



Holy Scriptures

Bible Survey

UESI Doctrinal statement:

The Divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scriptures (by which we mean the Sixty Six books of the Bible) as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Bible

- ❖ God has given a library of 66 books. The Latin word Biblio means 'books'.
- ❖ The Old Testament which has 39 books covers a period of 2000 years.
- ❖ The New Testament has 27 books covering about 80 years.

7-Symbols used to illustrate the Word of God:

1. Sword: - Sharper than
2-edged sword. (Heb.4:12)



2. Hammer: Like a hammer
that breaks the rock into
pieces. (Jer.23:29)



3. Seed: Incorruptible seed.
(1 Pet.1:23)



4. Mirror: See yourself .
(Jam.1:23-25)



5. Fire: Word like
a fire. (Jer.23:29, 20:9)



6. Food: Eat well
(1Pet2:2)



7. Lamp: Word is lamp
unto my feet and light
unto my path. (Ps.119:105)



-
- The Word of God convicts, breaks, regenerates, reveals, consumes, illuminates and nourishes the individual.

The Bible can be broadly divided into

❖ Pentateuch:

From Genesis to Deuteronomy

❖ History books:

From Joshua to Esther

❖ Poetic & Wisdom books:

From Job to Song of Songs.

❖ Biblical prophets:

From Isaiah to Malachi

In the New Testament

- ❖ Biography:
Matthew to John
- ❖ Letters:
Acts to Jude
- ❖ Apocalyptic:
Revelation.

Questions often asked about Holy Scripture?

- ⦿ What is Cannon ?
- ⦿ What is Old Testament and New Testament.
- ⦿ Who has written the Bible.?
- ⦿ What is Septuagint?
- ⦿ Who are the people God is speaking about ?
- ⦿ What is Apocrypha ?

- ⦿ How did the Bible come and when?
- ⦿ When was Bible compiled?
- ⦿ How did Bible circulate before the advent of Printing Press?
- ⦿ Who translated Bible into English?
- ⦿ Who divided Bible into chapters and verses, why and when was it done?

1).What is Cannon ?

- The word "canon" means "standard" or "rule." It is the list of authoritative and inspired Scriptures. Different religions have different canons.
- In Judaism, the canon consists of the books of the Old Testament_only. In Protestant Christianity, the canon is the body of scripture comprised in the Bible consisting of the 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- In Roman Catholicism, additional books were added in 1546. These books are known as the apocryphal books: Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, The Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), and Baruch. I need to add here that Roman Catholicism maintains that the apocrypha was always inspired along with the Eastern Orthodox, Coptic and Armenian churches. The Protestant movement has not accepted the apocrypha.

2). WHAT IS OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT.

Old Testament (OT)	New Testament (NT)
Contains 39 books	Contains 27 books
Explains the history of the creation of the world, the exodus of Israelites and the Ten Command-ments given to Moses by God.	NT focuses more on the life and teachings of Jesus and the Christian Church
Written in Hebrew and Aramaic.	Written in Greek
In OT forgiveness of sins is through the sacrifice of lamb.	In OT repentance of sins leads to forgiveness of sins.
God is portrayed as only One God	The Only One God is portrayed in Trinity.

3) Relation between Old Testament and New Testament

- The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament.
- Not two separate trees of life, but one and the same.
- With a time of rest (about 400 years), Jesus came into this world.
- With the appearance of Jesus, the early Church, Apostolic teaching, and with the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures was complete.
- Christianity cannot be separated from the past. It was not an accident or an afterthought, but foreknown before the foundation of the world. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is the central point of all history. History is nothing but His Story i.e. what God has done to humanity.

4) Who has written the Bible?

All the scripture is written by the breadth of God, inspired of God through the Holy Spirit. It contains 66 books written by over 40 authors over a period of 1600 years.

5) What is Septuagint?

Septuagint (sometimes abbreviated LXX) is the name given to the Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures. The Septuagint has its origin in Alexandria, Egypt and was translated between 300-200 BC. The Septuagint contains the standard 39 books of the Old Testament canon, as well as certain apocryphal books.

6). Who are the people that God is speaking about ?

- God is speaking to all humanity irrespective of caste, creed, religion, background.
- Initially God chose one person Abraham and through him a nation was established called Israel.
- Through Israel whose people are called Jews, God sent a Saviour i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ to save the humanity from eternal destruction.
- So God is primarily speaking to all the people of this world so that they may be redeemed and accept the free gift of salvation which Christ Jesus has provided.

7). What is Apocrypha ?

- The term "Apocrypha" was coined by the fifth-century biblical scholar, Jerome, and generally refers to the set of ancient Jewish writings written during the period between the last book in the Jewish scriptures, Malachi, and the arrival of Jesus Christ.
- The apocryphal books include Judith, Tobit, Baruch, Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus), the Wisdom of Solomon, First and Second Maccabees, the two Books of Esdras, additions to the Book of Esther, additions to the Book of Daniel, and the Prayer of Manasseh.
- Apocrypha was never considered part of the canonical Jewish scripture.
- However, the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox churches include the Apocrypha in their Bible (except for the books of Esdras and the Prayer of Manasseh).

8). How did the Bible come and when?

- 'The Bible' is actually a collection of 66 books, written by about 40 different authors from all walks of life (kings, priest, prophets, fishermen, a tax collector, tent maker, half brother of Jesus etc.) over a period of 1,600 years.
- Each book was considered God-breathed and was received as part of the *canon* of Scripture, since it came from a recognized speaker of God (normally a prophet or apostle, or someone under their supervision), and contained no historical, factual or doctrinal mistakes.

9). When was Bible compiled?

- The term “canon” is used to describe the books that are divinely inspired and therefore belong in the Bible.
- The difficulty in determining the biblical canon is that the Bible does not give us a list of the books that belong in the Bible.
- Determining the canon was a process conducted first by Jewish rabbis and scholars and later by early Christians.
- Ultimately, it was God who decided what books belonged in the biblical canon. Hebrew believers recognized God’s messengers and accepted their writings as inspired of God.
- The first “canon” was the Muratorian Canon, which was compiled in A.D. 170. The Muratorian Canon included all of the New Testament books except Hebrews, James, and 3 John. The Council of Hippo (A.D. 393) and the Council of Carthage (A.D. 397) affirmed the present 27 books as authoritative.

10). How did the Bible circulate before the advent of Printing Press?

- The first copies were made by engraving symbols on a slab of rock.
- The ancient invention of ink or dye enabled early scribes to make marks on animal hides, which could be scrubbed and used again. When the discovery of Papyrus made by Egyptians the Old Testament was changed from leather scrolls, to papyrus.
- The sheets of papyrus were sewed together and placed between two pieces of wood for covers. This type of book was called a codex.
- Actually the term Bible comes from the Greek word for "papyrus plant" (biblos). The oldest surviving manuscript of any part of the New Testament is a papyrus fragment containing part of (Jn. 18). Scholars estimate that it was written about 125 AD.

- Around 320, the codex book form replaced the roll or scroll, and parchment made from the skin of sheep or goats replaced papyrus.
- Also around this time the Roman emperor **Constantine** became a Christian and authorized the production of many copies of the Scriptures.
- Then the copies of Bible began vigorously. Probably the first translation of the New Testament was into **Latin in 175**.
- By the year 600, the Gospels had been translated into only eight languages. With this copying and translation activity, a confusing variety of Scriptures began to circulate through the early church.
- Finally, the Pope commissioned the great scholar **Jerome** to make a translation into **Latin**, which was completed in **405**. For more than thousand years Jerome translation was in circulation which is known as **Latin Vulgate**.

- The work of copying the Scriptures was undertaken seriously in the Christian Monasteries in the Middle Ages.
- Several thousand Monasteries were established across Europe, and for many of the monks making copies of the Scriptures was their chief task.
- They became the true guardians of the text and produced literally thousands of magnificent Bibles. Teams of scribes and artists worked with parchment to produce incredibly beautiful works of art.
- A scribe taking dictation might use as many as 80 quills (pen made from bird's feather) a day, and artists embellished the work with intricate designs and illustrations.
- Because of the huge size of complete Bibles, they were divided into several volumes, and each was very costly. Only the rich people and the universities could afford them to buy.

11). Who translated the Bible into English language?

- At that time a great man of God, **John Wycliffe**, who had a great desire that, "Every Christian ought to study this book because it is the whole truth!" made a revolution by completely translating the Bible into English.
- He also lashed out against the power and riches of the church establishment, and became a very popular leader at Oxford.
- He was condemned by the archbishop and was fired from Oxford. Eventually he was martyred as a heretic.
- Today we have this great treasure, which is readily available to us.
- We must understand and realize that we hold in our hands the precious revelation of God Himself. It costs us less than a 100/- rupees which is very cheap, rather than a year's salary, as it once was.
- The temptation now is to treat the ancient word of God casually as well. But from this ink and paper springs the ageless gospel of hope for this life and the life to come. It is our priceless heritage.

11). Who divided the Bible into chapters and verses? Why and when was it done?

- The chapter divisions commonly used today were developed by Arch bishop of Canterbury **Stephen Langton** and Cardinal **Hugo De Santo Caro** in AD 1227.
- The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern.
- Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton's chapter divisions.



Stephen Langton



Hugo De Santo Caro

- ◉ The verses for O.T Hebrew bible was developed by a Jewish rabbi **Nathan** in **A.D. 1448**.
- ◉ The NT verses are developed by **Robert Estienne**, who was also known as **Stephanus**, in **1555**. Stephanus essentially used Nathan's verse divisions for the Old Testament.



Robert Estienne / Stephanus

The Authority of the Bible:

- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
(2 Tim.3:16, 2 Pet.2:21).
- Trust worthy: (Jn.10:35)
- For instruction: (2 Tim3:14)
- Double Authority:
God spoke to us (Heb.1:1ff).
Men Spoke (2Pet.2:21)

God spoke to the people through:

- ❖ **General Revelation:** Rom.1:19,20, Ps.19:1,2
- ❖ **Special Revelation : I AM WHO I AM**
Ex.3:1-17
- ❖ **Ten Commandments** , through his Son Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1)
- ❖ **God breathed** -2 Tim.3:16,17, 2-Pet.1:20, Deu. 6:4-8, Ps.119

The Uniqueness of the Bible



- ❖ Written over a period of more than 3000 yrs.
- ❖ Written by people of different cross sections of the society: Eg:
 - i. Moses – a political leader
 - ii. Joshua - a Military general
 - iii. Nehemiah - a cup bearer
 - iv. Peter - a fisher man
 - v. Amos: - a herd's man

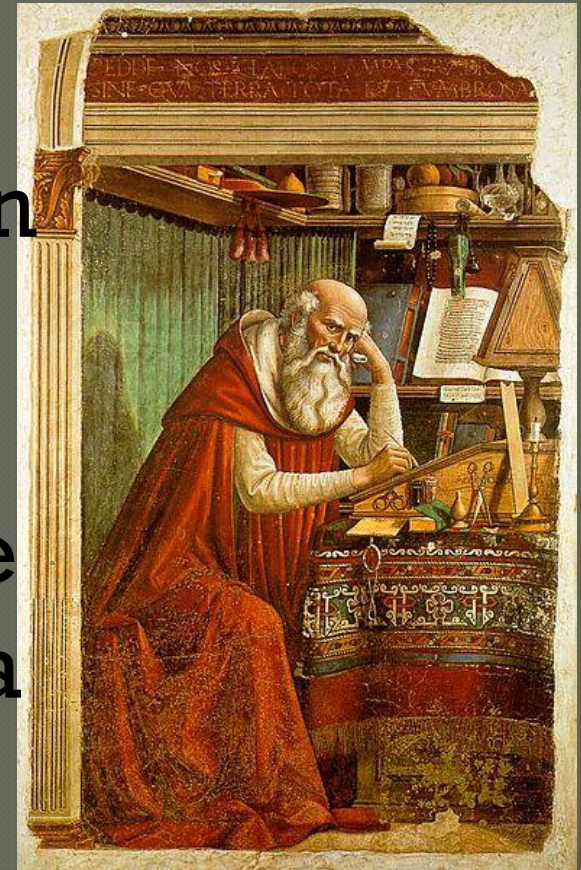
Written at different locations:

- 1) Moses in wilderness
- 2) Jeremiah in the jail dungeon
- 3) Daniel in a palace
- 4) Paul inside the Prison.
- 5) Luke while travelling.
- 6) John on the island of Patmos.
- 7) David during the times of war
- 8) Solomon during the peace period. Etc...

In written form:

written in 3-different languages: Hebrew,
Aramaic and Greek languages.

Latin Vulgates: is a late 4th-century Latin translation of the Bible. It was largely the work of St. Jerome, who was commissioned by Pope Damasus-1 in 382 to make a revision of the old Latin translations.



Dead Sea Scrolls

The **Dead Sea Scrolls** are a collection of 972 texts from the Hebrew Bible and extra-biblical documents found between 1947 and 1956 on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. They were specifically located at *Khirbet Qumran* in what now the **West Bank**.



Background and Summary:

- God has chosen one single family Abraham and took him from the city of 'Ur' to 'Canaan' a land flowing with milk.
- With one single family God made a community of 12 tribes.
- With 12 tribes God made a nation Israel.



The Fertile Crescent:

- God wanted to place Israelites in this fertile crescent.
- It was a "bridge" between Africa and Eurasia.
- It is a region of civilization.



- It had the rivers of Jordan, Tigris, Euphrates and Nile to some extent.
- All the world's fauna and flora were existing in this small nation.
- The location became a trade route.



- God planted Israel at the crossroads of the world so that the whole world could see the blessings that come to the people living under God's rule and also they could be a model of the Kingdom of heaven on earth . It was like an international airport.

- The whole world seemed to be squeezed into a tiny nation.

Roughly the OT can be divided into 4-equal parts comprising each of 500 years. In each period we can put one Prominent Person or Fact.

2000	1500	1000	500
Election	Exodus	Empire	Exile
Abraham	Moses	David	Isaiah
Patriarchs	Prophets	Princes	Priests

Time Line:

- ❖ In the First period the Patriarchs led Israel. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. (Genesis 12-50). Job also seem to be in this period.
- ❖ There was a gap of 400 years in between Genesis and Exodus i.e. God was silent during this period.
- ❖ During this period, Indian, Egyptian and Chinese civilization grew up.

- In the Second Period the Prophets led Israel: Moses to Samuel. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and Ruth.



- The Third period was led by Princes and Kings from Saul, David to Zedekiah. The books covered are: 1 & 2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes.
- The end of United Kingdom dividing into 10 tribes of North and 2 tribes of south. The prophets are Elijah, Elisha.



- The Fourth Period of Exile where a large number of Prophetic books associated with it. The Northern kingdom fell to Assyrians in (722 BC) and then the Southern Kingdom fell to Babylonians in (582 BC).
- Some prophecies were made just before the exile and some during exile and some have mixture because the Prophets overlaps more than one phase.

- Before Exile: Joel, Amos, Hosea, Micah. Isaiah, Jonah, Nahum, Obadiah, Habakkuk and Zephaniah.
- During exile: Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
- After exile: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi,, Esther, Ezra & Nehemiah

- There was a gap of 400 years after Malachi where God was silent.
- During this time Some Kings Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar ruled the world.
- Some religious leaders rose up during this time are Buddha, Confucius and other leaders are Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

- The History books are arranged in Chronological order but the Prophets are organized according to the size of the prophesy.
- The Kingdom rose to the best position under David and Solomon.
- That's why every Jew longs for it to return and even ask the Lord Jesus Christ, when will you restore the Kingdom.

RELATION BETWEEN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

- The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament.
- Not two separate trees of life, but one and the same.
- With a time of rest (about 400 years), Jesus came into this world.
- With the appearance of Jesus, the early Church, Apostolic teaching, and with the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures was complete.

- Christianity cannot be separated from the past. It was not an accident or an afterthought, but foreknown before the foundation of the world. The Incarnation as it is seen now is the central point of all history .

New Testament contains 27-books:

Broadly divided into:

- 1) Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- 2) History: Acts
- 3) Epistles:
 - i. Pauline epistles: 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

i. General epistles: James, 1&2 Peter,
Hebrew

ii. Epistles of John: 1,2,3 John

iii. Epistle of Judah: Jude

4) Prophetical Book: Revelation

Bible facts:

- The system of chapters was introduced in A.D. 1238 by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro, while the verse notations were added in 1551 by Robertus Stephanus, after the discovery of printing.
- The Bible can be read aloud in 70 hours.

- Total Chapters: 1,189
- Verses: 31,102
- Words: 783,137

- Letters: 3,116,480
- Number of promises given in the Bible: 1,260
- Commands: 6,468
- Predictions: over 8,000
- Fulfilled prophecy: 3,268 verses
- Unfulfilled prophecy: 3,140
- Number of questions: 3,294
- Longest name: Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1)
- Longest verse: Esther 8:9 (78 words)

- ❑ The Bible is sufficient for the entire needs of mankind.

- ❑ The Bible is complete book.
- ❑ Nothing can be added to or be removed from the Bible.....(Rev.22:18-19)
- ❑ No need to worry about the things which are not understood. (Deu.29:29).
- ❑ How can an young man keep his life pure...by living according to your word. (Ps.119:9-11).
- ❑ Memorise the Scriptures. (Ps.119:11)

- ❖ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Pro.9:10).

- ❖ I have more insight than all my teachers. (Ps.119:99)
- ❖ Your Word Oh Lord is Eternal. (Ps.119:89).
- ❖ Holy Scriptures will make you wise for Salvation. (2 Tim.3:15)

7-Reasons for telling God's Word

- Conviction of Sin. (Acts.2:14-37)
- Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.
(Rom.10:17)
- Cleansing: Through the Word of God.
(2Cor.7:1)
- Assurance from the Word of God. (1Jn.5:13)
- Comfort from the Word of God. (1The.4:18)
- Truth comes from the Word of God.
(Acts.17:11)
- New Birth from the Word of God. (1Pet.1:23)

7- Points to remember while reading the Bible:

1. Read lovingly. (Ps.119:11)
2. Read reverently.
3. Read Prayerfully
4. Read Meditatively.
5. Read systematically
6. Read resolutely
7. Read daily

Conclusion:

- ❖ Make the Bible your constant guide and companion in your life.
- ❖ The Bible is the Word of God, worthy of being believed.
- ❖ Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to understand God's Word.
- ❖ The Word of God if neglected will be our Judge on the last day. (Jn12:48)

The Best book
to read is the
Bible:

HAPPY
READING
GOD BLESS YOU
THANK YOU

