



HOW THE BIBLE WORKS

SEEING THE CONNECTEDNESS OF SCRIPTURE

— AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE —

BILL FOSTER

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HOW *HOW THE BIBLE WORKS* WORKS

The purpose of this guide is to give readers a working understanding of the Bible as a whole. The objective is to highlight landmarks and to illustrate how they are connected and hold the Bible together.

This guide uses four devices to do this:



GROUPS

For many people, the Bible is a collection of disjointed information. In this guide you will see how the Bible's content naturally falls into groups and pairs.



ICONS

Icons in this guide represent the Bible's people, events, cycles, and themes in a visual vocabulary in order to help you remember them.



SCRIPTURE

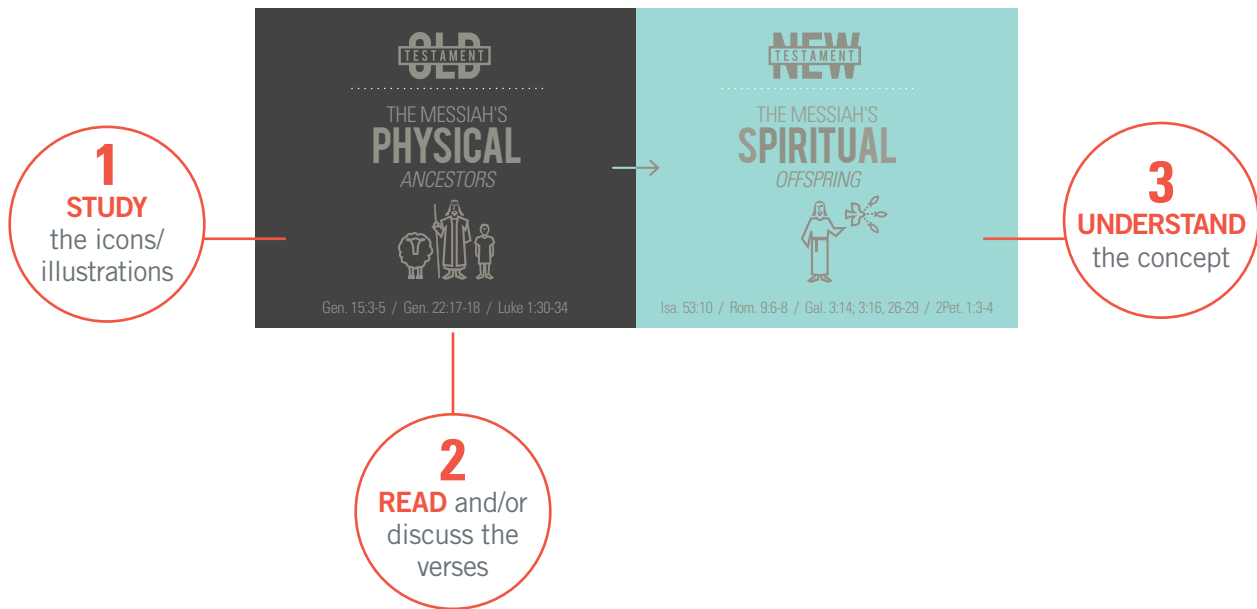
The higher purpose of this resource is to compel you to read the Bible. The verses cited are pivotal ones (not the only ones) that should give you a clearer picture of the Bible at large.



THEOLOGY

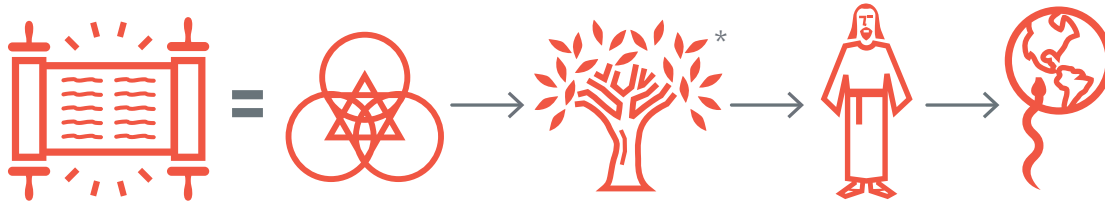
Some sections of this guide (*2 Testaments* and *5 Covenants Plus 1* for example) emphasize underlying threads connecting elements in Scripture and revealing theological principles.

The textbook for this guide is the Bible. You will be exposed to a wide assortment of biblical references covering a range of topics and concepts. The reading passages will allow you to criss-cross back and forth through Scripture to make connections and to see things from different angles.





If you only had a few seconds to explain what the Bible is, how would you do it? If you grew up in church, would you be able to describe it to someone without using church-speak? In this section we'll take a look at a practical, one-sentence description of the Bible and examine why each part is important.



The Bible is a supernatural, written
RECORD
of God using
ISRAEL
to save a
FALLEN WORLD.



“The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.”

- Saint Augustine

The Old & New Testaments are counterparts. The laws, physical things, and events in the O.T. foreshadow and are fulfilled by spiritual truths and principles in the N.T.

OLD
TESTAMENT

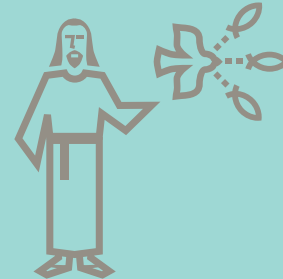
THE MESSIAH'S
PHYSICAL
ANCESTORS



Gen. 15:3-5 & 22:17-18
Luke 1:30-34

NEW
TESTAMENT

THE MESSIAH'S
SPIRITUAL
OFFSPRING



Isa. 53:10 / Rom. 9:6-8 / Gal. 3:14, 16, 26-29



OLD
TESTAMENT

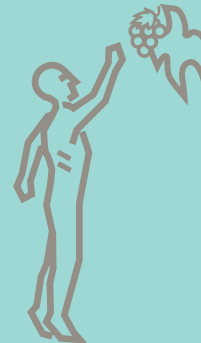
CURSED
BY *FORBIDDEN* FRUIT



Gen. 2:16–17 / Eph. 2:1, 12 & 4:18

NEW
TESTAMENT

BLESSED
BY *SPIRITUAL* FRUIT



Rom. 12:5–8 / 1 Cor. 12:8–10
Gal. 5:16–17, 22 / Eph. 4:20–24

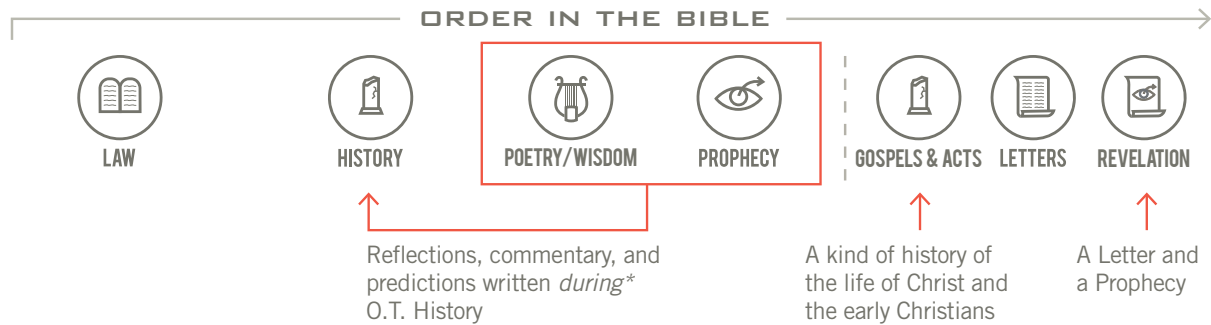




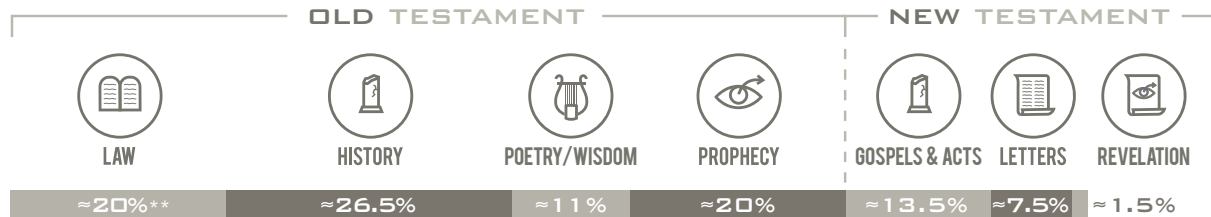
Much of the Bible reads chronologically, but there is another arrangement at work. The writing in the Bible falls into 5 major kinds of literature that determine how the books are grouped together. Although there are 66 books in the Bible, recognizing that they fall into only 5 groups should give you an idea of what kind of writing style to expect and a better sense of what you read.



BIBLE ORDER vs. WRITTEN & HISTORICAL ORDER



PROPORTION OF THE BIBLE BY LITERARY GROUP



*The book of **Job** (Poetry/Wisdom) was likely written much earlier.

**Percentages calculated based on number of words per book in the King James Bible.

Kizziah, Nic. "King James Bible Statistics." The Believers Organization. <http://www.biblebelievers.com/believers-org/kjv-stats.html>