



# **The Divisions of the Bible**

Summer Bible Study

Chapter 3-5 of Training for Service

Lesson 2



# The Bible

- The Bible is a collection of 66 books.
- The two largest divisions of the Bible are the **Old Testament (OT)** and the **New Testament (NT)**.

# The Bible Structure

The Bible has two parts:

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament

The word testament means “*covenant*”, which is a compact or agreement between two parties.

- The **39** books of the Old Testament tell about the agreement between God and His chosen people, the Israelites (or Hebrews, or Jews).
- The **27** books of the New Testament tell about the covenant or agreement between God and the rest of humankind through the life of Jesus and His followers.

# The Old Testament

Traditionally, the books of the **Old Testament** have been divided into 4 sections:

## **The Books of Moses**

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

## **The Books of Generals, Judges, and Kings**

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1&2 Chronicles

1&2 Samuel

1&2 Kings

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

## **The Books of Poetry and Wisdom**

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Songs of Solomon

## **The Book of Prophets**

### ***Major Prophets***

Isaiah

Jeremiah

### ***Minor Prophets***

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Daniel

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

# The New Testament

## The Gospels

Matthew

Luke

Mark

John

## The Book of Acts

Acts

## The Epistles

Romans

Colossians

Hebrews

1&2 Corinthians

1&2 Thessalonians

James

Galatians

1&2 Timothy

1&2 Peter

Ephesians

Titus

1,2, & 3 John

Philippians

Philemon

Jude

## The Book of Revelation

Revelation

# The Content of the Bible

- ❑ Some of the titles of books of the Bible are based on the books' *content*. For example the book of Exodus tells of the Israelites' departure from slavery in Egypt, Esther tells of a queen who helped save the Israelites in a time of trouble, the book of Acts tells of the acts of the apostles.
- ❑ Some of the books take their titles from their author. Example, the book of Daniel was written by Daniel.
- ❑ Some of the books get their titles from the people who received the piece of writing in the first place. Example, the book of Romans is a letter from Paul to the church in Rome.

# The Books of the Bible

- ▣ The Bible is not like a novel that runs from chapter after chapter in a neat lineal progression. There is a lot of overlap. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy all deal with different aspects of events relating to Moses and the lives of the early Israelites.
- ▣ The books of the Bible cover a range of time periods:
  - 2 Chronicles -384 years
  - Judges – 335 years
  - Ezra – 81 years
  - Nehemiah-14 years
  - Jonah – 1 month
  - New Testament – 100 years