

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

LUKE 24:15-52

Before we begin: A friend asks you "What is your favourite book of the Bible?" You tell them what it is and why. You say...

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- "Bible" = "books"
- 39 OT, 27 NT
- Many different genres
- Dates: Moses in about 1500BC to Apostles in 1st century AD

2. WHAT IS THE BIBLE'S MESSAGE?

- = "the gracious and sovereign plan of God, to glorify Himself, by reversing the effects of sin and establishing the unchallenged rule of His Son."

- Mark 1:14-15, "After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

3. WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIVISIONS IN THE BIBLE?

(a) Old Testament and New Testament

- **Luke 24:15-52**

- **The OT looks forward**

Expecting God to act in the future... as he has in the past... but in a new way

Looking for a person... a place... a people... a time

Time: *Day of the Lord*
eg. Amos 5:18-20

Person: *Messiah / Son of David*
Son of David eg. 2 Sam 7, Isa 9:7
God's future and eternal king, eg. Ps 2, Psalm 16
Servant of Yahweh, Isa 42,49,50,53 (servant songs)
Son of Man, Dan 7
Shepherd, Ezek 34
Eternal priest, Ps 110 (Melchizedekian priest)
Another prophet like Moses, Deut 18:15ff

Place: *Materialistic hope*
Return of paradise, Is 11:6-9, 15:8, Amos 9:18
Renewed holy land (Isa 62:4, Jer 30:3, Amos 9:13)
Renewed holy city (Isa 60-66, Ezek 40-48)

People: *Spiritual renewal*
Restoration after j'ment, Jer 29:14, 30:3
Return of a remnant after exile, Is 7:3, Jer 23:3, Mic 2:12
New exodus, Zech 10:8-11
New covenant, Jer 30-33
God will give a new spirit, Ezek 11:19, 36:26, Hos 6:1-3.

(b) How does the Old Testament divide up?

- **The story of the OT**
 - OT written in Hebrew (and Aramaic) between 1500-400BC
 - OT translated into Greek (Septuagint , LXX) in 200BC

- **Our English Bibles follow the Greek LXX ordering of the OT:**

Historical books	Mixed poetry	Prophetic books
Genesis to Esther	Job to Song of Songs	Isaiah to Malachi

- **The Hebrew Bible has a different order: law, prophets and writings**
(e.g. Luke 24:44, Romans 3:21, Acts 28:23):

The Law:	The former prophets:	The latter prophets:	The writings:
Genesis	Joshua	Isaiah	Psalms
Exodus	Judges	Jeremiah	Job
Leviticus	1 & 2 Samuel	Ezekiel	Proverbs
Numbers	1 & 2 Kings	Hosea	Ruth
Deuteronomy		Joel	Song of Songs
		Amos	Ecclesiastes
		Obadiah	Lamentations
		Jonah	Esther
		Micah	Daniel
		Nahum	Ezra
		Habakkuk	Nehemiah
		Zephaniah	1 & 2 Chronicles
		Haggai	
		Zechariah	
		Malachi	

OUR PLAN

A series of simple introductions to each book in the Bible

Genesis (29 June)

Exodus (6 July)

Leviticus (13 July)

Numbers (20 July)

Deuteronomy (27 July)

GOOD RESOURCES

The Bible – read it!

Short introductions to each Bible book

- Mark Dever, *The message of the Old Testament* and *The message of the New Testament*
- IVP *New Bible Commentary* (21st century edition)
- Dillard and Longman, *An introduction to the Old Testament*
- Carson, Moo and Morris, *An introduction to the New Testament*

Bible overview books:

- Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*
- Christopher Ash, *Remaking a broken world*
- Don Carson, *The God who is there*

Doctrine of Scripture / the Bible as the Word of God:

- J.I. Packer, *Fundamentalism and the word of God*

Learning to read the Bible well:

- Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach, *Dig Deeper*

HOMEWORK

- Please read Genesis chapters 1-3, 12, for next week.