

Theme: There are many sections in the Bible, each with their own unique role, but they all point to Jesus and His work for us.

I. Intro – Field Strip M-16

- A. Marine - learn an M-16
- B. Can break down & put together in sleep!
- C. Had to know it to use it! Life depends on it!
- D. Jesus here lists three parts of Hebrew OT
- E. TaNaKh - slide
- F. Tanakh arrangement - 1 slide, 3 parts
- G. Can be some advantages of looking this way
- H. How is our Bible arranged?
- I. What is relation between parts?
- J. Is there a unifying message or character?

II. 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)
 - a. Genesis-Deuteronomy
 - b. Essentially written by Moses
 - c. Contain history, law, poetry, covenant
 - d. Essential feature - Mosaic Law
 - e. 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

III. 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

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we understand our Bible?

- 1. There is no question that this takes work!

2. Takes work to learn math, English, driving, etc.
3. Many guys can explain complex sports rules
4. Without learning rules, parts - no enjoyment
5. If we do not understand basics, will struggle
6. Learn the basics - books, sections, etc.

B. Do we read to see Christ, Gospel in Scripture?

1. Parts will not make sense if we do not
2. Parts of law can seem petty - but show sin
3. Law shows our sin and need for Redeemer
4. History shows flawed people looking to God
5. Poetry shows heart longing for redemption, relationship
6. Prophets speak of Israel's failure & Christ coming
7. Gospels show promise fulfilled in glorious Messiah
8. Acts show Gospel spreading, Spirit working
9. Epistles explain it all & apply it to our lives
10. Read, study, learn, devour - & see Christ!

C. Communion - Coming to Christ at the Table

1. This too is about Him!
2. Not about our faithfulness - we are not
3. See Him in death and resurrection

4. Feast on Him in His grace

Exploring the Book: Understanding the Structure of
the Bible

Luke 24:44
Psalm 119:105-112
January 31, 2010
Communion
Hebrews 13:20-21

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 **These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.** Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. 21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. Romans 3:20-21

Question 14: What is the central message of the Bible?

The central message of the Bible is that God is bringing glory to Himself through the Person and work of Jesus Christ as He creates and redeems a people who will glorify and enjoy Him forever.

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