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An Introduction to the Bible

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ARTICLE ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

PART ONE: A TWOFOLD DESCRIPTION OF THE BIBLE

(Written by Unknown Authors)

- I. This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- II. The Bible is a beautiful palace built of 66 blocks of solid marble – the 66 books. In the first chapter of Genesis we enter the vestibule, filled with the mighty acts of creation.
The vestibule gives access to the law courts – the five books of Moses – passing through which we come to the picture gallery of the historical books. Here we find hung upon the walls scenes of battlefields, representations of heroic deeds, and portraits of eminent men belonging to the early days of the world's history.
Beyond the picture gallery we find the philosopher's chamber – the book of Job – passing through which we enter the music room – the book of Psalms – where we listen to the grandest strains that ever fell on human ears.
Then we come to the business office – the book of Proverbs – where right in the center of the room, stands facing us the motto, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."
From the business office we pass into the chapel – Ecclesiastes, or the Song of Solomon with the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley, and all manner of fine perfume and fruit and flowers and singing birds.
Finally we reach the observatory – the Prophets, with their telescopes fixed on near and distant stars, and all directed toward "the Bright and Morning Star," that was soon to arise.
Crossing the court we come to the audience chamber of the King – the Gospels – where we find four vivid lifelike portraits of the King himself. Next we enter the workroom of the Holy Spirit – the Acts of the Apostles – and beyond that the correspondence room – the Epistles – where we see Paul and Peter and James and John and Jude busy at their desks.

Before leaving we stand a moment in the outside gallery – the Revelation – where we look upon some striking pictures of the judgments to come, and the glories to be revealed, concluding with an awe-inspiring picture of the throne room of the King.

PART TWO: GENERAL STATISTICS ON THE BIBLE

I. Facts about the Old and New Testaments

A. The Old Testament

1. 39 books
2. 929 chapters
3. 23,214 verses
4. 593,493 words
5. Longest book – Psalms
6. Shortest book – Obadiah
7. 17 historical books
8. 5 poetical books
9. 17 prophetic books

B. The New Testament

1. 27 books
2. 260 chapters
3. 7,959 verses
4. 181,253 words
5. Longest book – Luke
6. Shortest book – 3 John
7. 4 Gospels
8. 1 historical book
9. 22 epistles

C. The ten longest books in the Bible

1. Psalms – 150 chapters, 2,461 verses
2. Jeremiah – 52 chapters, 1,364 verses
3. Ezekiel – 48 chapters, 1,273 verses
4. Genesis – 50 chapters, 1,533 verses
5. Isaiah – 66 chapters, 1,292 verses
6. Numbers – 36 chapters, 1,288 verses
7. Exodus – 40 chapters, 1,213 verses
8. Deuteronomy – 34 chapters, 959 verses
9. 2 Chronicles – 36 chapters, 822 verses
10. Acts – 28 chapters, 1,007 verses

D. The ten shortest books in the Bible

1. 3 John – 1 chapter, 14 verses
2. 2 John – 1 chapter, 13 verses

3. Philemon – 1 chapter, 25 verses
4. Jude – 1 chapter, 25 verses
5. Obadiah – 1 chapter, 21 verses
6. Titus – 3 chapters, 46 verses
7. 2 Thessalonians – 3 chapters, 47 verses
8. Haggai – 2 chapters, 38 verses
9. Nahum – 3 chapters, 47 verses
10. Jonah – 4 chapters, 48 verses

E. The ten Old Testament books most referred to in the New Testament

1. Isaiah – referred to 419 times in 23 New Testament books
2. Psalms – referred to 414 times in 23 books
3. Genesis – referred to 260 times in 21 books
4. Exodus – referred to 250 times in 19 books
5. Deuteronomy – referred to 208 times in 21 books
6. Ezekiel – referred to 141 times in 15 books
7. Daniel – referred to 133 times in 17 books
8. Jeremiah – referred to 125 times in 17 books
9. Leviticus – referred to 107 times in 15 books
10. Numbers – referred to 73 times in 4 books

F. The ten New Testament books containing material from the greatest number of Old Testament books

1. Revelation – material from 32 Old Testament books
2. Luke – material from 31 Old Testament books
3. John – material from 26 Old Testament books
4. Acts – material from 25 Old Testament books
5. Mark – material from 24 Old Testament books
6. Romans – material from 23 Old Testament books
7. Hebrews – material from 21 Old Testament books
8. 1 Corinthians – material from 18 Old Testament books
9. James – material from 17 Old Testament books
10. 1 Peter – material from 15 Old Testament books

II. FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE

- A. Moses wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Psalm 90.
- B. Joshua wrote the book named after him.
- C. Job may have written his own story.
- D. Samuel may have written Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel.
- E. David wrote most of the Psalms (2 Sam. 23:2).
- F. Sons of Korah wrote Psalms 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87.
- G. Asaph wrote Psalms 50, 73-83.

- H. Heman wrote Psalm 88.
- I. Ethan wrote Psalm 89.
- J. Hezekiah wrote Psalms 120-123, 128-130, 132, 134-136 (Isa. 38:20).
- K. Solomon wrote Psalms 72, 127, Proverbs 1-29, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.
- L. Agur wrote Proverbs 30.
- M. Lemuel wrote Proverbs 31.
- N. Jeremiah wrote Jeremiah, probably Lamentations, and possibly 1 and 2 Kings.
- O. Ezra wrote Ezra and possibly 1 and 2 Chronicles and 2 Samuel.
- P. Mordecai may have written Esther.
- Q. Luke wrote Acts as well as the Gospel of Luke.
- R. John wrote the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation.
- S. Paul wrote Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
- T. Apollos may have written Hebrews.
- U. The books of Old Testament prophecy were written by the prophets whose names they bear. The New Testament Epistles and Gospels, with the exceptions noted above, were also named after their authors.