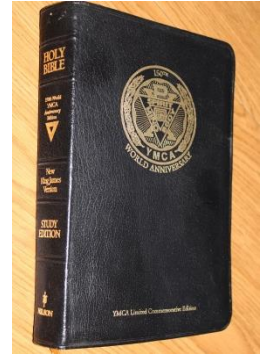


Youthful Enthusiasm Leads to Adult Understanding

Can you name the books of the Bible off the top of your head? How about reciting a theme for each book, all from memory? This Facebook video shows an energetic young boy doing just that. The Bible isn't just a collection of unrelated writings. Instead it shows Jesus' role in the history of our world, from its very beginning to its future end.

After you marvel that this youngster can even remember all 66 books of the Bible, watch it again and begin to envision what he is saying -- how Jesus is part of every book of our Bible. Obviously God had plans for His son from the very beginning of time. The Old Testament prepares us for Jesus' physical coming to earth, and the New Testament shows His example and teachings for our lives. It provides verification that He is the Son of God, and that because of the resurrection, He is our hope for eternal life.



Copy this link into your browser and listen closely (you may also copy and paste from the body of your email). <https://www.facebook.com/naycrumors/videos/1046648428740688/>

Once you have the general concept of the themes of each book of the Bible, you can read each book with a better understanding. Let the "Cliff Notes" of this enthusiastic youngster guide your comprehension. Don't just stop at the one-liners about Jesus' role and think you know it all. That just tells you what to look for. Now read the text, and God's fuller story will unfold. The Bible is God's Word. It is amazing!

Prayer: Dear Lord. Sometimes we take for granted our own Bible. We know it is there for us but we don't consult it for answers to the issues we face in life. We pray we will make a more intentional effort to make it the guide for our life. Amen.

For Further Study - How is the Bible Organized?

The Bible is the Word of God, giving us direction for our lives: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Old Testament

The Law of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History of Israel: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon (Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are also considered the "wisdom books of the Bible.")

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi (Isaiah to Malachi are considered to be prophesies of the Bible.)

New Testament

Life of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (These are also referred to as "The Gospels.")

History of the early church: Acts

Specific Epistles (letters): Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews (This includes Paul's writings to churches and individuals.)

Generic Epistles: James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude (These letters were written by various inspired authors.)

Prophecy: Revelation (officially called The Revelation of Jesus Christ)

Order of New Testament Books

The books of the New Testament are arranged in the *order of the plan of salvation*.

- The section on the life of Christ produces faith (John 20:30-31)
- The history of the church shows gospel obedience [repentance and immersion in water] (Acts 2:37-47)
- The epistles set forth the Christian life (2 Pet. 1:5-11)
- The book of prophecy manifests the final victory of the saints of God (Rev. 2:10; 17:14).
- If one should read the New Testament from beginning to end, they would be encouraged to:
 - Believe in Christ as the Son of God
 - Obey the gospel
 - Live faithfully to Christ
 - Ultimately be triumphant and victorious!

Finding God's Direction on Specific Topics

Reading the Bible from cover to cover is great, but when looking for God's answer on specific topics consider how to pinpoint His answers quickly. The internet provides a great source for research. Simply type in a question, e.g. "What does the Bible say about _____" and you will quickly get a list of biblical references on a specific topic. You will also find entire sermons and writings on many topics.

Many Versions, But Still the Intent is the Word of God

Don't be intimidated by the length, complexity or ancient language of the Bible. Purists want to read the earliest translation possible because it is closest to the original text. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew over thousands of years of composition. (A few chapters in the prophecies of Ezra and Daniel and one verse in Jeremiah were written in a language called Aramaic.) The New Testament was written in Greek, the language of scholars at the time. Occasionally referencing the Greek brings out a deeper understanding of the passages.



In the course of translating the Bible into other languages, decisions are made on which words to use to replace the original Greek. There are many modern versions written to be understandable by today's culture. Bible reference materials help you understand the original Greek word.

Also, the Bible was written in and to a different part of the world. It was written to people an entirely different culture. The writing style fits the people of the time of its writing, who often told stories to illustrate a point. In our Western culture we tend to want the point stated more directly. But there is beauty in the "word picture descriptions" of its time.

Regardless, it is the Word of God for people of all time. Bible studies and Sunday sermons help the readings relevant to us today. The ultimate goal for most people is for the Bible to have relevance to us today.