

INTRODUCING THE BOOK OF BOOKS

I. SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE.

- a. The Bible consists of 66 books written by about 40 men over a 1600 year period.
 - i. Yet its parts present one book with a single message.
 - ii. This remarkable unity is an evidence of its divine origin.

- b. The theme of the bible is the *redemption* of sinful man by God's grace.
 - i. *Required* because of man's rebellion against God in Eden. (Genesis 3)
 - ii. Redemption *prepared for* by means of God's promise to Abraham and the choice of Israel through whom the Messiah would come. (Historical books of Old Testament)
 - iii. Redemption *foretold* through the prophets—related in the Old Testament books of prophecy and poetry.
 - iv. Redemption *became reality* through the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God—as recorded in the four gospel accounts in the New Testament.
 - v. Redemption was *proclaimed and shared* by the early church—as recorded in the book of Acts.
 - vi. Redemption is *explained and its implications are recorded* for us in the New Testament epistles (Romans through Jude).
 - vii. Redemption is *ultimately realized* in the triumph of God's people over evil and their safe arrival in heaven—promised in the book of Revelation.

- c. There are two great sections to the Bible: Old Testament and New Testament.
 - i. **Old Testament.**
 1. God's covenant with the Jews through whom the Messiah was to come. (Deut. 4:8; Ex. 34:27-28 and Deut. 5:1-5)
 2. This covenant was temporary and intended to end. (Jer. 31:31-34; Gal. 3:8-29)
 3. This covenant was done away at the cross of Christ. (Heb. 9:11-17)

4. Does not contain the will of God for people living today.
5. Is important for our study. (Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:1-11)

ii. New Testament.

1. Was given through Christ and is more glorious than the Law given through Moses. (II Cor. 3:4-11; Heb. 8:6-13)
2. Is universal in scope and embraces all people. (Mark 16:15-16 and Eph:2:11-22)
3. Is never to be replaced and will be in force until the age (world) ends. (Matt. 28:18-20)
4. Gives guidance for salvation and right living to all people today.

d. The Old Testament contains 39 books and can be grouped as follows:

- i. **LAW**---5: Genesis-Deuteronomy.
- ii. **HISTORY**---12: Joshua-Esther.
- iii. **POETRY**---5: Job-Song of Solomon.
- iv. **MAJOR PROPHETS**---5: Isaiah-Daniel.
- v. **MINOR PROPHETS**---12: Hosea-Malachi.

e. The New Testament contains 27 books and can be grouped as follows:

- i. **GOSPELS (ACCOUNTS)**---4: Matthew-John.
- ii. **CHURCH HISTORY**---1: Acts.
- iii. **EPISTLES OF PAUL**---13: Romans-Philemon.
- iv. **GENERAL EPISTLES**---8: Hebrews-Jude/
- v. **PROPHECY**---1: Revelation.