

I. The Structure of Our Bible

A. The Bible - the Book of books

1. Bible means "book"
2. Composed of 66 books
3. Written over 1500 years
4. At least 40 different authors
5. Two main sections - OT & NT

B. The structure of the OT (39 books)

1. Books of the Law (Instruction)
 - e. Genesis-Deuteronomy
 - f. Essentially written by Moses
 - g. Contain history, law, poetry, covenant
 - h. Essential feature - Mosaic Law
 - i. Foundation to rest of OT
2. The historical books
 - a. Joshua - Esther (12 books)
 - b. Nine before exile; three after exile
 - c. Show how Israel did at following God
 - d. Introduce many of key characters
 - e. Show theology working out in history
3. The poetical books
 - a. Job - Song of Solomon
 - b. Wisdom literature (in all books)
 - c. Proverbs has many principles for living
 - d. Inner life and personal walk with God
4. The major prophets
 - a. Isaiah - Daniel (5 books)
 - b. 2 before exile; 1 at fall of Jerusalem; 2 during exile
 - c. Major because the largest prophetic books
 - d. Apply Law to situations (Covenant Lawsuits)
5. The minor prophets
 - a. Hosea - Malachi (12 books)
 - b. 9 before exile; 3 after exile
 - c. Minor because smaller prophetic books
 - d. (Covenant Lawsuits)

C. The structure of the NT (27 books)

1. The Gospels
 - a. Matthew - John (4 books)
 - b. Tell the story of Jesus
 - c. Synoptic Gospels - tell very similar stories
 - d. John has a lot of unique information
 - e. All 4 complement one another
2. Church history
 - a. Acts
 - b. Jesus through the early Church by Spirit
 - c. Spread of Gospel from Jerusalem to ends of earth
3. Letters of Paul
 - a. Romans-Philemon (13 letters)
 - b. 9 letters to churches; 4 to individuals
 - c. From longest to shortest in each section
 - d. Details the meaning of Jesus and actions
4. General letters
 - a. Hebrews - Revelation (9 books)
 - b. 5 different authors
 - c. Longest to shortest in general, Revelation
 - d. Details meaning of Jesus and what He did

II. Putting the Pieces Together

A. OT points forward to, fulfilled by NT

1. Luke 24:44
2. Colossians 2:16-17
3. Must read OT in light of NT fulfillment

B. Each section has its own emphases & purpose

1. Romans 3:20-21 - Law not gospel, but points
2. Must read each section w/ purpose in mind

C. Overarching purpose - point to Christ & Gospel

1. Luke 24:44-47
2. Must read with a Christ centered lens
3. Question 14 of catechism