

The Big Picture: Lesson 1

“The Layout of the Bible”

Re-Cap of Last Week: The First Principals

Milk of the
Word

Meat of
the Word

Spiritual
Growth

Hebrews 5: 11-14

The Layout of the Bible

- Name the 5 divisions of the OT:
 - Law - 5 books
 - History - 12 books
 - Poetry - 5 books
 - Major Prophets - 5 books
 - Minor Prophets - 12 books
- What other name does the books of poetry go by?
 - Books of Wisdom
- Name the 4 divisions of the NT:
 - Gospels - 4 books
 - History - 1 books
 - Letters - 21 books
 - Prophecy - 1 book
- How do the books of “History” differ from OT to NT?
 - OT: Details the history of Israel in their occupation of Canaan through the return from Babylonian captivity.
 - NT: Captures the history of the early Church post Jesus’s ascension into Heaven.

The Layout of the Bible

- Why do you think the first 5 books of the Bible are called the “Law of Moses”?
 - As you may recall, the spokesperson and original scribe of God’s Law to the children of Israel was Moses.
- What group of OT books were called “The Twelve” and why?
 - This refers to the Minor Prophet collection of books. They were actually able to fit on one scroll due to the shorter length of each book.

The Layout of the Bible

- Luke and Acts are “companion volumes”. What does that mean?
 - These books of Gospel and History respectively are written by Luke himself and transition the flow of Christ’s life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to the work of the believers in the early Church and are intended to be read one after another.
- To whom were both of these books written?
 - Theophilus
- Who was Theophilus?
 - I’m not certain. Some say he could be a Jewish High Priest named Theophilus and some believe that it is a general name to the “Lovers of God” which when broken down: philus=love and Theos=God.

The Layout of the Bible

- What is the difference between the Major and Minor prophets?
 - The Minor Prophets are shorter than their Major Prophet counterparts.
- Which author of a Major Prophet book wrote Lamentations? This prophet is also known as the “_____ prophet”
 - Jeremiah; Weeping
- The term “gospel” literally means...
 - The Good News

Discussion Question #1: Hebrews 8:13

- If the OT is “obsolete” and we are not under it today, then was it a mistake? In other words, is the NT God’s attempt to get salvation right?
 - No it is not a mistake. The OT serves as the school master or guardian with the intent of pointing the way to Christ! Let’s take a look at:
 - Romans 15: 1-7 (Written for our instruction)
 - Jeramiah 31:31-34 (The first covenant was broken by mankind)
 - Gal. 3:23-29. (A guardian until Christ’s coming)

Discussion Question #2: II Timothy 3: 14-17

- How can a NT Christian benefit from the study of the OT?
 - Provides foundation insight as to who God is
 - Assigns credibility to the New Covenant
 - Allows us to learn vicariously through the lives and actions of OT peoples
 - Lays the path to Christ
 - Ultimately it is part of God's Word

Discussion Question #3: Hebrews 10: 8-10

- The first four books of the NT are called the gospels, which as we have previously discussed in this lesson to mean the “Good News”. What is the good news that they report?
 - Jesus Christ → Sent to earth → Lived perfectly → Defeated sin once for all!

Next Week: 3rd Wednesday Singing (Psalm 119:105-112)

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn, and have confirmed it, That I will observe thy righteous ordinances. ¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much: Quicken me, O Jehovah, according unto thy word. ¹⁰⁸ Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill-offerings of my mouth, O Jehovah, And teach me thine ordinances. ¹⁰⁹ My soul is continually in my hand; Yet do I not forget thy law. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me; Yet have I not gone astray from thy precepts. ¹¹¹ Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage for ever; For they are the rejoicing of my heart. ¹¹² I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes For ever, even unto the end.