

The Holy Bible: "The Word of God"

When you are holding the Bible in your hands, you are holding the very "Word of God". Such a deep thought is very difficult to understand as well as explain. God—the Creator and Sustainer of all things, the Divine Being who has no Beginning or End—actually has come down into history and has spoken His Word to man.



What were these words?
What did He say?
Who did He speak to?
Does what He said still apply today?...

These questions and many others come to mind. The best way to answer all these questions is to read the Word of God for yourself, to see what He actually says.

This pamphlet is designed as a brief and easy-to-read introduction to approaching the Word of God for the first time. We would pray that you would find it an encouragement for that purpose!

"For The Word of God is Living and Active, Sharper than any Two-Edged Sword..."

- Hebrews 4:12

To Know More About the "Word of God"

If you have more questions or you would like to talk about what you are learning please feel free contact us at:

601-353-8316

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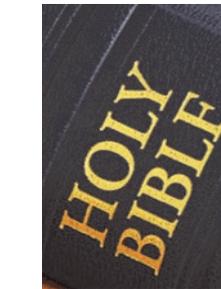
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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GENESIS

beginning, God made heaven and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good: and God separated the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."



The Word of God

An Brief Introduction to the Holy Bible

And God called the firmament Heaven. And God separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and God called the firmament Sky. And it was so. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees which have in them their seed, each according to its kind, and the earth shall bring forth." And it was so. And God made the great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars. And God set them in the firmament of the sky to give light upon the earth: and to divide the day from the night: and to give signs, and seasons, and days, and years: and let them be lights in the firmament of the sky to give light upon the earth. And it was so. And God made the

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars. And God set them in the firmament of the sky to give light upon the earth: and to divide the day from the night: and to give signs, and seasons, and days, and years: and let them be lights in the firmament of the sky to give light upon the earth. And it was so. And God made the

the earth across the firmament of the sky. And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with its life in it, according to their kinds, and every bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters with living creatures, and the birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let the living creatures according to their kinds, and the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, and every creeping thing of the earth according to its kind, be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth." And it was so.

And God said, "Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." And God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree which has in itself seed, to you shall they be for food." And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to every thing that creeps on the earth, I have given every green herb for food." And it was so.

And God made the earth, and the sea, and every living thing that he had made, and he saw that it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

The Bible consists of two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books and provides the story of God's work within history before Christ's coming. The New Testament has 27 books and gives testimony to Christ and his work.

Books of the Old Testament

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	

Books of the New Testament

Matthew	Philippians	1 Peter
Mark	Colossians	2 Peter
Luke	1 Thessalonians	1 John
John	2 Thessalonians	2 John
Acts	1 Timothy	3 John
Romans	2 Timothy	Jude
1 Corinthians	Titus	Revelation
2 Corinthians	Philemon	
Galatians	Hebrews	
Ephesians	James	

Acts The next New Testament section is made up of a single book. The book "Acts" contains the events that occurred after Jesus returned to heaven. While the Gospel writers describe the person and work of Jesus during His life, death, and resurrection, the book of Acts tells us about the affects that Jesus had on his followers and their work of telling other about Jesus. The book is filled with amazing miraculous stories and like the Gospels, these miracles were performed to point His people to the truth of the message.

Author: Luke
Recommended Reading: The entire book!

The Old Testament

Genesis - Deuteronomy The first section of the Bible

contains five books. These five books are foundational for the Bible as they introduce the key purposes behind the story line of the Bible. At the center of these five books are God and His people. Along with creating all things, God performs wondrous acts within history, which is to create, save, and keep a people for Himself. God's actions within history are very much needed as man has sinned against God and is unable to deliver himself without the Lord's intervening work. What God promises (the book of Genesis), He is faithful to carry out (the book of Exodus) so that His people might be a holy nation like their God (the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

Author: Moses, the first great prophet of Israel, is the author of all the five books.
Recommended Reading: Genesis

Joshua - Esther The next section consists of twelve history books. Though these books are historical, they are not arranged in terms of chronology, or the passing of time, since some earlier books are arranged after later books. Continuing with the same purpose as the first section, these twelve books trace the history of God's saving work in and among His people. The story follows the people of God as they enter, conquer, and settle in the land promised by God. It further develops the idea of God's act of salvation and shows that despite man's continual sin, God is faithful to his promise. Major human characters within this section are Joshua, Samuel, and David.

Author: These books were written by various authors and prophets.
Recommended Reading: I & II Samuel

Job - Song of Solomon This section is a grouping of what is called "wisdom books". The term "wisdom books" is used to make clear the purpose of the books. Rather than focusing on the history of an event, each book is designed to record the lesson, or lessons, gained from an event in history. These lessons or instructions are then passed on to the later generations in the form of proverbs (short teachings), psalms (songs), or poetry. Often the chapters and paragraphs within these books are hard to connect and only relate to the other chapters and paragraphs through knowing the history surrounding the lesson.

Author: These books were written by many different authors, but authors, such as David and Solomon (David's son), wrote a lot of material within the section.
Recommended Reading: Psalms

Isaiah - Malachi The last major section contains the prophetic books of the Bible. These books are writings of prophets and teachers who through God's Spirit proclaimed a message unto God's people. These prophets were used by God to speak his words to the people. These books are often hard to read for two reasons. First, they are difficult because the authors usually speak in long metaphors (examples of things that are used to represent something else; an example of this is how God calls His people "sheep"). Second, they are hard to read because of the discouraging tone of the author. The author is often speaking this way because, even though God has shown such love and care for His people, His people continue to stray away from God like sheep away from their shepherd. As a result of man's ongoing straying, God becomes angry and must punish man for his sin. On the other hand, these books are filled with great joy because God is faithful and He promises to remove man's sin. One day, He promises He will send One who will deal with man's sin once and for all and permanently save and keep a people for the Lord.

Authors: The title of the book generally provides the name of the author (an example is Ezekiel was written by the prophet Ezekiel).
Recommended Reading: Jonah and then Isaiah

The New Testament

Matthew - Mark The first four books of the New Testament are the Gospels. The Gospels (meaning "good news") are books that focus on the life and meaning of Jesus Christ. As the authors of the Old Testament looked for God to deliver His people from their sin, the New Testament authors saw Jesus as the fulfillment (meaning answer) to God's promise in removing man's sin. With great excitement and specific detail, the authors of the Gospels each provide an orderly account of His life, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection. Although each writer presents a type of biography of Jesus, the author is more interested in the significance (or meaning) behind the person and work of Jesus. Jesus' miraculous deeds in Gospel were not performed to overwhelm and awe the crowds, but were designed to show that he was the Son of God.

Authors: Each book title provides the name of the author.
Recommended Reading: John

Romans - Jude The third section of the New Testament is a grouping of epistles (or letters). These letters were written by the Apostles to God's people (or now, the early Christian Church). These Apostles played a similar role to the prophets of the Old Testament. They were God's mouthpieces proclaiming the words of God to His people. The Apostles' letters also acted in a role similar as the Old Testament "Wisdom Books" in how they explained the importance of Jesus' person and His work and instructed a believer how to live now that Jesus has come. Each letter was written to a particular church or individual and was written to accomplish a specific purpose. The title of each book is either the city where the church was located or the Apostle who wrote the letter.

Author: Major authors in this section are Paul and John.
Recommended Reading: Romans & Galatians

Revelation This book is the last section and book of the New Testament. It is in many ways a very challenging book to understand. Like the Old Testament prophetic books, Revelation is written with metaphors expressing a deep, spiritual future reality. The book is set in the early 1st Century during the days of great persecution (or abuse or mistreatment) of God's people. The entire book is a vision (or dream) the Apostle John had while he was exiled on an island in the Mediterranean Sea called Patmos. This dream is full of vivid and colorful images which are at most times difficult to even write down. But John has recorded this dream and the record serves for God's people today as a great sense of encouragement. The encouragement comes from seeing God once more entering into history for the greatest fulfillment (or answering) of His promise. On this day, Jesus will not only remove sin from His people, but destroy the enemies of God's people and eternally secure a people unto Himself.

Author: The Apostle John
Recommended Reading: The entire book!