

Junior Sabbath School Lessons

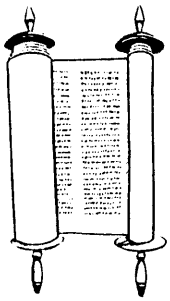
FIRST YEAR, FIRST QUARTER



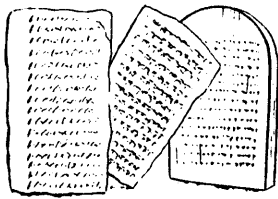
THE BIBLE WAS HANDED DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON

The Bible

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Lesson 1



PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE: *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."* Isaiah 40:8.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

Facts

The Bible is precious to me,
The Bible is precious to me,
God's letter of love,
Sent down from above,
The Bible is precious to me.

Perhaps you have sung this little song but never thought about the words. Maybe at other times you have wondered, How did the Bible come into existence? When was the first Bible written?

Let's take a look at some of the ways in which the Bible has been preserved through all the many years until today.

The word *Bible* comes from a Latin word—*Biblia*—which means "little books." In other words, the Bible as we have it today is a collection of books. These books were written over many centuries. The first book, Genesis, was written around 1,500 years before Christ, while the Jewish people were in bondage in Egypt.

"During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation. Those who had been taught of God communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 7.

It took about 1,600 years to write all the books of the Bible. Three different languages were used to write it—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The men who wrote the books of the Bible were not writers by occupation. Some were kings, shepherds, historians, poets, and inspired prophets; some were learned men, and others were simple men.

The materials that the books were written on in ancient times consisted of clay or wooden tablets, chips of limestone, broken pieces of pottery, tanned animal hides, or papyri. Since the first books of the Bible might have been written on papyrus scrolls, let's see what this material was made of.

"The stem of the papyrus plant was cut into thin strips nine to ten inches long. The strips were placed alongside each other, and a second layer was glued over them crosswise under pressure. The sheets thus produced were then hammered, and rubbed with pumice stone in order to produce an even, smooth surface. The sheets, generally measuring not more than 10 inches square, were then pasted together into rolls. . . .

"Vellum, a specially prepared hide from young animals—cattle, goats, sheep or deer—did not come into prominence before the second century B.C. It was the most expensive of all writing materials, and was used only for very valuable manuscripts, like the Bible manuscripts. . . ." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 31.

The Bible that we use today is translated from a Masoretic text which was handed down by the Jews through the centuries, copied from one manuscript to another with extreme care. Today the Bible has been translated into more than 1,000 languages.

Study

1. How were the documents of papyrus preserved in ancient times? Jeremiah 32:14.
2. Name a shepherd and a book that he wrote in the Bible. Amos 7:14.
3. Name a king and a book that he wrote. Amos 6:5; Psalm 101:1.

4. What did all the authors of the Bible have in common? 2 Peter 1:21, last part.

Research

Why do you think so much care has been taken to preserve the Bible?



Lesson 2

INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE: *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:20, 21.*

Facts

In our last lesson we found out how wonderfully the Bible has been preserved through the past until our time. Now let's take a look at how the writers received their information. You have often heard the Bible referred to as the "word of God." This shows that God is really the Author. The men who wrote the books of the Bible really just wrote down things that they were told by God, or else recorded events that they had seen themselves.

In Old Testament times, God appeared to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and spoke to them directly. This information was passed on from father to son through centuries until Moses was impressed to write it down as we have it today. In other cases, such as that of the prophets, they received their messages directly from God in dreams and visions, which they then wrote down or told to the people. Either the person who received the messages wrote them down himself or someone who heard him speak was impressed and wrote them down.

Some of the books are poetry, some are history, and others are prophecies, letters, and missionary reports. The 66 books of the Bible were written by about 35 writers; and since it took about 1,600 years to write the whole Bible, most of the authors never met each other. And yet the books that they wrote are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle; when put together, they make a complete picture. This completeness is one of the strongest evidences that the Bible really is God's word.

The strongest evidence that the Bible is the inspired word of God is, of course, the prophecies, in which the future is told centuries ahead of time and fulfilled to the very last detail. No human mind can do this. Only God can.

Study

1. How did the writers of the Bible receive their information from God?
2 Timothy 3:16, first part; Hebrews 1:1.

2. What is meant by "inspiration of God"?

NOTE: *"The infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to whom the truth was thus revealed, have themselves embodied [put into words] the thought in human language." —The Great Controversy, pp. 7, 8.*

3. Mention some examples in the Bible of this taking place. Revelation 1:10; Jeremiah 11:1; Daniel 7:1; 1 Samuel 3:4, 11.

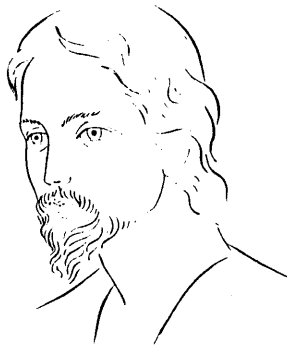
4. Why are the Bible truths so important? 2 Timothy 3:17; John 14:6.

5. What must we do with the Bible? John 5:39.

6. What does the Bible call those who read and study it? Revelation 1:3.

Research

Can you think of other instances besides the ones covered in the lesson when God appeared in a dream or vision, or sent an angel in person with a message?



THE BIBLE'S THEME

MEMORY VERSE: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.*

Facts

The theme of the whole Bible can be summed up in one word—CHRIST. The writings of the Bible point to Him and His mission in this sinful world. If you were to take everything about Christ out of the Bible, very little of value would be left.

Let's study a little further to see how Christ became the theme of the Scriptures. We find Him, right at the very beginning, working with His Father at creation. "The Father and the Son engaged in the mighty, wondrous work they had contemplated, of creating the world." —*Spirit of Prophecy*, p. 24. "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Genesis 1:26.

After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God showed them how through Christ man could have his sins forgiven and receive eternal life. He also pointed out how all their worship from that time on would remind them of the Saviour who would come to this earth and die on man's behalf so that all who believed in Christ might have eternal life.

All through the Old Testament times, which covered approximately 4,000 years, God's people looked for the promised Saviour to come to this earth. Every time a man committed a sin, an innocent animal had to be killed and sacrificed so that his sin might be forgiven. This act taught the people their need of Christ and at the same time showed them the mission of Christ on this earth. They lived under what was called the Old Covenant. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, the animal sacrifices were no longer of any value. Now man would live under the New Covenant.

After Christ's ascension, His followers carried on the work He had started while on earth. The people's attention was directed to the second coming of Christ, the preparation needed for it, and the reward which the faithful will receive.

Study

1. Who is Christ? Matthew 16:16.
2. While on earth, was Christ easily recognized as the Son of God? Philipians 2:7, 8.
3. Why did Christ become the central figure of the Bible? Romans 5:8.
4. How did Abel show that he understood Christ's mission? Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4.
5. Who wrote about Jesus in the Old Testament? John 1:45.
6. Who else received a promise of the Saviour? Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16, last part.
7. When will Christ's mission be finished? Revelation 22:12-14.

Research

If Christ had not become the central theme or subject of the Bible, can you think of another person or being who could have taken His place? If not, why not?

DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Hebrew Old Testament was divided into three main parts. Learn these groups well, and you will find that they will help you in later lessons, as well as in personal Bible study.

I. PENTATEUCH or Five Volumes also called Torah (Law)	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	
II. PROPHETS	Joshua Judges 1 and 2 Samuel 1 and 2 Kings	Historical Books
	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel	Major Prophets
	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Minor Prophets
	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	
III. HAGIOGRAPHIA or sacred writings	Psalms Proverbs Job	Poetic Books
	Song of Solomon Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes Esther	Megilloth
	Daniel Ezra Nehemiah 1 and 2 Chronicles	Other Books

The Old Testament was still used in this form in Christ's time. "And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written [1] in the law of Moses, and [2] in the prophets, and [3] in the psalms, concerning Me." Luke 24:44.

DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament can be divided into 4 main parts:

GOSPELS	Matthew Mark Luke John	
ACTS	Acts of the Apostles	
EPISTLES or Letters	Romans 1 and 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 and 2 Thessalonians 1 and 2 Timothy	Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1 and 2 Peter 1, 2, and 3 John Jude
REVELATION	Revelation	

Lesson 4

THE PENTATEUCH

MEMORY VERSE: *Old Testament books—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.*

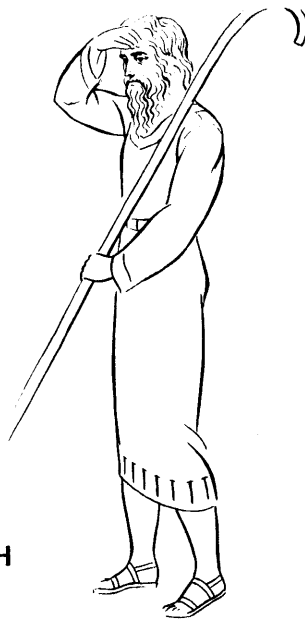
Facts

Did you ever need to find something specific in the Bible and couldn't find it? Perhaps you didn't even know where to start looking for it. Learning the different parts into which the Bible can be divided is a helpful step toward correcting such a situation. But it is only a start. The best way, of course, is daily reading of the Scriptures.

Let's look briefly at the first group of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch. The books of the Pentateuch were written by Moses, and the events in them cover the time period from about 4004 B.C. to 1451 B.C.

Genesis

GENESIS: Genesis is the book about beginnings. If this book had been left out of the Bible, the rest of the 65 books would make no sense whatever. Genesis begins with the creation of the world and man and records man's fall into sin as well as the consequences. This is followed by the story of the flood, which took place around 2348 B.C. Genesis also tells about the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The book closes with the story of Joseph and his death.



EXODUS: The word *Exodus* means "the way out," or "the going out." This book tells how Moses was called to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. It also records their travels to Sinai, where God spoke the Ten Commandments and instructed them in laws of worship, priestly service, and the building of the tabernacle (temple).

LEVITICUS: Another term for Leviticus could be the Law of the Priests. It deals mainly with the priesthood and the sanctuary service.

NUMBERS: The Hebrew name for the book of Numbers was *Bemidbar*, which meant "in the wilderness." It tells the story of the Israelites' journey and their experiences in the wilderness from Sinai to the plains of Moab.

DEUTERONOMY: "The second law" or "copy of the law" is what Deuteronomy means. In this book Moses drew the Israelites' minds to all the events that had taken place during the 40 years of their wilderness journey and pointed out how wonderfully God took care of them in spite of their murmurings and unfaithfulness. The Ten Commandments are repeated here. The book closes with Moses' death and burial.

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Study

1. To what did David compare the Bible? Psalm 12:6.
2. How did Solomon advise us to search the Scriptures? Proverbs 2:1-4.
3. What did the Bereans become through daily study of the Bible? Acts 17:11.
4. How are we blessed through the study of the Bible? Proverbs 2:5, 6.

Quiz

Circle the correct answers:

1. If you had read the Scriptures in Old Testament times, you would have
 - a. Read from a paper scroll
 - b. Read from a wooden tablet
 - c. Read from a printed book
 - d. Been taught by your father
2. It took a total of about
 - a. 1,600 years
 - b. 1,500 years
 - c. 2,500 yearsto write the books of the Bible.
3. Some of the authors of the Bible were
 - a. Kings
 - b. Bricklayers
 - c. Poets
 - d. Storekeepers
4. The following belong to the prophetic books:
 - a. Jonah
 - b. Job
 - c. Ruth
 - d. Amos
5. Another name for the Bible is
 - a. Word of God
 - b. Apocalypse
 - c. Scripture
 - d. Decalogue
6. Which person does not belong?
 - a. Isaac
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Cain
 - d. Jacob
 - a. Moses
 - b. Joseph
 - c. Aaron
 - d. Joshua

Lesson 5

PROPHETS—HISTORICAL BOOKS



MEMORY VERSE: "Thou shalt keep therefore His statutes, and His commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever." Deuteronomy 4:40.

Facts

The next group of Bible books after the Pentateuch is the Historical books under the main heading Prophets. The events in the historical books start where Deuteronomy leaves off; namely, the Israelites have come to the borders of the promised land and with Joshua chosen by God as their new leader will go forward to conquer.

JOSHUA: This book records the Israelites' crossing the Jordan River and conquering Jericho as well as the surrounding nations. The book closes with Joshua's farewell to the people and his death.

Joshua

JUDGES: After Joshua's death the Israelites became careless in their service to God and started following the customs of the heathen nations around them. Therefore, God withdrew His protection from them and they suffered invasions from the surrounding nations. These invasions brought hardships and difficulties to them. Yet the troubles caused them to remember God again and resume worshipping Him. God then, in pity, raised a man, a deliverer or "judge," to guide them back to the right path and bring relief from their enemies. The book of Judges tells the story of twelve different judges, Samson being one of them.

Judges

1 and 2 Samuel 1 and 2 SAMUEL: The first book of Samuel begins with the story of Samuel, the first of Israel's great prophets. Now a change took place in the leadership of Israel as a nation. Up until now they were led by priests and judges. Now they wanted to become a kingdom and have a king like the other nations around them. The first book records the events of the reign of King Saul, and the second book gives the events of King David's reign.

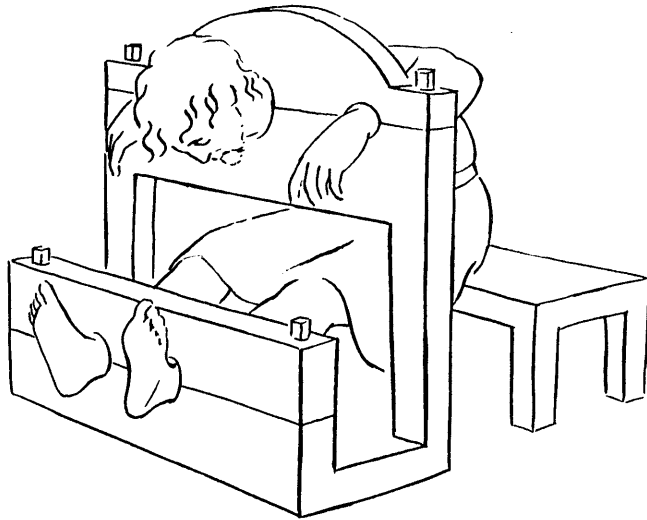
1 and 2 Kings 1 and 2 KINGS: These two books record the history of the kings who ruled the people of God. They also show the experience of Israel and God's plans and purposes for them. In the first book of Kings we find the separation of the twelve tribes of Israel. Ten tribes rebelled and united under the kingdom of Israel, and the two remaining tribes, Judah and Benjamin, formed the kingdom of Judah. The first book of Kings begins with the reign of Solomon and ends when Jehoram became king of Judah and Ahaziah king of Israel. The second book begins with Ahaziah's reign and closes with the end of the kingdom of Judah when Nebuchadnezzar invaded the country.

Study

1. As long as Israel was faithful to God, how did God take care of them?
Joshua 21:43-45.
2. What were the judges for? Deuteronomy 16:18.
3. What was the spiritual condition of the people in the time of the judges?
Judges 17:6.
4. After the judges, what did the people demand? 1 Samuel 8:6.
5. Was their wish pleasing to God? 1 Samuel 8:7-9.
6. Did God tell them that everything would be well once they had a king to rule them? 1 Samuel 8:14-18.

Quiz

1. If your mother had been Hannah, you would have been
 - a. David
 - b. Samson
 - c. Samuel
2. Which one does not belong?
 - a. Solomon
 - b. Noah
 - c. David
 - d. Saul
3. Fill in the blanks: "But _____ man did that _____ right _____ eyes."
4. Place in order of reign:
 - a. Solomon
 - b. Saul
 - c. David
5. After Joshua's death, the Israelites became
 - a. More spiritual
 - b. No change
 - c. Worldly



Lesson 6

PROPHETS—MAJOR PROPHETS

MEMORY VERSE: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." *Isaiah 58:1.*

Facts

A prophet is a man "called by God," or "one who has a vocation from God." A prophet is someone who is chosen and called by God to be His spokesman. In Old Testament times, the priest also represented the people before God, but a prophet was God's special representative.

The office of a priest was passed from father to son. In other words, if a father was a priest, then his son would be one also. Not so with a prophet. A person could become a prophet only by God's calling him. The prophets' teachings were mainly spiritual, (1) calling the people to repentance, (2) reminding them of past experiences, (3) warning of consequences if they refused to obey God, and (4) predicting future events. The prophets traveled from place to place proclaiming their messages. Let's look briefly at the background of the prophets themselves.

ISAIAH: Isaiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah. He was married and had two sons. He was called to be a prophet in the last year of King Uzziah's reign and continued in faithful service while Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled. When Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh became king. His hatred toward Isaiah was so strong that he had Isaiah put to death.

Isaiah

JEREMIAH: Jeremiah belonged to a priestly family and was called by God when he was very young, perhaps less than 20 years old. King Josiah was reigning at the time Jeremiah received his call. He lived under the rule of Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiakin, and Zedekiah. During King Jehoiakim's reign, Jeremiah nearly lost his life because of his strong messages and went into hiding. Under Judah's last king, Zedekiah, Jeremiah was put in prison because he told the people to surrender to the Babylonian army. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon allowed him to stay in Jerusalem. Later the remaining Jews took him with them to Egypt, where he died.

Jeremiah

EZEKIEL: Ezekiel was a priest who was taken captive to Babylon along with 10,000 of King Jehoiakin's chief people. Ezekiel was married, but his wife died suddenly in the ninth year of the captivity.

Ezekiel

Study

1. How and why was Isaiah called? Isaiah 6:8, 9.
2. How was Jeremiah chosen? Jeremiah 1:6, 7.
3. Why was Ezekiel called? Ezekiel 2:3, 4.
4. Why was Jeremiah not taken to Babylon? Jeremiah 40:2, first part, 4, 6.
5. How can we tell that a prophet is really from God? Ezekiel 33:33; Isaiah 8:20.

Quiz

1. The story of Moses' birth is written in
 - a. Deuteronomy
 - b. Genesis
 - c. Exodus
2. If your father had been Amram, you would have been
 - a. Moses
 - b. Saul
 - c. Aaron
3. The Ten Commandments, or the Decalogue, are recorded in
 - a. Exodus
 - b. Deuteronomy
 - c. Leviticus
4. Fill in the blanks: "To the _____ and to the _____:
if they speak _____ according to this _____, it is _____
there is _____."
5. The twelve tribes separated into which 2 kingdoms?
 - a. Benjamin
 - b. Levi
 - c. Israel
 - d. Judah



Lesson 7

PROPHETS—MINOR PROPHETS

MEMORY VERSE: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.

Facts

The second group of prophets are called minor, not because their messages are less important than the major prophets but because their books are so much smaller. The first nine minor prophets, in order, called the people's attention to their backslidden condition. They warned and admonished them and pointed to the glorious future which would be theirs if they would only repent. The last three of the minor prophets were called to arouse God's people to action and wholehearted worship of God after they returned to Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity.

HOSEA: Hosea was a prophet in the northern kingdom of Israel during King Jeroboam II's reign. All his messages were for the kingdom of Israel.

Hosea

JOEL: His book was directed to the kingdom of Judah, and he used a plague of locusts and drought in comparing the terrors of the coming day of judgment.

Joel

Amos	AMOS: He worked under King Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel. He delivered messages to the kingdom of Israel as well, but he was a citizen of Judah.
Obadiah	OBADIAH: This book contains only 21 verses describing the punishment that Edom would receive for its cruelty to Judah. It also predicted the final victory of God's people and His kingdom.
Jonah	JONAH: This book tells of Jonah's mission to Nineveh—how the people of the city heeded God's message to them and were saved from destruction.
Micah	MICAH: He was called in the time of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah.
Nahum	NAHUM: He was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah. He told about the future ruin of Nineveh.
Habakkuk	HABAKKUK: A prophet in Judah, his book was written at a time of great apostasy.
Zephaniah	ZEPHANIAH: He was a prophet while King Josiah was on the throne.
Haggai	HAGGAI: He was the first of the prophets called to bear a message after the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity. His messages were responsible for getting the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem started during the reign of Darius I of Persia.
Zechariah	ZECHARIAH: He was appointed to arouse the Jews to action in Jerusalem.
Malachi	MALACHI: He was the last prophet in the era before Christ. He aroused the returned Jews to worship God wholeheartedly.

Study

1. Why are the past experiences, as told by the prophets, important for us as well? Isaiah 41:21-23.
2. To what event did Joel draw the people's attention? Joel 1:15; 2:1.
3. How did Amos tell about God's love for His people? Amos 9:14, 15.

4. What is God to those who trust Him? Nahum 1:7.

5. What was Haggai's message? Haggai 1:7, 8, 14, last part.

6. What will be the reward of those who obey the messages from God? Malachi 3:17.

Quiz

1. Jeremiah was a
 - a. Shepherd
 - b. Son of a priest
 - c. Poet
2. When Isaiah's mission was finished, he
 - a. Retired
 - b. Was put to death
 - c. Went to Egypt
3. If you wanted to find the story of Samson, you would look for it in the book of
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. Judges
 - c. 1 Kings
4. Prophets were chosen for their office
 - a. By a special call from God
 - b. By succession from father to son
 - c. By their own wish
5. Not all the messages of the prophets were similar. Name some of them.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

Judah		Israel	
KING	PROPHET	KING	PROPHET
Amaziah		Jehoash	Jonah
Azariah (Uzziah)	Amos	Jeroboam II	Amos
Jotham		Zechariah	
	Micah	Shallum	Hosea
Ahaz		Pekah	
Hezekiah		Hoshea	
Manasseh			
Amon	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Joel		
Josiah			
Jehoahaz			
Jehoiakim	Jeremiah		
Jehoiakin			
Zedekiah	Obadiah Ezekiel Daniel		Fall of Jerusalem
			Return to Jerusalem of Zerubbabel
	Haggai Zechariah		
			Ezra's return to Jerusalem
	Malachi		Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem

Lesson 8



HAGIOGRAPHHA—POETIC BOOKS

MEMORY VERSE: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Psalm 121.

Facts

The last main group of books in the Old Testament is the Hagiographa. It includes the Poetic Books which make up the main poetic literature of the Old Testament. There are poetic sections in other books as well, but these three books represent the high point of Old Testament literature.

JOB: The book of Job is the story of a good man who feared God and stayed away from evil. He was a very rich man with seven sons, three daughters, and much cattle. Then disaster struck him; he lost everything and then became sick, full of boils. Three of his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zopha, came to visit him. They had serious conversations with Job, trying to figure out why God would let the righteous person suffer. Toward the end of the book, God interrupted their talks and told them that often a human being cannot understand why God lets him go through trials, but "all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans." Romans 8:28, The Living Bible. The book of Job closes when God heals Job and blesses him so that he has twice as much as he had before.

Job

Psalms

PSALMS: The book of Psalms is a collection of poems and hymns. The theme of the book of Psalms is that man is in need and trouble and God is able to give him relief. In Roman times, all good Jews knew the Psalms by heart. A highlight of worship in the temple was the singing of psalms by the choir, or by the choir and the congregation singing responsively. Some of the psalms were sung at special occasions; for example, Psalms 113-118 were for Passover, Psalm 118 was for Pentecost, Tabernacle and dedication, Psalm 81 was for the new moon, and Psalm 29 was for evening sacrifice.

Proverbs

PROVERBS: This is a book of wise sayings; Solomon was its author. He wrote the Proverbs early in his life, while he was still obedient to God. The theme of the book is trust and reverence toward God. "For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding." Proverbs 9:10, The Living Bible. The book of Proverbs is different from most of the Old Testament, mainly because it does not mention any events in the history of the people of Israel nor has it any reference to the hope of Israel's future. Most of the book deals with general rules about life. "Its principles of diligence, honesty, thrift, temperance, and purity are the secret of true success." —*Education*, p. 135.

Study

1. What is the theme of the book of Job? Job 1:21, last part.
2. Why was Job able to stand his trials? James 5:11.
3. How did God bless Job for his faithfulness in trouble? Job 42:10, 12.
4. What is the theme of the Psalms? Psalm 77:1-3; 121:2.
5. How many proverbs did Solomon write? 1 Kings 4:32.
6. What is the fear of the Lord? Proverbs 1:7.

Quiz

1. Elijah was a prophet in King Ahab's time. Which book of the Old Testament would tell about Elijah?
2. The story of Naaman took place in the time of Elisha and Kings Joram and Jehoshaphat. Can you name the book where the story is found?
3. The events of King Solomon's reign are found in
 - a. 2 Samuel
 - b. 1 Kings
 - c. 2 Kings
4. Fill in the blanks: "The Lord _____, and the Lord hath _____; blessed be the _____ the Lord."



Lesson 9

HAGIOGRAPHHA—MEGILLOTH AND OTHER BOOKS

MEMORY VERSE: *New Testament books—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude, Revelation.*

Facts

The last group of books under Hagiographa includes all those that are left over. Even these can be put into two groups. The first group is called Megilloth, or rolls, consisting of Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther. The second group includes Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 and 2 Chronicles.

MEGILLOTH

Song of Solomon **SONG OF SOLOMON:** This book is a poem in praise of love. It tells the story of Solomon and his love for a country girl, whom he married. This story is a beautiful illustration of the love between Christ and His church.

Ruth

RUTH: This story took place in the time of the judges. It tells about Ruth, a Moabite woman, who traveled to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law after both their husbands died. There Ruth found work in the fields of Boaz, whom she married and thereby became the great-grandmother of King David.

LAMENTATIONS: This book was written by the prophet Jeremiah in the last days of Judah. In it Jeremiah weeps over the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

ECCLESIASTES: Another word for Ecclesiastes is the Preacher, written by Solomon. This book tells about the folly of life. In Solomon's youth he had been a God-fearing man, but later in his life he lost his faith in God and went into apostasy. He then returned and regained favor in God's sight; Ecclesiastes tells the story of his wasted years as a lesson of warning to everyone.

ESTHER: This is the story of a Jewish girl whom the king of Persia, Ahasuerus, made his queen and how she used her position to save the Jewish people from a death sentence.

OTHER BOOKS

DANIEL: The book of Daniel tells the story of Daniel and his friends, princes of royal blood, who were taken captive to Babylon. Through Daniel's faithfulness to God in a heathen land, God blessed him and he was made the "third ruler in the kingdom." The book tells of Daniel's prophetic visions concerning world history.

1 and 2 CHRONICLES, EZRA, and NEHEMIAH: These books are very closely related to each other. The events in Ezra and Nehemiah follow those of the Chronicles. The first book of Chronicles has the genealogical tables from Adam to David. The rest of the book is the story of King David. 2 Chronicles begins with the reign of King Solomon. It records the division of the two kingdoms and ends with the captivity in Babylon and the destruction of Jerusalem. The book of Ezra tells of the Jews' return to Jerusalem from Babylon and of the rebuilding of the temple. The book of Nehemiah tells of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, the reformation of the temple service, worship, reading of the law, and keeping of the feasts.

Lamentations

Ecclesiastes

Esther

Daniel

1 and 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah

Study

1. According to Solomon, what is the duty of man? Ecclesiastes 12:13. Why? Ecclesiastes 12:14.
2. Had Solomon lived his life wisely? Ecclesiastes 2:11.
3. Why were the Jewish people taken captive to Babylon? Nehemiah 9:34.
4. What blessing did Daniel and his friends receive for being faithful to God? Daniel 1:17.
5. Why is it important for us to study God's dealings in the past? 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Quiz

1. Miriam, Moses' sister was struck with leprosy in the wilderness. What book has the story?
2. The Bible was originally written in three languages—
 - a. Hebrew
 - b. Latin
 - c. Greek
 - d. Arabian
 - e. Aramaic
3. If your father had been Jesse, you would have been
 - a. Jonathan
 - b. Saul
 - c. David
4. The story of Daniel in the lions' den is in what book?

THE GOSPELS

MEMORY VERSE: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Matthew 9:35.

Facts

The first group of books in the New Testament is called the Gospels. The word "gospel" means "good tidings." The gospels record Christ's public ministry on earth. Each writer wrote his own impressions of the events. For example, Matthew was a Jew. In his book he stressed Christ's mission to the Jews. Luke was a physician, so he wrote what Christ meant to the needs of humanity. Therefore, the four gospels bring out four points of view about Christ's ministry.

MATTHEW: Matthew was a tax collector stationed in Capernaum. With great interest he heard the proclamation of Christ's message. Soon afterward, Jesus called him to be one of His disciples. Matthew was a converted Jew, and therefore his book is directed to the Jewish people. His purpose was to show them that Christ really fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. He presented Christ as the great Teacher, the Son of Man. The outstanding feature of the book of Matthew is the complete reports of Christ's sermons and studies.

MARK: Mark is the last name of this book's author. His first name is John. His mother was Mary, and he was a cousin of Barnabas. John Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark had neither heard nor followed Jesus during His time on earth; he wrote the story of Christ as it was told to him by Peter. His book was written for non-Jews and shows Jesus as the Man of action. It records almost all of Christ's miracles. It is the shortest book of the gospels, yet it records most of the incidents reported in the other gospels.



Matthew

Mark

Luke

LUKE: This book was written by Luke, the beloved physician, a close companion of the apostle Paul. Luke was a Gentile converted to Christianity. He wrote down the life of Jesus as preached by Paul. He was the only gospel writer who told the details of Christ's birth and the events surrounding it, His infancy and childhood. He also recorded the birth of John the Baptist. Matthew pointed out what Jesus taught; Mark, what he did; and Luke, both. He showed Christ as the Friend of humanity, the human side of His nature.

John

JOHN: "The disciple whom Jesus loved" was the author of the fourth gospel. The name John means, "The Lord is gracious." John's mother was one of the devout women who looked after the needs of Jesus and the disciples on their journeys. It was John whom Jesus asked, on the cross, to look after His mother. The book of John records mostly the events that took place in Judea. John pointed out Jesus as the divine Son of God. He emphasized the importance of believing the truth about Jesus. He used the word "believe" or a word with the same meaning more than 100 times.

Study

1. How was Matthew called to follow Jesus? Matthew 9:9.
2. Who wrote the book of Mark? Acts 15:37.
3. Who was Luke? Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24.
4. How was John called? Mark 1:19, 20.
5. What two events does only Luke record? Luke 1:13, 31.
6. What type of events did John record? John 20:30, 31.

Quiz

1. Who does not belong?
 - a. Jonah
 - b. Malachi
 - c. Joshua
 - d. Hosea
2. Before John was called by Jesus, he was a
 - a. Tax collector
 - b. Physician
 - c. Fisherman
 - d. Teacher
3. If you had seen the frankincense that the wise men gave to Jesus, you would have seen some
 - a. Resin from a tree
 - b. Flour to make cakes
 - c. Gold jewelry
4. If you had met a Gentile, he would have been
 - a. A priest
 - b. A Jewish ruler
 - c. Someone who was not a Jew
5. If you had told someone the gospel, you would be telling the good news about
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Matthew
 - c. Paul



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

MEMORY VERSE: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:17.

Facts

Acts

The Acts of the Apostles, written by Luke the beloved physician, records events in the early Christian church. Much of the book contains the experiences made by Peter and Paul. This book could be divided into the following six sections:

I. Acts 1:6-5:42. The first section deals with events such as the ascension of Christ, the choice of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot, the receiving of the Holy Ghost (early rain), its result of 3,000 converts, and the imprisonment of Peter and John.

II. Acts 6:1-9:31. These chapters deal with the stoning of Stephen and Paul's conversion.

III. Acts 9:32-12:24. This section tells of the missionary work of Peter, his acts of healing, his dream at Joppa in which he was shown that his missionary efforts were to include the Gentiles as well as the Jews, the death of James the brother of John, and Peter's imprisonment and escape.

IV. Acts 12:25-16:5. Paul's missionary travels from Antioch to Cyprus, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Syria, and Cilicia are covered in these chapters.

V. Acts 16:6-19:20. Paul's travels from Philippi to Ephesus, his second missionary trip, are described here.

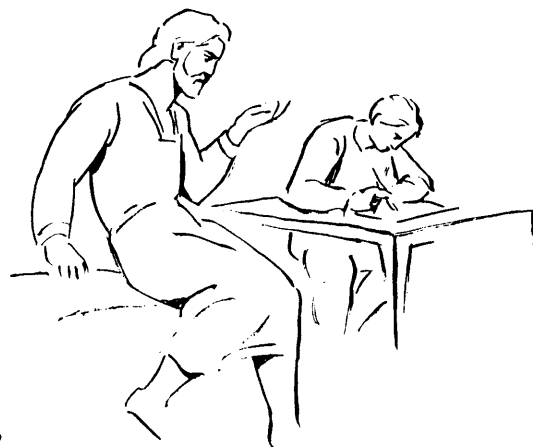
VI. Acts 19:21-28:31. Paul's return to Jerusalem takes place in this last section. He was arrested there and then sent to Rome, where he defended his faith. He remained there for two years, preaching the truth to all who would listen to him.

Study

1. What commission did Christ give the disciples? Acts 1:8.
2. How did they receive this power? Acts 2:2-4.
3. What was the result of this power? Acts 2:41.
4. Who agreed to the stoning of Stephen? Acts 8:1; 22:20.
5. How did God call Saul? Acts 9:3-7.
6. Mention two of Peter's miracles. Acts 9:33, 34, 36, 37, 40.
7. How did the Jews accept the message preached by Paul? What was the result? Acts 18:6.

Quiz

1. If you had met a Pharisee, you would have seen a man who was a
 - a. Shepherd
 - b. Religious leader
 - c. Disciple of Christ
2. If you had gone to the upper room with Jesus and His disciples, you would probably have seen them
 - a. Baptize people
 - b. Eat the Last Supper
 - c. Feed 5,000 people
3. If your father had been Zacharias, you would have been
 - a. Moses
 - b. Peter
 - c. John the Baptist
4. If you had talked with Nicodemus, he might have told you about his visit with
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Paul
 - c. David
5. If you had traveled with Paul, you would have been
 - a. Luke
 - b. Barnabas
 - c. Stephen



Lesson 12

THE EPISTLES

MEMORY VERSE: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1, 2.

Facts

The third group, the Epistles, is the largest number of writings in the New Testament. There are 21 in all. Most of these letters were written because problems arose in the first century Christian churches. Often these problems were false teachings which Satan brought in to try to destroy God's church. Other times they were general admonition and encouragement for the believers. Some of them were circular letters for several churches, and some were personal letters. Yet all of them were filled with the truths that were applicable to the church in the first century as well as in our day.

The letters that Paul wrote were usually dictated by him to a scribe, who wrote them down for him. Then Paul usually added a salutation in his own handwriting to each letter so that it could be proven that he wrote it. At that time many letters were being sent around in Paul's name and were forged. Let's look briefly at the epistles.

Romans

ROMANS: This letter was written by Paul from Corinth during his third missionary journey.

1 and 2 CORINTHIANS: These letters were written from Ephesus, also during Paul's third missionary journey.

GALATIANS: This letter was written to the churches in Galatia, a Roman province.

EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, and COLOSSIANS: These three letters are referred to as the prison epistles, since they were all written from Rome during Paul's imprisonment.

1 and 2 THESSALONIANS: These are the first letters which were preserved. Most likely Paul had written other letters to churches before, but they are not part of the Bible.

1 and 2 TIMOTHY and TITUS: These letters are called "pastoral epistles" because they deal mainly with the duties of church officers. They are the earliest church manuals. These letters were written after Paul's Roman imprisonment, a part of his life of which very little is known.

PHILEMON: This is a personal letter from Paul, while in Rome, to Philemon, who lived in Colossae. In this letter, Paul pleaded the cause of Onesimus, a runaway slave who was converted by Paul. The apostle asked Philemon to treat him kindly when he returned.

HEBREWS: Not much is known as to where and when this letter was written, but most likely it was written close to the end of Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

JAMES: This letter by James was written to the church at large. It is not known for certain which James wrote it, but usually credit is given to James the brother of Jesus.

1 and 2 PETER: These are general circular letters to all the churches. They are also pastoral letters written near the close of Peter's life.

1, 2, and 3 JOHN: These letters were written by the same John who wrote the gospel. The first letter is pastoral; the second and third are personal.

JUDE: This letter was probably sent to the churches in Asia Minor. It is not certain who Jude was, but since he described himself as the brother of James, he could be the brother of Jesus as well.

1 and
2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians

1 and
2 Thessalonians

1 and 2 Timothy
Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 and 2 Peter

1, 2, and 3 John

Jude

Study

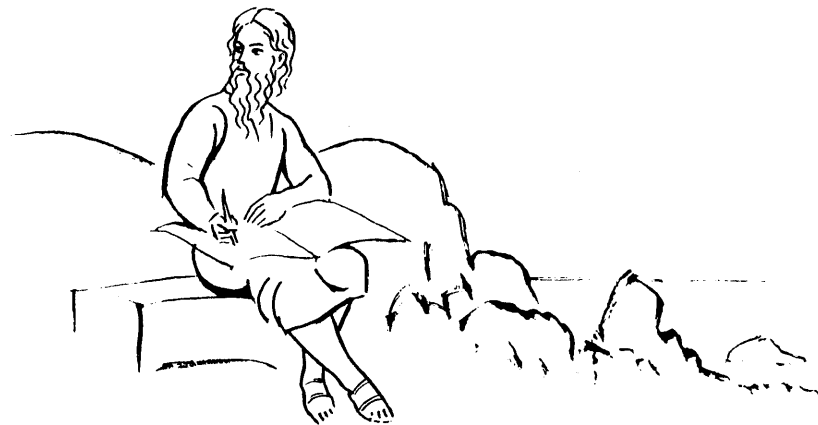
1. What is the central theme of the book of Romans? Romans 5:1.
2. What was the secret of Paul's success in his missionary work? 1 Corinthians 13.
3. What did Paul say the coming of the Lord will be like if we do not watch? 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3, 6.
4. What will the knowledge of the Bible do for a child? 2 Timothy 3:15.
5. What does loving God mean? 1 John 5:3.

Quiz

1. If you had been at the Last Supper, you would have seen
 - a. Jesus and the Jewish leaders
 - b. Jesus and the disciples
 - c. Jesus and the Pharisees
2. Which one does not belong?
 - a. Peter
 - b. Paul
 - c. Barnabas
 - d. Job

True or False?

3. Luke accompanied Peter on his missionary journeys.
4. Jesus had four brothers.
5. Mark was a follower of Jesus.
6. Fill in the blanks: "And _____ abideth faith, _____, _____, these _____; but the greatest of _____ is _____."



Lesson 13

THE REVELATION

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3.

Facts

Another name for the book of Revelation is the Apocalypse. The word *Apocalypse* comes from a Greek word, *apokalupsis*, meaning "an unveiling." The book of Revelation was written by John, the author of the gospel and the three books of John.

When the Roman emperor started to persecute the followers of Christ, John was also arrested and taken to Rome, where he stood trial for the truth. The court, however, brought false witnesses to testify against him. In spite of them, John answered for his faith in a clear and bold manner. Hearing his testimony, the emperor became angry. He blasphemed God and ordered John to be sent to the rocky, barren Isle of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea, where the worst of the criminals were imprisoned.

While in exile, the Lord did not forsake him but showed to John in visions and dreams the events to take place before the second coming of Christ, at Christ's coming, and at the establishment of the new earth. The book of Revelation shows these events in symbols. When they are compared with the history of the world, they take definite shape as events of history.

Revelation

The Revelation can be divided into 4 main parts: Chapters 1-3, The Seven Churches; Chapters 4-8:1, The Seven Seals; Chapters 8:2-11:19, The Seven Trumpets; and Chapters 12-22, The Closing Events of the World's History.

John received his visions as follows: From God to Jesus, from Jesus to the Angel, from the Angel to the prophet, and from the prophet to the people. The messages that John wrote to the seven churches were applicable to the churches in Asia Minor at John's time as well as in a special way to the seven time periods that cover the entire history of the Christian church.

The theme of the book of Revelation is, of course, the second coming of Christ. "In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation." —*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 585.

A portion of the prophecies of Revelation have already taken place, some are taking place now, and some are still in the future.

In order to receive the full benefit of these lessons, why don't you start a program of personal Bible study? For example, you can read the whole Bible through in one year if you read three chapters each weekday and five chapters each Sabbath.

Study

1. What is the theme of the book of Revelation? Revelation 1:7.
2. When will this event take place? Revelation 3:11.
3. Only who will be able to participate in this event? Revelation 3:21.
4. What are the outstanding characteristics of these people? Revelation 14:5, 12.
5. What will happen to those who do not have these characteristics? Revelation 20:15.

6. What will happen to those whose names are written in the book of life? Revelation 20:6.

7. What will God do for them? Revelation 21:4.

8. What must we keep in mind at all times? Revelation 22:12.

Quiz

True or False?

1. The book of Numbers tells about Israel's wilderness journey.
2. The book of Judges tells the stories of 11 judges.
3. The story of King David is found in 2 Chronicles.
4. Esther became the queen of King Ahasuerus. He was the king of
 - a. Israel
 - b. Persia
 - c. Rome
5. The minor prophets' messages to God's people were given
 - a. Before the Babylonian captivity
 - b. During the Babylonian captivity
 - c. After the return of the captives to Jerusalem
6. Between the writings of the Old Testament and the writings of the New Testament there is a space of about 400 years. Does the Bible mention any events taking place during this period?
7. The story of Christ's ascension is written in
 - a. Mark
 - b. John
 - c. Acts
8. Fill in the blanks: "_____ whosoever was not _____
 _____ in the book of _____ was cast into
 the _____."

HOW JOHN RECEIVED HIS MESSAGES

From GOD

JESUS

ANGEL (Gabriel)

JOHN

US