

## LESSON- 11

# THE BIBLE

### Contents and Divisions

**References** : *Psalms.119: 97-128*

**Memory verse** : *Jere. 23:29*

**Objective:** To get an over all knowledge of the Bible and realise its greatness. Teaching aid: A Chart showing the 66 books of the Bible and the Writers of the same

**Introduction:** We have already studied that Bible is the inspired Word of God and is beyond all human limitations. Now you may be anxious to know what the specialities of this great book are. How many books does the Bible consist of? Now let us learn how they can be grouped, who wrote the books and when and under what conditions.

#### **ITS THEME:**

The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is the history of the nation Israel who prepared the stage for the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Whereas the New Testament presents the very person and work of Jesus Christ. Nearly every portion in the Bible tells directly or indirectly about Jesus Christ and the redemption through Him.

#### **ITS CONTENTS:**

In our Bible, the Old Testament part is made up of 39 books with 929 chapters. The New Testament part consists of 27 books with 260 chapters. The specification as Old and New Testament came to be in use in A. D. 2nd century for the purpose for distinguishing between the Jewish and Christian writings. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Most of the New Testament books were written in Greek while some in Aramaic.

**ITS DIVISION:****a) The old Testament :**

In our Old Testament there are 39 books These are divided into four on the basis of the subject matter.

<b>1. The Books of The Law (Pentatuech):</b>	
The first five books from Genesis to Deuteronomy are in this group and are known as Mosaic Pentatuech.	5
<b>2. Historical Books:</b>	
Twelve books from Joshua to Esther come in this category. These are the historical records of Israel.	12
<b>3. Poetical:</b>	
The five books from job to the Song of Solomon and Lamentation are in this group.	6
<b>4. Prophetical:</b>	
This group consists of 4 major prophets namely Isaiah, Jeremeah, Ezekiel and Daniel and 12 minor prophets from Hosea to Malachi	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

The arrangement found in our English Bible is not the original but that of the Septuagint. In the Hebrew Old Testament the books are arranged in a different way. Instead of counting thirty nine books as we do, the Jews counted twenty four. The number twenty four is obtained by counting the 12 Minor Prophets as one book, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles each as one book (instead of I& II Samuel etc) and Ezra - Nehemiah as one book.

**b) New Testament :**

The 27 books of the New Testament can be divided into four.

<b>1. The Gospels</b> - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John	-	4
<b>2. Historical</b>	- The Acts of the Apostles	1
<b>3. Epistolatry</b>	- Romans to Jude	21
<b>4. Prophetical</b>	- The Revelation	1
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>27</b>

The following list shows the author and the date of each of the books in the Bible. The books are not arranged in our Bible in chronological order but subjectwise.

### THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>B.C</u>
Genesis (Jenesis)	Moses	1492-1451	"
Exodus (Eksodus)	"	"	"
Leviticus (Leviticus)	"	"	"
Numbers (Numbers)	"	"	"
Deuteronomy (Diyooteronomy)	"	"	"
Joshu (Joshua)	Joshua	1451-1427	"
Judges (Judges )	Samuel	1100-1060	"
Ruth (Rooth)	"	"	"
I Samuel (Samuel)	"	"	"
II Samuel (Samuel)	Gad, nathan	1060-1010	"
I Kings (Kings)	Not certain	"	"
II Kings (Kings)	"	"	"
I Chronicles (Kronicles)	Ezra	457-445	"
II Chronicles (Kronicles)	"	457-445	"
Ezra (Esra)	"	457-445	"
Nehemiah (Neehemaya)	Nehemiah	"	"
Esther (Esther)	Mordecai	521-510	"
Job (Job)	Moses	1491-1443	1451 "
Pslams (Sams)	Ezra compiled	1451-450	"
Proverbs (Proverbs)	Soloman	1000-960	"
Ecclesiastes (Ekkleessiastes)	"	"	"
Songs of Solmon	"	"	"
Isaiah (Isaya I, as, in island)	Isaiah	760-698	"
Jeremiah (Jeremayaa)	Jeremiah	629-584	"
Lamentations (Lamentasions)	Jermiah	629-584	"
Ezekiel (Eseekiel)	Ezekiel	606- 586	"
Daniel (Daniel)	Daniel	606-534	"
Hosea (Hoseya)	Hosea	760-720	"
Joel(Joyel)	Joel	820-800	"

Amos (A, as, in Asia)	Amos	780-754	"
Obadiah (Obadaya)	Obadiah	586-584	"
Jonah (Jona)	Jonah	785	"
Micah (Maika)	Micah	750-700	"
Nahum (Nahoom)	Nahum	630	"
Habakkuk (Habakkook)	Habakkuk	607-606	"
Zephaniah (Sefenaya)	Zephaniah	630-610	"
Haggai (Haggeyi)	Haggai	520	"
Zechariah (Sekkeraya)	Zechariah	520-516	"
Malachi (Malakkai)	Malachi	400	"

### THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>A.D.</u>
Matthew (Mathyu)	Matthew	--	60-70	"
Mark (Mark)	Mark	Rome	57-68	"
Luke (Look, as in lose)	Luke	Rome	63-68	"
John (Jon)	John	Ephesus	90-96	"
Acts of the Apostles	Luke		64	"
Romans (Romans)	Paul	Corinth	58	"
1 Corinthians (Korinthians)	"	Ephesus	59	"
2. Corinthians (Korinthians)	"	Philippi	60	"
Galatians (Galasians)	"	Corinth	60(57)	"
Ephesians (Efesians)	"	Roman Prison	62-63	"
Philipians (Filippiyans)	"	"	"	"
Colossians (Kolosiyans)	"	Roman Prison	62-63	"
1 Thessalonians (Thessaloniyans)	"	Corinth	52	"
2 Thessalonians (Thessaloniyans)	"	Corinth	52-53	"
1 Timothy (1 Theemathy)	"	Macedonia	65	"
2 Timothy (11 Theemathy)	"	Rome- prison	67	"
Titus (Tayitus)	"	Nichopolis	55	"
Philemon (Fayiliman)	"	Rome- prison	62-63	"
Hebrews (Heebroos)	Paul?	Rome?	64	"
James (james)	James		60 (45?)	"
1 Peter (1 Peeter)	Peter	Babylonia	60	"

II Peter (II Peeter)	"	"	60	"
1 John (1 Jon)	John	Ephesus	90	"
11 John (11Jon)	"	"	90	"
III John (IIIJon)	"	"	90	"
Jude (Jood)	Jude	Jerusalem?	66	"
Revelation(Revelasion)	John	Patmos	96	"

**Note:** These dates are approximate. They give us the chronological order of the Bible books. Question marks are given in doubtful cases.

### EXCERCISE 11

#### Answer the following questions

1. What are the poetical books of the Bible?
2. How can you group the books of the Old and New Testaments on the basis of contents?
3. Prepare a chart showing the names of the books in the Bible, their authors time and place?
4. Prepare a chart showing the time and place of the epistles of St Paul?
5. Of the 4 gospels which was written first and which last?
6. Write down in order, the books of the New Testament?
7. Write down in order the books of the Old Testament?
8. What are the prophetical books of the Old Testament?

