

**Introduction to the Bible**  
**CPBC**  
**2/7/10**

**Introduction:**

- Bible comes from the Greek word “biblia” meaning “books”
- It is a collection of books 66 in all
  - 39 Old Testament
  - 27 New Testament
- Old Testament is the covenant God made with man before Christ came
- The New Testament is the covenant with man after Christ came
- Old Testament is the covenant of Law
- New Testament is covenant of Grace through Jesus – Gal 3:19-25
- The Bible is God’s written word
  - 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - 2 Peter 1:21
- It is a revelation of His will to man
- Central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ

**Old Testament**

- Written mostly in Hebrew, with a few passages in Aramaic
- Contains:
  - Law – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (*Pentateuch*)
  - History – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah
  - Poetry – Wisdom – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
  - Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel (Major)  
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,  
Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi (Minor)
  
- OT chapter divisions came into being in 586 AD, verse markings in 900 AD

**New Testament**

- Written entirely in Greek
- Contains:
  - Gospels (Foundation) – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
  - History – Acts
  - Letters – Epistles of Paul – Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews
    - General Epistles - James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2,&3 John, Jude
    - Prophecy – Revelation
  
- NT chapter divisions about 1227, verse markings 1551

### **Origin of the Bible**

- OT – developed in stages, finalized in 90 AD by the Council of Jamnia
- NT – developed over time mostly settled in 367 AD

### **Inspiration**

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21
- God breathed, written by man as God directed them

### **Inerrancy**

- In the original manuscripts
- According to the manuscripts that survive today – 98.33% pure
- NT is the best attested document in antiquity
  - More manuscript evidence exists than for any other document, closer to time written

### **Translations:**

- 250 BC Hebrew Bible translated into Greek (Septuagint), because many Jews who lived outside Israel could not read Hebrew
- First English translation – 1382 by John Wycliff
- Catholic translation – 1609-1610 called Douay translation
- KJV – 1611
- American Standard – 1901
- NIV – 1978
- Today – NKJV, RSV, English Bible, The Message and many study Bibles

### **Conclusion:**

- Bible is divine
- 1 Peter 1:24-25 – word of the Lord endures forever

### **Why Study the Bible?**

- Historical reasons: contains important history of ancient Near East and Greco Roman culture of first century.
- Cultural Reasons: gives us the influences that have influenced our culture – Literature, law, art and music all depend on the Bible
- Theological Reasons: divinely inspired account of redemption of mankind by Jesus. Source of faith and practice for us
- Devotional Reasons: - Holy Spirit uses the Bible to bring people into a personal relationship with God through Christ.