to summarize this information for the New Man.

This can also be useful for the veteran Follower to use with a New Man.

#	Perspectives
1	<p><b>Bible</b>            “Bible,” the word, comes from the Greek—<i>ta biblia to hagia</i>, the holy books.” (entymonline.com)            “Holy Bible” could be understood as “Holy Book.”</p>
2	<p><b>Library</b>            Although “Bible” could be understood to mean “Book,” the Bible is really a Library of Books.            The Bible is not a sequential beginning-to-end book, like a novel.            It is a collection of Books.            The Books vary in length—sometimes many pages; sometimes a single page.</p>
3	<p><b>Number of Books</b>            The Bible has 66 Books.            In the Old Testament there are 39 Books.            In the New Testament there are 27 Books.</p>
4	<p><b>Authors</b>            The Bible Books were written by about 40 authors (not all authorships are certain).</p>
5	<p><b>Types of Writings</b>            The Bible Books are made up of several types of writings:            History            Poetry            Prophecy            Biography            Letters</p>
6	<p><b>Table of Contents</b>            It can be helpful to number the Books in your Bible’s Table of Contents.            This can remind us of the number and types of Books.            This can also make it easier to find a Book.            See the sample page of this option.</p> <p>Table of Contents overview:</p> <p>In the Old Testament:</p> <p>1-5 is the Jewish Torah; these are Books of Jewish History.            6-17 are also Books of History.            18-22 are Books of Poetry            23-39 are Books of Prophecies.</p>

<p>#</p>	<p><b>Perspectives</b></p> <p>The Prophecies include “Major Prophets,” which means they are longer works.  The Prophecies also include “Minor Prophets,” which means they are shorter works.  “Major” and “Minor” do not refer to the importance of the Prophets.  Also, the Prophecies occurred within the time frame of the Histories.  For example, Isaiah tells us in 1:1 when his “vision” took place, during the reigns of four kings.  23-27 are the Major Prophets.  28-39 are the Minor Prophets.</p> <p>In the New Testament:</p> <p>1-4 are the Gospels, the biographies of Jesus.  5 is a Book of the History of the early church.  6-26 are letters by various Followers of Jesus.  27 is a Book of Prophecy, which includes telling us what is to come.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Theme</b></p> <p>The theme for all of the Books of the Bible could be “With or Without God.”</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Translations</b></p> <p>There are multiple translations of the Bible.  The original language of the Old Testament is Hebrew.  The original language of the New Testament is Greek.  Translations follow the original languages more and less closely.  The Interlinear Bible directly translates the original languages.  The New American Standard Bible (NASB) is a translation that is close to the original languages.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Chapter and Verse Numbering</b></p> <p>The numbering of the chapters and verses were not part of the original texts.  Chapter numbers first appeared in the 1200’s. [reference: Bibleq.net]  Verse numbers first appeared in the 1500’s. [reference: Bibleq.net]  These do make it easier to find passages, but are not always perfect in the separating of the text.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament</b></p> <p>There are over 300 prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus, in the Old Testament.  Jesus fulfilled all of them, as recorded in the Gospels.  There are Teaching Pages that list the Prophecies and their fulfillment.  Of note: “Bible scholars tell us that nearly 300 references to 61 specific prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The odds against one person fulfilling that many prophecies would be beyond all mathematical possibility....” [y-Jesus.com/what-are-the-odds]</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>We invite you to join the Gospel Team.</b></p> <p>Colossians 2:2-3—summarized—In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.  “Discipleship Discussion Series—Bible—Jesus—Beginning, Middle and End” is available.  These Teaching Pages highlight that Jesus is central to God’s Story and to the Bible.  Those of us on the Gospel Team read one chapter a day of the biographies of Jesus.  There are 89 chapters in the four Gospels, which fit neatly into three months; a schedule is available.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Study Helps</b></p> <p>There are many printed, video and online study helps, an overview of which is available as a Module.</p>