

LEARNING THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Over the next several weeks you will memorize the 39 books of the Old Testament which are introduced by section and genre below. The books of the Old Testament are listed on the next page. Fill in the blanks on the final page to help you memorize.

Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy, 5 books) – Written by Moses, these books chronicle the period from the Creation through the exodus from Egypt, and include the various Laws given to Israel.

History (Joshua – Esther, 12 books) – These books continue Israel’s history from the conquest of Canaan by Joshua and the administration of the Judges and Samuel, through the rise of David’s Kingdom, the division of the Kingdom, and the ultimate exile of the northern Kingdom in Assyria, and the southern Kingdom in Babylon.

Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon, 5 books) – These books contain various kinds of songs, prayers, proverbs, and poetic stories.

The Prophets – The prophets were God’s spokesman who addressed the spiritual problems of their generation as well as foretold future events. The prophetic books are divided into two categories based on the length of the books:

- **Major Prophets** (Isaiah – Daniel, 5 books)
- **Minor Prophets** (Hosea – Malachi, 12 books)

Did you know?

- Most of the Old Testament was originally written in ancient Hebrew, which didn't have any vowels! Because Hebrew gradually fell into disuse among Jews in the Roman Empire, Rabbis of the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. added a system of vowels to help preserve proper pronunciation when the Scriptures were read in the synagogue.
- The Old Testament was written over a period of approximately 1,000 years by a variety of men including kings, prophets, judges, priests, and even farmers.
- Ancient Scribes who copied the Old Testament by hand paid such meticulous attention to their work that *very* few variants were ever introduced. For example, comparison of a medieval copy of Isaiah with a copy dating to the 1st or 2nd century B.C. found among the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 shows that the two copies are almost identical, even though the Dead Sea Scroll copy was made over 1,000 years earlier.

The Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch: Genesis - Deuteronomy (5 books of Moses)

History: Joshua - Esther (12 books)

Poetry: Job - Song of Solomon (5 books)

Major Prophets: Isaiah - Daniel (5 books)

Minor Prophets: Hosea - Malachi (12 books)

Total: 39 Old Testament books

Genesis	1 & 2 Kings
Exodus	1 & 2 Chronicles
Leviticus	Ezra
Numbers	Nehemiah
Deuteronomy	Esther
Joshua	Job
Judges	Psalms
Ruth	Proverbs
1 & 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon	Obadiah
Isaiah	Jonah
Jeremiah	Micah
Lamentations	Nahum
Ezekiel	Habakkuk
Daniel	Zephaniah
Hosea	Haggai
Joel	Zechariah
Amos	Malachi

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Total: 39 Old Testament books

G	1 & 2 K
E	1 & 2 C
L	E
N	N
D	E
J	J
J	P
R	P
1 & 2 S	E

S	O
I	J
J	M
L	N
E	H
D	Z
H	H
J	Z
A	M

LEARNING THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Memorizing the books of the New Testament will help you get a handle on Scripture. Use the nonsense stories below (a longer version, written as a mini-play is on the next page) and the house illustration as memory aids. Then, fill in the blanks on the final page.

Foundation – Gospels: **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John** tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry.

Sub-floor – The Acts of the Apostles: **Acts** describes the early history and mission of the Church.

Left Column – The Pauline Epistles: An *epistle* is an instructive letter. The Apostle Paul's (Pauline) letters were named for their recipients.

A Roman soldier (**Romans**) is walking while eating two apple cores (**I & II Corinthians**). A beautiful gal (**Galatians**) is running after him mourning her recent court fees (**Ephesians**). She has a fat lip (**Philippians**) as if someone has hit her. She sees the soldier and calls (**Colossians**) to him. She then spies two saloons (**I & II Thessalonians**) and asks him to meet her there.

Ceiling – The Pastoral Epistles: Paul wrote these letters to give pastoral counsel.

A mother looks out a window and sees that her son's pony is trampling vegetables in the garden. She cries out, "Timmy, Timmy (**I & II Timothy**), tie up (**Titus**) your filly (**Philemon**)."

Right Column – The Non-Pauline Epistles and the Revelation: These letters (except Hebrews) were named for their authors. The Revelation is a type of literature called an *apocalypse* which was written by the Apostle John.

A Hebrew scholar (**Hebrews**) is eating jams (**James**). Peter and his clone (**I & II Peter**) follow after him. They need to find a bathroom and see three porta-johns (**I, II & III John**). They race to find an empty one. Who won? The Jew did (**Jude**), because he had a revelation (**Revelation**).

Did you know?

- The 27 books of the New Testament were originally written in Greek, which was the common language of the Roman Empire.
- All the New Testament books were written before the close of the first century.
- The fish was a code symbol used by persecuted Christians under the Roman Empire. The Greek word for fish, *ichthus*, was used as an acrostic, which in English translates to *Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior*.

Foundation – Gospels: **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John** tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry.

Sub-floor – The Acts of the Apostles: **Acts** describes the early history and mission of the Church.

Act 1:

The Left Column: The Pauline Epistles.

A Roman soldier (**Romans**) enters the left stage wearing full armor and eating two apple Cores with juice running down his beard (**I & II Corinthians**).

A beautiful Gal (**Galatians**) enters the right stage frantically clutching some Fees (**Ephesians**) in one hand. She also has a Fat Lip (**Philippians**) as if someone has hit her. She stops and looks for help. She sees the Centurion and Calls (**Colossians**) to him. She then spies the Two Saloons (**I & II Thessalonians**) at the back of the stage and tells the Centurion to meet her there.

Act 2:

The Ceiling: The Pastoral Epistles

A mother is looking out her kitchen window and sees her son Timmy in the garden with his pony that is trampling the vegetables. She cries out, "Timmy, Timmy (**I & II Timothy**), Tie up (**Titus**) your Filly (**Philemon**)."

Act 3:

The Right Column: Non-Pauline Epistles

A Hebrew (**Hebrews**) scholar enters the left side of the stage. He is eating jams (**James**) and it is running down his beard. Peter and his clone Peter (**I & II Peter**) enter the right side of the stage. All three of them urgently need to use the bathroom. Three porta Johns (**I, II, & III John**) are at the back of the stage, but only one of them works. The three actors race for the working one and guess who wins? The Jew Did (**Jude**). He had a Revelation (**Revelation**) about which one worked.



