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Bible Doctrine Presented in Visual Format

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

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An Overview of the Bible

Perspective	Explanation	Additional Comments
Introductory Notes	With over 6 billion copies of the Bible printed ¹ and around 100 million sales each year ² , the Bible is the most consistent best seller there's ever been in the history of the world. The Bible, God's Word to man, shows us how to be saved. Even though not primarily a science or history book, the Bible, which is divided into two sections, the Old Testament with 39 books and the New Testament with 27 books, is correct in matters of science, history, astronomy, doctrine, and instruction in life (II Tim 3:16). The original manuscripts, which have all been lost, were without error (Deut 18:18; Prov 30:5; John 10:35).	The Bible, which is the word of God (II Pet 1:20-21), rejects revered writings such as the Quran, Tipitaka, Jain Agamas, Book of Mormon, Kojiki, Tao-te-Ching, or Zend Avesta ³ as divine revelation (Rev 22:18-19) or spiritual instruction to man.
On Authorship and Timing	Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Paul, Luke, and John, who are some of the more prominent authors of the Bible, make up some of the circa forty authors who wrote the Bible. Assuming the 18th century BC ⁴ as a ballpark figure for the authorship of Job to 95 AD for the authorship of Revelation, the Bible was written in a timespan of about 1900 years. The actual account in the Bible, for example, say, in the creation account in Genesis, and the penning of the account may exhibit a significant difference in time.	As there were around 400 years between the Old and New Testaments, there has been over 1900 years of silence since Revelation was written. Further, since the last stage of history was recorded in Revelation, we can conclude that the canon of scripture is closed (Rev 22:18-19).

"A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this knowledge of the Bible." – Woodrow Wilson

¹ Statistic from Youtube Channel FaithFamilyAmerica

² <https://www.factretriever.com/bible-facts>

³ As listed on <http://www.quickgs.com/list-of-world-religions-religious-books-place-of-worship/>

⁴ With the detailed conversations in the book, Job was probably written shortly after the event. This paraphrase is from: Ryrie Study Bible; Moody Pub, p788.

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Authentication of the Canon of Scripture	To write scripture, the author needed to have the prophetic or apostolic office (Gal 1:1; II Pet 3:16) or there needed to be a very close association to the office ⁵ . The test of time was a strong element for Old Testament books to make it into the canon and for New Testament books, early church fathers acknowledged the canon, which included a vote. Jesus himself affirmed the canonization of the Old Testament (Luke 24:44).	It became clear that Revelation, originally part of the Antilegomena, was inspired by the Holy Spirit, which was due to modern technology that surfaced in the 20th century, which lined up perfectly with the prophecies ⁶ .
On the Apocrypha	Apocryphal books, spurious letters and books associated with the Old and New Testaments, were not inspired by God. Jesus never quoted from the Old Testament Apocryphal books, and neither did any prophet claim authorship.	The test of time is proving that the bible, held by the Evangelical church, is the authorized canon of scripture.
Preservation and Transmission of the Bible	First, the bible claims (I Peter 1:24-25) preservation (Psalm 119:89). Secondly, history has proven and verified the preservation of Holy Scripture. Until the printing press arrived onto the scene in 1450 AD, the Bible was hand copied in the form of manuscripts. We have around 24,000 manuscripts of the Bible. And with the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls, a series a manuscripts dating back to the time of Christ, today's Bible affirms to be the Bible in the ancient world. The existing manuscripts are locked up in different parts of the world, which assures no one person will just up and destroy what we have. We don't have any originals anymore, but with the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls, we see that the ancient Bible agrees with the modern Bible. Amen!	The Bible has not been altered as claimed by the Muslims. While there are over 200,000 variants in the manuscripts, no major doctrine has been touched upon. The Muslims purposely destroyed the early manuscripts of the Quran, which is contrary to how we believers operate. The more manuscripts we have to affirm the Bible, the better off we are.
"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." – George Washington		

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⁵ The MacArthur Study Bible; Good News Publishers, pXIX.

⁶ In the ancient world, a global ministry such as the two witnesses or the implementation of the mark of the beast would only remain mysteries. No wonder Martin Luther had a hard time with Revelation.



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On Apologetics	Also, Peter informs us to be ready to give an answer (I Pet 3:15) for those who have questions, which would include matters regarding the laws of nature and such. The hydrologic cycle of oceanography wasn't understood until the 16th & 17th centuries ⁷ . First, rain forms in the clouds (Job 36:27-28), and then it falls to the earth (Amos 9:6b), and subsequently runs into the oceans (Ecc 1:7), after which the water evaporates up into the heavens (Jer 10:13) only to start the process over again. In terms of medicine, the Bible spoke on quarantining (Lev 13:46), the optimal date for circumcision (Gen 17:12), and that life was in the blood ⁸ (Lev 17:11) thousands of years before these facts were understood.	The Bible speaks of the earth's suspension in space (Job 26:7), the earth's sphere (Is 40:22), that human waste needs to be buried (Deut 23:12-14), the inferiority of hybrids (Lev 19:19), and that space is dark (Is 50:3). Man didn't discover the optimal size of a ship to be 30-5-3 until around the year 1858 ⁹ (See Gen 6:15).
	Being both omnipotent and omniscient, God could create the science and consequently have it put into the Bible.	
On Bible Translations or Versions	The Hebrew Old Testament got translated into Greek (LXX) before Christ's first advent, but Christ never spoke against the translation, only that the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35). Moreover, Bible translations/versions were <i>never</i> an issue in the Bible. The Bible gets translated into the new vernacular language, after which as often times happens, the new translation gets priority status. Bible translation has quite the murderous history, even in recent years ¹⁰ .	Anyone can pick out their favorite Bible version and lift it up as the standard. While we don't have the originals, we do have 24,000 manuscripts from which we get our Bible. Majority Text, the best translation method, is when you have multiple manuscripts in front of you and you go with the translation which occurs most frequently.
"No sciences are better attested than the religion of the Bible." – Sir Isaac Newton		

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⁷ <https://www.cs.uni-potsdam.de/ti/kreitz/Christian/Apologetics/all.pdf>

⁸ There was even a time when doctors believed that there could be bad blood.

⁹ <https://www.cs.uni-potsdam.de/ti/kreitz/Christian/Apologetics/all.pdf> The Pentateuch was written in the 15th century BC.

¹⁰ <https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/the-murderous-history-of-bible-translations/>



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Various Bible Study Approaches	Systematic Theology tackles Bible doctrine by researching a certain topic throughout the Bible, e.g. the study of angels. Biblical theology tackles theology through the lens of the chronological or historical development of scripture. Historical theology centers around a certain time period in history. Take for instance, theology in the early church or theology in the Dark Ages.	Lay people studying the Bible can always start with a good Study Bible. Of course, these days the internet has numerous treasure troves in the area of Bible study, but discretion is needed in the matter.
On Various Genres in the Bible	As you are doing your Bible reading, it is imperative that you read the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), which ensures that you read a wide variety of genres like historical narrative (i.e. Joshua), wisdom literature (i.e. Proverbs), law (i.e. Leviticus), prophecy, the gospels and the New Testament epistles.	Each genre will read a bit different, but it is still our duty to search the scriptures daily for the truth (Acts 17:11).
Some Core Doctrines and Themes	The core doctrines in the Bible center around the attributes of God and the works of God, such as the creation and providing mankind with the Bible and salvation, which is only found in Christ. God's holiness (Lev 11:44), righteousness (Deut 32:4), sovereign power (Jer 32:27; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:3; 4:13), love (I John 4:8), mercy (Ex 34:6), faithfulness (I Co 1:9) and other important doctrines including the sin in man (Ec 7:20) and the life of the saved man after salvation having to be one of service (Eph 2:10) are some of the major themes in the Bible. Overcoming is also a major theme (Rev 2-3).	Understanding the road to salvation is paramount. For anyone who would miss this road, the consequence would be eternity in the lake of fire. Faith (Eph 2:8-9), repentance (Luke 3:13), belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ (I Co 15:3-4), particularly the resurrection (Rom 10:9), are necessary in the salvation process.
"The Bible is the Constitution of Christianity." – Billy Graham		

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The NT and OT are Interrelated	Not only does the Old Testament point to the New Testament (Luke 24:44), but the New Testament quotes the Old Testament 855 times. Observing how Jesus handled the Old Testament helps us understand how the two covenants are related. In fact, according to Jesus, the law and prophets (Mat 22:40) would not be destroyed, but rather all would be fulfilled (Mat 5:17). However, since a new covenant is to be made (Jer 31:33-34), the Old Testament sacrifices were abolished because the once for all sacrifice by Christ would forever be sufficient (Heb 10:10-11). The moral law would continue to be intact. Jesus would quote the Psalter the most, then Deuteronomy, Isaiah, and Exodus.	Some verses from the Old Testament are quoted frequently in the New Testament. Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev 19:18, 8X), these three commandments (Ex 20:12-14, 6X), the promise to subdue God's enemies (Ps 110:1, 5X), marriage (Gen 2:24, 4X), and Abraham's means to salvation (Gen 15:6, 3X) to name a few.
Some Interesting Facts about the Bible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Bible has been translated fully into 670 languages (Wikipedia). 2) China is the largest producer of Bibles. 3) The Geneva Bible was the first with numbered verses. 4) The Bible is the most-commonly stolen book. 5) The Gutenberg Bible was the first major book produced by movable type¹¹. 6) Isaiah 8:3 has the longest word: Mahershalalhashbaz. 7) William Shakespeare quoted the Bible over 1000 times. 8) Some who got caught with an English Bible were burned alive¹². 9) While the word of God came from heaven, Jesus didn't pen any of its books. 10) The book of Esther is the only book that doesn't mention God's name. 	The Bible is comprised of 1189 chapters and 31,173 verses. The shortest verse in English is John 11:35 saying, "Jesus wept" and the longest verse is in Esther 8:9. The longest and shortest chapters are fairly close to each other: Psalm 119 & Psalm 117.
<p>"To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn than the imperishable truth to be found in ... the BIBLE?" – Queen Elizabeth</p>		

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¹¹ 2, 3, 4, 5. <https://www.factretriever.com/bible-facts>

¹² 7-8 From Youtube channel FaithFamilyAmerica