



7 STEPS TO BIBLE SKILLS

Week 1: Step 1



Greeting & Guidelines

- Prayer
- Basic Ground Rules
 - Please do not hesitate to engage with the material and with one another
 - Open dialogue is encouraged; no sincere question is silly
- Introduce ourselves
 - Name and something interesting about yourself
 - What do you hope to gain from this study?



STEP 1: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

- Why study the Bible?
- What makes the Bible different than any other book?
 - The Bible is unique
 - The Bible is inspired
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "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." (NIV)

Introduction

- What do we mean by Divine Inspiration?
 - The belief that the human authors of Scripture were directly influenced in their writing by God the Holy Spirit. In that sense, the Bible has one Divine Author, though the actual books which comprise it have many human authors.
- Scripture as the Revealed Word of God
 - Because God is the Author of all truth and there is no deceit in Him (1 Peter 2:22), anything that comes from God is *infallible* - it cannot be false.
- Christian belief is that God is a God who is self-revelatory; He has acted in human history to reveal Himself to us.
 - YHWH means "I AM", or "I will show you who I am by what I do."

Types of Revelation

- General Revelation (*revelatio realis*)
 - Sometimes called "natural revelation"
 - God has revealed Himself in general terms, to a general audience, i.e. the world
 - Communicates God's existence, His power and His glory
 - Revealed through the works of God and understood through reason
 - Most common example is creation
 - Psalm 19:1-2
 - Romans 1:19-20
- "There is within the human mind, and indeed by natural instinct, an awareness of divinity [*divinitatus sensum*]. This we take to be beyond controversy. To prevent anyone from taking refuge in the pretense of ignorance, God Himself has implanted in all men a certain understanding of his divine majesty." - John Calvin

Types of Revelation

- Special Revelation (*revelatio verbalis*)
 - Sometimes called "supernatural revelation"
 - Communicates God's specific purpose to a specific audience
 - Revealed through the word of God and understood through faith
 - i.e. through the prophets (the spoken word), the scriptures (the written word) and especially through Jesus (the incarnate Word).
 - John 12:44-45
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - Special revelation reveals the way of salvation
 - John 3:16-17

How do we respond to God's written revelation?

- How would you respond if you believed God spoke directly to you?
- Just because the Bible is inspired by God doesn't mean that we should be passive consumers – we need to be actively engaged with God's Word
 - If the Bible is the perfect Word of God, then it is sufficient; it contains all we need for life and godliness. We grow in that by engaging with it.
 - James 1:25 - "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do." (NIV)
- "The Bible remains a sort of religious hot dog, something [we] eat on faith without having the first clue of what's actually in it." - Mark Russell, *God is Disappointed in You*.

What's in the hot dog?

- The protestant Bible is comprised of 66 books written by about 40 different authors over the span of over 1,000 years
- These books are divided into Old Testament and New Testament
- "Testament" means "covenant"
- The Old Testament contains 39 books
- The New Testament contains 27 books

Books of the Bible in Order

Old Testament

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

Books of the Bible in Order

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

Biblical Genres

- What is your favorite genre of book?
 - Ex: fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, romance, mystery, sci-fi, etc.
- The books of the Bible can be categorized into various genres
 - The most commonly used genres are: Narrative/ history, Law, Poetry, Wisdom, prophecy, gospels, epistles and apocalyptic.
 - Some books contain more than one genre or sub-genre
 - parables, for example may be found in the gospels

Biblical Genres

Narrative/ History			Law	Poetry	Wisdom
Genesis	Ruth	Esther	Leviticus	Psalms	Proverbs
Exodus	1-2 Samuel	Job	Exodus	Song of Solomon	Job
Numbers	1-2 Kings	Matthew	Numbers	Lamentations	Ecclesiastes
Deuteronomy	1-2 Chronicles	Mark	Deuteronomy		
Joshua	Ezra	Luke			
Judges	Nehemiah	John			
		Acts			

Biblical Genres

Prophecy			Gospels	Epistles		Apocalyptic
Isaiah	Joel	Habakkuk	Matthew	Romans	Philemon	Isaiah
Jeremiah	Amos	Zephaniah	Mark	1-2 Corinthians	1-2 Peter	Jeremiah
Ezekiel	Obadiah	Haggai	Luke	Galatians	James	Ezekiel
Daniel	Jonah	Zechariah	John	Ephesians	1-3 John	Joel
Hosea	Micah	Malachi		Colossians	Jude	Zechariah
	Nahum			1-2 Thess.	Hebrews	Daniel
				1-2 Timothy		Revelation
				Titus		

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving; she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot...that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like! Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.

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