

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 1 – “An Introduction to the Bible”
January 28, 2007

The Bible speaks of Itself— Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Three Important Words—

- Revelation – God’s initiative to make Himself known.

God has revealed himself in three ways—(a) Creation (The Universe), (b) Incarnation (Jesus), (c) Inspiration (The Bible)
- Inspiration – “breathing in of life”. God’s voice put to print.
- Illumination – Bringing God’s truth to light, making it understandable.

Looking at the Bible from Four Different Perspectives—

1. The Nature of the Bible

The Bible = “Biblos”= “book”

The Bible is not actually a single book, but a collection of books—66 in all—39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament. It’s a complete library.

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. (There are Aramaic insertions in both.)

2. The Arrangement of the Bible

A. The Old Testament

- Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy) – AKA The Pentateuch
- History (Joshua to Esther)
- Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon) – AKA The Wisdom Books
- Prophets (Isaiah to Malachi) – 5 Major (Longer) & 12 Minor (Shorter)

B. The New Testament

- The Gospels (Biography)

- The Acts of the Apostles (History)
- The Letters or Epistles (Doctrinal)
- The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Prophetic or Apocalyptic)

3. The Theme of the Bible

The Central Theme of the Bible—in the ultimate sense if not the immediate sense—is Jesus Christ.

A. Jesus is the Key to the Unity of the Scriptures.

The 66 books of the Bible were written by some 40 writers of varied backgrounds scattered over a wide geographical area, spanning a time frame of some 1500 years—and yet there is an incredible unity of purpose.

B. The Key to Understanding the Scriptures. Luke 24: 27, 44, 45

- Law—The Foundation is Laid for Christ
- History—The Preparation is Made for Christ
- Poetry—The Aspiration for Christ
- Prophecy—The Anticipation of Christ
- Gospels—The Manifestation of Christ
- Acts—The Proclamation of Christ
- Letters—The Interpretation & Application of Christ
- Revelation—The Consummation of All Things in Christ

4. The Trustworthiness of the Bible

- Inerrant – Truth without any mixture of error
- Infallible – Unfailing
- Authoritative – Weighty, Important