

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

February 7, 2016

The Layout of the Bible

by Frank Himmel

The Bible is not one book; it is a collection. As one begins to study the Bible, it is helpful to understand how those books are arranged.

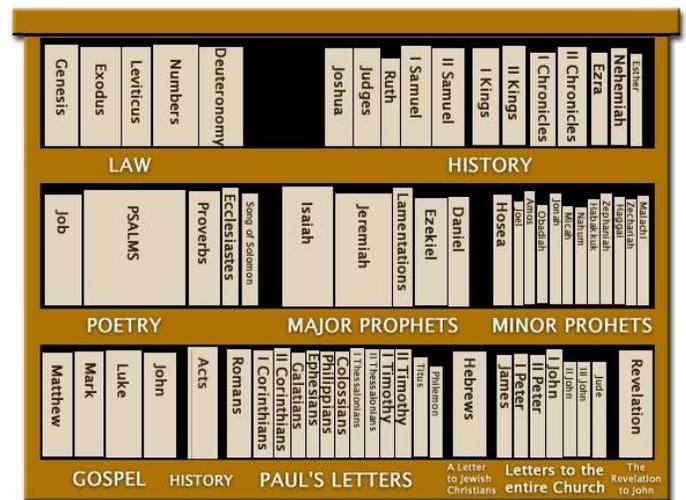
The sixty-six books of the Bible are not arranged as we might expect: alphabetically, chronologically, or by author. Instead, they are ordered according to the type of book; then, within those broad categories, they may be grouped by chronology, author, or size.

First, the Bible books fall into two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament begins with seventeen historical books. However, the first five are generally grouped together and referred to as books of the Law because they contain the Law of Moses. They are sometimes called the Pentateuch (the five scrolls). The next twelve books pick up Israel's history once God had given His law to them. They are in chronological sequence with two exceptions.

- 1 and 2 Chronicles overlap the books of 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, telling the same story from a priestly perspective.



- The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, which tell about Judah's return from captivity, would be chronologically arranged: Ezra 1-6, Esther, Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah.

After the historical books come five books of Hebrew poetry. (The main characteristic of Hebrew poetry is parallel expression, not rhythm and rhyme.)

The Old Testament concludes with seventeen books of prophecy. The first five are called "major" prophets, simply because they are longer books. The other twelve, the "minor" prophets, were one book in Hebrew Bibles: "the book of the twelve." They are somewhat, but not precisely, in chronological order.

The New Testament

The New Testament begins with four accounts of Jesus' life, four "gospels" (*gospel* means good news). ▶

Sobriety

by Frank Himmel

The New Testament often urges us to be sober, literally, “of sound mind.” While sobriety certainly prohibits being under the influence of intoxicants, far more is included.

Romans 12:3 says we are to be sober in our self-assessments, not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought (see also v. 16).

1 Timothy 2:9 requires sobriety in our dress. English translations include *discreetly* (NASB), with *self-control* (ESV), with *moderation* (NKJV), *sensibly* (RSV), with *propriety* (NIV).

2 Timothy 1:7 urges sobriety in a context of using our gifts in God’s service. The NASB renders the word *discipline* in that place, self-discipline with respect to use of time, work habits, etc.

1 Peter 4:7 calls for sobriety in view of a coming end and judgment. It prevents getting caught up in fanciful errors or becoming careless.

Older men are to be sober (Titus 2:2). So are younger women (v. 5). So are our overseers (1:8; 1 Timothy 3:2). The truth is, all of us must live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Titus 2:12).



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Matthew, Mark, and Luke present a similar picture; John selects fewer events in Jesus’ life but describes them in more detail.

Acts is the only book of history in the New Testament. It covers the history of the early church from approximately 30-60 A. D.

Following Acts are 21 letters or epistles. They begin with those written by Paul. His letters to churches come first, then his letters to individuals. Each of those groups is arranged roughly according to the size of the letter, largest to smallest. Then follow the “general epistles,” written by James, Peter, John, and Jude. It is important to note that even specific letters were in a real sense addressed to all of us (see 1 Corinthians 1:2).

The final book in the Bible, Revelation, is the lone book of prophecy in the New Testament. It was likely the last book written, and it forms a fitting climax to the Bible as it foretells the ultimate victory of Christ and His people over the forces of evil.

Service Leaders for the Week			
	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Brian Wilson	Bruce Williams	David Gray
SONG LEADER	Bruce Williams	Paul Richmond	Albert Lee Harrison
OPENING PRAYER	Carlos Garcia	Adam Gibson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Chad Brock	Chad Brock	
CUP	William Lefort	William Lefort	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	David Gray		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Greg Winget
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Josh Baucom	Ian Brown