

## UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

The following passages constitute a bit of information every believer should be familiar with. I sincerely hope it will help you gain a more enlightened understanding of the Bible as God's revealed word to humankind.

If we are to become the sincere and significant Christians God has called us to be, we must develop a deep concentrated knowledge of the Bible as our road map. This road map thus becomes not only our direction from earth to heaven, but will help us on our journey here on earth to become better travelers.

The Bible is God's written revelation of His will and purpose to humankind.

The central theme of the Bible is salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Bible contains 66 books (we will get familiar with them in Bible study), the author is God, written by 40 divinely inspired individuals, covering a period of approximately 1600 years.

The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew (however a few short passages in Aramaic). About 100 years before the Christian era, the entire Old Testament was translated into Greek.

The New Testament was written in the Greek language. Our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word "biblos."

The word "testament" means "covenant," or agreement. The Old Testament is the covenant God made with humankind about the plan of salvation before Christ came. The New Testament is the agreement God made with humankind about the plan of salvation after Christ came.

In the Old Testament you will find the covenant of law.

In the New Testament you will find the covenant of grace.

The Old Testament commences what the New completes.

The Old gathers around Sinai,

The New is gathered around Calvary.

The Bible is divided into two divisions, namely the Old and New Testaments. Each Testament is comprised of books. There are thirty nine in the Old Testament and twenty seven in the New Testament. Of these thirty nine books of the Old Testament, there are groups as follow:

(5) Law      (17) Prophetical

(12) Historical    (5) Major

(5) Poetical    (12) Minor

The twenty seven books in the New Testament are grouped in the following order:

(4) Gospels    (21) Epistles

(1) History    (14) Pauline

(1) Prophecy    (7) General

The Old Testament begins with God (Genesis 1:1).

The New Testament begins with Jesus (Matthew 1:1).

From Adam to Abraham we have the history of the human race.

From Christ on we have the history of the Church.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

- John 5:39

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

-II Timothy 2:15

Pastor Angelia and I are encouraging all of Ebenezer to make weekly Bible study a high priority. We furthermore, encourage you to spend at least thirty minutes daily in personal growth, through prayer, meditation and Bible study.