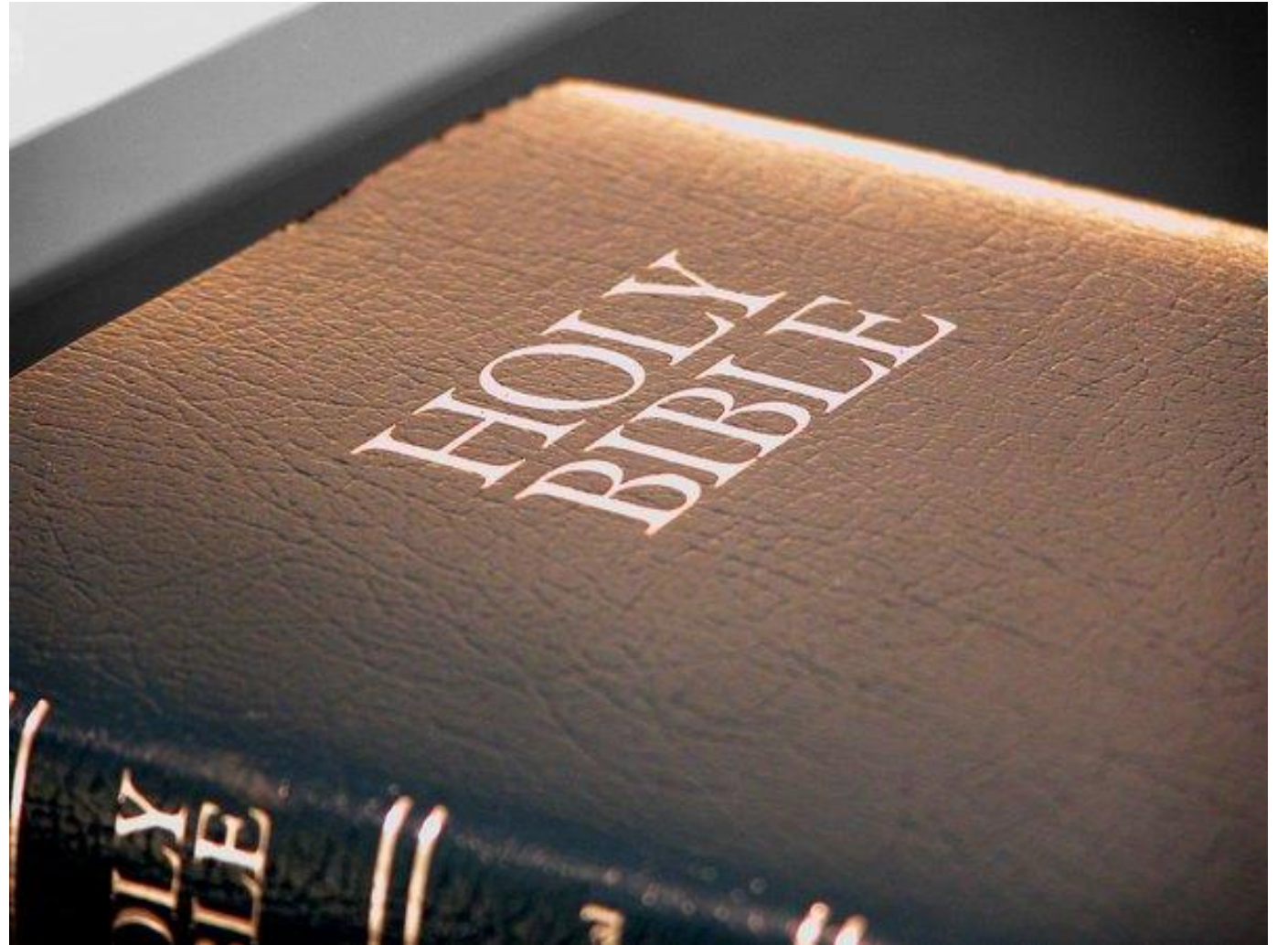


What is the
Bible?



Anonymous Polls

What is the Bible?

1= Every word came from God,
Bible is without error, literally the
Word of God

2= Bible is inspired by God,
written by humans

3= Bible is a collection of stories
and history about God, written by
humans

God's Story-
God is love
and God
desires a
relationship
with us!



What does the Bible say about the Bible?

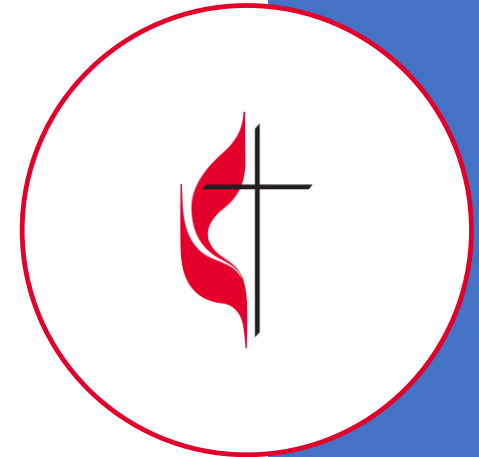
- *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* -Psalm 119:105
- *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* -[Hebrews 4:12](#)
- *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."* -[1 Timothy 4:13](#)
- *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."* -Psalm 1:2

What does the Bible say about the Bible?

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 : All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
- The Spirit of God not only once inspired those who wrote it, but continually inspires, supernaturally assists, those that read it with earnest prayer. Hence it is so profitable for doctrine , for instruction of the ignorant, for the reproof or conviction of them that are in error or sin, for the correction or amendment of whatever is amiss, and for instructing or training up the children of God in all righteousness ."
--from John Wesley's *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*

UMC Beliefs about the Bible

- We say that God speaks to us through the Bible and that it contains all things necessary for salvation. This authority derives from three sources:
 - We hold that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God, that they were filled with God's Spirit as they wrote the truth to the best of their knowledge.
 - We hold that God was at work in the process of canonization, during which only the most faithful and useful books were adopted as Scripture.
 - We hold that the Holy Spirit works today in our thoughtful study of the Scriptures, especially as we study them together, seeking to relate the old words to life's present realities.
- The Bible's authority is, therefore, nothing magical. For example, we do not open the text at random to discover God's will. The authority of Scripture derives from the movement of God's Spirit in times past and in our reading of it today.



Books of the Bible

Old Testament – 39 Books

LAW (5)
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY (12)
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

POETRY (5)
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon (Songs)

MAJOR PROPHETS (5)
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

MINOR PROPHETS (12)
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament – 27 Books

History Life of Jesus (4)
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History The Church (1)
Acts

Paul's Letters to Churches (9)
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

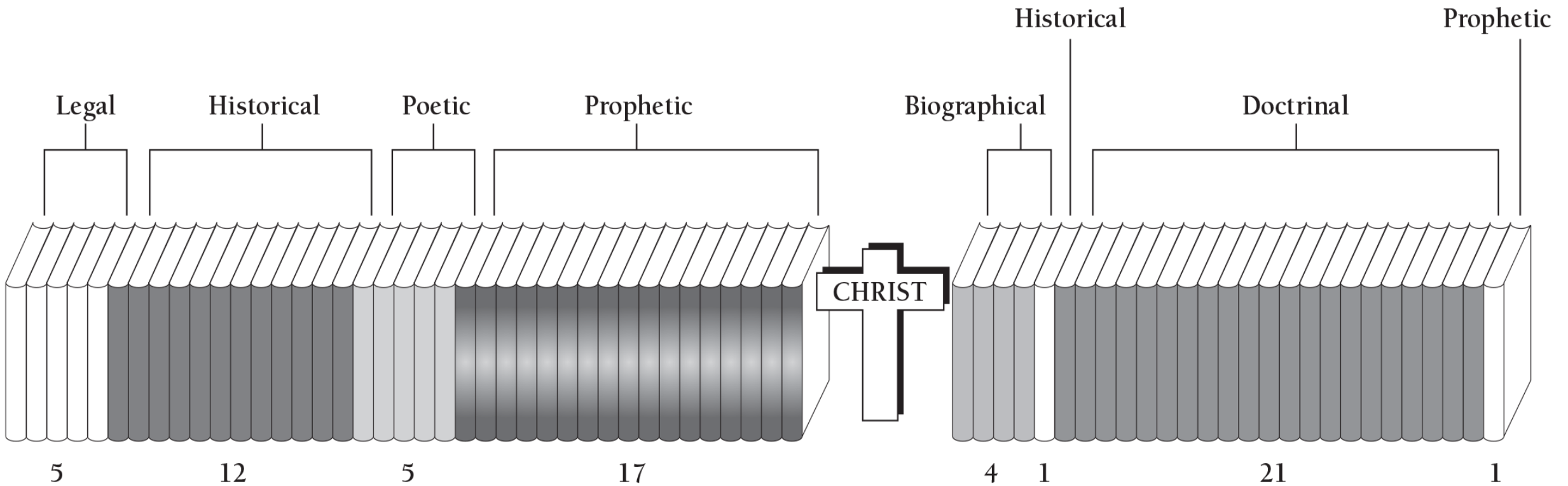
Paul's Letters to Individuals (4)
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Letters by Others (9)
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

The Bible

Old Testament
Thirty-nine Books

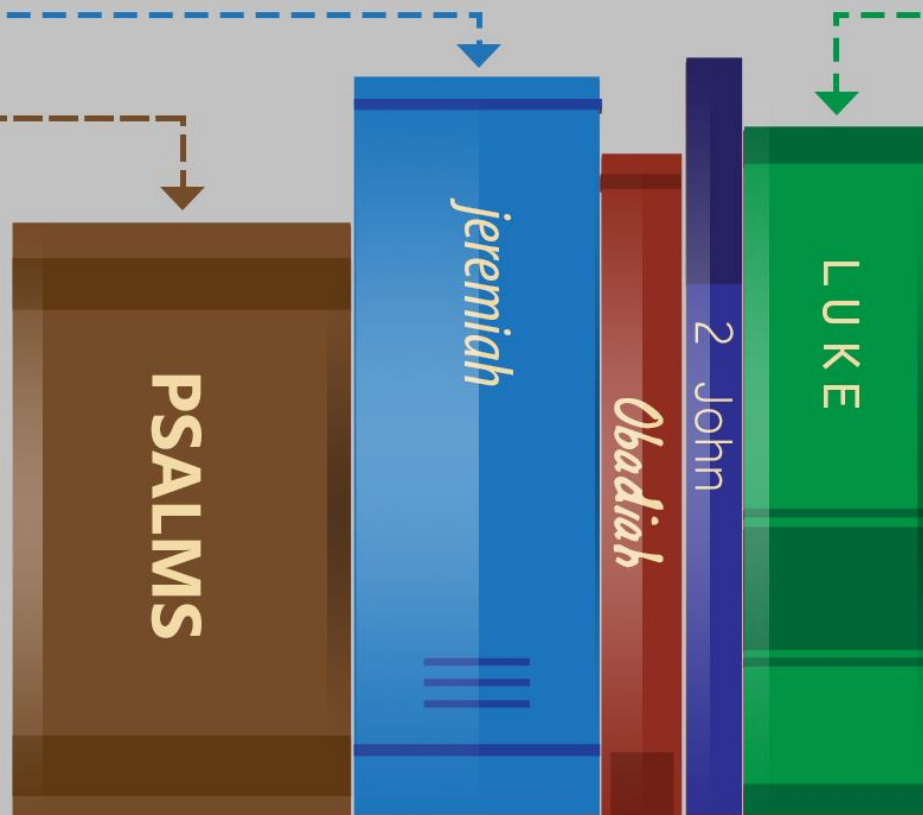
New Testament
Twenty-seven Books



The **longest book** (most chapters) in the Old Testament is Psalms, with 150 chapters and a total of 2,461 verses.

Jeremiah is the **longest book** by word count, with 33,000 original language words.

The **shortest book** in the Old Testament is Obadiah, which is comprised of 21 verses with a total of only 670 words.



The **longest book** in the New Testament is Luke, which has 1,151 verses.

The **shortest book** in the New Testament is 2 John, which is comprised of 13 verses with a total of only 298 words, thus making it the shortest book in the whole Bible.

How did we get these 66 books?

- Canon- Greek word for “rule” or “measuring stick”
 - Important to establish the authoritative Word of God
- 367 AD- Athanasius (Church father)- established 66 books
- Old Testament
 - Book of Deuteronomy was adopted as the Word of God about 621 B.C.
 - The Torah, or Law assumed authority around 400 B.C.
 - The Prophets about 200 B.C.
 - The Writings about 100 B.C

Old Testament originally written in Hebrew.

Septuagint -Translated into Greek in 2nd and 3rd centuries BC

Translated by 70 Jewish scholars

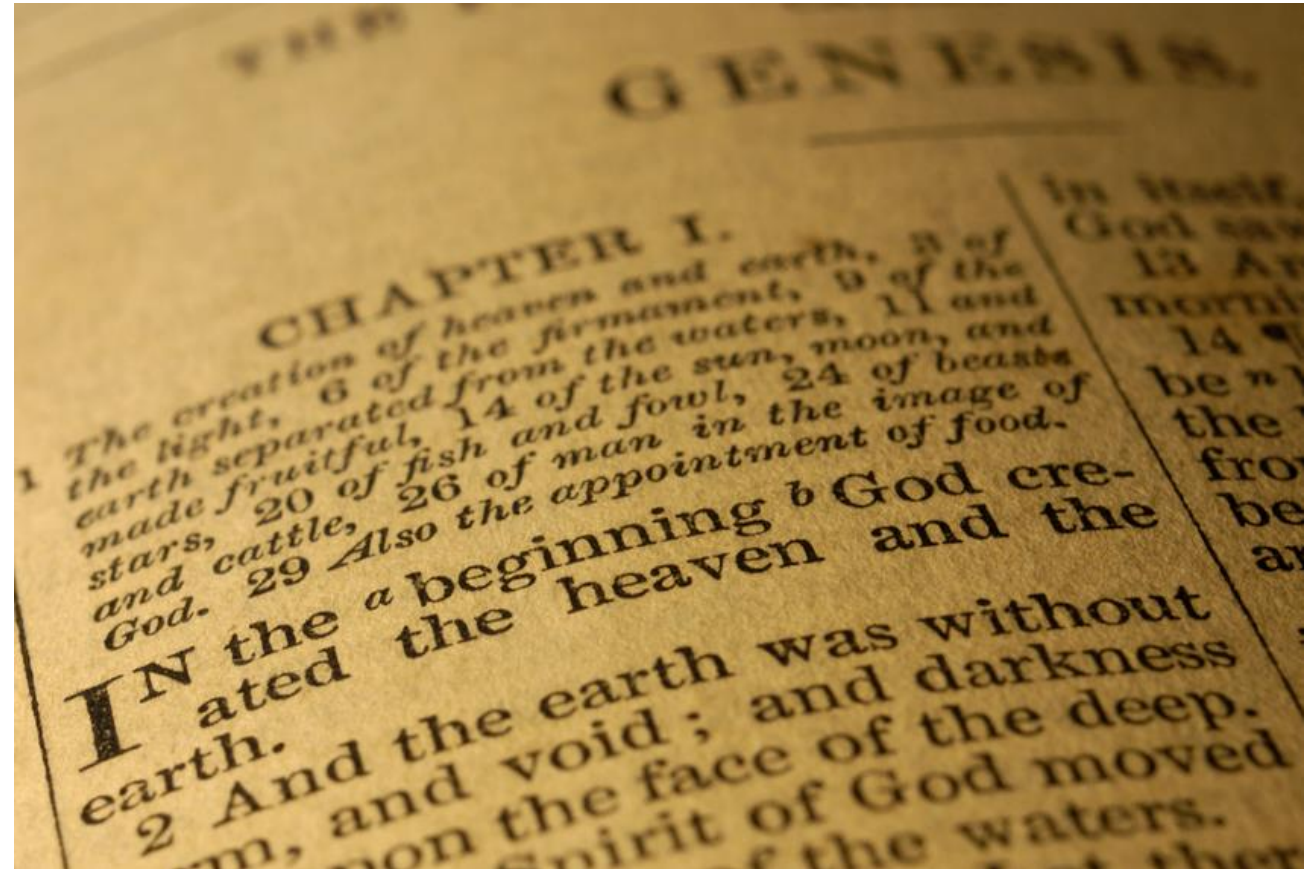
Or by 72 scholars- 6 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel

Vulgate- Latin translation of the 66 books- used in the Roman Catholic Church

First printed English translation of the whole Bible- produced in 1535

King James Version- 1604-1611

Apocrypha- intertestamental writings- second canon in the Catholic Church; not part of the Protestant Bible



Translations



- Parts of the Bible are available in over 3,000 out of the 6,877 known languages, and that there are currently 554 languages with a complete Bible translation.
- There are over 450 English translations of the Bible.

1 Corinthians

13 :4-7

NRSV- ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

NIV- ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians

13 :4-7

KJV- ⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Message-Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

John Wesley- how to read the Bible

- Meditate thereon day and night; So shall you attain the best knowledge; even to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. And this knowledge will lead you, to love Him, because he hath first loved us: yea, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Will there not then be all that mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus? And in consequence of this, while you joyfully experience all the holy tempers described in this book, you will likewise be outwardly holy as He that hath called you is holy, in all manner of conversation.

"If you desire to read the scripture in such a manner as may most effectually answer this end, would it not be advisable,

- To set apart a little time, if you can, every morning and evening for that purpose?
- At each time if you have leisure, to read a chapter out of the Old, and one out of the New Testament: is you cannot do this, to take a single chapter, or a part of one?
- To read this with a single eye, to know the whole will of God, and a fixt resolution to do it? In order to know his will, you should,
- Have a constant eye to the analogy of faith; the connection and harmony there is between those grand, fundamental doctrines, Original Sin, Justification by Faith, the New Birth, Inward and Outward Holiness.

John Wesley- how to read the Bible

- Serious and earnest prayer should be constantly used, before we consult the oracles of God, seeing "scripture can only be understood thro' the same Spirit whereby "it was given." Our reading should likewise be closed with prayer, that what we read may be written on our hearts.
- It might also be of use, if while we read, we were frequently to pause, and examine ourselves by what we read, both with regard to our hearts, and lives. This would furnish us with matter of praise, where we found God had enabled us to conform to his blessed will, and matter of humiliation and prayer, where we were conscious of having fallen short. And whatever light you then receive, should be used to the uttermost, and that immediately. Let there be no delay. Whatever you resolve, begin to execute the first moment you can. So shall you find this word to be indeed the power of God unto present and eternal salvation."
- - -from the "Preface" to *Explanatory Notes Upon the Old Testament*.

Questions to ask as you read the Bible?

- What did this passage mean to its original hearers?
- What part does it play in the Bible's total witness?
- What does God seem to be saying to my life, my community, my world, through this passage?
- What changes should I consider making as a result of my study?

Wesleyan Quadrilateral

Experience

Scripture

**How We
Know
God**

Reason

Tradition

Bible Resources

Commentaries

- www.biblegateway.com

Concordances

- www.Biblestudytools.com

Bible Dictionaries

- www.Blueletterbible.org

Bible Encyclopedias

Study Bibles

QUICK FACTS

- Shortest verse of the Old Testament:
 - “Eber, Peleg, Reu” (Genealogy from Adam to Abraham)
1 Chronicles 1:25
- Shortest verses of the New Testament:
 - "Jesus wept." John 11:35
 - "Rejoice evermore" 1 Thessalonians 5:16
- Longest verse in the Bible: Esther 8:9
- Over 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year
- While it took over 1,000 years to write the Old Testament, the New Testament was written within a period of 50-75 years.
- No original writings of the Bible exists

QUICK FACTS

- The top 3 highlighted books of all time on Kindle are 1) *The Holy Bible* by Crossway Bibles, 2) *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson, and 3) *The Hunger Games*.
- Historians support parts of the Bible—like, really big parts. “We have more evidence for Jesus than we have for almost anybody from Jesus’ time period,” said UNC Professor of Religious Studies Bart Ehrman, who is a historian, a scholar and an agnostic.
- We have over 10,000 fragments from which we compile and verify the accuracy of the Bible—which is thousands more than Homer or Aristotle’s works. All of these manuscripts, fragments, scrolls and parchments have been checked and double-checked for mismatches (known as variants) and most are a letter turned around or minor things that do not change the meaning of the story at all.
- The folks who copied and re-copied these documents were so incredibly careful that there is only about a 10 percent difference from the bits we have from 800 B.C. compared to the copies we have from A.D. 1500. It is almost impossible to imagine how they could have been so precise.

Dead Sea Scrolls



There are 225
Biblical texts
included in the
Dead Sea Scroll
documents, or
around 22% of
the total

Book	Number found
Psalms	39
Deuteronomy	33
1 Enoch	25
Genesis	24
Isaiah	22
Jubilees	21
Exodus	18
Leviticus	17
Numbers	11
Minor Prophets	10
Daniel	8
Jeremiah	6
Ezekiel	6
Job	6
Tobit	5
1 & 2 Kings	4
1 & 2 Samuel	4
Judges	4
Song of Songs (Canticles)	4
Ruth	4
Lamentations	4
Sirach	3
Ecclesiastes	2
Joshua	2

Final Thoughts

- “Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.” -Mark Twain
- “I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He has written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be: “A man of one book.” – John Wesley
- “I’ve read the last page of the Bible, it’s all going to turn out alright.” -Billy Graham