

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
**“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”**

Doctrine #1: What Is The Bible?

**Note:** Based on pages 60-69 of the book “How To Study The Bible For Yourself” by Dr. Tim LaHaye  
“and” pages 1-4 of the book “Through The Bible In One Year” by Dr. Alan Stringfellow

**Some Important Facts:**

1. “The Bible” comes from the Greek word “*biblos*” meaning “a book”.
2. The Bible was written by over 40 different people during a period of nearly 1600 years, yet it shows the unmistakable hand of one overall mind.

2Peter 1:21 “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

3. The Bible is actually a collection of 66 individual books which tell one story about the glory, the grace, the accomplishments and the future of Jesus Christ; who is the revealed Son of God and Savior of all mankind. Although each book is the “inspired Word of God” by itself, collectively they provide God’s revelation of how He created the world and how He has chosen to relate Himself to mankind in the past, the present, and the future.

1Timothy 3:16 “Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He (God) appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”

John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

1John 5:11-13 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

4. The 66 books of the Bible are organized in a unique way. The first 39 books are called the “Old Testament” and the last 27 books are called the “New Testament”. The word “Testament” means “Covenant” or a solemn agreement (i.e. promise) between two parties. The Old Testament is the Covenant God made with man before Christ came which was based largely on man obeying God’s laws in order to be in a good relationship with Him. The New Testament is the Covenant God made with man after Christ came which is based only on God’s grace if man will place his faith in what Christ did on the cross to pay for his sins.

Galatians 3:10 “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’”

Galatians 3:13-14 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”

Romans 3:19-22 “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

Galatians 3:21-25 “Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.”

### **Some Facts About The Old Testament:**

1. The Old Testament books were originally written primarily in the Hebrew language except for a few short passages that were written in Aramaic.
2. The 39 books of the Old Testament were written by at least 32 different men from a variety of educational and vocational backgrounds, including priests, prophets, judges, kings, and shepherds, and covering a time period of around 1500 years.
3. The 39 books of the Old Testament are NOT arranged by which was written first in time; rather, they are arranged by subject matter and topics. The 39 books of the Old Testament are organized around 5 major divisions:
  - a. Division#1: “The Law” - The first 5 books of the Old Testament
    - 1) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
    - 2) Called the “Pentateuch” or the “five” books of Moses by the Jews.
    - 3) These five books are among the most ancient writings known to mankind.
    - 4) The first six chapters of Genesis contain some of the most amazing literature in all the world dealing with creation, man’s origin, the fall, and the conditions that led to the worldwide flood. Obviously, God did not reveal everything to us about that period of about 1600 years from Adam to Noah, for it is all condensed into just 6 chapters.

5) In addition, within the first five books of the Old Testament is:

- a) The history of mankind and God’s relationship with specific men (such as Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and many others),
- b) The development of Israel as the “chosen people” of God,
- c) The 40 years of Israel’s wandering in the wilderness,
- d) God giving The Covenant of “the Law” and Special Instructions to Israel and His people.

b. Division #2: “History” – the next 12 books of the Old Testament

- 1) Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1Samuel, 2Samuel, 1Kings, 2Kings, 1Chronicles, 2Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.
- 2) These 12 books cover about 1100 years, from the Israelites entering into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua to the partial restoration back into the land after the Israelites had been taken into captivity by Babylon.
- 3) You will find exciting stories in the History Division such as those about Gideon, Samson, Saul, David, Solomon, and many others.
- 4) The History Division reveals a fulfilling of God’s promises to Israel (like in Deuteronomy 28) that if they would obey His “laws”, He would bless them. However, if they chose to ignore and disobey His laws, He would curse them. The history of Israel recorded in these 12 books clearly show that the times of Israel’s greatest blessings followed their obedience to God, while their periods of national disgrace and sorrow followed their times of disobedience.
- 5) One thing to enjoy in these books is the characters that God raised up at key periods of history. It shows us that He is willing to use imperfect human beings and is faithful to the person who obeys Him. We are challenged in the New Testament to read these dealings of God with His people because they are examples of how He wants to work in our lives today.

Romans 5:16-24 “Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why ‘it was credited to him as righteousness.’ The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.’”

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 “Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.’ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty–three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

c. Division #3: “Wisdom” (or “Poetry”) – the next 5 books of the Old Testament

- 1) Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- 2) These books were primarily written in a poetic style to provide timeless “wisdom” and “principles” to show a person how to enjoy success and blessings regardless of the political and religious circumstances into which that person is born. (Especially Psalms and Proverbs.)
- 3) WARNING: In the books of Job and Ecclesiastes, along with some great lessons on life, prosperity, suffering, etc., etc., you will also find “bad advice” in these books which should NOT be taken as God’s truth. Although all the words in these books have been “inspired” by God, they are only included to show you how inferior man’s philosophy on life is without God’s presence and revelation. Care must be taken to tell the difference between man’s “ignorant wisdom” and God’s “inspired wisdom” that are both included in these books.
- 4) The Song of Solomon contains the intimate story of the beauties of married love. It shows that God designed sex for married pleasure and love, not just for child bearing.

d. Division #4: “Major Prophets” – the next 5 books of the Old Testament

- 1) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel
- 2) These 5 books were written by four prophets who are called “major prophets” because of the volume of material that they wrote and the impact they had on the entire history of Israel.
- 3) The prophet Isaiah called the Southern Kingdom of Judah to repentance, which saved that country from the judgment of God for another 130 years after the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been destroyed for their disobedience.
- 4) The prophet Jeremiah tried to do the same thing in his day, but the Southern Kingdom of Judah rejected his warnings from God. Therefore, in his little book of Lamentations, Jeremiah (“the weeping prophet”) sadly writes about the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the entire nation of Judah by the Babylonians because they had rejected their Lord.
- 5) The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel were taken captive into Babylon and prophesied God’s divine protection of the captive Jews and the eventual restoration of Israel prior to the first coming of Christ and His second coming in the “last days”. Daniel’s book contains critical prophecies of the “end times”, so it is essential to study it alongside the book of Revelation.

e. Division #5: “Minor Prophets” – the last 12 books in the Old Testament

- 1) These books are called “minor” prophets NOT because the information they contain is not as important as what is contained in the “major” prophets’ writings, but rather because they are simply shorter books.
- 2) These 12 minor prophets were raised up by God at strategic times throughout the history of Israel to call the people back to God and warn them of the consequences of disobedience. Some of them also contain warnings and judgments on Gentile nations who have (or intend to) persecute the nation of Israel.
- 3) Although these books are largely limited to the people to whom they were written, there are many blessings to be found hidden in these prophecies that apply to us living in our day, as well as to our future and the future of this world.

### SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

(39 books)

<u>“The Law”</u>	<u>“History”</u>	<u>“Wisdom or Poetry”</u>	<u>“Major Prophets”</u>	<u>“Minor Prophets”</u>
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	The Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	I Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	II Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	I Kings			Micah
	II Kings			Nahum
	I Chronicles			Habakkuk
	II Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra			Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah
	Esther			Malachi

$$(5 \text{ books}) + (12 \text{ books}) + (5 \text{ books}) + (5 \text{ books}) + (12 \text{ books}) = 39$$

4. From the close of the Old Testament (last prophet Malachi) until the birth of Christ (as recorded in The Gospel of Matthew), over 400 years transpired when Israel had no prophet to reveal the message of God. For that reason, these are called “The Silent Years”. They were completed with the coming of the prophet John the Baptist at the beginning of the New Testament years.

## Some Facts About The New Testament:

1. The New Testament books were all originally written in Greek.
2. The 27 books of the Old Testament were written by at least 8 different men over the period of around 50 to 96 A.D. The subjects they cover span the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ all the way to the “last days” and the renewal of Heaven and Earth.
3. Of the 8 men that wrote the 27 books of the New Testament:
  - a. Three of them, Matthew, John, and Peter, were original apostles and eyewitness of everything they wrote about Christ.
  - b. Paul was specifically visited and called by the risen Jesus Christ and appointed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.
  - c. Mark was a relative and close companion of Peter and is believed to have gotten a lot of his information about Christ’s ministry from him. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Mark then used the testimonies of Peter and others to record his gospel account of Jesus Christ.
  - d. Luke was a constant traveling companion of Paul and thus saw many of the events he wrote about in the book of Acts. He researched the events in the life of Christ and then was guided by the Holy Spirit to write the gospel that bears his name.
  - e. James and Jude were half-brothers of Jesus Christ (i.e. had the same mother, Mary, but different fathers). They originally rejected Jesus as the Messiah, but after “Pentecost”, became great believers and leaders in the early Christian church.
4. The 27 books of the New Testament are NOT arranged by which was written first in time; rather, they are arranged by subject matter and topics. The 27 books of the Old Testament are organized around 5 major divisions:
  - a. Division#1: “The Gospels” - The first 4 books of the New Testament
    - 1) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
    - 2) The Gospels are the four histories of the life of Jesus Christ. Everything that can be reliably known about the life of Jesus Christ is found in these four books; therefore, it is of paramount importance that you read and reread them.
    - 3) No one Gospel is complete in and of itself. Some events of our Lord’s life are included in all four, but each presents Him in a slightly different light, depending on to whom it was written and the purpose of its writing. To know Christ’s entire life, you must familiarize yourself with all four of the Gospels.

- 4) The first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are called “Synoptic” (i.e. “similar”) Gospels, because there are similar miracles, proverbs, and events in Jesus Christ’s ministry that are covered in all three gospels. However, the Gospel of John contains “92%” original material about Christ that is not recorded in any of the other three gospels.
  - 5) The primary themes of each particular Gospel author are:
    - a) Matthew: To present Jesus as “The Promised King of Israel”
    - b) Mark: To present Jesus as “The Humble Servant”
    - c) Luke: To present Jesus as “The Perfect Sinless Man”
    - d) John: To present Jesus as “God, the Son, Who Became Man”
- b. Division #2: “Church History” – the next book in the New Testament
- 1) The 28 chapters in the book of Acts contain the only authentic record of the exciting spread of Christianity after the ascension of Christ.
  - 2) It is often called the “Acts of the Apostles”, but it could well be called “the Acts of the Holy Spirit”, for God’s hand is vitally important throughout the book.
  - 3) Written by Luke, a Greek medical doctor, this book shows meticulous scholarship. So many geographical places are mentioned that several skeptics set out to disprove the gospel of Luke as being the “truth of God”. Many skeptics have chosen to visit all these places mentioned in the book of Acts and to study all of the governmental titles, historical events, and locations recorded by Luke, only to be totally overcome by Acts painstaking accuracy in even the most minute details. Thus, adding to the prove that God “inspired” Luke as he wrote the book of Acts.
- c. Division #3: “Pauline Epistles” – the next 14 books in the New Testament
- 1) The first 9 epistles of Paul were written as letters of greeting, instructions, and warnings to particular churches and/or church regions: Romans, 1Corinthians, 2Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1Thessalonians, and 2 Thessalonians.
  - 2) 1Timothy, 2Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, are more “personal” or “pastoral” in nature and were written to a specific person to help them better understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders in the new Christian church.
  - 3) Although the book of Hebrews does not contain Paul’s customary greeting and claim to authorship, internal evidence within the book makes Paul the most likely person who wrote this book of primarily Jewish content to help Jewish people understand how Jesus fulfills all of the Old Testament ceremonial laws involving the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon. Thus, Jesus is the Jewish “Messiah” (i.e. the “Christ”) the Savior of Israel.

d. Division #4: “General Epistles” – the next 7 books of the New Testament

- 1) James, 1Peter, 2Peter, 1John, 2John, 3John, Jude
- 2) These “general epistles” are so designated because they were written individually for a specific need or to a group not reached by Paul. They cover a general area of truth needed by God’s people of every age.

e. Division #5: “Prophecy” – the last book of the New Testament

- 1) The book of Revelation is the last book in the New Testament and also the greatest prophecy recorded in the Bible.
- 2) The book of Revelation “reveals” our Lord, Jesus Christ, during three stages of history: the church age; the coming tribulation period, culminating with the second coming of Jesus Christ; and the new order, which consists of the 1000-year kingdom of Christ on this earth and the final replacement of this earth with a better and eternal one called “the new heavens and the new earth.”
- 3) The book of Revelation can be summed up in two words: “GOD WINS”! It is God’s desire for man to live in a “sinless” relationship with Him. Only those people who repent of their sins and allow Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior by “faith” will live forever with Him.

**SUMMARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS**

(27 books)

<u>“The Gospels”</u>	<u>“Church History”</u>	<u>“Pauline Epistles”</u>	<u>“General Epistles”</u>	<u>“Prophecy”</u>
Matthew	Acts	Romans	James	Revelation
Mark		1Corinthians	1Peter	
Luke		2Corinthians	2Peter	
John		Galatians	1John	
		Ephesians	2John	
		Philippians	3John	
		Colossians	Jude	
		1Thessalonians		
		2Thessalonians		
		1Timothy		
		2Timothy		
		Titus		
		Philemon		
		Hebrews		

(4 books) + (1 book) + (14 books) + (7 books) + (1 book) = 27

2Timothy 3:3-5 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”



**Loris First Baptist Church**  
***“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”***

Study Guide for “Doctrine #1: What Is The Bible?”

1. Read Pages 1-8 from the Doctrine#1 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “What Is The Bible?” as you read:

**a. Some Important Facts**

- 1) What does the word “Bible” mean? (page 1; top)
  
- 2) Approximately how many men were used by God to write the Bible? (page 1; top)
  
- 3) According to 2Peter 1:21, prophecy (i.e. the Words of Scripture) never had its “origin” where?
  
- 4) According to 2Timothy 3:16-17, how much of the Bible is “God-breathed”?
  
- 5) According to John 20:31, why was the Bible written?
  
- 6) How many “books” can be found in the Old Testament? The New Testament? (page 1; bottom)
  
- 7) What does the word “Testament” mean? (page 1; bottom)
  
- 8) According to Galatians 3:10, who is under a “curse”?
  
- 9) According to Galatians 3:13-14, what did Christ do for those that were under a curse?

10) What is the primary language that was used to write the Old Testament? (pg. 2, middle)

**b. Some Facts About The Old Testament**

1) Of the 32+ men who were used by God to write the Old Testament, list some of the vocational backgrounds these men came from? (page 2, middle)

2) True or False. The books of the Old Testament (from Genesis to Malachi) were written in “Chronological” order from the earliest book written until the latest.  
(page 2, middle-bottom)

3) What are three of the major names given to the collection of the first 5 books of the O.T.?  
(page 2; bottom)

4) At least how many years is summarized by the first “6” chapters of Genesis? (page 2, bottom)

5) What are the four major themes covered in the first “5” books of the O.T.? (page 3, top)

6) List the 12 books of the Old Testament known as “The History” Division. (page 3, top)

7) What is the time period covered the “History” books of the Old Testament and what is the summary of the material covered in these books? (page 3, middle)

- 8) Why are today's believers "challenged" (encouraged!) to read the "History" section of the O.T.? (page 3, middle-bottom)
  
- 9) According to Romans 5:16-24, to whom will God "credit" righteousness? (page 3, bottom)
  
- 10) According to 1Corinthians 10:6-11, what are some reasons that "The History" section of the O.T. was written down and preserved for us by God? (page 4, top)
  
- 11) What is the "third" collection of books in the Old Testament called? Name all 5. (page 4, top)
  
- 12) What were these books primarily written to provide? (page 4, top)
  
- 13) What is an important "WARNING" to remember when reading books like "Job" and "Ecclesiastes"? (page 4, middle)
  
- 15) What was the book "Song of Solomon" written primarily to "show"? (page 4, middle)
  
- 16) What are the names of the O.T. books in the "Major Prophets" section? (page 4, middle)
  
- 17) True or False. The O.T. books in the "Major Prophets" section are called "major" because their information is more important than what is written in the "Minor Prophets" books. (page 4, middle)

- 18) Who was the “weeping prophet” and what did he primarily write about in Lamentations?  
(page 4, bottom)
  
- 19) Which book in the Major Prophet section is critical to read alongside the N.T. book “Revelation” in order to understand “end time” prophecies better? (page 4, bottom)
  
- 20) How many books in the O.T. make up the “Minor Prophet” section? (page 5, top)
  
- 21) True or False. The books in the “Minor Prophet” section of the O.T. are called “minor” because they are not as “important” to read as the “Major Prophets” are.  
(page 5, top)
  
- 22) What is the 400 year period called that existed between the close of the O.T. (Malachi) and the birth of John the Baptist at the beginning of the N.T. Period (i.e. Gospel of Matthew)?  
(page 5, bottom)

### **c. Some Facts About The New Testament**

- 1) In what language was the New Testament books originally written? (page 6, top)
  
- 2) How many books are there in the New Testament and how many different men were used by God to write these books? (page 6, top)
  
- 3) What is the approximate time period between the writing of the first N.T. book and the last?  
(page 6, top)
  
- 4) True or False. All of the New Testament writers were “apostles” of Jesus Christ. (pg 6, top)

- 5) Who was a close relative of Mark that was used as a reliable source for his gospel? (pg. 6, top)
  
- 6) Who was a close traveling companion of Luke that was used as a reliable source for his gospel?  
(page 6, middle)
  
- 7) True or False. The book of James was written by the apostle James, the brother of John.  
(page 6, middle)
  
- 8) Who were the half-brothers of Jesus Christ that God used to write books in the N.T.?  
(page 6, middle)
  
- 9) True or False. The books in the N.T. are written in Chronological order from the earliest written book to the last written book. (page 6, middle)
  
- 10) True or False. You can learn pretty much all you need to know about Jesus Christ's life on this earth by reading just one of either of the four Gospels about Him.  
(page 6, bottom)
  
- 11) Which books are the "Synoptic" Gospels and why are they called "synoptic"? (page 7, top)
  
- 12) How much material about the life of Jesus Christ while He was on the earth in the Gospel of John is "only found" in John's gospel? (page 7, top)
  
- 13) What is the primary "theme" of the Gospel of Luke? (page 7, top)

- 14) How many books are there in the N.T. “Church History” section and what does this “history” present an “authentic record” of? (page 7, middle)
  
- 15) Who is the writer of the Book of Acts and what was his “profession”? (page 7, middle)
  
- 16) What are the name of the four “Pauline Epistles” that are more “pastoral” and/or “personal”? (page 7, bottom)
  
- 17) Which of the 14 books in the N.T. in the “Pauline Epistle” section does not contain Paul’s customary greeting and claim to authorship? (page 7, bottom)
  
- 18) Why are the books in the “General Epistles” section designated “general epistles”? (page 8, top)
  
- 19) What does the Book of Revelation “reveal”? (page 8, top-middle)
  
- 20) What two words best “summarize” the Book of Revelation? (page 8, middle)
  
- 21) What are the 5 major sections of the Old Testament? (page 5, middle)
  
- 22) What are the 5 major sections of the New Testament? (page 8, middle)
  
- 23) According to 2Timothy 3:3-5, what are the Holy Scriptures able to do for you? (page 8, bottom)