

ABOV-Introduction Script

Start Video SV-OOA Introduction to the Bible

Welcome to A Bible Overview!

This series of lectures will provide you a short summary of the Bible by highlighting its fundamental information.

The Bible is a unique book that has affected the laws, culture, art, literature, ethics, and behavior of nearly every society on earth.

Nations and rulers have tried to destroy it and keep it from being read, yet the Bible is the most widely read book in the world.

The Bible is recognized as a part of the inspired sacred literature of three of the major religions of the world: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

There is only one Bible. The Bible is translated from the original manuscripts into many common languages and dialects. This explains why many versions are available.

In the Bible, in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, we're given insight into why God gave us the Bible. **It says:**

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible is unique in many ways:

First: The Bible is unique in **how** it was **written**.

- The Bible was written over a time period of 1600 years!
- It was written by over 40 authors, not just one, as is usually the case with religious books.
- The authors came from different locations and backgrounds, having different personalities and occupations. For example:
 - One was a political leader, trained in the palaces of Egypt, who ended up in the wilderness
 - Another was a military leader;
 - One was a shepherd who became a king;
 - Another wrote from a dungeon;
 - Other writers included a fisherman, a tax collector, and a doctor.
- The Bible was written in three languages:
 1. Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament;

2. Aramaic, the language of the Near East, and
 3. Greek, the international language at the time of the New Testament.
- The Bible was written on 3 continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Second: The Bible is unique in its **circulation**:

- To quote statistics from Wikipedia:

"As of September 2016 the full Bible has been translated into 554 languages, and 2,932 languages have at least some portion of the Bible." *

- And this doesn't even take into account all the Bibles that have been given away or those now free for download. For example, as of September 2016, YouVersion alone has given away more than 240 million Bibles which are available in over 1300 versions and over 1000 supported languages. These figures support Josh McDowell's point when he says:

"More copies have been produced of its entirety as well as selected portions than any other book in history...no other book even begins to compare to the Scriptures in terms of its total circulation." **

Third: The Bible is unique in its **survival**.

- According to Josh McDowell, "Compared to other ancient writings, the Bible has more manuscript evidence than any ten pieces of classical literature combined." ***
- For centuries people have tried to burn, ban, and outlaw the Bible. In the Third Century, for example, the Roman emperor, Diocletian, demanded that every copy of the Bible be destroyed, yet it survived.

Fourth: The Bible is unique in predictive prophecy. Bible authors wrote more than 1,000 specific prophecies relating to future historic events.

- Some prophecies concern specific people, cities, nations, and events, while others affect all peoples of the earth.
- About 700 prophecies have already been fulfilled, with many yet to be fulfilled.

Last: The Bible is unique in **content**.

- It includes hundreds of controversial subjects, yet it is **consistent throughout** in its message.
- The Bible claims that God **inspired** men to write what is in it, and that people should not add to or take away from it.
- The Bible claims to be God's Word to the reader.

- It answers questions we all ask at one time or other. For example:
 - Where did I come from?
 - Why is there evil in the world?
 - Are there answers for dealing with the evil in the world?
 - Do I have a purpose?
 - Is there really a God?
 - How do I decide what is right and wrong?
 - What happens after I die?

End Video SV-OOA Introduction to the Bible. (info above: 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Bible unique: how written, circulation, survival, predictive prophecy, content)

Slide: Do you know of any other religious book with such substantial extensive evidence?

Start Video SV-00B Organizational Structure of the Bible

The organizational **structure** of the Bible is as follows.

- It is made up of a collection of 66 books or manuscripts, divided into 2 sections, which are called the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- The Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament has 27.
- The Old Testament books are not arranged chronologically, but are divided into three convenient groups:
 - History books
 - Poetry books, and
 - Prophetic books
- The 27 NT books are likewise arranged for convenience. These are:
 - The Gospels, which are four books written by different authors who describe the life of Jesus Christ.
 - The book of Acts, which describes the acts of Jesus' followers.
 - 21 Letters, for believers and churches, and
 - Revelation, a book of prophecy of future events.
- Each Bible book has been divided up into chapters and verses to make locating sentences easier. For example, the book of Genesis is divided into 50 chapters, with numbered verses. Genesis 1:26 means the book of Genesis, chapter one, verse twenty-six. Or, Deuteronomy 6:5 means the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 6, verse 5.

Because we will be starting in the Old Testament, I'll refer frequently to this chart called the "**Historical Highway of the Old Testament**," which shows the chronological history of the 39 books.

The **black boxes** represent the **Books of History** and show the progression through 1000 years of history, from Genesis through Nehemiah.

- The top word in the box tells where the events from the book generally took place. The word in the bottom is a key word that tells you the main topic of the book. For example, Genesis took place in both Eden and Egypt and is about "Beginnings."
- The Black boxes that exit off the main "highway" represent other historical books which took place in the same time period as the books to which they are connected. Ruth, for instance, occurred during the time of the Judges.
 - The **gray boxes** represent **Books of Poetry** and show when they were written in relation to
 - the books of history. For example, Job was written during the time of Genesis, and Psalms during the time of 1 Chronicles and 2 Samuel.
 - The **white boxes** represent the **Books of Prophecy** and show that all the prophets lived and wrote their books within the time frame of 2 Kings through Nehemiah.

To help understand the Bible, we will view it from three perspectives, historical, geographical and theological.

1. **The Historical Perspective** will put events into a timeframe and culture.
2. **The Geographical Perspective** will describe the region where the events took place, and.
3. **The Theological Perspective** will help us understand who is the God of the Bible and the themes that run consistently throughout it.

If you do not have a Bible, you can read it on your phone, tablet, or computer for free by downloading it from the web at "YouVersion.com"

If you want to buy a print copy, consider a translation that also includes in the title "Life Application Study Bible." A study Bible provides helpful cross references, maps, charts, a dictionary, a concordance, and much more.

As we start to learn the Bible's fundamental information, think about the ideas it gives to life's basic questions and if they are based in reality.

In session one, we will start with the first book in the Bible, Genesis, or Beginnings.

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*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_translations

**McDowell, Josh, [The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict](#), Nashville, Nelson, 1999, p.8,9

***McDowell, Josh, [The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict](#), Nashville, Nelson, 1999, p.9