

## Questions / Answers

1. How many books are there in the Bible?  
*66 books—39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the NT.*
2. What does 'Testament' mean?  
*An agreement. The Bible is about two agreements between God and men*
3. What sort of books are there in the Old Testament?  
*The Law, history, Psalms for singing, wise sayings prophets*
4. What sort of books are there in the New Testament?  
*4 Gospels—life of Jesus, Acts—preaching the Gospel, letters, prophecy*
5. In what language was the Old Testament written? *Hebrew*
6. In what language was the New Testament written? *Greek*
7. What is inspiration?  
*God guided the men who wrote the Bible and gave them the message to write.*
8. What does God's message in the Bible tell us about?  
*How God wants us to live. About His wonderful Kingdom to come on the earth.*

## Memory verses

Learn the books of the Bible, a few at a time, over the next few weeks.

## Discussion

Look up the following verses. What are they teaching us about how the Bible was written?

2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 36 verses 1-2, 27 & 32; John 14:26

2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16—17; Romans 15:4

## Writing

Choose a book of the Bible and write a brief summary of what it is about.

# CBM Senior Lessons

## Lesson 1 The Bible



**READING** 2 Timothy 3:16—17 & Romans 15:4

### LESSON

The word 'Bible' means 'book'. The Bible is often called the Holy Bible because it is a special book. Holy means 'separate' or 'special'. It is a message from God. The Bible is about God and His purpose with men.

The Bible has many sections which are put together to make one big book. Each of these sections is called a book. Each book is a separate part, written by a different author, at a different time. In the whole Bible there are 66 books. So the Bible is like a library of books.

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b> 39 BOOKS	<b>NEW TESTAMENT</b> 27 BOOKS
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The books are divided into two parts called testaments. There is the Old Testament and the New Testament. 'Testament' is another word for 'covenant' or 'agreement'. The Bible tells of agreements between God and men - an old agreement and a new agreement. Look at the beginning of your Bible. You will find a list of the names of all the books. This is to help you to find any book you need to look at. It is quicker if you learn by heart the order of the books. See if you can do this over the next few weeks.

Each of the books is divided into chapters, and each chapter is divided into verses. So if you are told to look at a certain part of the Bible, you will be given the book, the chapter and the verse. For example: The book of Isaiah, chapter 2 verse 4. This will often be shortened to Isaiah 2:4. Look up this verse to make sure you can find it.

The books of the Old Testament were written over a very long period of time. The earliest books were probably written about 1,400 years before Christ (BC). The latest book was written about 400 years before Christ. So the Old Testament was written over a period of a thousand years. The New Testament was written over a period of less than 40 years. The earliest book was written about 50 years after the birth of Jesus (AD) and the latest book not more than 90 years after his birth.

Many different men wrote the various books of the Bible. Sometimes we know their names and where they lived. In the Old Testament there were men called prophets who wrote books which are called by their names. In the New Testament there are letters written by Paul and other followers of Jesus.

In the Old Testament there are books of Law with God's teaching for life, books of history, books of Psalms for singing and books of wise sayings. There are the writings of the prophets - men who brought God's messages to the people and told of future events. In the New Testament there are four Gospel records - telling about the life and teaching of Jesus. There is a history of the first preaching of Jesus' message by his followers. There are letters written to the first Christian churches. The last book is a book of prophecy, pointing forward to events in the future.

Many years ago books were written on scrolls of leather, or parchment made from animal skins. Later, books were written on scrolls of papyrus - a sort of paper. The scrolls were long pieces of parchment or paper. The writing was in columns. The scroll was rolled round two short poles. The scroll was rolled backwards and forwards to find the right column of writing.



The Old Testament was written in the HEBREW language. The New Testament was written in GREEK. Before printing was invented, new copies had to be written by hand. Each copy took a long time to make. Later hand written copies were produced in book form.

*An old hand written Bible*



The Bible has been translated from Hebrew and Greek into many other languages. We call these 'versions' of the Bible.

Nearly 500 years ago the Bible was translated into English. The best known translation is called the Authorised Version (AV). It has been used from that time onward. It is sometimes hard to understand the Authorised Version. The English language has changed over the last 500 years. The meaning of some words has changed.

New versions of the Bible have now been made in modern English. You may have a copy of one. Some are better translations than others. You also may have a copy of the Bible in your own language.

Remember that the message and teaching of the Bible is always the same. The language into which it is faithfully translated does not make any difference to the message.

The Bible is different and special. The men who wrote the Bible did not just write down their own ideas. They wrote as they were guided by God. We call this guidance 'inspiration'. God gave a message to the men who wrote the Bible and they wrote down the ideas and words from God.

God has taken a lot of trouble to give us His message in the Bible. At times wicked men have tried to destroy God's words in the Bible. But God has made sure that the Bible has survived. Today the Bible is translated into hundreds of different languages. We can read God's words in our own language.

The Bible is God's message to you. It tells us how God wants us to live. It gives us the hope of living for ever in God's wonderful kingdom that will be established on the earth.