

● Lesson 1

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Bible is most often thought of as one book, but in reality it is many small books written by several authors from several unique perspectives. When all these small books are joined together into one volume, they make up the single book that you hold in your hand which is called **The Bible**. The Bible reveals to us the most important information we need to know.

The Bible reveals to us

- how God brought everything into existence—creation.
- how God worked, and continues to work, in the lives of people.
- how Jesus came and died so that we can have our sins forgiven.
- how Jesus will return someday to take His children home.

Our memory verse (II Timothy 3:16) says that *all Scripture is inspired by God*. **Inspired** means “to guide supernaturally.” This verse tells us then that the writers of *all* of the Scripture in the *entire* Bible were supernaturally guided by God to write, without any error, exactly what He wanted them to write. By inspiration, God guided them to write His words accurately and completely, without error. Because the Bible is inspired by God, it can be totally trusted.

Memory Verse

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16



The Bible is divided into two major sections: Old Testament and New Testament. This study is in the Old Testament section, which is the first part of the Bible and is made up of 39 books—some long and some short.

Christian **scholars** group the books of the Old Testament section into four subsections:

1. THE LAW

Genesis through Deuteronomy

2. HISTORY

Joshua through Esther


3. POETRY (Songs and Wisdom)

Job through Song of Solomon


4. PROPHETS


Isaiah through Malachi

Listed below are the names of the books in the Old Testament.

Draw a stone tablet () in front of the books of the **Law**.

Put the letters **B.C.** in front of the books of **History**.

Draw a musical note () in front of the books of **Poetry**.

Draw a stick person () in front of the books of the **Prophets**.

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

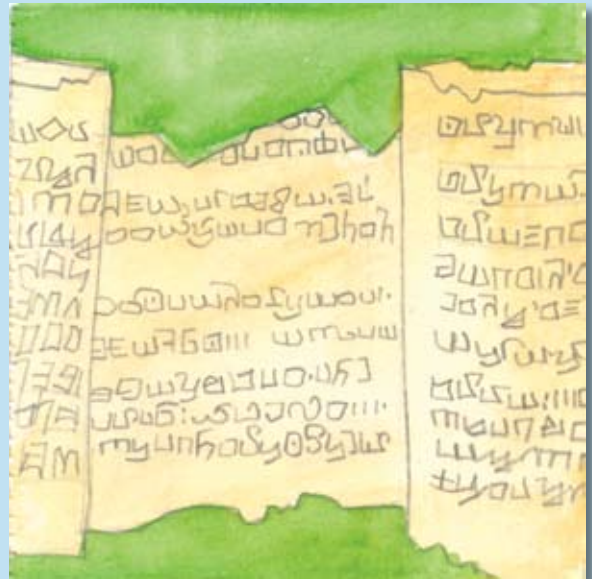
Can you name all the books of the Bible without looking?

Since this is a study of Old Testament history, you'll also need to know that history is divided into two periods of time: **B.C.** and **A.D.** The letters **B.C.** mean before Christ and include everything that happened from the time of creation until Jesus was born. This period of history covers approximately 4,000 years and is full of many exciting events of how God worked in the lives of people.

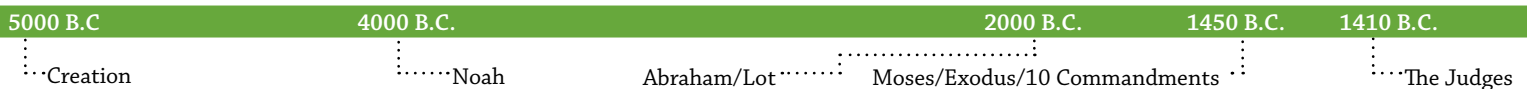
The letters **A.D.** stand for the Latin words *Anno Domini*, meaning "in the year of the Lord." This period of time includes everything that happened after the year of Jesus' birth and includes all future events in history. We live in the time period of A.D.

Time, as we know it, will end when Jesus returns to take His people (Christians) home to heaven. (Read I Thessalonians 4:16-17). This will be the end of all time. Those who loved Jesus when they died will rise from their graves and meet Jesus in the air. Then, those Christians who are still alive on earth will be caught up in the clouds with the others to meet Jesus in the air. And so they "shall

Fast Fact: Dead Sea Scrolls



- In 1947 a young Bedouin shepherd boy was searching for a goat that had strayed from his herd. Instead, he discovered a cave where he found several earthen jars filled with scrolls written in Hebrew.
- Many of these scrolls were ancient copies of Old Testament books.
- This discovery brought much excitement since these Old Testament scrolls were nearly 1,000 years older than any other ever discovered! They became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls.



(Dates are approximate, exact dates unknown)

always be with the Lord.”

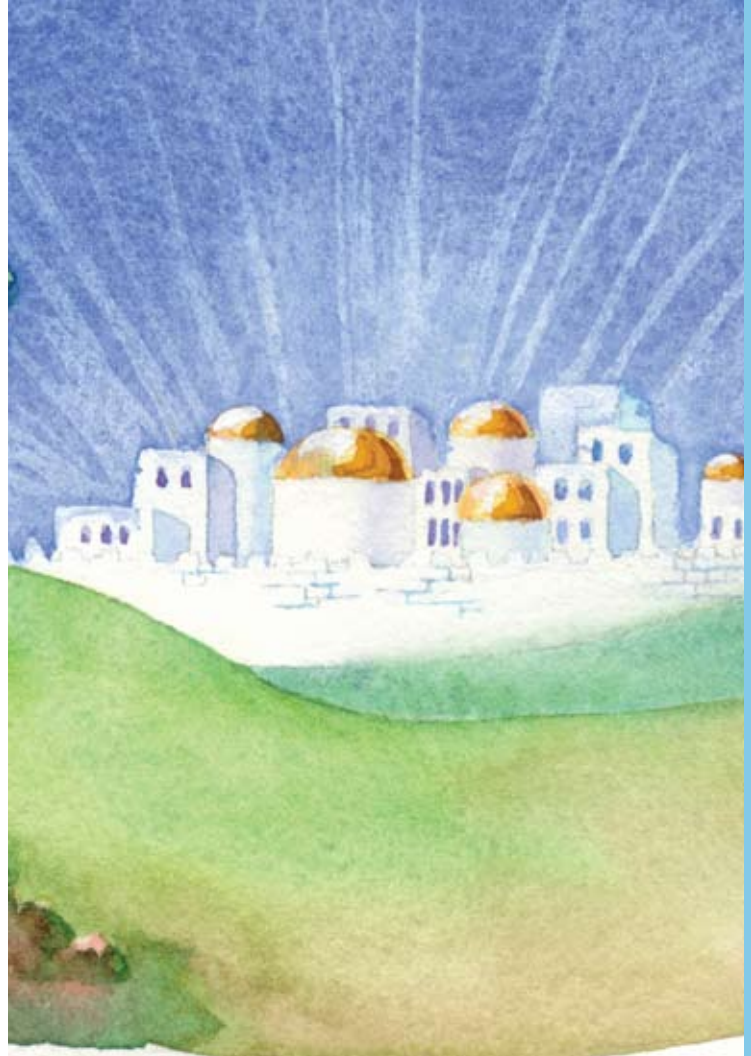
On that last day of time—Bible scholars call it the **Resurrection Day**—only those who trust Jesus as their Savior and have had their sins forgiven will meet Him in the air and go with Him to heaven. But those who have done evil deeds will rise to a resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29).

Do you know Jesus as your Savior?

Have you asked Him to forgive your sins?

If you answered “yes” to the above questions, then use the rest of the time He gives you on earth to love and serve Him and to regularly study His Word, the Bible.

If you answered “no” to the above questions, would you like to ask Jesus today to forgive your sins and to come into your heart?



Catechism Corner

1. Who wrote the Bible? (Q. 3)

The holy prophets, evangelists, and apostles wrote the Bible.

2. But how can their word be the Word of God? (Q. 4)

The Spirit of God revealed to them what to speak and write.

3. What is the central truth of all the books of the Bible? (Q. 9)

The great truth that Jesus is the way to salvation for all who believe.

4. Read Psalm 1:1-3.

What should be our attitude toward the Old Testament (“law of the Lord”) in verse 2?

What example should we follow based on verse 2b?

What lesson can be learned from verse 3?

Word Works

Start with the first letter, then select every other letter and write it on the line below. Go back to the beginning and start with the second letter, writing down every other letter on the line below to discover a message about the Bible.

AELALCSHCIRNIGPFTOURRREEIPS
RIONOSFPFIORRETDREBAYIGNOID
NAGNIDNPRRIOGFHITTEAOBULSE
NFEOSRST
