



The

Abundant

Life
Series

- Lesson 2: The Bible -

- **Hebrews 4:12**, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- **Hebrews 4:12 The Message Bible**, *God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it -- no matter what.*

I. Basic _____ Facts

The Bible contains _____ books, 39 in the Old Testament and _____ in the New Testament.

There are _____ chapters, _____ verses, and 773,692 words in the Bible.

There are 36 writers, writing from 3 continents, spread over _____ years.

The Old Testament is written in _____ with the exception of parts of the book of Daniel such as chapter 7 which is written in _____.

The New Testament is written in Greek
(an older version called Koine Greek) except for a phrase here and there which is in Aramaic and Hebrew.

(_____ spoke all three languages)

The scriptures were copied continually by hand by men called
"_____" until the printing press was invented in 1450.
The first book ever printed on a printing press was the Bible. It is
called _____ Bible

The _____ divisions are not inspired of God
and were put there by men so that we could find specific portions of
scripture easier. The scriptures were divided into chapters by
Cardinal Hugo in _____. They were divided into the familiar
verse format in _____ by an Englishman, Sir Robert Stephens.

Fun facts:

1. Longest book – _____
2. Shortest book - _____
3. Longest chapter - _____
4. Shortest chapter - _____
5. Middle chapter - _____
6. Longest verse - _____
7. Shortest verse - _____
8. Middle verse - _____

II. How Can We Know That Our Modern Day Bible Is Accurate?

By translating from many "_____ " manuscripts - We have approximately _____ complete New Testament manuscripts and many fragments of these books. There are numerous copies and fragments of the Old Testament manuscripts.

These various manuscripts are from different regions of the world and different time periods. The fact that they generally agree and say the same things, tell us that if _____ use all of these manuscripts, our English Bible will be extremely close to the original.

The _____ accuracy in copying the scriptures -

The velum or parchment upon which the scriptures were first written has a life-span of less than _____ years. Therefore, throughout history, they had to be continually _____ and passed down through the years. Men called "scribes" were commissioned to copy the scriptures by hand. Their method was as follows:

1. The scribe would _____ a word of the scripture.
2. He would then _____ it clearly aloud.
3. He would then carefully _____ the word on the new parchment and then move on to the next word!

4. At the end of the page, a _____ would count the words in the column, and compare it with the number of words in the column of the original. If there was a discrepancy in the numbers, the page was discarded and the scribe started over!

5. There are very few scribe _____ in our copies of the scriptures because of their meticulous method of copying.

Jesus' condemnation of the scribes of His day was not because of their work of copying scriptures but because many of them had that since they had the important job of passing the scriptures on through the generations, that they were also the only people who could _____ scriptures correctly.

By Jesus and the Early Church's use of the _____ - In the time between the Old and the New Testament, Alexander the Great and His Grecian army conquered the known world. He caused the universal language of the world at that time to become Greek. The _____ leaders realized that the Old Testament scriptures needed to be translated from Hebrew into Greek. In Alexandria, Egypt, 70 prominent Jewish scholars produced a Greek version of the Old Testament called the Septuagint. Jesus and His disciples placed their blessing upon the Septuagint, by preaching and teaching from it. When _____ quoted a scripture, he was quoting the Septuagint. If it was corrupt or inherently faulty, then they would not have used it. The Septuagint became the official Old Testament used in the _____ Church.

The Dead Sea Scrolls - In the spring of _____, two young shepherd boys were looking for a lost goat in the wilderness area between _____ and the Dead Sea. One boy saw a cave and threw a rock down into it so see if the cave was deep. The rock struck pottery and the boy heard the smashing of a clay pot. To make a long story short, they had discovered one of the greatest modern day discoveries of scriptural significance: a Jewish sect had hidden over _____ scrolls and fragments carefully wrapped in leather and sealed in clay pots. They dated from before the time of _____, and gave the world the oldest copies of the Old Testament scriptures in existence. When the manuscripts were checked with our scriptures today, very few _____ were found. Our modern Old Testament is almost exactly as it was before the time of Christ!

III. _____ of the Bible

The Bible is not necessarily in _____ order, but is instead grouped by categories. The Old Testament was largely assembled and grouped by _____. The New Testament was compiled by the Early Church. The first five books are commonly referred to as the "Torah" or the "_____" and were all written by Moses. "_____" prophets were just as important as "_____" prophets, but wrote smaller books. Here are the divisions of the scripture:

The _____ Testament

Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The _____ Testament

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History

Acts

_____ Epistles

Romans
I/II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I/II Thessalonians
I/II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews?

Other Epistles

James
I/II Peter
I/II/III John
Jude

Prophecy

Revelation

The " _____ " tell the story of the Life of Jesus Christ

" _____ " means a letter.

We are not completely sure if _____ wrote the Book Hebrews, but it is traditionally accepted.

IV. The _____ of Scripture

How did the people that put the books of the Bible together know that these particular books were the very Word of God?

A Bible _____ would ask this same question by saying "Explain the canonicity of scripture." A **biblical canon**, or **canon of scripture**, is a list of books considered to be _____ as scripture by a particular religious community. The word "canon" is derived from the Greek noun **κανών** "kanon" meaning "_____" or "_____,," or also "rule" or "measure". Thus, a "canonical text" is a single authoritative edition for a given work. No serious conservative scholars have ever doubted the _____ of the books of the Old Testament. By quoting from the Septuagint, Jesus placed His blessing upon the books assembled by Ezra as the Word of God.

_____ was a gradual process. I will list some recognized dates

AD 95—Clement of Rome mentioned 8 New Testament books

AD 108—Polycarp a disciple of John mentioned 15 New Testament Books

AD 160—The Tetramorph Gospels are recognized (our current four Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn) Irenaeus refers directly to these in his writings. He also mentions 21 New Testament Books in 185

AD 170—One of the first widely recognized canons the Muratorian Canon was compiled and consisted of all the current New Testament books except Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, and 3 John

AD 363—Council of Laodicea concluded a similar canon to current with the removal of Revelation and inclusion of some Jewish apocrypha

AD 382—Pope Damasus and the council of Rome issued a canonized list consisting of the modern New Testament and the Septuagint books. This is evident in the commissioning of the Latin Vulgate in 383

AD 393—The African Synod of Hippo approved the same list as above. This was reaffirmed by councils in 397 and 419

By the 5th century the Book of Revelation was brought back in and accepted

In 1546, the _____ Church added a group of books to the Old Testament of the Catholic Bible called the _____ (it means "hidden"). They are _____ history books written during the time between the Testaments. We do not accept or use the Apocrypha books as scripture because of the following reasons:

- a. The _____ and the Early Church and the Jewish people did not consider them scripture.

- b. _____ and the Apostles never quoted or referred to the Apocrypha. There are _____ direct quotations and _____ references to passages of the Old Testament in the New Testament and not one mention of the Apocrypha.
- c. They were written during a time when God was not actively speaking to His people and therefore cannot be "_____."

The New Testament was assembled by the Early Apostolic Church and is the writings of the Apostles and leaders of the Early Church.

The only serious doubt about the authenticity of any book was about the Book of _____ simply because nobody of that time understood it.

There was never a doubt as to the Apostle _____ being the author.

Peter referred to Paul's writings as _____ (II Peter 3:15-16) and Paul referred to Peter's as such (Galatians 2:8).

1. To be able to write scripture, the Apostles had to be "_____ " of the life of Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:16).

Every author of the New Testament was an eye witness to the physical life of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the Early Apostolic Church. You and I can write a book about the Bible such as this lesson, but we cannot write our own "_____" because we were not "eye witnesses" of the life of Jesus Christ and therefore the Holy Ghost will not anoint us in that way.

V. Bible _____

The most commonly asked question is which version of the Bible should I use?

Most of us cannot _____ the scriptures in the original Hebrew and Greek, so we must use a translation. There are many different _____ translations, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. There are far fewer translations in other languages but the list is growing!

Here are some key points to remember about Bible translations:

1. There is a difference between a translation and a _____.

A translation goes to the original languages and translates them into English.

A revision _____ a translation.

English translations can be roughly grouped into _____ categories:

1. _____ **translations** - the translators try to keep the wording and scriptures as close to the original text as possible. _____ Version is the most popular literal translation. The strengths of literal translations are that they are much more accurate to the original text and are therefore better to study doctrines and great truths. Their chief drawback is that it often takes some extra study to learn Hebrew figures of speech, culture, customs, and the original meaning of the words. Some of the literal translations such as the *King James Version*, and the *Revised Standard Version* are so old that some of the English words used have become obsolete or changed in the way that they are used. There have been revisions that have tried to correct these flaws such as the _____.
2. _____ **translations** - where possible, translators try to somewhat follow the original text, but will occasionally rephrase a passage or substitute an appropriate figure of speech to make the text more "readable." *The New International Version* is a good example of a "free translation."

The strengths of such translations are that they are easier to read and often help explain difficult verses involving _____, _____, or ancient _____.

The downside is that translators sometimes get their facts wrong and may _____ what the scripture is saying.

Carefully _____ a free translation against a literal one will ensure that the translator has rendered the passage correctly.

3. _____ - In these translations the translator _____ the verses so they convey in plain language what he/she feels is the _____ meaning of these verses. Some paraphrases can be quite helpful. Others are quite misleading. The most popular paraphrase ever published is called *The Living Bible*. Another one is entitled _____. Paraphrases are extremely easy to read and understand and often read like a novel. Unfortunately they also tend to leave out many facts and tend to be highly _____ of the translator's religious views.

4. _____ - In expanded translations a Greek or Hebrew scholar seeks to provide in English all possible _____ of a word in the text. For example, let's say that a translator comes across the Greek word "*phrisso*."

It can mean to bristle and react in defense. It can also mean to _____ with chills or fear. Most translators choose the meaning that they think fits best in the context and the word is rendered as "tremble" in James 2:19 KJV. An expanded translation would try to put both meanings in the verse.

One common expanded version is called *Phillips Modern English*. They can be very helpful in understanding scripture but can sometimes also be extremely hard to _____.

To outline the difference between the translations, let's look at one verse of scripture in each category.

We will use James 2:19 as an example.

1. Here's the original Greek, if we just literally translated the words into English it would say, "You believe that is one God do well the demons also believe and tremble" ("tremble" could be translated as "bristle" or "shudder").

2. *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

(King James Version - literal translation)

3. *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble!*

(New King James Version - literal translation, revised)

4. *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder.*

(New International Version - free translation)

5. *Are there still some among you who hold that "only believing" is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too-- so strongly that they tremble in terror!*

(The Living Bible -- paraphrase translation)

6. *Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demon's do that, but what good does it do them?*

(The Message - paraphrase translation)

7. *To the man who thinks that faith by itself is enough I feel inclined to say, "So you believe that there is one God? That's fine. So do all the devils in hell, and shudder in terror!"*

(Phillips Modern English - expanded translation)

Our most accurate English translation is probably the New Kings James Version or the New American Standard Update because they have the same literalness of the original but also used the Dead Sea Scrolls to check many passages. Some of the outdated English words such as "thous" and "shalts" have also been changed.

You have probably noticed that our church uses both the King James Version and the New King James Versions for our preaching texts. That is because they both continue to be the most popular translations and the most familiar.

Every translation has its faults, including the KJV and the NKJV. For that reason, I use many different translations in addition to the original Hebrew and Greek to make sure that I understand exactly what the scripture is saying.

Parallel Bibles, Bibles which have two, four, or even eight translations side by side are a great investment for a Bible scholar.

"Interlinear Bibles" which have an English translation beside the original Greek or Hebrew can be helpful.

In the same manner **Bilingual Bibles** can help when ministering to someone with a different primary language. Just because someone has a firm grasp of English as a second language doesn't mean they wouldn't be better served by being taught in their native tongue.

I use many different translations, but always line them up with the literal KJV, so as not to get away from the original meaning. If a translation says the same thing, but it is just more understandable, then I will use it.