

# BIBLE 101

OPEN THE DOOR TO TRUTH



**Susan Shull**

FORGET THE FORMER THINGS; DO  
NOT DWELL ON THE PAST. SEE I  
AM DOING A NEW THING.  
ISAIAH 43:18-19



A young tree with vibrant green leaves stands in front of a white wall. To the left, a white-framed window is visible, reflecting the surrounding environment. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

BIBLE 101

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES-  
OUR LOVE LETTER FROM  
HOME



WELCOME

## JOURNEY TO WISDOM

I want to invite you to begin one of the most exciting, fulfilling, and profitable journeys of your life—your journey into the wisdom of God's word.

The Bible is unlike any other book ever written because it contains God's plan for his people and offers a glimpse into the character of God. It is HIS story, but it is also YOUR story. This book is written for you!

My love affair with the scripture began as a chore to check off my list. As a new Christian, I knew that I should read the scriptures, but I didn't really want to.

The Sunday School teachers in the church where I grew up always asked how many chapters each person read during the previous week.

Since I was a born "pleaser", I couldn't stand to disappoint my teacher and say I had read "O" chapters.

My solution to the problem that I had read "O" chapters was to read Psalm 117, the shortest chapter in the Bible, over and over and over and over, as we headed to church on Sunday mornings. I was a fast reader so I could rack up a pretty large number in that ten minute drive.

Some might have been impressed with my big number, but I'm sure God wasn't! That reading didn't do me a bit of good because my heart wasn't changed.

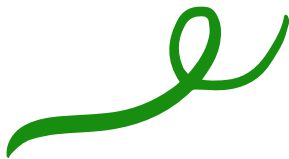
I did a little better as I grew up, but my attitude toward God's word really reformed when I started to spend more time with my Grandma Marrs. My three boys were small and rowdy and messy and always hungry, and people were not always thrilled when we came to visit. However, my grandma was always glad to see us, and we spent a lot of time there.

She and I had *the best* conversations while the boys ate chocolate chip cookies, drank Tang, played with Lincoln Logs and rolled around the floor on her old footstools. We spent much of our time talking about the Bible. Grandma Marrs was very knowledgeable since she read it from cover to cover every year. She hungered for the scripture.

Her enthusiasm and love for those sacred words inspired me to dig in. Using a written plan and devotion book Grandma shared with me, I started reading. Sometimes I read just to stay on schedule. Sometimes I just read words and comprehended nothing. However, often enough to keep me reading, through the power of the Holy Spirit, I felt a stirring in my heart and an amazing connection with my Savior.

By the time I finished Revelation, I was hooked. My sincere wish is for you to get hooked, too.

Susan




Let's Discuss..

Did anyone in your past share a love of scripture with you? How did it impact you?

# Bible Benefits

The Bible is full of blessings for those who will read it and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work. It is just as relevant today as it was when it was originally written.



## What is in it for you?

**LOVE**-the Gospel demonstrates God's love for us through His son, Jesus Christ. Our Father is love.

**Comfort**-Great comfort is ours from reading the Psalms and God's promises to His children.

**Guidance**-The wisdom for every day life found in Proverbs is timeless.

**Purpose**-the over-arching story of scripture shows our lives aren't just about the here and now. We have a place in the big picture and a very important job to do in His kingdom.

**Joy**-Every life has problems, but God's word tells us how to live lives filled with joy. No other author that we read wants us to have an abundant life, but our Heavenly Father does. And He tells us how.

**Healing**-The cure for all your distorted thinking. God gets to say who you are and who you are becoming in Christ.

**Truth**-The scriptures are filled with THE TRUTH about mankind.

**Heaven**-Your true life continues when you take your last exhale on this earth and your next inhale in eternity. I want my eternity in Heaven. The Bible tells us how to get there.

## Let's Discuss...


Share a time when you or someone you know experienced one of the benefits of scripture.





THE BIBLE IS NOT  
JUST ANY OLD BOOK,  
AND IT IS NOT JUST  
FOR THE PREACHERS,  
PRIESTS OR CHURCH  
LADIES.

*It is for YOU and it is for ME.*



# Bible By the Numbers

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- Written by 40 different authors
- Written over a period of 1500 years
- Read by more people in more languages than any other book in history
- Translated into more than 400 languages; parts of it have been translated into 2500 languages
- Billions and billions of copies in circulation

God has preserved his book even though men throughout history have tried to destroy it.

## One..

of the very first pages of your Bible will list the books in the Bible. You don't have to memorize them, but it is much easier to find the "address" of a verse if you know the order the books appear. Don't be afraid to refer to this list to find the page number of the books referenced by a teacher or a preacher.

Think of the Bible as a library of books, not just a single book. As a matter of fact, the Bible is comprised of 66 books which are divided into the Old Testament and New Testament.

The Old Testament books tell the story of man—from Creation, to sin entering the world, through the flood, to the rise and fall of God's chosen people—the Israelites. The coming of Jesus is prophesied many times, and we learn about the character of God. The last book of the Old Testament anticipates the New Testament.

And then there are 400 years of SILENCE. from God.

The silence is broken by visits from an angel and the announcement that good news is on the way!





# Bible Math Part One

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The Old Testament contains 39 books. You don't have to know that, but why not? Let's be people who know stuff!

## OLD TESTAMENT

3 letters + 9 letters = 39 books

## Old Testament in a Nutshell

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*DISCLAIMER: I am not an Old Testament scholar by any means, and you may have already found some errors in my thinking. I'm just a girl who loves Jesus and His word and wants YOU to also. Get into the Bible and filter EVERYTHING through its truth.*

Volumes and volumes have been written on the Old Testament by people with more brains, life experience and closer relationships with God than I have. However, I want you to catch a glimpse of the fact that even the Old Testament was written for you and about you. It tells of God's amazing LOVE for you!

The Old Testament is where we go to learn about many of the people we may have heard about in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School as a child. These were people who really and truly lived and breathed here on earth just like you:

Adam and Eve  
Noah  
Abraham, Isaac, Sarah  
Joseph and his mean brothers  
Moses  
Ruth  
David and Goliath  
Many Others

Don't fall into the mistaken idea that the Old Testament is a bunch of made-up stories about made-up people. These people lived during actual time on our actual planet during the actual chronology of actual ancient history.

Whew.

## God's story is NOT a fairy tale.

The "world" has done a good job convincing us that God is all about rules

and

**"Don't do this or that."**

## What. A. Lie.

## GOD IS ALL ABOUT LOVE AND TRUE FREEDOM

It is so hard for us to grasp THE FACT that God created us to be in relationship with him. Why would a holy, perfect, holy Heavenly Father want a relationship with me? *It is beyond understanding.*

**But,** woven throughout each of the 39 books of the Old Testament is God's provision to make that relationship possible. He provided a way for his imperfect, sinful people to be able to approach their perfect, holy Heavenly Father.

Over and over, we see God's chosen people going through a "sin" cycle.

**Sin** → **Bondage** → **Cry Out** → **Salvation** → **Silence**

The people would sin which would lead to bondage. They would cry out to God for help which He would offer. A plan was instituted of sacrifice that rolled the sins of the people forward. Their sin wasn't forgotten, but the sacrifice allowed them to have a relationship with God. So, they made their sacrifices. After they were out of trouble, they would soon forget God and fall back into the trap of sin.

And here they would go again.

Sound familiar?

God was always faithful. His people were not. He still is.



# Lay of the Land-Old Testament

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## 17 Books of History

Genesis	Ruth
Exodus	1-2 Samuel
Leviticus	1-2 Kings
Numbers	1-2 Chronicles
Deuteronomy	Ezra
Joshua	Nehemiah
Judges	Esther

## 5 Books of Poetry

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## 17 Books of Prophecy

Isaiah	Jonah
Jeremiah	Micah
Lamentations	Nahum
Ezekiel	Habakkuk
Daniel	Zephaniah
Hosea	Haggai
Joel	Zachariah
Amos	Malachi
Obadiah	

# New Testament

## Bible Math Part 2

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The New Testament contains 27 books.

NEW TESTAMENT

3 LETTERS x 9 LETTERS = 27 BOOKS

Don't you just love God's creativity and love of symmetry? He is definitely a Type A, but He is also a Type B. And probably lots of other "types" I know nothing about!

The New Testament is all about Jesus-his life, his work, his love, his perfect sacrifice, which offers the opportunity for our sins to be forgiven and forgotten, his church.

This part of the Bible also gives glimpses into the lives of:

Mary and Joseph  
John the Baptist  
The 12 Apostles  
Paul  
The Early Christians

And it hints of the glories of...

## HEAVEN

# New Testament in a Nutshell

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First of all, Jesus can't be described in a nutshell. Or by someone like me.

There just are not WORDS in my vocabulary to describe our Savior.

Friends, we are so blessed to live under GRACE instead of the law of the Old Testament.

God's people, the Israelites, had to follow a list of impossible-to-obey-in-our-humanity rules in order to maintain their relationship with a PERFECT God. Since our Holy God knew they would NEVER be able to follow them all, he instituted a system of sacrifices in order to temporarily cleanse the people from their sins so they could come before Him. After they repented and blood was shed to cover them, The sins were "rolled forward" until a later judgment.

This was not because God is mean, but because he is HOLY.

And man is NOT.

Thank goodness, God was planning for us all along. He knew that we could never clean ourselves up on our own to be able to come into His presence. We needed a way for our sins to be forgiven and forgotten.

So God sent HIS SON-HIS BELOVED BOY- to be the PERFECT SACRIFICE on a cruel cross to take away our sins: past, present and future.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. "

John 3:16

His son, Jesus, came to live a perfect life among us, suffered every kind of undeserved abuse, defeated death, rose from the grave, and has gone to HEAVEN to prepare a place for us.

"He is risen! He is not here!" Mark 16:6

But, he doesn't leave us all alone to flounder around by ourselves here on earth. He sends the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT to LIVE IN US when we accept the free gift of our salvation, repent, confess Christ as Lord and are baptized.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:28

Because of Jesus Christ, our Messiah, we can commune with God-the one who is LOVE.

It makes me giddy to consider the implications of this.



# SALVATION IS A GIFT.

*A gift we can choose to accept or not.*

It isn't enough to know about Jesus.

In order to belong to him, we have to KNOW him, personally.

For example, I am fascinated with Prince William and Princess Kate. I smile when I look at their pictures; I read about them, I admire the way Kate dresses. I wish them the best in raising their children. I know things about them.

But I do NOT know them.

It can be the same with Jesus. You can admire him, look up to him, read about him, and know lots of facts about him, maybe even obey some of the rules. But until you ACCEPT him as your Lord and Savior, you don't belong to him or really know him.

Our prayer is that you will come to truly know the ....

Wonderful Counselor  
Might God  
Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace

# Lay of the Land...New Testament

The Four Gospels: The Gospels are biographies of Jesus, told from the points of view of the 4 writers. They include some of the same events and some different ones.

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:25

Acts  
of the Apostles

Acts is all about the actions of the apostles and the development of the Church after Christ returned to Heaven.

## LETTERS OF PAUL:

- Romans
- 1-2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1-2 Thes.
- 1-2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

## GENERAL LETTERS;

- Hebrews
- James
- 1-2 Peter
- 1-2-3 John
- Jude

Most of the letters were written during the time period discussed in ACTS. The church at this time was scattered due to persecution and God used that situation to spread the Gospel to the world. The letters were written to churches and individuals.

Revelation: prophecy





# If I'd Only Known

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I wish someone had shown me when I was a baby Christian the way books of the Bible fit together. Actually, maybe someone tried to teach me, but I was too busy to pay attention. Since I didn't, I have wasted a lot of time not really understanding the big picture.

I don't want that to be the case with you!

I always assumed the books were placed in the Bible in chronological order.

NOT.

## I wish I had known sooner:

- Several of the authors wrote at the same time-even in the Old Testament.
- The New Testament covers a period of 60-65 years.
- The Old Testament covers a period of about 4000 years.
- Some of the events are repeated in more than one book.
- God invented SEX, thinks it is a beautiful thing between husband and wife, and discusses it in Song of Solomon.
- Not everyone in the Bible is nice. In fact, some of them are downright rotten-just like you and me and people we know-and God uses them anyway.
- God's love for us is shown over and over and over. He had a plan to save us from ourselves from the beginning.
- God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- The prophets warned the Israelites of what was coming if they didn't obey God. They were right.
- The "minor" prophets are just as important as the "major" prophets. Their books are just shorter.
- Psalms can be considered to be a songbook.
- Following the wisdom of the Proverbs would have helped me avoid a lot of trouble.
- Don't depend on someone else to tell you what the scriptures say or mean. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit and read and study them for yourself.

I could continue, but I won't. Let's just say the Bible is like an onion with many, many layers to unpeel as you read it. If you study it from now until the day you die, you will never know it all.

# Bible Study Tips

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My prayer is that you are curious enough about the treasure you will find in the Holy Bible to open it up and start reading.

1. Don't be embarrassed to use the Table of Contents.
2. Look up scriptures as they are referenced in church. The more you work with your Bible, the easier and faster you will get at locating verses.
3. Each verse has an "address" added by men to help us find things more quickly.

Isaiah 43: 18-19



Book



Chapter



Verse

To easily find where the New Testament begins:

- Divide the book into 2 parts.
- Divide the 2nd half into 2 parts.
- You should be close to Matthew, the first book of the New Testament.

I like to use my NIV Bible at church, but to gain an understanding of how the whole book fits together, I would suggest *The New Living Translation Chronological Bible*. This version is written in modern, easy to understand language and has the books arranged as they happened.

## Before-Reading Prayers

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1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain serve to help me love you and others more and not puff me up.
3. God help me see something new about you.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about you or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to your word.

# Beep What?

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Beep Slowly. Jake Carries Cocoa.

I love mnemonic devices and this is a great one for remembering a short summary of the events of the Bible.

**B e e p**

**B**eginnings

**P**atriarchs

**S l o w l y .**

**S**lavery

**L**aw

**W**andering

**L**and

**J a k e**

**J**udges

**K**ings

**C a r r i e s**

**C**aptivity

**R**ebuild  
**R**estoration

**C o c c o a**

**C**hrist

**C**hurch

**S**ilence

Whew.



We have now gone through some of the nuts and bolts  
Hopefully, you are beginning to understand that this book is  
like no other.

## **It was written by God for us!**

**God is in the business of transformation. He changes us from the inside-out, and one of the methods he uses is His word. It is spiritual food that satisfies the hunger of the soul.**

**None of us can afford to miss what we find on the pages of His word.**



Please take some time to rest in the presence of your Heavenly Father before looking at some verses that illustrate how God feels about YOU.  
Ask the Holy Spirit to seal this into your heart.



# Your Identity Comes From Christ

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Identity is not about what you do nor is it about what you feel. Identity, ultimately, is about who God says you are. See, if He was given the chance to introduce you and respond to your silent, self-sabotaging thoughts, He would remind you to believe:

He chose me before the creation of the world and adopted me into His family by faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Ephesians 1:4-11

I have the mind of Christ and am created in HIS image.

I Cor. 2:16, Gen. 1:27

I am His child. John 1:12, Romans 8:14-15

I am Christ's friend. John 15:15

I am HIS coworker. 2 Corinthians 6:1

I am HIS workmanship. Ephesians 2:10

I am chosen and appointed by His son, Jesus Christ to bear His fruit. John 15:16

I am forgiven. Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7

I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13

I am a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am alive with Christ. Ephesians 2:5

I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.  
Ephesians 1:3

I am set free. Romans 8:2, John 8:32

I am not alone and do not need to fear.

Isaiah 43:1-2, Deut. 31:6-8

I am victorious through the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

I am not controlled by the sinful nature but by the Spirit.  
Romans 8:9

I know His voice and follow Him. John 10:27

I have received eternal life and cannot be snatched out of His hand. John 10:28

I am able to hear HIS voice. John 8:47

I do not belong to this world. John 15:19

I belong to HIM! 1 Peter 2:9

# ARE YOU

## in the FAMILY?

Friend, if you are not sure, I implore you to reach out to someone and take care of this decision.

The life of a believer is the only way to live here on earth and for all eternity. Can't wait to visit with you in Heaven!

### Resources

Bible History Overview by Gary Oglsby

You Version Bible

God Wrote a Book by James McDonald

Prayer from Bible Recap

Identity Verses unknown

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

Hebrews 4:12



# Hello.



I'm Susan! I'm a farmwife who loves Jesus and I'm also a Christian Life Coach. Not sure what that is? [Find out more here!](#)

I'm so glad you have taken the wonderful step of getting into your Bible.

For more resources, see the links below. I'd love to get to know you, so please feel free to reach out !

- Susan



## Resources

- [Free Facebook Group](#)
- [Resource Library](#)
- [Clean Heart Club](#)
- [Private Coaching](#)
- [Instagram: @avintagefarmwife](#)
- [YouTube: @susanshull2010](#)