

The Best Books in the Bible

Chapter 1

Audio lesson: New Testament 1



Objective: To introduce the New Testament and explain why the gospels are the central purpose of Scripture.



“Study to present yourself approved unto God, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.”

—2 Timothy 2:15

Jesus said, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”

—John 5:39

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

—Luke 24:27

The first four books of the New Testament are called “gospels,” which means “good news.” They are often referred to as biographies of Jesus because we get our biographical information on Jesus’ life from them. They are not typical biographies like we have today, however, because the people who wrote them were not trying to tell Jesus’ entire life story. Two of these gospels do not even mention His birth or the first 30 years of His life.

These four gospels tell us about Jesus’ works, His teaching, and the redemption He brought to the world. By the time we have surveyed and summarized these inspired biographies, we will have gained a comprehensive insight into the life of a Man who only lived for 33 years, but who impacted the history of our world more than anyone else who ever lived.

The gospels show us that the whole Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—is all about Jesus Christ. They are therefore the most important books in the Bible, the key to understanding all of Scripture. As we will see, Jesus declared that He is at the center of God’s plan from beginning to end. Everything in Scripture points to Him and His plan to redeem and save lost mankind.

The gospels declare God to us because they present Jesus Christ, God’s greatest revelation of truth. Everything that Jesus was, everything that Jesus said and everything that Jesus did reveals God to us; that is why this study is so important.



1. True or false? Unlike the Old Testament books, there is only one kind of book in the New Testament.
2. True or false? The four Gospels are considered the heart of the Scripture.
3. True or false? The Gospels are like biographies of Jesus.
4. True or false? It is not important to study the Bible as long as we know its basic message.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. How does someone get faith?
 - a. By hearing or reading the Word of God
 - b. By waiting for the miracle of faith to come
 - c. By being born to parents who have faith
 - d. By going on a pilgrimage and doing good works
6. Who is the main character of Scripture?
 - a. Moses
 - b. King David
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. The apostle Paul
7. What is the main purpose of the Bible?
 - a. It is a scientific manual.
 - b. It is a thorough history of civilization.
 - c. It is a textbook on salvation.
 - d. It is a list of what we should and should not do.

8. Which aspect of Jesus' ministry accurately revealed the truth about God?
 - a. What He said and taught
 - b. What He did
 - c. His personality and character
 - d. All of the above

9. Why did God come to us in the form of a man?
 - a. To show us that He too was only a man before He became a god
 - b. To communicate His message to us in a way we could understand
 - c. So He could rule over us as a human king
 - d. To correct the teachings He had given in the Old Testament as a Spirit

10. What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
 - a. The Old Testament is for Jews, and the New Testament is for everyone else.
 - b. The Old Testament tells us that Jesus Christ is coming, and the New Testament tells us that Jesus Christ came and is coming again.
 - c. The Old Testament is full of inaccuracies, but the New Testament is entirely true.
 - d. The Old Testament was written by men, but the New Testament was written by Jesus Himself.

11. What should we do with what we learn in the Bible?
 - a. Study carefully
 - b. Rightly explain the words of truth to others
 - c. Teach others who can then teach others
 - d. All of the above



Why is the Gospel good news to you personally? What difference has it made (or can it make) in your life? Who do you need to share the good news with?



Thank God that He sent Jesus to bridge the separation between human beings and God. Ask Him to give you great insight as you study His Word in the next few weeks. Ask God to show you and give you courage to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways are the four Gospels not typical biographies of the life of Jesus? _____

2. In what ways was Jesus Christ the greatest Revelation of truth this world has ever received from God? (Consider John 1:18) _____

3. Why are the four Gospels the most important books in the Bible? (Consider John 5:39; Luke 24:27; 44, 45) _____

4. According to Luke 24:45, what truth did Jesus share with the apostles that opened their understanding, or their minds, that they might understand all of the Scriptures? _____

5. According to the Gospel of Mark, “Jesus came.” What differences did it make to this world that Jesus came? _____

6. Describe the spiritual dateline when “Jesus came” into your life. _____

7. What differences has the reality that “Jesus came” to you made in your life? _____
