

The Sevenfold Division of the Bible



1
2
3
4
5
6
7

LAW
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

PROPHETS

FORMER
Joshua
Judges
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings

LATTER
Major Prophets
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

PSALMS (Writings)

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Song of Solomon
Ruth
Lamentations
Ecclesiastes

Ester
Daniel
Ezra
Nehemiah
I Chronicles
II Chronicles

GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

ACTS

Acts

EPISTLES

EPISTLES OF PAUL
Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians
I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

GENERAL EPISTLES

James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

REVELATION

Revelation

How to study the Bible and understand it

1 Set Aside a Regular Time for Study

Schedule study time in advance or other things will interfere. Bible study should be something you look forward to every day.

2 Pray for Understanding

Study the Bible in a prayerful attitude, asking God to lead you by His Spirit and to reveal His Will to you. True understanding comes from the Eternal. You cannot reason it out for yourself. Psa. 119:33-40; Prov. 3:5-8; I Cor. 1:25-29; Jer. 9:23-24

3 Seek Correction and Instruction

The Word of God cuts deep, like a two-edged sword. It judges our innermost thoughts and reveals every flaw in our character. We must approach the study of God's Word with a humble, teachable attitude. Jer. 10:23-24; Isa. 66:1-2, 5; Rom. 8:6-9; Matt. 5:48; II Tim. 3:16; Prov. 6:23.

4 Realize the Bible is Inspired

The entire Bible—both Old and New Testament—is the inspired Word of God. When studying the Bible, bear in mind it is God speaking to you. Reverence His Word and let it inspire and motivate you to grow in His likeness. II Pet. 1:21; Phil. 2:5; John 6:63.

5 Let the Bible Interpret the Bible

Keep in mind, although some passages may seem confusing, there are no contradictions in the Bible. Examine the context and gather all scriptures on a given subject or doctrine. The clear passages will clarify and shed light on those that are difficult to understand. II Pet. 1:20; John 10:35; Isa. 28:9-10; John 17:17.

6 Keep an Open Mind

Because there is so much religious confusion in the world, it is necessary to prove the truth and distinguish it from error. In so doing, it is important to maintain a positive attitude and keep an open mind. Be thankful and appreciative as new knowledge is revealed. Be willing to change if it means you must unlearn wrong ideas and teachings.

7 Prove God's Way is Right

Prove the Bible by putting it to the test. Begin to practice the things you learn and note how much more you get out of Bible study. Notice the changes taking place and acknowledge the blessings that come as a result. I John 3:22; John 10:10; Mal. 3:10; John 8:31-32.

8 Study by Subject

In addition to reading the Bible through, concentrate at times on one book, doctrine or subject and go into it thoroughly. This systematic approach will help you grow in depth of understanding.

9 Mark Key Verses and Passages

A marking system will save time in locating scriptures and provide a quick recall of subject matter. Develop a system that works best for you. For example: use one color or symbol for doctrine, another for personal correction and another for story flow.

10 Meditate and Review

Stop and think about what you are learning. Ask yourself, "What is the real meaning of this scripture to me?" Then reflect on all of the different ways it can be applied in your daily life. Psa. 1:1-3; Psa. 119:97-99; Psa. 139:17-18.

11 Read the Bible Through

Read the Bible from cover to cover as a separate project, in addition to other study. This will insure that no sections are missed, and it will broaden your perspective as to story flow.

12 Be Familiar With Study Aids

Study aids are useful for providing historical background and time setting on the books of the Bible. A good Bible handbook will provide helpful background information. A concordance will locate all passages on a given subject. Bible maps provide topographical, geographical and historical information. Commentaries can be helpful, but exercise care. They contain a great deal of uninspired opinion.