

## **WORDS ABOUT THE COVER**

The three circles on this cover are a picture of the three persons in our THREE-IN-ONE-GOD (Trinity). The circles show how these three persons of the Trinity have no beginning and no end, and how they never change.

The sign for the FATHER shows his almighty hand of creation, open in love, generosity and forgiveness.

The XP are the first two letters of the Greek word Christos, which means Christ and is the sign for the SON. The X is turned sideways to form a cross which reminds us of Christ's death on the cross for the sins of the world.

The sign for the HOLY SPIRIT is the dove, descending from Heaven, carrying the message of the Gospel. This is the way the Holy Spirit appeared at the Baptism of Christ.

The three circles together form a triangle and rest on the open Book, the Word of God. It is through the study of the Bible that the persons and work of the Trinity are revealed to us, and our salvation is made clear.

## **PREFACE**

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) is a comparatively recent method of theological training designed for men who wish to undertake this study while remaining in their home environment. This training concept originated in Latin America and has since spread to other areas throughout the world. By means of programmed lessons the student is encouraged to devote a certain time for self-study each day, and after each five lessons, if possible, to discuss the results of his work and the problems encountered with a discussion leader.

While TEE generally aims at various levels of theological education, the series of lessons in this book is at the beginner's level. By this we mean a person who has completed his elementary training or its equivalent in his general education, and who has little or no theological training beyond the instruction received for church membership. At the same time, however, he has qualities of maturity, leadership potential, and has given evidence of a desire to further his knowledge of God's Word. He is good material, in other words for serving his Lord as a lay leader in the congregation to which he belongs. Eventually he may even wish to consider studying theology at a more advanced level.

We have made a conscious effort, therefore, to keep these lessons as simple as possible, both in content as well as in language. The English used in these lessons may seem stilted, redundant, and at times unnatural. It is for those, however, who use English as a second language. It is also hoped that the lessons can be translated into the vernaculars of Central Africa. We call it "translational English." There may be differences of opinion as to how simple one ought to be in approaching this type of student. Our experience indicates that one would rather err on the side of too much simplicity than to offer something which is too challenging, and where much of the lesson material is either lost or misunderstood.

We have attempted to follow the program method, whereby the material presented is constantly interspersed with questions designed to see if the student has grasped each step forward in the progression of the lesson itself. The student is asked to check on his knowledge each step of the way. Thus the lesson material serves as the "teacher." Not having had any previous experience with this method, we consider it a rather crude first attempt and hope to do better as we learn more about it.

One serious problem in preparing these lessons has to do with the many passages of Scripture appearing constantly. Which English translation should one use? We have used Today's English Version (TEV) because it is the most widely distributed translation of the New Testament in simple English. We don't consider the New English Bible (NEB) or the Revised Standard Version (RSV) very helpful for those who use English as a second language. Personally we would rather keep to the King James Version because of its beauty and accuracy. These qualities mean little, however, when they are subject to constant misunderstanding. In the Old Testament we have remained with the King James Version for want of anything better, substituting more modern words for archaic forms and expressions wherever necessary. No doubt this problem will require further discussion and consensus before we proceed with any further efforts in this direction.

It should also be mentioned that this book is a first very modest step in an experiment to achieve what we are after. It was produced under pressure in an attempt to get something before us which could be examined and tested. Those who do the testing in the field are asked to use it critically, suggesting improvements wherever there are unclaritys, ambiguities, and omissions, also evaluating whether or not we are aiming at the proper level.

Our thanks go to son E.R. Wendland for invaluable assistance in suggesting improvements toward achieving translational English, and to wife Betty Wendland for typing up the material for duplication while ten thousand miles away. We also appreciate the fact that we were able to do this work in the Bible itself while experiencing a time of personal uncertainty. The Scriptures have a way of speaking to us like nothing else.

**E.H. Wendland**  
**Lutheran Bible Institute and Seminary**  
**Lusaka, Zambia**  
**1973**

## THIS BOOK IS YOUR TEACHER

Do you want to know more about the Bible? Do you want to know how to use the Bible? Do you want to tell others about the Good News that God brings us in His Word? This book will help you to do all these things.

In this book there are fifty lessons. Each lesson tells you something about the Bible. Each lesson speaks to you like a teacher. There are five lessons for one week. In the time of ten weeks you can learn everything in this book.

**Read one day's lesson at one time.** Do not read part of a lesson, and then stop. Do not read more than one lesson in one day. Try to finish just one lesson every day, but do it well.

To begin each lesson read **what the teacher says to you in this book.** Then you will see a question. If you have carefully read what the teacher says, you will be able to answer the question. **Write your answer in the space after the question.**

At the end of the lesson you will find the correct answers to the questions. They are written in a different order than the way they are numbered in the lesson. But each answer has the same number as the number of the question which you have answered. **Look at the correct answer.** See if your answer is the same. If your answer is the same, you know that you have understood what the teacher has told you in the lesson. You may then go on to the next part of the lesson.

If your answer is not correct, read and study that part of the lesson again, so that you know what it says. When you understand it, you may read the next part of the lesson.

**DO NOT LOOK AT THE CORRECT ANSWER BEFORE YOU HAVE TRIED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION YOURSELF.** Sometimes you will be tempted to do this. Looking at the correct answer before you have tried to write your own answer is like cheating. You must try first even though you are not sure of the answer. You must learn to think for yourself. You must see if you really understand what the teacher wants to tell you in this book.

**After every five lessons you should have a meeting with your leader.** If you cannot meet with your leader every week, he will tell you how to arrange your study. Your leader will help you with questions that are too difficult for you to answer. He will discuss any other questions and problems with you. But these meetings with your leader will not help you if you yourself have failed to study hard every day.

**Ask God to help you** with your study of this book. Begin the lesson for each day with a prayer for God's help. God will bless your study of this book. He will help you to **KNOW YOUR BIBLE.**

Remember, the Bible is **YOUR Bible.** God gave the Bible to people of all nations. God gave the Bible to **YOU.** He wants you to learn His way of salvation for you. This way is by faith in the world's only Savior, Jesus Christ.

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Know Your Bible

# KNOW YOUR BIBLE

## WEEK I - THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL DAY 1 - INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF BOOKS

Which book is the greatest book in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

What answer do you think most people would give to this question? \_\_\_\_\_

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I hope your answer is correct. Most people know and also agree that the Bible is the greatest book that was ever written. Here are some questions:

- Which book has been printed more often than any other book?
- Which book is translated into more languages than any other book?
- Which is the oldest book that people still use today?

What is the one correct answer for all of these questions? \_\_\_\_\_

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ALL THESE THINGS SURELY SHOW US THAT THE BIBLE IS THE GREATEST BOOK IN ALL THE WORLD. And it is not difficult to own a Bible. The Bible has been translated into many of the languages which you and I can read. For 1 Kwacha or less you can buy your own bible. Do you have a Bible in your own language? If not, have you seen a Bible in your language? Do you know that some parts of the Bible were first written over 3,500 years ago? Do you know that it took about 1,600 years to finish writing the Bible? And look, you have seen this book with your own eyes, in your own language. Perhaps you even own a Bible yourself. But that is not enough.

Let us say that you are a man living in a village. You have seen many motor cars, but you have never driven one yourself. Now your friend comes to visit you. He has a motor car. He sees that you must walk many miles to visit your parents. He tells you to use his motor car to go to see your parents.

Why can you not do this? \_\_\_\_\_

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The same thing is true of the Bible. Many people have a Bible. They know that it is a very valuable book. But they do not know how to use it properly. We want to help them do this.

But first what must we ourselves be able to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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And in order to use the Bible properly, we must know our Bible. We must know how the Bible was written. We must know more about the men who wrote the Bible, the people to whom they wrote, and why these words which were written so many years ago still have a most important meaning for us today. We also want to know how to find certain passages in the Bible and what these passages teach us about God, about ourselves, and about the way to eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

On the cover of this book is a title. What does this title say?

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MAY OUR STUDY OF THIS BOOK HELP US TO KNOW OUR BIBLE, SO THAT WE CAN ALSO TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT.

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ANSWERS

- 4. We must know how to use the Bible ourselves.
- 3. Because I do not know how to use it.
- 1. I think most people would answer: the Bible.
- 2. The Bible.  
KNOW YOUR BIBLE.

WEEK I - THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL  
DAY 2 - GOD'S BOOK TO ALL PEOPLE

Yesterday we learned something about a book that we shall be studying in this course. We saw how there are more books like this one than any other book in the world. We saw how this book was written not only for Europeans or Americans. It has been translated into languages which are used all over the world. It has been translated also into the languages of this country here in Africa.

What is the name of this greatest book in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

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Today we want to learn WHY THE BIBLE IS THE GREATEST BOOK IN THE WORLD.

What question do we want to answer today? \_\_\_\_\_

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Let us think about this question for a moment. Some people think that the Bible is the greatest book in the world because it is so old, or because there are many more Bibles than any other book, or because it is written in so many languages.

Do you think that these are the most important reasons why the Bible is the greatest of all books?

\_\_\_\_\_

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No. There must be a greater reason than this. If we look into the first large part of the Bible, which is called the Old Testament, we can find some words written there which we see again and again. These words are: Thus says the Lord, your God. In fact, these words are found in the Old Testament more than 2,000 times!

4. Can you repeat these words of the Old Testament again? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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The writers of the Old Testament were called prophets. In the New Testament the writer of the book of Hebrews says:  
In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets.

Hebrews 1:1

5. Who was it that spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

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A man who wrote most of the books of the New Testament was the Apostle Paul. Paul preached to congregations everywhere and wrote many letters to these congregations. These letters of Paul are a part of the Bible. Paul writes in one of these letters:

When we brought you God's message, you heard it and accepted it, not as man's message, but as God's message.  
1 Thessalonians 2:13

6. Whose message did the Apostle Paul preach and write? \_\_\_\_\_

Here, perhaps, we see a problem. We have said that God spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament. We have said that the Apostle Paul preached and wrote God's message in the New Testament. And yet we know that God did not write the Bible with His own hand and send it down from heaven. Men who lived at different times and in different places wrote the Bible.

Can you think of the name of a man who wrote a book of the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of a writer of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

Thus the Bible was written by men. Yet we say it is the Word of God. How did this happen? The Apostle Peter explains this for us when he speaks about the Bible in these words:

So we are even more confident of the message proclaimed by the prophets. You will do well to pay attention to it, for it is like a lamp shining in a dark place, until the Day dawns, and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts. Above all else, however, remember this: no one can explain, by himself, a prophecy in the Scriptures. For no prophetic message ever came just from the will of man, but men were carried along by the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God.

2 Peter 1:19-21

Who gave these men the power to speak and write the message of God? \_\_\_\_\_

There is a special word which we use for this work of the Holy Spirit as He gave power to the men who wrote the Bible. See if you can find this word in the following passage of the Bible:

For all Scripture is inspired by God. 2 Timothy 3:1

9. The Scripture is another word for the Bible. What word is used to show how God the Holy Spirit told the writers of the Bible what to write? \_\_\_\_\_

The word inspire means to breathe in. In a wonderful way, a way which we cannot fully understand, God the Holy Spirit breathed into or gave the writers of the Bible the thoughts and the words to write. In the passage of the Bible which we just read we are told that ALL Scripture is inspired by God. Not just part of it. ALL of it—every book of the Bible, every sentence of the Bible, every word of the Bible.

Thus, whose word to all people is the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, the almighty God, the God who has all power and who made all things, the God who also gave you life, this God gave His Word to us and to all people in the Bible.

11. Now let us come back to the important question with which we began this lesson for today: Why is the Bible the greatest book in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

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Now I want you to try something. In your own words write a short prayer in which you give thanks to God for giving us His Word.

\_\_\_\_\_

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ANSWERS

- 4. Thus says the Lord, your God.
- 2. Why is the Bible the greatest book in the world?
- 6. God's message.
- 1. The Bible.
- 3. No.
- 5. God.
- 9. Inspired.
- 7. Old Testament: Moses, David, Isaiah.  
New Testament: Matthew, John, Paul.
- 11. Because it is the Word of God.
- 10. God's Word.
- 8. The Holy Spirit.

WEEK I - THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL  
DAY 3 - A COLLECTION OF MANY BOOKS

The Bible is the greatest book that was ever written. We want to know the Bible, so that we can use it properly. We want to do this because the Bible, as we learned yesterday, is not the word of man.

1. Whose Word is the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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Yet we also heard how God gave His Word to men at different times.

2. What word does the Bible itself use to show how God the Holy Spirit gave His Word to men?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, at different times and in different places God inspired His Word to different men. This tells us something else about the Bible which helps us to know its meaning better. THE BIBLE IS NOT JUST ONE BOOK. IT IS A COLLECTION OF MANY BOOKS. The word Bible really means: a collection of books. It is not just one writing. It is many writings which are put together into one book. The Apostle Paul writes to his friend Timothy:

And you know that ever since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:15

3. What two words does Paul use in this passage instead of the word Bible?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Open your Bibles. See if you can find the name of the very first book in the Bible.

5. What is the name of the first book called? \_\_\_\_\_

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The name Genesis means beginnings. This book has this name because it tells about the beginnings of all things. Thus the name of the book comes from its contents, or what we find in it. Find the second book of the Bible, which has the name Exodus. This name Exodus means going out, and tells us how the Children of Israel went out of the Land of Egypt. Again the book has its name from its contents, that is, what it tells us about.

6. From what do some of the books of the Bible get their names?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Now look at some of the other names of the books of the Bible. Can you find the name of a person?

Why do you think this book has the name of a person? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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See if you can find the name of a book called Timothy. Timothy is also the name of a person. But Timothy did not write this book. Paul wrote this book as a letter to Timothy.

Why do some books have the name of persons? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Now see if you can write three reasons why books of the Bible receive their names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Sometimes there are two books of the Bible with the same name. When this happens, there is the number 1, 2, or 3 in front of the name.

10. Use your Bible and write down the name of a book where you see this. \_\_\_\_\_

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All the books of the Bible are divided into two chief parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Tomorrow we shall learn why there are two chief parts. If you count all the books of the Old Testament, you will find that there are 39. In the New Testament there are 27 books.

11. How many books are there in the entire Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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There is one more thing about the arrangement of the Bible that we want to know. Each book is divided into chapters, and each chapter is divided into verses. This dividing into chapters and verses did not happen when the Bible was first written by holy men of God. This was done many years later by students of the Bible, so that it would be easier to find certain verses or passages of the Bible.

Use your Bible again and see if you can find the following:

12. a. The number of verses in the first chapter of the book of Genesis. \_\_\_\_\_

b. The number of chapters in the book of Matthew. \_\_\_\_\_

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Now we want to try something that is a bit more difficult.

13. Look for the book of Romans, chapter 6, verse 23 (Romans 6:23). Write the words of this passage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On the next page is a list of all the books of the Bible. Since the names of these books are often abbreviated, that is written in a short way to save space, you will also find behind each book how it is abbreviated. We hope that this list will help you to know the order of the many books in the Bible, and also to be able to find certain passages in the Bible.

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ANSWERS

- 12 a. 31  
b. 28
- 6. From their contents.
- 10. Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, or Thessalonians, Timothy, John, etc.
- 9. From their contents, from the name of the writer, and from the name of the person to whom the book was written.
- 5. Genesis.
- 11. 66
- 7. Because that is the name of the writer, or the person who wrote the book.
- 8. Because the book was written to them.
- 1. God's Word.
- 4. How the Bible is arranged into many books, chapters, and verses.
- 13. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 3. Holy Scriptures.
- 2. Inspire.

**THE NAMES AND ORDER  
of the  
BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

**THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

	<u>Abbreviation</u>		<u>Abbreviation</u>
Genesis	Gen.	Ecclesiastes	Ec.
Exodus	Ex.	Song of Solomon	Song
Leviticus	Lev.	Isaiah	Is.
Numbers	Num.	Jeremiah	Jer.
Deuteronomy	De.	Lamentations	Lam.
Joshua	Jos.	Ezekiel	Ez.
Judges	Jud.	Daniel	Da.
Ruth	Ru.	Hosea	Ho.
1 Samuel	1 S.	Joel	Jl.
2 Samuel	2 S.	Amos	Am.
1 Kings	1 K.	Obadiah	Obad.
2 Kings	2 K.	Jonah	Jo.
1 Chronicles	1 Chr.	Micah	Mi.
2 Chronicles	2 Chr.	Nahum	Na.
Ezra	Ez.	Habakkuk	Hab.
Nehemiah	Neh.	Zephaniah	Zep.
Esther	Est.	Haggai	Hag.
Job	Job	Zechariah	Zec.
Psalms	Ps.	Malachi	Mal.
Proverbs	Pr.		

**THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Matthew	Mt.	1 Timothy	1 T.
Mark	Mk.	2 Timothy	2 T.
Luke	Lu.	Titus	Tit.
John	Jn.	Philemon	Philn.
Acts	Ac.	Hebrews	Heb.
Romans	Ro.	James	Ja.
1 Corinthians	1 Co.	1 Peter	1 Pe.
2 Corinthians	2 Co.	2 Peter	2 Pe.
Galatians	Gal.	1 John	1 Jn.
Ephesians	Eph.	2 John	2 Jn.
Philippians	Phils.	3 John	3 Jn.
Colossians	Col.	Jude	Jd.
1 Thessalonians	1 Th.	Revelation	Rev.
2 Thessalonians	2 Th.		

WEEK I - THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL  
DAY 4 - TWO TESTAMENTS

Yesterday we saw how the Bible is a collection of many books. In fact there are 66 books in all. These books are also arranged into chapters and verses. We also mentioned the names of the two chief parts of the Bible.

1. What are the names of those two chief parts?

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Today we want to learn WHY THE BIBLE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CHIEF PARTS.

2. What do we want to learn today? \_\_\_\_\_

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The word testament means an agreement, or a will. Before a man dies, he writes a special letter called a will. In this letter he tells his family what to do with his property after his death, that is, what he wants each child to receive. This letter is called his last will and testament.

The Bible, we learned, is God’s Word to all people. Through His holy writers God wrote down in the words of the Bible His will, or what He wanted for all people.

When a man makes a will, it is kept just the way it is written. No one changes it. It is what this man wants for his children.

Why should no one try to change the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Now we have said that there are two testaments in the Bible. Do you think that this is because God perhaps changed His mind? Did God first make one testament, and then decide to change this and make another? People sometimes do this. They change their minds.

Can God change His will? \_\_\_\_\_

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God’s will for all people does not change. Paul writes to Timothy:

God wants all men to be saved and to come to know the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4

What is the will of God for all people? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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God carried out His will for the salvation of all people when He sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world. One part of the Bible was written before the coming of Jesus Christ, and the other part was written after the coming of Jesus Christ.

6. a. Which part of the Bible was written before Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Which part of the Bible was written after Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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So we see that both parts of the Bible tell us the same will of God. Both parts agree perfectly. The only difference is that the Old Testament tells about Christ, our Savior, who will come to earth, and the New Testament tells about Christ, our Savior, who did come to earth.

7. Who is the very main Person in the whole Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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A messenger of God who tells something that will happen in the future is called a prophet. A messenger of God who brings the good news of something that has already happened is called an evangelist.

- 8 a. Which kind of messenger of God wrote in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which kind of messenger of God wrote in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

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Because Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, we say that the writers of the Old Testament are Moses and the prophets. The writers of the New Testament are called the Evangelists and the Apostles. Apostles are men who are sent out by God to preach His Word.

Let us see now if we remember what names we give to the following:

- 9 a. The writers of the Old Testament are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The writers of the New Testament are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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In the Old Testament the people of God were called the Children of Israel. The language spoken and written by the Children of Israel was the Hebrew language. God wants His people to understand His Word.

10. In what language, therefore, was the Old Testament written? \_\_\_\_\_

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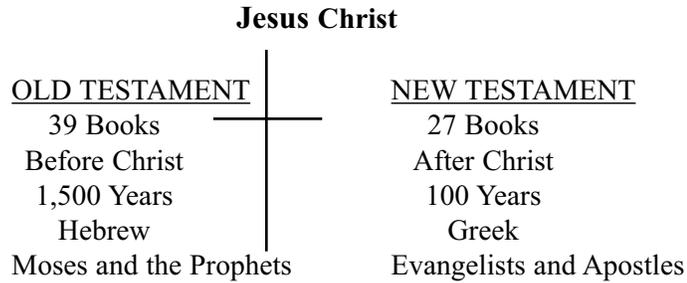
At the time when Christ came into this world, the language in most parts of the world was the Greek language.

11. In what language was the New Testament first written? \_\_\_\_\_

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Moses, the first writer of the Old Testament, lived about 1500 years before Christ was born. John, the last writer of the New Testament, lived about 100 years after Christ was born.

Below this sentence you will see a little diagram which sums up most of the facts you have learned about the Bible and its two chief parts.



Study this diagram carefully and try to remember it. We shall refer to it many times in this book.

12. In the space below write your own words telling why the Bible is divided into two parts.

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ANSWERS

- 11. Greek.
- 2. Why the Bible is divided into two chief parts.
- 6.
  - a. The Old Testament.
  - b. The New Testament.
- 3. Because it is the holy will of God.
- 9.
  - a. Moses and the Prophets.
  - b. The Evangelists and the Apostles.
- 8.
  - a. A prophet.
  - b. An evangelist.
- 1. The Old Testament and the New Testament.
- 4. No, God does not change His Will.
- 7. Jesus Christ.
- 5. That all people should be saved and know the truth.  
(Have your teacher look at this answer to see if it is correct).

WEEK I - THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL  
DAY 5 - ONE AUTHOR AND ONE MESSAGE

An author is a person who writes a book. We have learned that the Bible is a collection of many books written by many men. And so perhaps we would say that the Bible has many authors. Yet really there is only one Author of the Bible. In our last lesson for this week about the Bible, which is the greatest book of all, we want to learn WHO THE ONE AND ONLY AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE IS.

What do we want to learn from today's lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

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Since some of the holy men who wrote the Holy Scriptures wrote more than one book, we find that there were about 40 men who wrote the 66 books of the Bible. Some of these men were kings. Some were teachers. Yes, some were even shepherds and fishermen. These men lived at different times. They lived in different places. They had different ways of writing. They used different languages. But the same Holy Spirit told every one of these men the very words which they should write.

2. Whose Holy Spirit inspired all the writers of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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When we read the Bible carefully we can see how every writer of the Bible was directed by the same Holy Spirit because they all centered their message in the same Person. The Old Testament prophesied about His coming to earth. The New Testament tells us how that Person came and what He did.

3. Who is the One Person in whom the message of the Bible is centered? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the Old Testament there are at least 333 prophecies which tell about the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ. These prophecies reveal how the Savior would be born, where He would be born, and exactly what He would do in order to save all people from their sins. Every one of these prophecies has been perfectly fulfilled.

4. What does this tell us about the author of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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When so many different people write at different times and in different places we might expect that they would not always agree. Yet in every passage and in every word the Bible agrees without a mistake. Jesus says this about God's Word:

Your word is truth. John 17:17

Sometimes there are people who try to find mistakes in the Bible. When they try to prove these mistakes, however, they show how foolish they are. Some people also argue that the Bible is too difficult to understand. It is true that there are some parts of the Bible which are more difficult than others.

But the things which we must know to be saved and how to live in a way which is pleasing to God are written in a very clear way. Even children can understand these things. The Psalmist says:

Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

The way to go to our heavenly home is clearly shown in the Bible to all who want to find it. A book which is so clear and so true in showing the right way must surely have one Author.

5. Again, who is this one Author of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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The one and only way to heaven which God wants to show us is found in all the books of the Bible. There is one most important message. It is the only message which can change the heart of a sinful person and give him a new life. Paul writes about this one most important message to Timothy:

And you know that ever since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

6. What is the one great wisdom that God wants to show us in His Holy Scriptures? \_\_\_\_\_

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Thus we have seen from our lesson for today how the Bible has one Author and one great message.

See if you can fill in the missing words:

7. There is only one Author of the Bible. That one Author of the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.

God's Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ all the writers of the Bible to write and they were guided by

Him. Both Old and New Testaments are centered in one Person who is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Every one of the prophecies in the \_\_\_\_\_ was fulfilled

when Jesus came to do His work on earth. Every word of the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible is also very \_\_\_\_\_ in showing us the way to salvation. I want to study the

Bible carefully, so that I learn more about Jesus Christ, who is my only \_\_\_\_\_

from sin.

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## ANSWERS

5. God.
1. Who the one and only Author of the Bible is.
3. Jesus Christ.
4. That God is the Author.
6. The wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
2. The Holy Spirit of God.
7. God - inspired - Jesus Christ - Old Testament - true - clear - Savior.

WEEK II - OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY  
DAY 1 - FROM EDEN TO EGYPT ( GENESIS)

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses. Moses lived about 2,500 years after the world began, or 1,500 years before Christ (B.C.). In these early times God often spoke to people directly. He spoke to Adam and Eve, to Noah, to Abraham. In these times people lived to be many years old. Some men were over 900 years old before they died. Parents told their children about what God said to them. Because they lived so many years, it was easy for them to teach the Word of God in this way and remember it. (Shem, the son of Noah, was still living at the time of Abraham).

Later on, however, the people needed God's Word in writing. God therefore inspired Moses to write what His people should know. In our last lesson we learned why God wanted all people to know His Word.

What is the most important reason why God gave His Word to men? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Moses wrote his first book which is called Genesis. The word Genesis means beginning. OUR LESSON TODAY SHOWS US WHY GENESIS IS A VERY GOOD NAME FOR THIS BOOK.

Can you think of any reason why this first book has the name Genesis? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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The book of Genesis tells us about how all things had their beginning. The very first words of Genesis are:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1

What is the first beginning that Genesis tells us about? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the first two chapters of Genesis we are told about the beginning of the world, and also the beginning of people in this world. Let us see if we remember some things from this story. Fill in the missing words:

God made all things in \_\_\_\_\_ days. On the seventh day God \_\_\_\_\_.

The first two people whom God made were \_\_\_\_\_ and Eve. In the beginning God created all things, which means that He made all things out of \_\_\_\_\_.

The only thing which God used was His \_\_\_\_\_. When Adam and Eve were first created, they were created in the image of \_\_\_\_\_. This means that they were holy and without \_\_\_\_\_. God made a Garden for them to live in. The Garden's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

But Genesis does not only tell us about the beginning of the world, of people, and of how these two people lived together in marriage. The third chapter of the book of Genesis tells us about some more beginnings. We remember that Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What began when they listened to Satan and disobeyed God? \_\_\_\_\_

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But very soon after this God said to Satan who was in the form of a snake:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15

The seed or the descendant of woman would crush the power of Satan. This was the good news about the Savior, whom God promised to send into the world, born of a woman. This Good News we call the Gospel.

Thus what beginning do we also find in the book of Genesis? \_\_\_\_\_

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In Chapter 4 of Genesis we find the beginning of sacrifices unto God, as we hear in the story of Cain and Abel. When people became very wicked God punished them. This was the beginning of God's judgment upon sin.

Which story tells us about this? \_\_\_\_\_

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The story of the flood is found in Genesis chapters 6 to 8. In Chapter 12 we hear how God chose one man to be the father of a great nation. This man's name was Abraham. To Abraham God said:

In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22:18

Which promise did God make again with these words? \_\_\_\_\_

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This was the beginning of God's chosen people in the Old Testament, later on known as the Children of Israel. From this nation would come the promised Savior.

Abraham gave this promise to Isaac, and Isaac to Jacob. These three great fathers of the Children of Israel are called the patriarchs.

What does the word patriarch mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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The rest of the book of Genesis tells us the story of these three patriarchs. Jacob, the last of these patriarchs, had twelve sons. From these sons came the twelve tribes of Israel. We perhaps remember how one of Jacob's sons, named Joseph, was sold into slavery and brought to the land of Egypt. Here in Egypt Joseph

became a great ruler. Later there was a great famine in the promised land of Canaan, where Jacob and his sons lived. Therefore they came to Egypt for help. Joseph gave them food, and then he brought Jacob and his entire family to Egypt so that he could take better care of them. This is where the book of Genesis comes to an end.

We say that Genesis tells us the History of God's people from the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_  
to the land of \_\_\_\_\_.

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How many beginnings can you think of which are found in the book of Genesis? Write down as many as you can. We have mentioned eight in this lesson.

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ANSWERS

- 3. The beginning of heaven and earth, or the world.
- 2. Because it tells us about the beginning of all things.
- 6. The beginning of the Gospel.
- 5. Sin.
- 4. Six - rested - Adam - nothing - word - God - sin - Eden.
- 8. The promise of a Savior.
- 10. Eden - Egypt.
- 1. To show him how to be saved.
- 9. Father.
- 7. The story of the flood.
- 11. The beginning of the world.  
The beginning of people.  
The beginning of marriage.  
The beginning of sin.  
The beginning of the Gospel.  
The beginning of sacrifices.  
The beginning of God's judgment upon sin.  
The beginning of the Children of Israel.