

# An Introduction to the Bible

Lots of people have Bibles, but not many people have even opened them to learn much about them. I think it's even fair to say that a lot of people wouldn't even know where to start to learn about them.. This brief introduction hopes to give you that "start" to learning about the Bible. And I'm hoping that one you get started, you'll want to learn more.

Let's begin with some of the Bible's basic divisions. The first division is what is known as the Old Testament - sometimes referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures. This division includes 39 books, from Genesis through Malachi; and they are written in Hebrew. The second division is called the New testament, and it includes 27 books, from Matthew through Revelation. The New Testament is written in the language of the common man of the ancient western world. Greek. The 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament combine for a total of 66 books.

The 39 Books of the Old Testament contain a variety of literature. The first 5 books (genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are called the books of Law - or sometimes the books of Moses, the prophet who wrote them. These books contain more than merely law, however. They tell the foundational stories of creation, man's fall, the flood, God's call to Abraham, Israel's Exodus from Egypt, and their wanderings through the wilderness on the way to the promised land of Canaan. The next 12 books are usually categorized as "history". They tell the history of Israel from the time of entering the land of Canaan through their return from exile to Mesopotamia. They tell wonderfully instructive stories about Joshua, Samuel, Ruth, David, Solomon, Jeroboam . Elijah, Josiah, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. The next category of the Old Testament is usually called Poetry or Wisdom. It includes the book of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The next section of the Old Testament is called the Major Prophets. There are 5; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. They are called the Major Prophets not because they are more important but because they are longer than the minor Prophets, which include Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. At times, these prophets tell us God's plans for the future and at other times they are spokesmen for God - condemning sin or approving of righteousness.

The 27 books of the New Testament also have a number of divisions. The first 4 are known as the Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They each tell the story of Jesus' life. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the life of Christ from a very similar point of view. John, however, tells a similar story, but with a few new stories and adding occasional new details and insights. The next New Testament category, history, is a single book, the book of Acts, which is a wonderful history of the early church. Its official name is the Acts of the Apostles, but it is technically some of the acts of two of the apostles - Peter and Paul. It's a good place to find out what the earliest Christians did to become Christians and what the earliest churches did to obey the Lord. The next category of the New Testament is the letters of Paul to various churches and individuals in the earliest churches starting with his letter to the Roman church and ending with his letter to a man named Philemon - 13 in all. They contain foundational Christian teachings about salvation, the church, Christian hope, and Christian behavior. Following the letters of Paul are what are known as the General Letters. These 9 letters were written by various inspired church leaders in the first century (Peter, James, John, Jude) as instructional letters to early churches in general. They include books (letters) starting with Hebrews through Jude. Finally, there is a single book of prophecy in the New Testament, Revelation. It is in a style of literature known as "apocalyptic", which is intended to both reveal the broad strokes of prophecies about the future, while effectively hiding the details.

Now in reading through the Bible and trying to understand what we should be doing, it's important to understand the idea of covenant and which of the covenants we see in the Bible applies to us. A covenant is a very solemn agreement - so solemn, in fact it is bound with kinship ties. For example, marriage is considered to be a covenant and also adoption - it is making someone who is not your blood relative as if they are your blood relative, with all of the obligations and rights that belong to different members of a family. And different agreements go with different covenants.

For instance, God made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12 that included certain promises on God's part and obligations on Abraham's part. God made a covenant with Moses and all Israel in Exodus 24 which included obedience to the 10 commandments and the rest of the Mosaic Law by Israel and blessings and protection by God. And lastly there was a covenant made through Christ with God's people, the church This last covenant is the one in force in our day. It was begun with Christ's death on the cross (Matthew 26-28), and it replaces the broken covenant of Israel (Hebrews 8:6-13). The old covenant God made exclusively with Israel was based on keeping the Law without sin; the new covenant, which is offered to all mankind, is based on the grace of God through the cross of Jesus...

In a nutshell this means that although we can learn a lot about the Lord in the Old Testament, it is the **new** covenant, the NT that we must learn about and obey - making Matthew through Revelation especially important to know. (continued on pg 2)

# Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

## An Introduction to the Bible (cont. from pg 1)

Therefore, for example, animal sacrifices, Sabbath, and circumcision are no longer applicable to the lives of God's people. Neither is going to Jerusalem to worship, using musical instruments, or the Levitical priesthood, because these are all part of the old covenant. But, on the other hand, baptism (Acts 2:38), worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), the church (Ephesians 1:21), the salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 10, 11) and elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3) - because they are part of the new covenant - are applicable.

Now you know a few of the basics. There's an OT and a NT. There are 39 books in the OT and 27 books in the NT. and it is the NT that we especially need to read, understand, and obey to know what God commands us to do to be saved. NOW that you know, why not begin a little reading in the book of Matthew. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask - I love talking about God's word, the Bible.

Park Linscomb

## NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

We were unable to obtain qualifications for financing in time to meet the sellers schedule and therefore we will not be proceeding with the purchase of the 99 Mammoth Road properties. While this is indeed disappointing, it has been a very positive and encouraging sign to see so many of us so excited about expansion prospects. Our thanks to the many who have helped in this recent effort to try to make our facilities work better for us to further God's kingdom here in Manchester.

## NEWS

The elders announced this past Sunday that **Lee Davis has resigned** as elder due to his long work commute. Please thank him for his many years of service here in Manchester.

**Easter:** Invite a friend to Easter Sunday, April 8. You'll be glad you did.

**Kara Daggett is in a play** "Wind in the Willows" 7pm April 13 & 2pm April 14. Location: 45 Myles Drive, Auburn. Free admission!

**Heather King** is walking with her school for New Horizons. The school goal is to raise \$20,000. See her to donate by April 19th.

## TEENS

### Donations needed for the youth rally:

- toiletries, socks, toothbrushes, etc for the homeless
- 1 yard pieces for fleece for blankets (see Linda Paul)
- variety of greeting cards, especially for sick children

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**April 8 Easter "Caroling" at Villa Crest 2pm** See Glenna if you can attend.

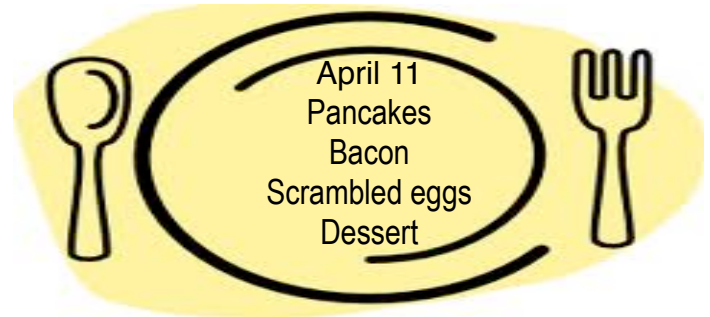
**April 20-22 Manchester Youth Rally**

**April 29, 3-5pm Concord church of Christ singing.** Rsvp by April 22

**May 5 Baby Shower** for Kehinde Ogunsuyi. Here at the building from 10-12:30 Contact Barbara Steffensen, Sue Burdette, or Deb Dlutowski to help with food. She is registered at Babies R Us.

**May 5 Lancaster church of Christ** Ladies day with Pam Stewart "Bring about the Joy" **May 6** Bill Stewart will speak during the worship

**May 19 Ladies Day HERE!** Casandra Martin, speaker.



## OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

- Help with the Youth Rally Sign up sheets on teen board in foyer.**
- VBS planning. Watch for details. Talk to Park if you can help.**
- House visiting students.**
- Help with making or clearing Communion trays**
- Take trash & recycling to the curb on Wed. evenings.**
- Mentor a younger Christian.**
- Visit those sick or shut in.**
- Cook for a Wednesday night supper.**
- Use **YOUR** talent for God.
- Clip coupons for food pantry items.** Place in box on foyer counter or give to Kim Daggett.
- The Pantry could use YOUR help.** Bring donations of food. Cash donations can be placed in envelopes available behind the seats. Drop them in the collection plate during worship service.

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# Prayer Requests

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*Terri Apgar & her family with the loss of her father. Sunday afternoon, Darlene & Alan Chamberlain were in a car accident. No one was hurt but her car is probably totaled. Darlene loves her car and relies on it to get to work, worship, etc. Please be praying for her as she works thru this situation.*

*Cindy Longhenry, a frequent Sunday evening visitor, requests prayers for a personal issue.*

*Pray for Linda Carroll's daughter, Jami. She is in an unhealthy relationship. Pray that she comes back to a good relationship with God.*

*For the opportunity to expand our building.*

*Eric Brennele requests prayers for finances, spiritual strength, & physical health.*

The Chase family: guardianship. Waiting for decision.

Please keep Jen Devoe in prayer for wisdom, discernment, safety & knowledge as she completes her final semester. It is her sincere desire to serve by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Jen Devoe requests prayers for a friend whose marriage is under attack. Please pray for wisdom and a return of unity for her family.

Nicole Mosier's Grandmother. Being moved to an assisted living facility this month.

Dave Jones to have an open heart for God & for Tom as he strives to teach him.

Guyana Mission trip

*Jerry Ellis Still looking for work.*

Gerry Millette: post retirement job

Mark Brown & his daughter

Mark's fiance, Jennifer, & her two girls

Cory Roukey faith and guidance

Brenda, Lee's sister, Court/grandchildren's custody

Our youth rally in April.

For our Elders as they lead our congregation

For Andrea Berwick to find her way to God

Marie Levesque (job needed)

Lisa Peeters going through rough times

## Health

*Pete Steffensen back in CMC*

Pray for Geneva Baum's brother. He had a mild heart attack, then surgery to repair and then back in the hospital for a medicine change.

Charlie, The Cordaro's neighbor. He had heart bypass surgery last Friday.

Lucille Levesque's Nephew: His wife had a baby last week but she had a bacterial infection and the baby was in NICU with issues relating to that. They are improving

Marie Chamberlain Alzheimer's has progressed. Being moved to nursing home soon.

For Brynlee Letendre, a 1 1/2 year old girl with a rare form of brain cancer.

Rich Therrien's father

Mike Devoe's cousin (sinus cancer.)

Nita Hunt has cancer. Her husband, Ray, leads the Guyana mission trip so they will not be able to attend this year.

Dwaine Gray, Susie's dad.

Jennifer Crain

John Matthew Davis

Leslie Davis' mom

Kathy, Marge Simon's niece, cancer has spread through out most of her body.

For Larry, Linda C's co worker's brother. Radiation & chemo in Boston thru April. May have to have his leg & hip removed if this treatment is not successful.

Barry Fogal

Manley Jones

Eileen Wasserstrom

Aaron Abood (foot to heal)

Bevin Sheehan

Dotti Carty (Beth King's mom)

Brittany Uchitjil ( bone marrow transplant)

Ansar Rana (brain tumor)

Geneva Baum's family

Barbara, Freda's daughter

## Thanks

Preston's Mom, Jean Cottrell, is all finished with her radiation. She has been declared cancer free!

Penny's dad has been doing great. He had been anemic for a long time. A recent test shows he no longer needs to take iron!

Penny is thankful that her speaking for the Disabilities board went well. She has been given some options for work. Pray that she makes the best choices.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy Birthday to Nate Moser & Freda Potter	2 <b>MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER</b> Happy Birthday Stephanie Cordaro	3 Happy Birthday Zach Daggett	4	5 Happy Birthday Barry Fogal & Gloria Ramirez	6	7
8 <b>EASTER Sing at Villa Crest 2pm</b> Happy Birthday Kerstin Dumas & Carl King	9 Happy Birthday Kris Karafelis & Eileen Wasserstrom Happy Anniversary Ken & Sue Bell	10 Happy Birthday Isabelle Houtz	11	12 Happy Birthday Rick Dugre	13	14 Happy Anniversary George & Sharon Abood
15 <b>POTLUCK 5pm Devo by Westside small group</b> Happy Birthday Randy Chase Happy Anniversary Karl & Sue Davies	16	17 Happy Birthday Gerry Millette	18	19	20 <b>YOUTH RALLY</b>	21 <b>Singing Small Group YOUTH RALLY</b>
22 <b>YOUTH RALLY</b> Happy Birthday Caroline Apgar Happy Anniversary Tom & Linda Carroll	23	24	25	26 Happy Birthday Leah Drown & Lee Davis	27 Happy Anniversary David & Sandy Hazelton	28 Happy Birthday George Abood

8:30	WORSHIP LEADERS	11:00
Mark Evans	<b>Songs</b>	Gary Diaz?
Fred Hillhouse	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Osceola
Doug Paul	<b>Scripture</b>	Dave Skerry
Karl Davies	<b>Lord's supper</b>	Rick Gordon
Stuart Peacock	<b>Coordinator</b>	Ken Simon
Glenna Evans	<b>Worship Tech</b>	Rich Therrien
Eve: Mark Evans	<b>Songs</b>	Wed 11 Mark Evans

<b>Stats</b>
Sunday morning attendance:.....113
Sunday morning contribution.\$2951.00
Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
Pantry served 4 families this week.

**The Manchester church of Christ**  
603.623.5559 [mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

**Elders' Link: April**

Barry Fogal 487-2387 [bfogal@comcast.net](mailto:bfogal@comcast.net)  
Mike Moser 661-6381 [heymikeymo@comcast.net](mailto:heymikeymo@comcast.net)  
If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Barry or Mike this month.

**Deacons**

Finance: Tony Casella  
Small Groups: Stuart Peacock

Education: Doug Paul  
Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

**Our Worship Services**

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00  
Bible Class: 10:00  
Sunday PM: 6:00  
Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house, Hebrews study  
Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock, youth studies

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.

