

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE



THE BIBLE IS FROM GOD

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). The phrase, "inspiration of God" literally means "God breathed." The apostle Peter wrote to Christians, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1-20-21). The how of inspiration is explained by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 2:6-13).

THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE

The Old Testament was written for the Jewish nation, those who came out of Egyptian bondage (Exodus 20:1-2; Deuteronomy 5:1-5) and is given to the people of today for their learning (Romans 15:4). The New Testament is given to produce faith in Jesus Christ (John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17). It is the Bible, the word of God, which informs us of the origin, mission and destiny of mankind, and furnishes man unto every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17).

THE WRITING OF GOD'S REVELATION TO MAN

The Bible was written by about forty different men over a period of sixteen hundred years. It was written by soldiers, shepherds, farmers and fishermen. It was begun by Moses in the lonely desert of Arabia and finished by John on the Isle of Patmos. Some of it was written in king's palaces, some in shepherd's tents, some beside still waters and part of it was written in prison. While God is the author

of the Bible, part of it was penned by highly educated men and part of it was written by unlettered fishermen. It was written in different languages and different countries, yet when all the books of the Bible are brought together they blend into one great whole. They are a unit, hence, THE BOOK!

The word "Bible" is from the Greek term, "Biblia" which is translated, books. The Bible is a book of books as it contains 66 books. The Bible is divided into two major divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are 39 books which make up the Old Testament and 27 books which make up the New Testament.

LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE

The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew with portions of Daniel (Daniel 2:4 - 7:28) and Ezra (Ezra 4:7 - 6:18 and 7:12-26) written in Aramaic. The Hebrew and Aramaic languages are very similar. Aramaic has been referred to as the language of diplomacy. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek which has been described as the ordinary language of the people.

THE THEME OF THE BIBLE

The theme of the Bible can be summed up in one sentence—Someone is coming, Someone has come, and someone is coming again. The someone is Jesus Christ the Son of Jehovah God.

The Old Testament ⇒ Someone is Coming,
Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1: 53:1-12.

The New Testament ⇒ Someone has come,
Matthew 1:22-25; Luke 2:8-20.

The New Testament ⇒ Someone is coming again,
Acts 1:11, I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

DIVISIONS OF THE TESTAMENTS

The 66 books of the Old Testament are divided in

the following manner.

Five books of Moses - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Twelve books of the History of the Jewish Nation - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Five books of Poetry - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

Five books of Major Prophets (Called major prophets because of the length of their books) - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Twelve books of Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The 27 books of the New Testament are divided into four major divisions.

Four books which give testimony concerning Jesus:

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The purpose of these books is stated in John 20:30-31.

One book of history which tells of the establishment of the church and spread of Christianity - Acts.

Twenty-one books which were addressed to **individuals** and **churches** concerning problems they faced, and instructions concerning worship and Christian living - Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II, and III John, Jude.

One book of prophecy - Revelation. (This book tells of the ultimate victory of Christianity over all enemies).

TYPES OF LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE

The Bible, with its 66 books, consists of many different types of literature. This truth must be realized if we are to properly understand God's revelation to man. In the Bible you have: **POETRY** (The book of Psalms), **PROVERBS** (The book of Proverbs), **HISTORY** (The History of the Jewish nation, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I, II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Job). The