

BIBLICAL REFERENCE



Approach the Bible with the best study tools
so that you can best understand the
context, meaning, and application.



CONTEXT

noun

1. the parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific

word or passage, usually influencing its meaning or effect:

You have misinterpreted my remark because you took it out of context.

2. the set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation



MEANING

noun

1. what is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated; signification;

import:

The three meanings of a word.

2. the end, purpose, or significance of something:

What is the meaning of life? What is the meaning of this intrusion?



APPLICATION

noun

1. the act of putting to a special use or purpose:

The application of common sense to a problem.

2. the special use or purpose to which something is put:

Technology with numerous applications never thought of by its inventors.

3. the quality of being usable for a particular purpose or a special way; relevance

This has no application to the case.

THE HOLY BIBLE

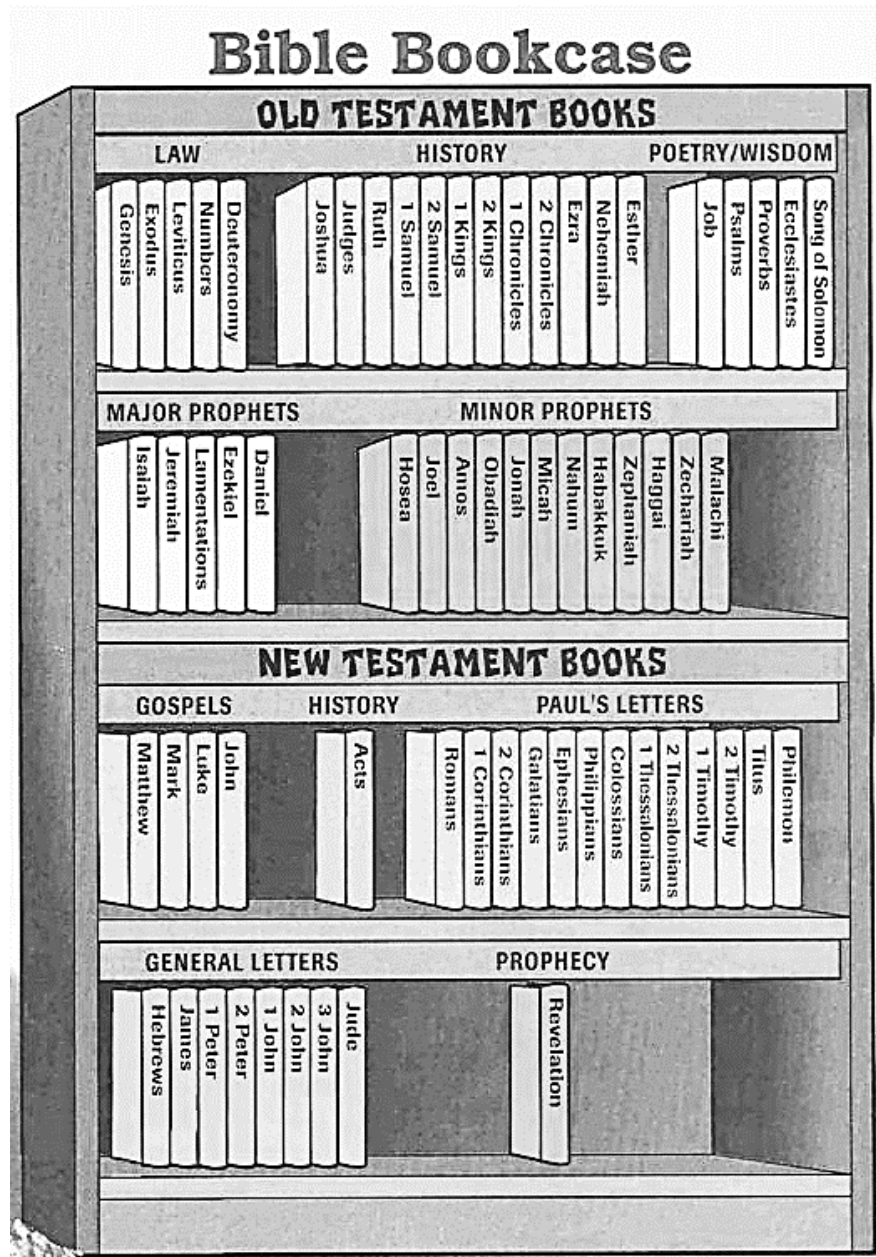
We know that God is a God of order not confusion (1 Cor. 14:40). Therefore, His Word, which was written over many years by God's chosen servants, has order and structure as well. Though the Bible has been studied by many scholars, over many years, it never ceases to impress its' readers with the depth of wisdom and knowledge found within its' pages.

All Bible students must begin by learning the most basic of information: that the Bible is composed of 66 books which are divided into two parts, the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament holds 39 books and the New Testament holds 27 books.

The books of the Bible are not necessary placed in a chronological order by order of appearance or order of when it was written, rather by categories.

This Bible Bookcase shows the various categories or sections that the books are divided into.

Both the Old and New Testaments have been divided into 5 sections.



STUDY/ REFERENCE BIBLE

Some editions of the Bible are especially prepared for the serious Bible student. A good study Bible contains the following helpful features:

- 1) a system of cross references
- 2) an introduction to each book of the Bible (giving the author, date, theme, purpose for writing, etc.)
- 3) marginal notes throughout the Bible which define words, explain difficult passages, provide necessary background information and whatever else is needed to make the Bible more understandable
- 4) a partial concordance
- 5) a set of Bible maps.

HANDBOOKS / BIBLE SURVEYS

A good Bible Handbook is a simple and concise reference book dealing with the Bible in general and covering subjects such as those treated in this set of notes. A Bible Handbook will also give a general survey of the 66 books of the Bible, briefly summarizing the contents of each chapter.

For example, if you wanted to know the content and teaching of 1 Corinthians chapter 7, a Bible Handbook would give you this information in a few concise paragraphs.

CONCORDANCE

A Bible Concordance is an alphabetical index of the words found in the Bible, listed in **their context** (the sentence or phrase in which they are found). There are basically two ways in which a concordance can be of help to the Bible student:

- 1) **A concordance helps in locating verses.** This is the best book to have when you do not know where a verse is found in the Bible. For example, there is a verse which says, "the love of money is the root of all evil." By using a concordance, you could find where this verse is located in the Bible (book, chapter and verse). Helpful hint: look up the word that is the least common (such as "root" or "money"). Don't look up common words such as "the" or "all" or "is," because the list will be so large that you will never find the verse unless you search all day. Some small concordances do not even include the very common words which occur so frequently.
- 2) **A concordance helps in studying a word.** Suppose you wanted to study the word "faith." With a concordance you could simply look up this word and it would immediately give you the places where this word is found in the Bible. You could then turn to each of these places and see what you can learn about faith.

DICTIONARY

This is one of the most important tools that a Bible student has. Make sure you have a good one. One of the reasons we have difficulty understanding the Bible is that we do not know the English language as well as we should. Since the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, it is sometimes helpful to have a dictionary which defines the original Hebrew and Greek words.

ATLASES / MAPS / CHARTS

It is very important to understand the geography of Bible lands (the mountains, rivers, seas, deserts, countries, cities, etc.). Israel is a small country and much of the Bible takes places there or near there. A good Bible Atlas is quite helpful in giving you information to understand the situation presented.

Charts are good to see much information in a condensed version. Chronology is that study which deals with time and which assigns to events their proper dates. Bible chronology deals with questions such as these:

- "When was the book of 2 Timothy written?"
- "When Ahab was king of Israel, who was the king of Judah?"
- "When was the southern kingdom of Judah destroyed by the Babylonians?"
- "When did Ezekiel give his great prophecies?"
- "Who was Pharaoh of Egypt during the Exodus in the days of Moses, and who was the Pharaoh that Joseph served?"
- "Who was the Roman emperor when Christ was died?"

The answers to most of these questions can be found in a good study Bible, Bible Handbook or Bible Dictionary.

COMMENTARIES

A commentary is someone's written comments on an entire book of the Bible, verse by verse and chapter by chapter. For example, you could obtain a commentary on the book of Philippians which would discuss every verse in all four chapters of this epistle. Most of the time they come in many volumes or 1 Bible Book at a time.

CAUTION: A commentary should be the **last** book you study. No human author has a perfect understanding of the Bible, and often a commentary will make a statement or reach a conclusion which may not be correct. If you read the commentary first, you may quickly accept what the author has written without knowing all the facts. It is much better to let GOD be your TEACHER, and not any man. Always go **first** to the Word of God before you look at any other book.