

Bible Study Wesley^{at} Foundation

- The Bible is divided into two parts
1. The Old Testament - 39 books
 2. New Testament - 27 books

The word "Bible". At first the Bible was thought of as a library of many books. It was called *Biblia* which meant books because this is the plural of the Greek neuter noun *Biblion*. But the title was brought over from the Greek into Latin.

Now in Latin *Biblia* may be neuter plural or feminine singular. So as men were impressed with the unity of the Bible they thought of the many books more and more as one book. So the neuter plural was treated as a feminine singular and *Biblia* - books - became *biblia* Book, and from this is derived our English word - Bible.

Sir Walter Scott - sitting in his rolling chair - asked his son-in-law to read to him. Mr. Lockhart asked, "What book do you want me to read from?" "Why ask - there is but one."

The Bible is a unique book. There is none other like it - none that can compare to it. It is unique because it has in it a satisfying revelation of the

mind of God. It is in a special sense God's word unto us - In its pages - man discovers the voice of God speaking to his soul - The story of Christ is told in its pages and God through Christ opens to us the plan of salvation.

Its uniqueness has won for it a place in the literature of the world written in 222 languages and dialects. as for book or 1924 - 30 000 000 copies and portions of it were printed.

The history of its influence is the history of the nations - all of our laws are founded upon it -

Luther gives Europe an open Bible and Protestantism is born - under its influence Christia an order of society in Christia dating back further than Moses gives way to a new republic.

Huxley - an agnostic - said:
(Read page 137)

The Bible is one book - U.S. is one nation
It is also a library of 66 books - like states in U.S.

As a library it is a progressive revelation of God.

The writer of Judges does not have the exalted conception of God that Paul did

Simple things first revealed in nature as people could receive them and the Jews were the people best developed in this likely why they were known as the Chosen people.

The Bible was not delivered to the world ready made but is the long story of man's experience with God.

Canon = Rule of Christian faith and life

- Two methods of study
1. Grammatical
 2. Historical

Ice - glass of water

Review:

The Bible is -

- a. A library of 66 books
- b. In two divisions - O.T. & N.T.
- c. unique book
- d. a progressive revelation

The revelation was unfolded through the history of the Hebrew people - culminating in the person of Jesus Christ

For the Hebrews it was reserved beyond all other peoples to teach the world what it has known of religion.

The Bible, as we now have it was not dropped down from heaven. People at first did not write things down but from mouth to ear. The people's idea of God and His dealings with man was passed from father to son.

But it is the instinct of the race to set things down. This was begun in song and story. In this form a large collection of literature sprang up - it was a body of literature that was the speaking out loud of the innermost feelings of the soul.

But not yet was there any Bible - these songs and stories were just so

many springs from which rise the streams that form the river of revelation

Let us look now in a general way at the O.T. like ancient Gaul it is divided into three parts -

- I. The Law
- II. the Prophets
- III. The Writings

Let us consider the Law in particular.

It is called the

a. Books of Moses
b. the Law
c. Pentateuch

Composed of

5 books
5 authors
5 numbers
500

Of these three divisions of the O.T. the Law was the first to be completed in its present form and recognized as the word of God

Open your Bible - there it is as the door way to the Auditorium of the prophets and further to the altar of grace -

Let us repeat now that the divinest thoughts of the Hebrew people were first transmitted by word of mouth, then written in song and story and then the best of these were finally incorporated into Hebrew Bible

Began Moses and in the days of the patri-
archs certain laws were observed in Israel.

1. The Law of Sabbath
2. Rules for Sacrifice
3. Rite of Circumcision
4. The Law of the Tithe
5. The Law against murder
6. The Law against adultery

The history of the world is the biography of great men -

Paul opened door of salvation to Gentiles
Luther - brought Reformation
Wesley - the revival of 18th Century
The law is associated with Moses.

Moses 1400 B.C. learned carpentry and stone
from his mother and sister - no Bible
yet - at 40 he went to lonely life

at 80 he had finished the school of the prophets
after this he revealed the Commandments.

In the plains beneath Sinai he delivered
to the people a body of law Ex - 20-23 - The
Book of the Covenant.

whatever body of law he had was placed
in the ark of the covenant. It was
still in the ark when Solomon dedi-
cated the temple.

The question arises, "How did this
small body of law ⁴⁰⁰⁰ increase?"

Just B4. The Israelites sojourned in the wilderness Moses would sit all day to judge the people -

Their problems and calls upon him ~~was~~ ^{were} more than he could get from. So prophets, priests, and judges helped him -

Their interpretation of the law in connection with the peoples problems became legislation - This was continued through period of judges -

621 B.C. while temple was being repaired a priest Hilkiah found a book and was impressed with it - So he had the scribe ^{write} it to Josiah the King -

This was the first book accepted by King, priest, and people as "Supreme Authority in all matters of religion and conduct"

What book was this? you see up to now we have the "Book of the Covenant" and whatever else grew around it from these prophets, priests, and judges in interpretation of the law as they helped Moses making up five books Gen - Ex - Leviticus numbers & Deut.

This book seems to have been Deut. The word means "Repetition of the Law" It was a sort of comment on the Law - The fundamental Law of Moses

Cast in to popular form - suited to a
more complex society -

As a result of the reading of this
book ^{The 5th} ~~put~~ ^{an} ~~regorus~~;

- a. Public worship centralized at Jerusalem
- b. worship of heavenly bodies suppressed
- c. wizards expelled
- d. Feast of Passover celebrated

But this did not save Judah - there were
invasions!

606 BC Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and companions

597 BC took King Jehoiachin & 10,000 persons

586 BC Jerusalem destroyed & carried to Babylon

(The 5 books)

In Babylon Israel relied on the book, a set
got it all together - The four books of the
Law were grouped around the Book of
Deut and the Pentateuch as we have
it today was formed. Some time be-
tween 586 and 544 B.C.

544 BC 40,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem and
began to build the walls & temple - work was
completed under Nehemiah.

The people assembled and Ezra the
scribe read from the book - He explained
and the people were stirred.

Next day he read again in the
synagogue giving directions for feast
of Tabernacles - The feast was called
and for 7 days he read in the Book

- The Completed Law -

Two days after the feast a solemn fast was proclaimed - after prayer by Nehemiah the Covenant was renewed between Jews and God - the Law was accepted - the people pledged to obedience - leaders signed the Covenant and the Law was set aside as the Canon of Scripture -

Aside from all questions of their gradual development the books of the Law bear the unmistakable marks of divinity -

1320

544

776

1940

540

2480



71