

What Is The Bible?

What Is The Bible?

- 1. Bible Facts**
- 2. Structure Of The Bible**
- 3. What Is The Bible About?**
- 4. Is The Bible True?**
- 5. How To Read The Bible?**
- 6. Manual For Life**

Old Testament

Hebrew Bible

The Old Testament was originally written in the Aramaic and Paleo-Hebrew language, and translated into Greek in ~285-140 BC, completing the Greek Old Testament the Jews and Gentiles (also) used.

New Testament

Christian Bible

The New Testament was written in Koine Greek, which was the language used at that time in most Mediterranean countries. It also includes words (<1%) written in Aramaic (or Hebrew) language.

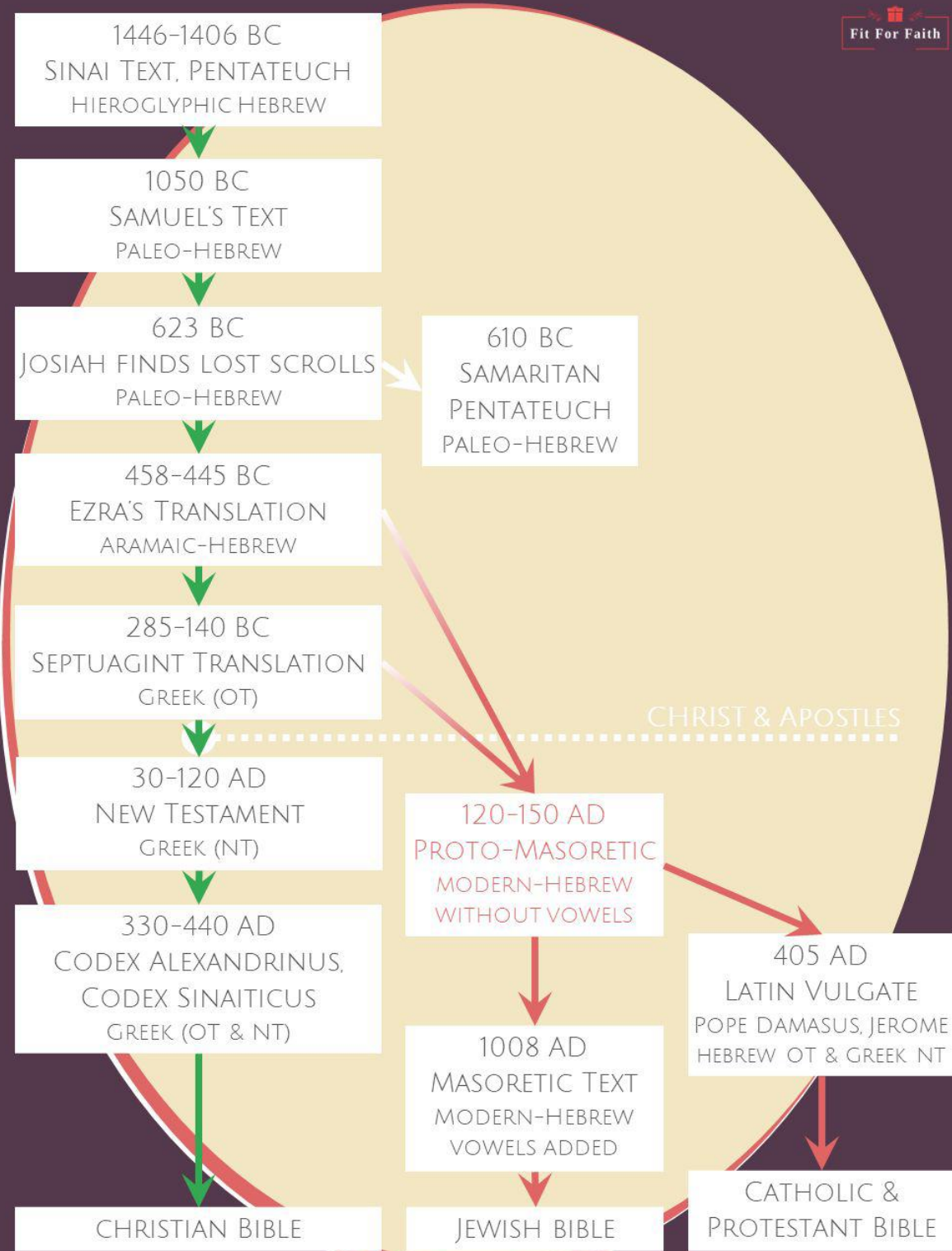
Translations

The Bible is the best-selling book of all times, year in and year out, decade after decade.

It has been translated at least in part into more than 2,255 languages (of ~7,360 languages worldwide).

Translations

► see the study
'Greek Old Testament'
for more details



Translations (Hebrew OT & Greek NT)

English Translation Methodology Compared:

ABP

EBR

ESV

AMP

LIT

(N)KJV

NIV

YLT

NASB

LEB

NLT

Faithful (Literal)

Unfaithful (Dynamic)

Translations

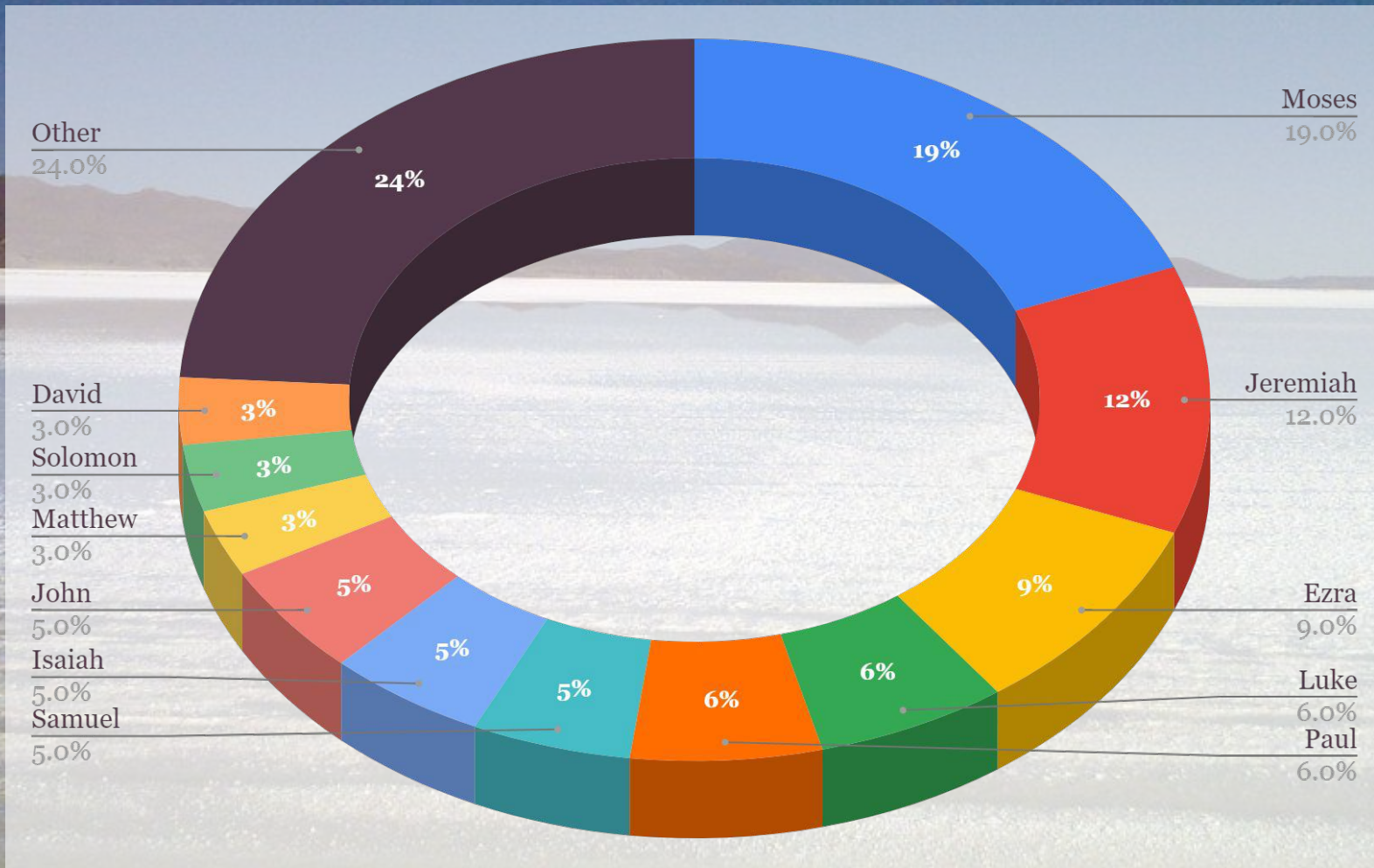
Matthew 23:23

Original	Greek		ΟΥΑΙ ΥΜΙΝ, ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΙ ΥΠΟΚΡΙΤΑΙ, ΟΤΙ ΑΠΟΔΕΚΑΤΟΥΤΕ ΤΟ ΝΑΥΟΣΜΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΑΝΗΘΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΚΥΜΙΝΟΝ	ΚΑΙ ΑΦΗΚΑΤΕ ΤΑ ΒΑΡΥΤΕΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΝΟΜΟΥ, ΤΗΝ ΚΡΙΣΙΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΕΛΕΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΠΙΣΤΙΝ.	ΤΑΥΤΑ tauta these those	ΕΔΕΙ edei had necessary ought one should behoved	ΠΟΙΗCΑΙ poiEsai to do to make	ΚΑΚΕΙΝΑ kakeina and those that that one	ΜΗ mE not no	ΑΦΙΕΝΑΙ aphienai to leave leave / lay aside put away abandon neglect
Trans- lations	EBR	Rotherham	Alas for you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites; because ye tithe the mint and the anise and the cummin, [= you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your garden herbs]	– and have dismissed the weightier matters of the law – the justice, the mercy, and the faith;	these it was binding to do, and those not to dismiss.					
	WBMS	Wycliff			and it behooved [or needed] to do these things, and not to leave those.					
	YLT	Young			these it behoved [you] to do, and those not to neglect.					
	DBY	Darby			these ye ought to have done and not have left those aside.					
	LEB	Lexham			it was necessary to do these things while not neglecting those.					
	AMP	Amplified			these are the things you ought to have done without neglecting the others.					
	CSB	Christian Standard			these things should have been done without neglecting the others.					
	ESV	English Standard			these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.					
	HCSB	Holman			these things should have been done without neglecting the others.					
	ISV	International St.			These are the things you should have practiced, without neglecting the others.					
	KJV	King James			these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.					
	LIT	Green			It was right to do these, and not to have left those aside.					
	NASB	New American St.			these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.					
	NKJV	New King James			these you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.					
	NRSV	New Revised St.			it is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.					
	ASV	American Standard			these ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone.					
	BSB	Berean Standard			You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.					
NIRV	New Intl. Reader	you should have practiced the last things without failing to do the first.								
NIV	New International	you should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.								
GNT	Good News	These you should practice, without neglecting the others.								
	MSG	Message	you carelessly take it or leave it. Careful bookkeeping is commendable, but the basics are required. Do you have any idea how silly you look, writing a life story that's wrong from start to finish, nitpicking over commas and semicolons?							
	NLT	New Living	you should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. [tithe on garden herbs?; in the New Covenant?]							
	TPT	The Passion	Readjust your values and place first things first.							

► see also the study 'Topics - Giving'

Authors

2 Different Continents · Asia and Europe



Authors

2 Different Continents · Asia and Europe

Most bible authors lived their entire lives in Israel, which is located in the Middle East (Western Asia).

The apostle Paul went on his missionary trips mainly through modern Turkey and wrote many of his letters when he was in Greece or Italy.

**Moses is commonly claimed to have lived in Africa, but he probably grew up in the eastern part of Egypt that occupied a strip in the North of the Sinai Peninsula = modern Asia. See also the Map.*

Time Of Writing

~1600 – 1300 BC

400 BC

30 – 70 AD

95 –120 AD

~ 1600 – 1700 years

Old Testament, Beginning

Old Testament, Finish

New Testament, Beginning

New Testament, Finish

Time of writing, overall

Time Of Writing (OT)

	Book	Date Written	Time	Author
1	Genesis	1430 BC	5560 - 1805 BC	Moses
2	Exodus	1400 BC	1525 - 1400 BC	Moses
3	Leviticus	1445 BC	na	Moses
4	Numbers	1400 BC	1450 - 1400 BC	Moses
5	Deuteronomy	1400 BC	1450 - 1400 BC	Moses
6	Joshua	1375 BC	1400 - 1375 BC	Joshua, Scribes
7	Judges	1050 BC	1350 - 1050 BC	Prophet Samuel
8	Ruth	1050 - 1000 BC	1150 - 1100 BC	Prophet Samuel
9	1 Samuel	1000 BC	1150 - 1000 BC	Samuel, Nathan, Gad
10	2 Samuel	900 BC	1000 - 975 BC	Nathan, Gad, et al
11	1 Kings	550 BC	975 - 850 BC	na
12	2 Kings	550 BC	850 - 575 BC	na
13	1 Chronicles	450 BC	4000 - 975 BC	na
14	2 Chronicles	340 BC	975 - 525 BC	na
15	Ezra	450 BC	550 - 510 BC	Ezra
16	Nehemiah	425 - 400 BC	450 - 430 BC	Nehemiah
17	Esther	450 BC	480 - 475 BC	na
18	Job	1900 BC	na	na
19	Psalms	1400 - 450 BC	na	King David, et al

	Book	Date Written	Time	Author
20	Proverbs	970 - 675 BC	na	King Solomon, et al
21	Ecclesiastes	940 - 931 BC	na	King Solomon
22	Song of Solomon	970 - 950 BC	na	King Solomon
23	Isaiah	700 - 680 BC	700 BC - 25 AD	Isaiah
24	Jeremiah	585 - 570 BC	575 BC - 25 AD	Jeremiah
25	Lamentations	585 BC	586 BC	Jeremiah
26	Ezekiel	590 - 570 BC	585 BC - Future	Ezekiel
27	Daniel	536 -530 BC	536 BC - Future	Daniel
28	Hosea	750 - 710 BC	750 - 6 BC	Hosea
29	Joel	na	725 BC - Future	Joel
30	Amos	750 BC	722 - 516 BC	Amos
31	Obadiah	na	na	Obadiah
32	Jonah	780 BC	775 BC	Jonah
33	Micah	735 - 710 BC	722 BC - Future	Micah
34	Nahum	650 BC	658 - 615 BC	Nahum
35	Habakkuk	615 - 605 BC	608 - 598 BC	Habakkuk
36	Zephaniah	635 - 625 BC	605 BC - Future	Zephaniah
37	Haggai	526 BC	526 BC	Haggai
38	Zechariah	520 - 484 BC	520 BC - Future	Zechariah
39	Malachi	433 - 424 BC	414 BC - 24 AD	Malachi



Time of Writing (NT)

	Book	Date Written	Time	Author
1	Matthew	57 - 64 AD	37 BC - Future	Matthew (Levi)
2	Mark	57 - 63 AD	37 BC - Future	John Mark (non-disciple)
3	Luke	60 - 63 AD	37 BC - Future	Luke (a doctor)
4	John	80 - 90 AD	37 BC -33 AD	John the Apostle
5	Acts	62 - 70 AD	33 - 70 AD	Luke (a doctor)
6	Romans	56 - 57 AD	-	Paul
7,8	1,2 Corinthians	55 - 57 AD	-	Paul
9	Galatians	49 - 50 AD	-	Paul
10	Ephesians	60 - 62 AD	-	Paul
11	Philippians	60 - 62 AD	-	Paul
12	Colossians	60 - 62 AD	-	Paul
13,14	1,2 Thessalonians	51 - 52 AD	-	Paul
15,16	1,2 Timothy	62 - 67 AD	-	Paul
17	Titus	62 - 64 AD	-	Paul
18	Philemon	60 - 62 AD	-	Paul
19	Hebrews	67 - 69 AD	-	Paul, Luke, Barnabas, et al
20	James	44 - 49 AD	-	James
21,22	1,2 Peter	62 - 69 AD	-	Peter
23-25	1,2,3 John	85 - 95 AD	-	John the Apostle
26	Jude	65 - 75 AD	-	Jude
27	Revelation	65 - 95 AD	70 AD - Future	John the Apostle

2. Structure Of The Bible

Bible



The word **Bible** originated in Ancient Greek, in the expression *TA BIBLIA*, *ta biblíá*, '**the holy books**'.

Bible



Other terms for the Bible are used, such as
Word of THEOS,
The *Holy Bible* or the *Holy Scripture*.

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

The Bible is like a library of
Ancient Judaism (Old Testament)
and **Christianity (New Testament)**.

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

‘Testament’ means **‘covenant’**
and it refers to alliances
that **THEOS made with the Israelites** (OT),
and the new and definitive alliance
that **THEOS made with all humans**
through the blood of IESOUS CHRISTOS (NT).



Bible

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Old Testament

It is the series of Jewish sacred texts
before CHRISTOS.

New Testament

The leading figure is IESOUS of Nazareth,
called CHRISTOS.



Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

A **Canon** means a rule, measure or
norm of conduct or belief.

A **Biblical Canon** is the set of books that are
‘divinely inspired’ and distinguishes
them from other texts that are not
considered to be revealed by THEOS.

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

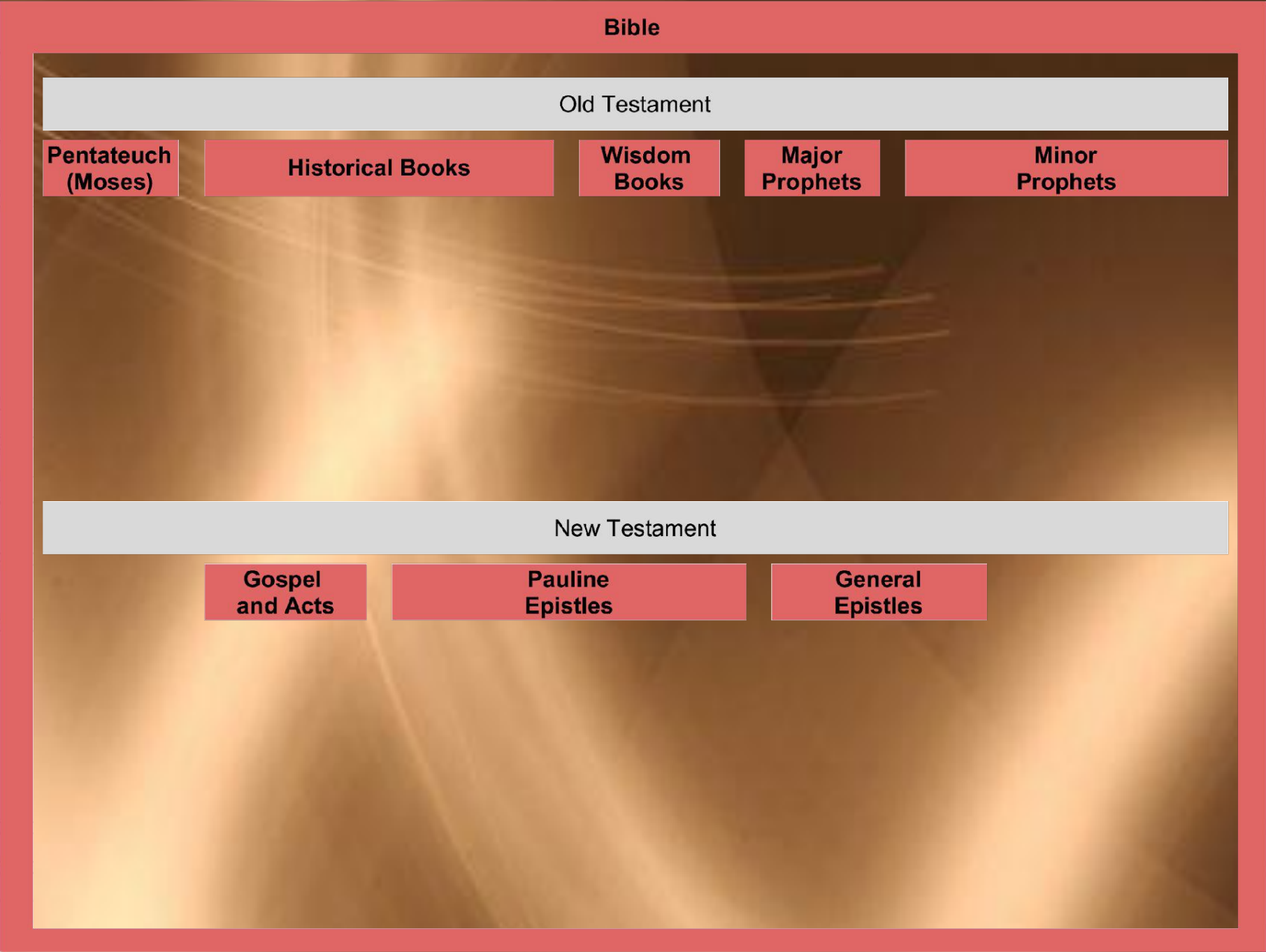
Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses



Bible

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Old Testament

Pentateuch (Moses)

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

Historical Books

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS

1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

Wisdom Books

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS

Major Prophets

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

Minor Prophets

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

New Testament

Gospel and Acts

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS

Pauline Epistles

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

General Epistles

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

Bible

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Testaments

Canons

Books

Chapters

Verses

Old Testament

Pentateuch (Moses)

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

50 40 27 36 34

Historical Books

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS

24 21 4 31 24 22 25

1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

29 36 10 13 10

Wisdom Books

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS

42 150 31 12 8

Major Prophets

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

66 52 5 48 12

Minor Prophets

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

14 3 9 1 4 7 3 3 3 2 14 4

Example: Psalms, **Chapter 117**, Verse 1

New Testament

Gospel and Acts

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS

28 16 24 21 28

Pauline Epistles

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

16 16 13 6 6 4 4 5 3 6 4 3 1

General Epistles

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

13 5 5 3 5 1 1 1 22

Old Testament																																						
Pentateuch (Moses)					Historical Books							Wisdom Books					Major Prophets			Minor Prophets																		
GENESIS	EXODUS	LEVITICUS	NUMBERS	DEUTERONOMY	JOSHUA	JUDGES	RUTH	1 SAMUEL	2 SAMUEL	1 KINGS	2 KINGS	1 CHRONICLES	2 CHRONICLES	EZRA	NEHEMIAH	ESTHER	JOB	PSALMS	PROVERBS	ECCLESIASTES	SONG OF SONGS	ISAIAH	JEREMIAH	LAMENTATIONS	EZEKIEL	DANIEL	HOSEA	JOEL	AMOS	OBADIAH	JONAH	MICAH	NAHUM	HABAKKUK	ZEPHANIAH	HAGGAI	ZECHARIAH	MALACHI
50	40	27	36	34	24	21	4	31	24	22	25	29	36	10	13	10	42	150	31	12	8	66	52	5	48	12	14	3	9	1	4	7	3	3	3	2	14	4

Psalm 117

1 *"Praise KYRIOS, all ye nations: praise him, all ye peoples.*

2 *For his mercy has been abundant toward us:
and the truth of KYRIOS endures for ever."*

How To Find A Passage?

John 3:16 means: Gospel of John
Chapter 3
Verse 16

I John 5:6 means: First Epistle of John
Chapter 5
Verse 6

You can search for the **book** in the index or by memorizing the order of the **books**. Then look for the **chapter** and the respective **verse**.

3. What Is The Bible About?

In essence, the Old Testament describes

- › the **creation** of Heaven, the earth, plants, animals, and human beings
- › the **fall of the human being into sin** and out of communion with THEOS, in the example of the Garden of Eden
- › the formalization of **laws through Moses**
- › the rise and fall of many nations

It is further described how

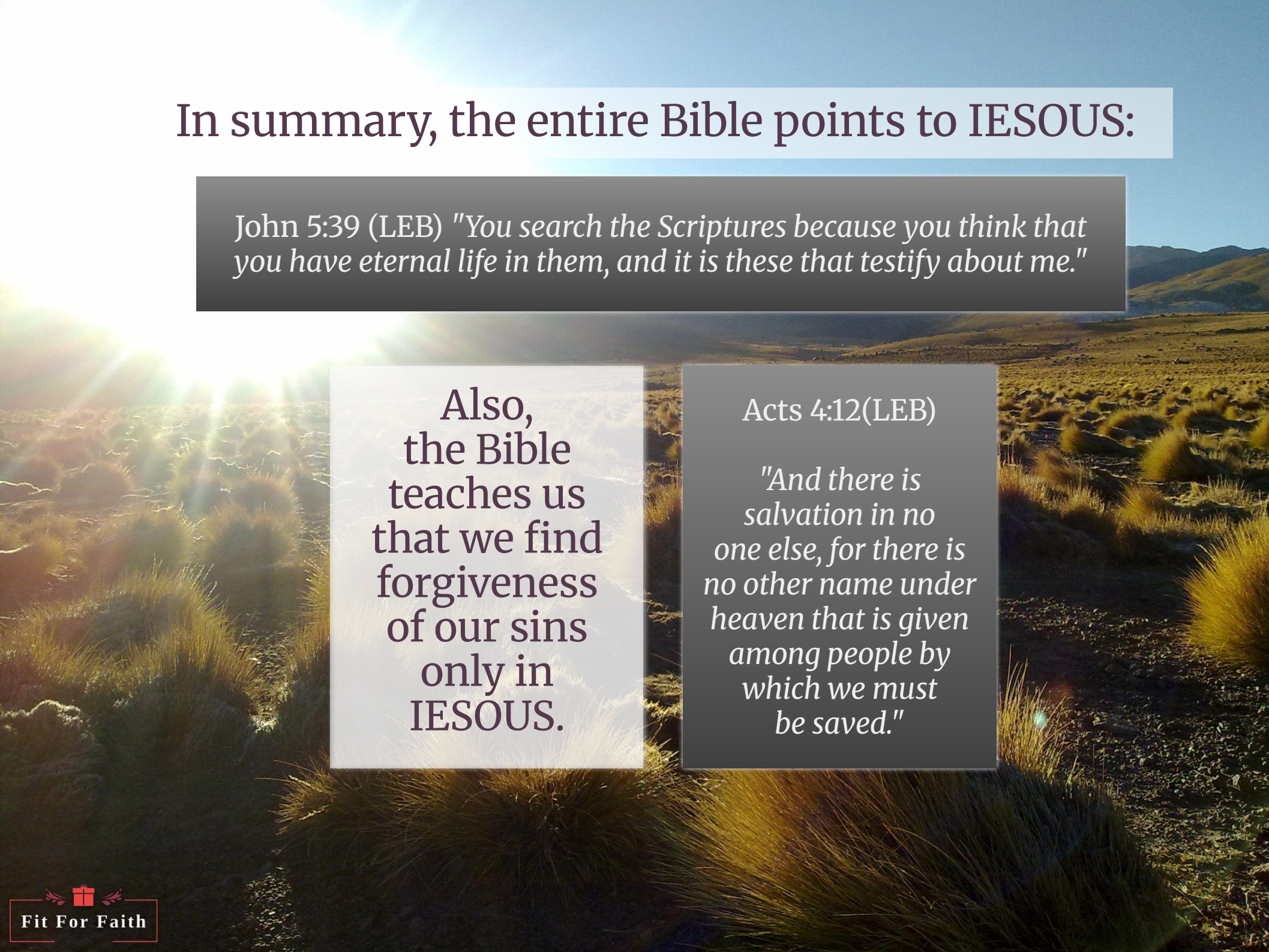
- › THEOS named the **Israelites as His chosen people**, and His promised covenants and prophecies to them.
- › He promised the Israelites a **future MESSIAH**, who would restore humanity's relationship with THEOS.

The New Testament tells
of the historical accomplishment of THEOS' work in
regards to His prophetic statements regarding IESOUS.

IESOUS of Nazareth

- › was born as a Jew like His apostles
- › was born of a virgin
- › died on the **cross** and
- › paid the **price of sin**
- › as prophesied in the Old Testament.

Then the Bible reports in the books of the Apostles
that in the decades after His death the **first Christian**
churches were formed in Israel and the Mediterranean
region.



In summary, the entire Bible points to IESOUS:

John 5:39 (LEB) *"You search the Scriptures because you think that you have eternal life in them, and it is these that testify about me."*

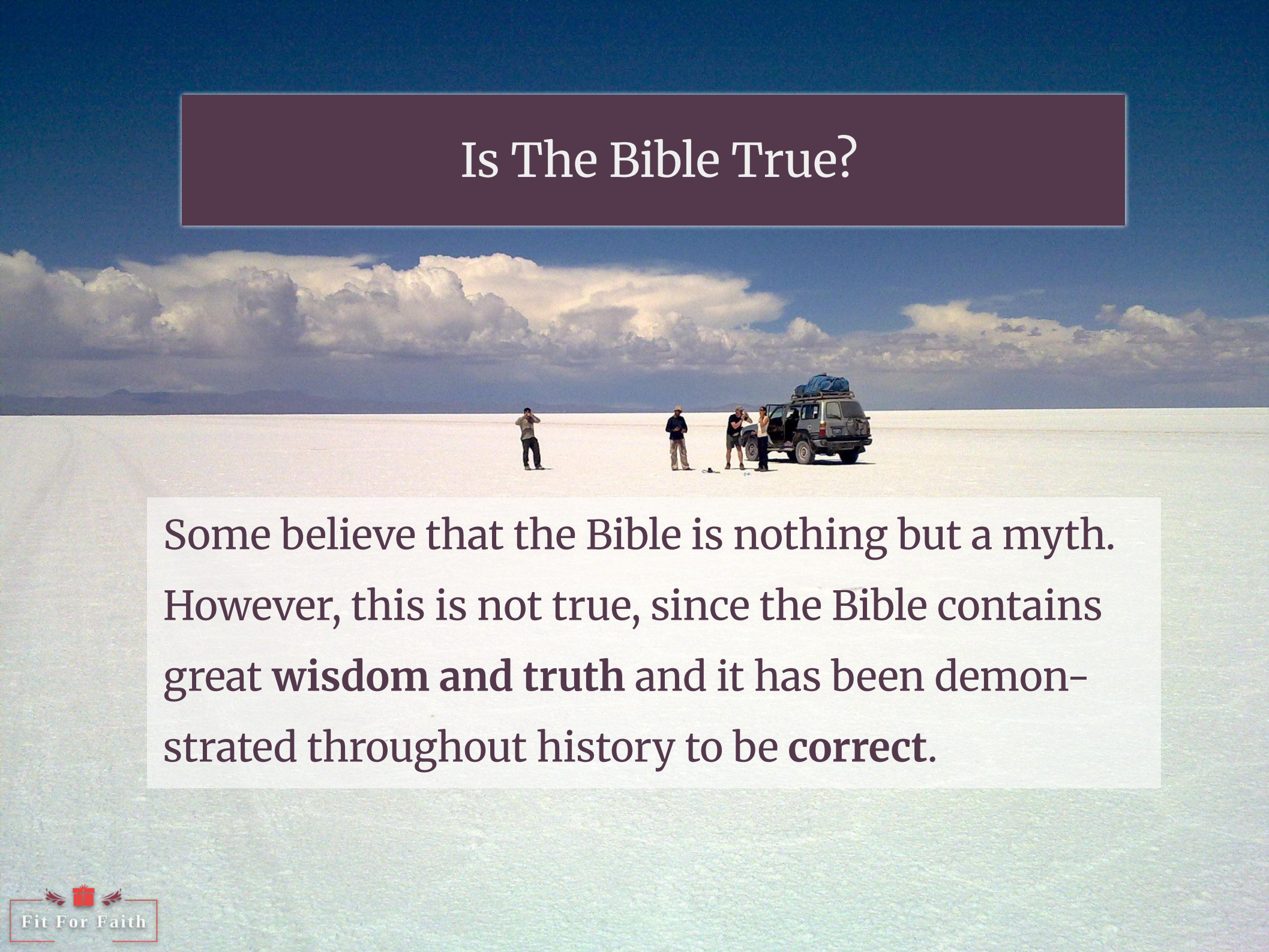
Also,
the Bible
teaches us
that we find
forgiveness
of our sins
only in
IESOUS.

Acts 4:12(LEB)

*"And there is
salvation in no
one else, for there is
no other name under
heaven that is given
among people by
which we must
be saved."*

4. Is The Bible True?

Is The Bible True?



Some believe that the Bible is nothing but a myth. However, this is not true, since the Bible contains great **wisdom and truth** and it has been demonstrated throughout history to be **correct**.

Is The Bible True?

Its historical reports are correct.
Archaeological finds have regularly demonstrated
the accuracy of the **Biblical records** and its locations.

Scientific Accuracy

Many of the principles of modern science were recorded in the Bible, long before they were confirmed experimentally by scientists.

Scientific Accuracy

The Roundness Of The Earth



Isaiah 40:22 (Brenton)

*"It is He that comprehends the circle of the earth,
and the inhabitants in it are as grasshoppers;
He that set up the heaven as a chamber,
and stretched it out as a tent to dwell in."*

Scientific Accuracy

The (Almost) Infinite Extension Of The Universe

Isaiah 55:8-11 (Brenton)

*"For my counsels are not as your counsels,
nor are my ways as your ways, saith KYRIOS.*

*9 But as the heaven is distant from the earth,
so is my way distant from your ways,
and your thoughts from my mind.*

*10 For as rain shall come down, or snow, from heaven,
and shall not return until it have saturated the earth,
and it bring forth, and bud, and give seed to the sower,
and bread for food: 11 so shall my word be, whatever
shall proceed out of my mouth, it shall by no means
turn back, until all the things which I willed
shall have been accomplished."*

5. How To Read The Bible?

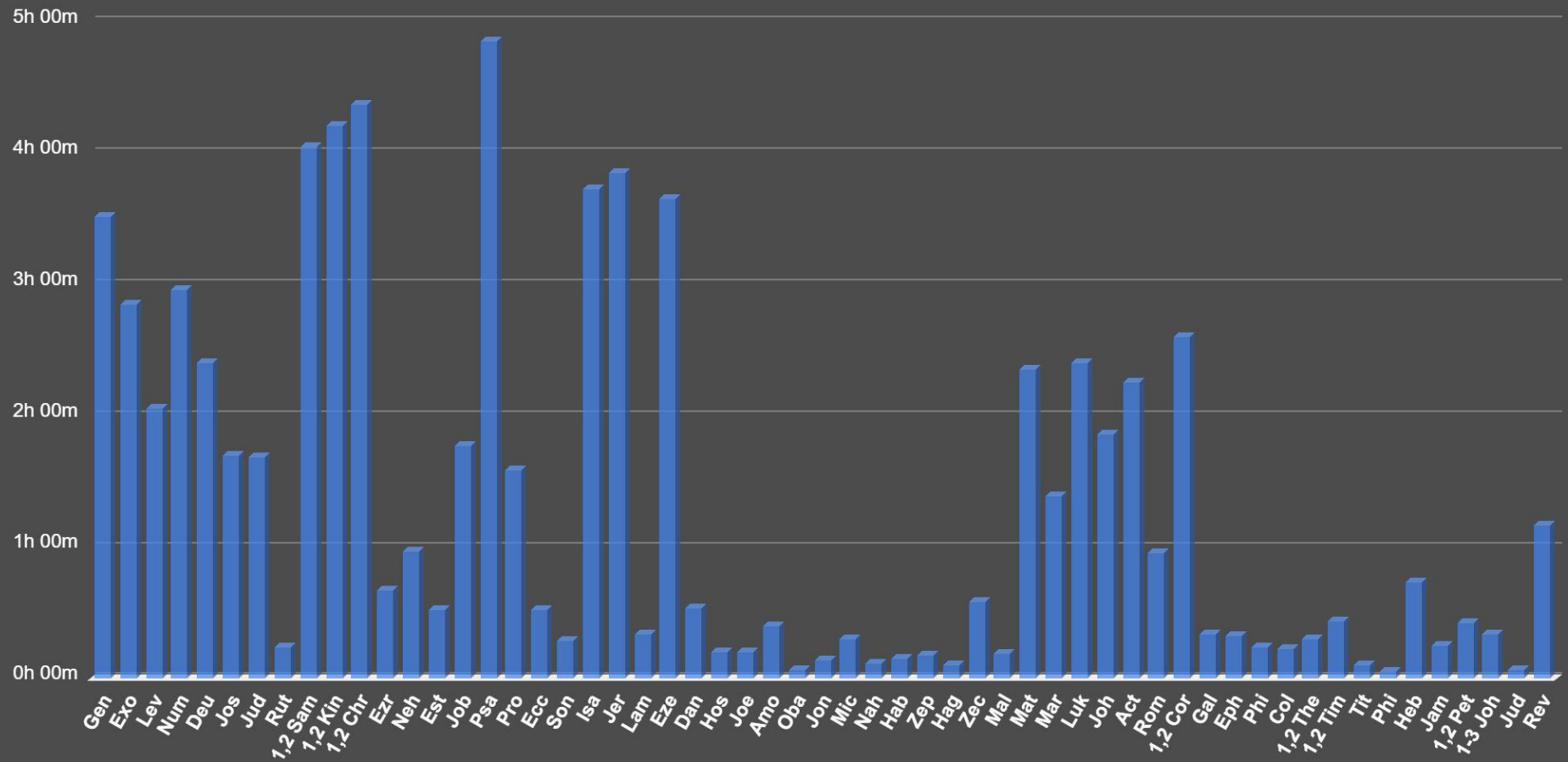
Reading Times

It takes only **13 minutes per day**
to read the whole Bible in one year!

It takes only **72 – 100 hours**
to fully read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Old Testament ~57 hours · New Testament ~18 hours.

Reading Times (Per Book)



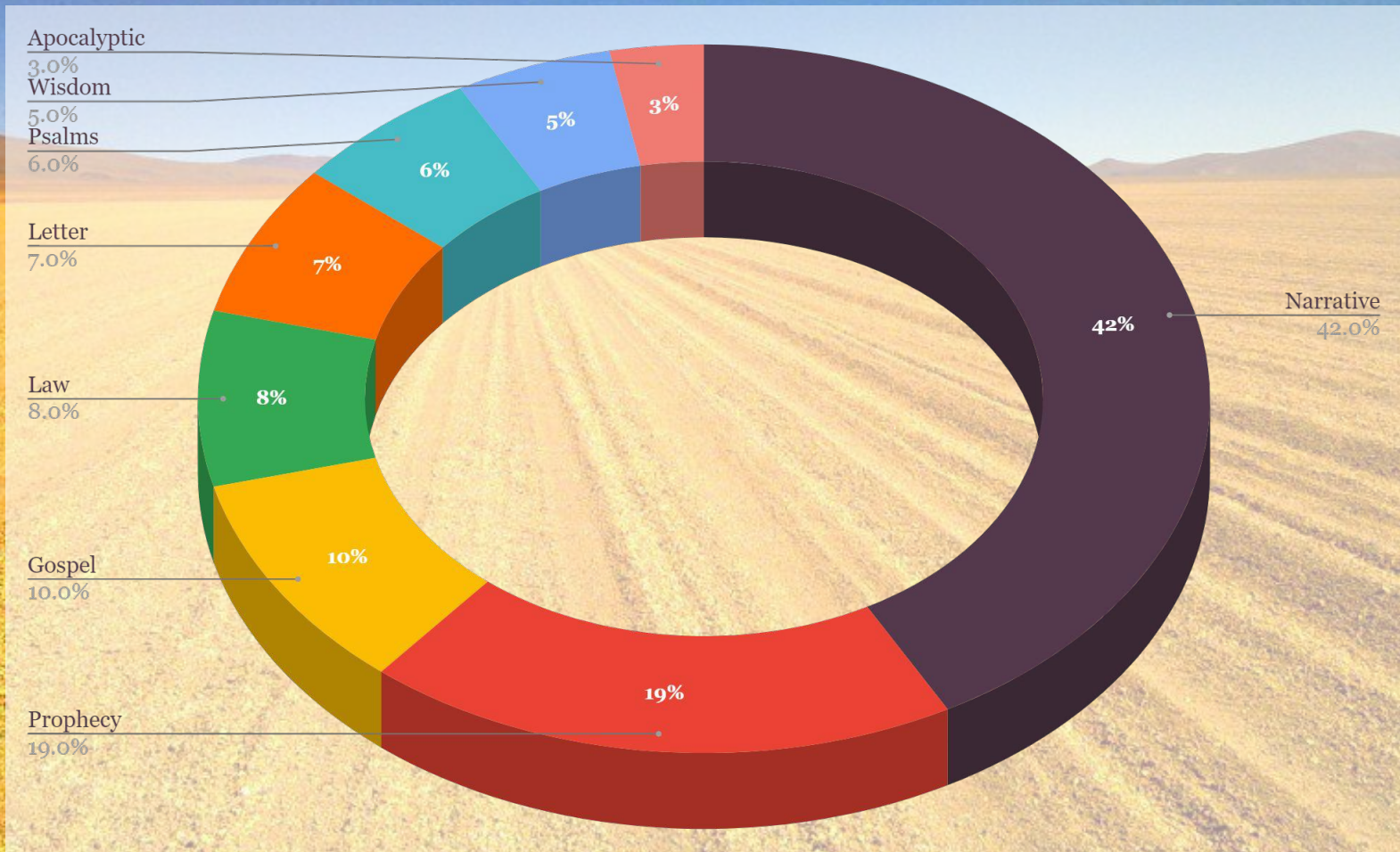
Source of reading times: www.crossway.org

Interpretation

Genres

The Bible contains many different styles of writing, such as **parables, poetry, short stories, history, law, and prophecy**, and must be read in the context of these genres.

Interpretation Genres



Bible Reading Techniques

1. Follow the history of salvation – from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Advantage: › it takes us progressively through the History of Salvation.

Disadvantage: › long way to get to the Evangelium, being ‘the fullness of revelation’.

Bible Reading Techniques

2. Read the New Testament first and then move on to the Old Testament.

- Advantage:
- › the reader immediately comes into contact with the person of CHRISTOS, His life and teachings.
- Disadvantage:
- › the New Testament takes root in the Old Testament.

Bible Reading Techniques

3. Combined reading of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Advantage:

- › you can choose the main books that offer us a fundamental teaching and then go to others.

Disadvantage:

- › choose what we like the most and not what THEOS wants to teach us.

Application of Scripture

1. Understand the grammatical **tenses** (Past-, Present- or Future).
2. Understand the passage by reading the **context**; ponder on the meaning.
3. Differentiate between **descriptive / informative passages** (e.g. Gen 22:1-14, Rut 3:6-13, Act 2:44-47, Acts 28:3-5) and **prescriptive passages** / specific guidance for us (e.g. Exo 20:2-17, Mat 5:2-7:27 and Mat 28:18-20).

We Cannot Guide Ourselves.

We Need The HOLY SPIRIT And The Body Of CHRISTOS.

2Peter 1:18-21

"And we ourselves heard this Voice brought from Heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain, and we possess as more reliable the prophetic Word, to which you do well if you pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, recognizing this above all, that every prophecy of Scripture does not come about from one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the HOLY SPIRIT spoke from THEOS."

6. Manual For Life

The Ten Commandments

Moral Laws

1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.*
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of KYRIOS in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
5. *Honour thy father and thy mother.*
6. *Thou shalt not murder.*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness.*
10. *Thou shalt not covet (neighbour's house, wife ...).*

Exo 20:1-17; Deu 5:6; Mat 19:16-19; Rom 13:8-10

► see also separate study "Laws"

Teachings Of The New Testament

1. *'Love KYRIOS your THEOS with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*
Mat 22:37-40
2. *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*
Mat 5:44
3. *And do not swear by your head ...*
Mat 5:36

END

END

2Timothy 3:16-17

*"All Scripture
is inspired by THEOS
and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction,
for training in righteousness,
in order that the person of THEOS
may be competent, equipped
for every good work."*