

Know Your Bible

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is God's Word. It is a collection of 66 books. God used over 40 authors over a period of 2000 years.

Old & New Testament: The reason our calendar says 2010 is because 2010 years ago Jesus Christ walked this earth. In the same way, the Bible is divided into the books that were written before Jesus Christ walked this earth (The Old Testament), and the books that were written while Jesus lived on this earth and after He returned to heaven (New Testament).

Types of Literature: There is a wide range of styles and literature types in the Bible. Some books are a chronicle of events that took place and others are poetic or prophetic.

Historical books – The history of God and man as recorded by the Holy Spirit.

Prophetic – God's specific plans to punish the stubborn, show mercy to those who repent, and to reward those who are faithful.

Wisdom Books – Songs, proverbs and expressions of the heart from those who walk with God.

Gospels – What God's Son, Jesus Christ, did and said as He walked this earth.

Letters – Letters from God's leaders to the churches to encourage and teach them to live godly lives.

Old Testament

Genesis: God creates the earth and chooses a special people.

Exodus: God delivers His people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt.

Leviticus: A holy God explains how to worship Him.

Numbers: Faithless Israelites wander forty years in the wilderness of Sinai.

Deuteronomy: Moses reminds the Israelites of their history and God's laws.

Joshua: The Israelites capture and settle the promised land of Canaan.

Judges: Israel goes through cycles of sin, suffering and salvation.

Ruth: Loyal daughter-in-law pictures God's faithfulness, love and care.

1 Samuel: Israel's twelve tribes unite under a king.

2 Samuel: David becomes Israel's greatest king – but with major flaws.

1 Kings: Israel divides into rival northern and southern nations.

2 Kings: Both Jewish nations are destroyed for their disobedience to God.

1 Chronicles: King David's reign is detailed and analyzed.

2 Chronicles: The history of Israel from Solomon to division and destruction.

Ezra: Spiritual renewal begins after the Jews return from exile.

Nehemiah: Returning Jewish exiles rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem.

Esther: Beautiful Jewish girl becomes queen, saves fellow Jews from slaughter.

Job: God allows human suffering for His own purposes.

Psalms: Ancient Jewish songbook showcases prayers, praise – and complaints - to God.

Proverbs: Pithy, memorable sayings encouraging people to pursue wisdom.

Ecclesiastes: Apart from God, life is empty and unsatisfying.

Song of Solomon: Married love is a beautiful thing worth celebrating.

Isaiah: A coming messiah will save people from their sins.

Jeremiah: After years of sinful behavior, Judah will be punished.

Lamentations: A despairing poem about the destruction of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel: Though Israel is in exile, the nation will be restored.

Daniel: Faithful to God in a challenging setting, Daniel is blessed.

Hosea: Prophet's marriage to a prostitute reflects God's relationship with Israel.

Joel: Locust plague pictures God's judgment on His sinful people.

Amos: Real religion isn't just ritual, but treating people with justice.

Obadiah: Edom will suffer for participating in Jerusalem's destruction.

Jonah: Reluctant prophet, running from God, is swallowed by giant fish.

Micah: Israel and Judah will suffer for their idolatry and injustice.

Nahum: Powerful, wicked Nineveh will fall before God's judgment.

Habakkuk: Trust God even when He seems unresponsive or unfair.

Zephaniah: A coming "Day of the Lord" promises heavy judgment.

Haggai: Jews returning from exile need to rebuild God's temple.

Zechariah: Jewish exiles should rebuild their temple – and anticipate their Messiah.

Malachi: The Jews have become careless in their attitude toward God.

New Testament

Matthew: Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies of a coming Messiah.

Mark: Jesus is God's Son, a suffering servant of all people.

Luke: Jesus is Savior of all people, whether Jews or Gentile.

John: Jesus is God Himself, the only Savior of the world.

Acts: The Holy Spirit's arrival heralds the beginning of Christian church.

Romans: Sinners are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians: An apostle tackles sin problems in the church at Corinth.

2 Corinthians: Paul defends his ministry to the troubled Corinthian church.

Galatians: Christians are free from restrictive Jewish laws.

Ephesians: Christians are all members of Jesus' "Body," the church.

Philippians: "Friendship letter" between the apostle Paul and a beloved church.

Colossians: Jesus Christ is supreme – over everyone and everything.

1 Thessalonians: Jesus will return to gather His followers to Him.

2 Thessalonians: Christians should work until Jesus returns.

1 Timothy: Pastors are taught how to conduct their lives and churches.

2 Timothy: The apostle Paul's final words to a beloved coworker.

Titus: Church leaders are instructed on their lives and teaching.

Philemon: Paul begs mercy for a runaway slave converted to Christianity.

Hebrews: Jesus is better than any Old Testament person or sacrifice.

James: Real Christian faith is shown by one's good works.

1 Peter: Suffering for the sake of Jesus is noble and good.

2 Peter: Beware of false teachers within the church.

1 John: Jesus was real man just as He is real God.

2 John: Beware of false teachers who deny Jesus' physical life on earth.

3 John: Church leaders must be humble, not proud.

Jude: Beware of heretical teachers and their dangerous doctrines.

Revelation: God will judge evil and reward His saints.

Adapted from *Know Your Bible* from Barbour Publishing