

Notes for Introduction to the Bible - PowerPoint presentation¹

Suggested Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3: 10-17

Slide 1



- (Black background) ‡ credits will move up the page. ‡ to open →

Slide 2



- The Bible – the Word of God. ‡ - picture of family Bible appears. ‡ - another picture of a family Bible appears + the word “CLOSED”. This reminds us that we may have a Bible (family of otherwise) but is it a closed book to us? Do we ever read it? Some people are quick to criticise the Bible, when they have never read it! ‡ - The word “OPEN” appears and the first page of Genesis and Revelation are shown. How important to read the whole Word of God, not just our favourite chapters. ‡ to open →

Slide 3



Picture of the north coast of N.I. – The Bible - ‡ - “An appalling lack of knowledge of the Word of God, both by the non-Christian and the Christian, makes the work of those spreading heresy and error so much easier”. It is therefore essential that Christians are prepared for Christian warfare, in order to resist those non-Christians who are seeking to destroy the Christian’s experience, and to impose their own godless ways on an unbelieving world. ‡ to open →

Slide 4



The Bible - ‡ - is of infinite value. At her coronation, Her Majesty, the Queen, was presented with a Bible, with the words – “Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.” Such is shown the high esteem which should be afforded to the Bible, in the life of our nation, or indeed, in all nations around the world. Sadly, nations have shunned the Bible and have even sought to destroy it and those who read it. ‡ - “Bible believing Christians assert their belief in its..” ‡ INSPIRATION, ‡ AUTHORITY and ‡ RELIABILITY. ‡ to open →

Slide 5



The Bible - ‡ is a textbook for Christians. i.e. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119: 105). ‡ - gives life – 1 Peter 1: 23 – “..the word of God which lives and abides for ever”. ‡ - maintains a living faith, ‡ nourishes the Christian life, ‡ is proved as we accept, prove and test it in experience. ‡ to open →

Slide 6



The Bible ‡ ... is only rightly understood as it is interpreted by the Holy Spirit. ‡ Read – 1 Peter 1: 21 – and 2 Timothy 3: 15-17. ‡ We come to the study of the Word of God with reverence and expectant hearts and minds, depending on God to speak to us from it. ‡ to open →

Slide 7



The Bible is one book - ‡ - this fact will - ‡ 1. Save us many difficulties and doubts - ‡ 2. Increase our wonder, reverence and love for it - ‡ 3. Make us all the better to use it. Read: Ephesians 6: 11, 6: 17. ‡ - This unity is seen in that – it bears the mark of One Divine Author, ‡ - It has consistent lines of teaching regarding God and His dealings with men - ‡ - It consists of 66 individual books (Old Testament = 39, New Testament = 27), has many writers (about 40) and covers many centuries - ‡ to open →

Slide 8



The Bible is the story of two Covenants - ‡ - The Old Testament - ‡ - “God’s dealings with man on the basis of LAW”, in other words, God had given His people the Ten Commandments, together with the sacrificial system and the Tabernacle; this was a for-shadowing of what was to come in the New Testament. God’s mercy and grace was demonstrated in the Old Testament. For example Noah and his family were saved through God’s grace. (Genesis chapters 6-8) - ‡ - The New Testament - ‡ - showed God’s dealings on the basis of God’s GRACE. - ‡ - The life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ links the old and new Testaments. - ‡ to open →

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The Old Testament - ‡ - to understand the Old Testament, you need the Key of the New Testament – the Lord Jesus Christ. ‡ - To understand and appreciate the New Testament, you need the illustrative background of the Old Testament. - ‡ to open →

Slide 10



The Old Testament - ‡ - looked forward to the Cross and the New Testament, ‡ - looks back to the Old Testament, and - ‡ - forward to Christ's eternal reign. ‡ to open →

Slide 11



Let us remind ourselves of the names of the 66 books of the Bible - ‡ - In the Old Testament there are - ‡ - the 5 books of the Pentateuch, - ‡ - the 5 books of Poetry and Wisdom, - ‡ - 17 books of the Prophets, - ‡ - and 12 History books. A total of 39 books for the Old Testament. Some commentators may put some of the books into different groups from what is shown here. ‡ to open →

Slide 12



In the New Testament - ‡ - we have - ‡ - the 4 Gospels and Acts, - ‡ - 21 Epistles (letters), - ‡ - and the book of the Revelation. A total of 27 books for the New Testament. ‡ to open →

Slide 13



The Bible reveals the Lord Jesus Christ. - ‡ - He affirms that each division of the Old Testament testifies concerning HIM. On the Emmaus road, the Lord Jesus showed from the Old Testament the things that spoke of Him. See Luke 24: 27. Later, in the presence of His disciples He showed them how the Old Testament scriptures were fulfilled regarding Himself. See Luke 24: 44. - ‡ - This is ours authority for viewing the Old Testament as well as the New Testament as the revelation of Christ. - ‡ - The Old Testament pointed forward to Christ because it was inadequate on its own. For example - Hebrews 10: 4 reads – “for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sin”. In other words, in Old

Testament the sinner looked forward, by faith, to the time when the Lord Jesus, the sinless Son of God, would shed His blood by dying on the cross – a substitute for the sinner. - ‡ - The Old Testament was fulfilled in every way in Christ Himself. ‡ to open →

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The Old Testament - ‡ - it is OLD, but not OBSOLETE (i.e. worn out, discarded), - ‡ - it is part of the whole Bible: the Revelation of God to man, - ‡ - the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament (Malachi 3; 6, Hebrews 13: 8), - ‡ - the New Testament is LATENT in the Old Testament; the Old Testament is PATENT (made obvious) in the New Testament. - ‡ to open →

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The Old Testament is - ‡ - a record of historical facts - ‡ - It is concerned with how God dealt with his chosen people (other nations come into the history in so far as they affect Israel's history). - ‡ - Time is often passed over when God's people are in subjection e.g. – Judges 3; 8, 13; 6: 1. - ‡ - Much Old Testament history has now been cross checked by archaeological evidence. - ‡ to open →

Slide 16



The Old Testament: - ‡ - Prophetic utterances fulfilled - ‡ - The 70 years of captivity of Judah – Jeremiah 29: 10; 32: 11 - ‡ - Birth of Christ – Isaiah 7: 14; 9: 16; - ‡ - Place of Christ's birth – Micah 5: 2; - ‡ - The suffering Messiah – Isaiah 53. (NB – it maybe that time would not allow you to read out the whole of the chapter. Pick out a few examples) - ‡ to open →

Slide 17



In the Old Testament we have Spiritual illustrations of God's unchanging principles –

- ‡ - The Flood; Judgement on a godless world;
- ‡ - The Captivity: Judgement on a disobedient people;
- ‡ - The Passover Lamb: Redemption by blood;
- ‡ - The Crossing of the Red Sea: Redemption by power;
- ‡ - Hosea: God's undying love for His own;
- ‡ - Isaiah: God's unapproachable Holiness;
- ‡ - The Brazen Serpent: Life offered to God
- ‡ to open →

Slide 18



The Old Testament – its Divine Authority - ‡ - The dominant note of the prophets was – Thus saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 37: 7). Note the tragic sense of bewilderment when it was not heard (Jeremiah 37: 7; Amos 5: 11-12). - ‡ - Earlier, the Lawgivers demands had been summed up in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). - ‡ - The Old Testament was the reference book of the Lord Jesus, of Peter, of Paul etc. (Luke 4: 7-9, 24: 44; Acts 2: 16, 2: 34-35; Galatians 3: 16; Hebrews 1: 5, Isaiah 61: 1-2) - ‡ to open →

Slide 19



We have been talking about - ‡ - **GOD'S WONDERFUL WORD** - this is no ordinary book, which has come from an author's imagination. This is the very Word of God, which He has caused to be written. Have you read the Bible? I don't mean just the parts which you find inspiring? Have you read the whole of the Bible, from cover to cover? Ask God to help you understand it and to apply it to your own life.

N.B. – if you think that this presentation is too long for those watching it, it could be split into two parts. **The Bible** (as a whole), and the **Old Testament**. The Old Testament part could commence at slide **13**.