

Some Interesting Facts About the Bible

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Introduction

The scriptures used in Some Interesting Facts About the Bible have been taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two sections with a total of 66 books.

Old Testament - 39 books
New Testament - 27 books

The Old Testament books are divided into five groups.

Law - 5 books
History - 12 books
Poetry - 5 books
Major Prophets - 5 books
Minor Prophets - 12 books

The New Testament books are divided into five groups.

Gospels - 4 books
History - 1 book
Special Letters - 14 books
General Letters - 7 books
Prophecy - 1 book

Old Testament

Books of Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

The books of Law were written by Moses and are referred to as the Book of Moses in 2 Chronicles 35:12. The law was given to Moses by God.

GENESIS (which means beginning) tells us of the beginning of God's chosen people. It gives an account of the creation of heaven and earth. (Genesis 1)

- First Day - Light and Darkness (Day and Night)
- Second Day - Firmament (Heaven)
- Third Day - Earth, Seas, Vegetation
- Fourth Day - Sun, Moon, Stars
- Fifth Day - Fish, Fowl
- Sixth Day - Beasts, Cattle, Creeping Things and Man to rule over them
- Seventh Day - God Rested

In Genesis, we learn about the Garden of Eden, time before the flood, Noah and his family, the Tower of Babel and the scattering of the nations. Also, we learn about the lives of the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Patriarch means father, and during the patriarchal age, the people were governed by the heads of the family. Jacob had twelve sons whose names were given to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Reuben	Dan	Issachar
Simeon	Naphtali	Zebulon
Levi	Gad	Joseph
Judah	Asher	Benjamin

Levi was the priestly tribe. David and JESUS descended from the tribe of Judah.

EXODUS - Exodus means "going out" which refers to the children of Israel going out of Egypt. This book tells about the birth of Moses, his training in Pharaoh's house, and his exile in Midian. It tells of his return to Egypt to lead the Israelites out of Egypt (The Exodus). God delivered ten plagues upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. The plagues were:

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Blood | 5. Murrain of cattle | 9. Darkness |
| 2. Frogs | 6. Boils | 10. Death of Firstborn |
| 3. Lice | 7. Hail | |
| 4. Flies | 8. Locusts | |

In Exodus we learn about the building of the tabernacle. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

The principles of these Commandments can be found in the Patriarchal Age (before the Law was given on Mount Sinai), and these principles continue in Jesus' law in the Christian Age. The Lord's Day (Sunday) is the day of worship for us.

LEVITICUS - This book gets its name from Levi, one of the twelve sons of Jacob. It was the priestly tribe. It lists the duties for carrying out the rites and ceremonies in the tabernacle, including the offering of animal sacrifices.

NUMBERS - This book continues with the law. It gets its name from the two numberings of the children of Israel. The experiences of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years are recorded in this book. It tells about their crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

DEUTERONOMY - After the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, they were ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses was not permitted to enter the Promised Land because he failed to honor God when he brought forth water from the rock. He warned the people what their fate would be if they departed from God's law. He also told them of the blessings if they were faithful in keeping the law. Deuteronomy includes several of Moses' speeches. Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law.

Books of History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
1 and 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

JOSHUA - This book was named for one of the two spies (Joshua and Caleb) who went into the land of Canaan to spy out the land. He later took the place of Moses in leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land. He led them across the Jordan River and conquered the Canaanites. Joshua admonished the people to honor God.

JUDGES - The Israelites settled in the land of Canaan and they repeatedly disobeyed and departed from God. As they repented and turned back to God, He gave them leaders who delivered them. These leaders were called Judges and there were 15 of them.

Othniel	Abimelech	Elon
Ehud	Tola	Abdon
Shamgar	Jair	Samson
Deborah	Jephthah	Eli
Gideon	Ibzan	Samuel

RUTH - The book of Ruth is a love story from the time of the Judges. This love story gives a picture of the life and customs of the common people during a violent period of the judges. Ruth was a Moabite and married one of Naomi's sons. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David. It was through his lineage that Christ was born.

One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible records what Ruth said to Naomi after their husbands had died and Naomi was planning to return to Bethlehem.

"Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." (Ruth 1:16,17)

1 and 2 SAMUEL - These books tell the story of God's people under the leadership of Eli and Samuel. Samuel was the last judge. The people became dissatisfied and wanted a king like other nations. So, as God directed, Samuel appointed Saul as the first king of Israel. After Saul's death, David became the next king. David was a man "after God's own heart." These two books cover the life of David.

1 and 2 KINGS - These two books continue the history of the people of Israel, the crowning of Solomon as king, and the carrying away of the people into captivity. They tell about the dividing of the kingdom: the northern kingdom which was Israel and the southern kingdom which was Judah. Israel and Judah were captured and taken from their land into foreign captivity. Later the tribes of Benjamin and Judah were restored to their Promised Land.

1 and 2 CHRONICLES - These two books give basically the same account of the history found in 1 and 2 Kings.

EZRA - This book tells about the Israelite people in Babylon as they return to Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the temple. The rebuilding of the temple was hampered by the spiritual condition of the people.

NEHEMIAH - Nehemiah was a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. He gives more history of this same Period of Restoration. He was a strong leader and under his leadership, important religious and social reforms were accomplished.

ESTHER - This book tells about what was happening to the Jews (people of Judah) during their exile. It is about a Jewish girl who later became queen of the Persian empire. The book of Esther is read with much interest. It shows the providence of God.

Books of Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

JOB - This book tells of the great suffering of a righteous man. Job was a man who endured much in the loss of his children and his possessions. He was smitten by Satan with sore boils which caused him extreme pain and humiliation. Job being the righteous man that he was endured the suffering. In the end, God greatly blessed him.

PSALMS - The book of Psalms is made up of poems and songs, which praise Jehovah and commemorate events in the history of Israel. About 70 of the Psalms are credited to David. Many of our hymns today are taken from the Psalms. The book consists of 150 Psalms. Some of the favorites are: Psalms 1, 19, 22, 23, 90, 100, and 103.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod
and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

PROVERBS - Proverbs (written by Solomon) is a collection of wise sayings with moral truth. The message of Proverbs is that wisdom comes from God.

Solomon's Description of a Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31: 10-31

- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
- 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
- 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

- 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

ECCLESIASTES - Ecclesiastes means preacher or speaker. This book was written by Solomon probably in his later years. He mentions vanity several times. He says that material things do not give permanent satisfaction. In the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, Solomon says:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Chapter 12:1)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Chapter 12:13, 14)

SONG OF SOLOMON - It is also known as "Song of Songs" which means the greatest of songs. Solomon is given credit as the author. Solomon writes of the beauty and sacredness of the love and devotion between a husband and wife. Some scholars believe it symbolizes the great love of God for His people which is the church, the bride of Christ.

Books of Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

A prophet is a special messenger from God. There are five major prophet books but only four prophets. These books are called "Major" only because they are longer in length. Every prophet who wrote one or more of these books can be placed in the history of Israel, which is covered by the twelve books of history.

ISAIAH - This book was written during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Isaiah predicted the captivity of Israel and Judah by Babylon. He prophesied the return of the exiles and the coming of the Messiah. We find stirring descriptions of Christ and His kingdom in chapters 9, 11, and 53. Isaiah is sometimes referred to as the "Messianic Prophet."

JEREMIAH - Jeremiah was prominent at the time Jerusalem fell to the Chaldeans. During Jeremiah's day, the people of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) were carried by Babylon into captivity. Jeremiah was left in Jerusalem. He wrote about the judgment of God upon a sinful people and the greatness of His love.

LAMENTATIONS - This book also was written by Jeremiah soon after Jerusalem fell. It contains a series of laments over the destruction of Jerusalem.

EZEKIEL - This book contains the messages of God as prophesied by Ezekiel. He was taken captive from Judah before the destruction of Jerusalem. He was devoted to God's word. He prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem, judgment upon the people, and the return of the exiles and a great future for Israel.

DANIEL - The prophecy of Daniel is probably one of the most interesting books of the Bible. Daniel foretold many events by interpreting the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar. He interpreted the meaning of the strange handwriting on the wall of Belshazzar. He refers to the Messianic rule of the kingdom of Christ in chapter 9.

Books of the Minor Prophets

Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Joel	Micah	Haggai
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi

HOSEA - The prophet Hosea addressed his message primarily to Israel. He talks about his own troubles. The book contains denunciations of the people for their idolatry and sins.

JOEL - In Acts 2:16-21, the apostle Peter quotes the prophet Joel. Among other things, Joel prophesied that whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Peter stated on the day of Pentecost that the pouring out of the Spirit fulfills Joel's statement in Joel 2:28-32.

AMOS - Amos prophesied that God loves mercy and not formal sacrifices. His prophecies were directed to the Northern Kingdom (Israel).

OBADIAH - He was God's messenger who prophesied the doom of the Edomites (descendants of Esau), who were happy over Judah's downfall. He also prophesied that the Jews would rule over all the lands formerly under David's control.

JONAH - Jonah was reluctant to obey God when he was told to go preach to the wicked city of Nineveh. Because of this God punished him by causing a great fish (whale) to swallow him. He was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights. Jesus refers to this incident in Matthew 12:38-41.

MICAH - Micah lived during the time of Isaiah. He also preached against the sins and against the oppression of the poor by the rich. He prophesied about the destruction of Judah and Israel.

NAHUM - Very little is known about Nahum. He prophesied about the destruction of Nineveh.

HABAKKUK - Habakkuk prophesied during the reign of Jehoiakim. He tells about the wickedness of Israel and the defeat of the Chaldeans. His book ends with his prayer of faith.

ZEPHANIAH - He lived at the same time as Habakkuk, Jeremiah, and Nahum. He preached against the sins of the people. He prophesied judgment upon Judah as well as blessings for the restoration of Jerusalem.

HAGGAI - God used Haggai to encourage the people to set new goals, trust in Him, and receive His blessing.

ZECHARIAH - He prophesied about the restoration of the temple and the kingdom of Christ.

MALACHI - He lived after the temple had been restored. The people were slipping back into sin and he rebuked them. He prophesied about the coming of the Messiah.

New Testament

New Testament Books and Authors

BOOK	AUTHOR
<u>GOSPELS</u>	
Matthew	Matthew
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
<u>HISTORY</u>	
Acts	Luke
<u>SPECIAL LETTERS</u>	
Romans	Paul
1 & 2 Corinthians	Paul
Galatians	Paul
Ephesians	Paul
Philippians	Paul
Colossians	Paul
1 & 2 Thessalonians	Paul
1 & 2 Timothy	Paul
Titus	Paul
Philemon	Paul
Hebrews	Thought to be Paul
<u>GENERAL LETTERS</u>	
James	James
1 & 2 Peter	Peter
1, 2, & 3 John	John
Jude	Jude
<u>PROPHECY</u>	
Revelation	John

Gospels or Biography

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell about the life of Christ. We learn about Christ's life on earth and his personal ministry in the Gospels.

MATTHEW - Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. The book begins with the genealogy of Jesus "the Son of David." It was written primarily to the Jews. It is thought to have been written before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. God acknowledges Jesus as His Son in Matthew 3:17. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The sermon on the mount is very familiar to all of us. Jesus in this sermon taught his disciples the following:

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely,
for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

"Ye are the salt of the earth."

"Ye are the light of the world."

Matthew 5:3-14

Jesus chose these twelve apostles to carry on His work then and after His ascension into heaven:

Peter	Thomas
Andrew	Matthew
James	James, son of Alphaeus
John	Thaddaeus
Philip	Simon the Canaanite
Bartholomew	Judas Iscariot

Matthias was chosen later to take the place of Judas Iscariot.

Jesus gave the great commission to the apostles in Matthew 28:18-20.

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

MARK - Mark wrote to the Gentiles. He had a close association with Peter. Mark portrays Jesus in all His power and authority. He emphasizes His deeds.

LUKE - Luke was Greek and an educated man. He was a physician and was a companion of Paul on Paul's second missionary journey. The gospel of Luke was written to the Greeks and portrays Jesus as the perfect man. Luke presents Christ as the Son of Man as well as the Son of God. God again acknowledges his Son to Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. There He said, "This is My beloved Son: hear him." (Luke 9:35)

JOHN - This gospel was written some time after Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The first three gospels are called "Synoptics" (from the Greek, "a view together") because they give the same general view of the life and teaching of Christ. John portrays Jesus as the Son of God and the "only begotten of the Father." He tells us in the first chapter of John that Jesus was in the beginning with God. John 3:16 is a well known verse and means much to the Christian.

"For God so loved the world, that he have his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

History

ACTS - Luke, the physician, wrote the book of Acts as well as the book of Luke. Acts tells us about the apostles' activities in Jerusalem from Christ's ascension until the day of Pentecost when the church was established. The apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost. Peter preached the first sermon on the day of Pentecost. Then the apostles went to make disciples of all nations, as the Lord had commanded them. The book covers the history of the church, the spreading of the gospel to both the Jews and the Gentiles, and establishing congregations.

Steps one must take in order to become a child of God

HEAR - Jesus instructed his disciples to go and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15, 16)

Paul says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

FAITH - One must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus had said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

Peter said on the day of Pentecost, "Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

Philip said when the Ethiopian eunuch requested baptism, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." (Acts 8:37)

REPENTANCE - Repentance is a command.

Jesus said, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47)

Peter said on the day of Pentecost, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38)

God ... "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30)

CONFESSION - Confess Christ as the Son of God.

Paul said in the Roman letter, ..."with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
(Romans 10:10)

Paul told Timothy to "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."
(1 Timothy 6:12)

The Ethiopian said when Philip asked about his faith, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37)

BAPTISM - It is necessary for the remission of sins.

Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

Jesus (in His great commission) commanded his disciples to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)

Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost to be baptized and the scripture says, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41)

Peter tells us that baptism saves us. He likens it unto the saving of the eight righteous souls on the ark in the days of Noah. (1 Peter 3:20, 21)

Special Letters

The special letters were written by Paul to churches and to individuals.

ROMANS - Paul was in Corinth when he wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome. A controversy was dividing the Jewish and Gentile Christians. Paul points out that God is just and since "all have sinned" no one has preference over the other. Romans is a book of exhortation. One important passage is Romans 6:3-6.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

1 CORINTHIANS - Paul talks about division in the church, immorality, lawsuits, bodily purity, marriage, abuse of the Lord's Supper, place and significance of spiritual gifts, and the resurrection.

2 CORINTHIANS - Paul emphasizes that he is God's messenger and upholds his position as an apostle chosen of God. He warns them against false teachers in their midst. He rejoices with them over their repentance and spiritual growth after receiving his first letter.

GALATIANS - Paul maintains that the gospel which he preached came from God and not man. He says that one who preaches any other gospel will be accursed. He also talks about the grace of God, justification by faith and not by law, and admonishes us not to be weary in well doing.

EPHESIANS - Paul states that Christ is the head of the church which is his body. He further states that all spiritual blessings are found only therein. He stresses the "oneness" of all things spiritual - one body, one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. This is found in Ephesians 4:4-6. He also admonishes them to put on the whole armour of God. (Ephesians 6:13-17)

PHILIPPIANS - Paul seemed to have a special love and bond for the Philippians. He wrote thanking them for their help in his hour of need, and used this occasion to give them some instruction on Christian unity. Paul exhorts them to stand fast in their hope in Christ.

COLOSSIANS - This book focuses on Christ as the head of his body, the church. Paul's purpose is to show that Christ is preeminent - first and foremost in everything - and the Christian's life should reflect that priority.

1 THESSALONIANS - Paul commends the church for their courageous behavior in times of persecution, giving special attention to their hope in Christ. He closes his letter with instructions regarding the return of the Lord.

2 THESSALONIANS - Paul seeks to clarify the misunderstanding that had arisen as a result of false teachers relative to the immediate coming of Christ. Paul commends the believers on their faithfulness in the midst of persecution and for the love they had for one another.

1 TIMOTHY - This is a very personal letter to a young man whom Paul had selected to preach in Ephesus. Paul instructs Timothy in the qualifications of elders and deacons and admonishes him to conduct himself as a mature man of God.

2 TIMOTHY - Paul is writing his second letter to Timothy from prison. He realizes his life of service is nearly over. He endeavors to encourage and strengthen Timothy for the great task of preaching the gospel. He warns him to beware of those who are enemies of the gospel. One of Paul's enemies was Alexander the coppersmith. He warns Timothy to beware of him also.

TITUS - Paul instructs Titus to set things in order in all the churches in Crete by the ordaining of elders in each one.

PHILEMON - This is a personal letter to one Christian man imploring him to receive his former slave, Onesimus, who had run away. Paul pleads with him to forgive and receive Onesimus as a brother for he is now a Christian.

HEBREWS - The writer shows the preeminence of Christ. He admonishes Christians to remain faithful in spite of persecutions and to "go on to perfection." "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) He mentions the greatness of faith with such examples as: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sara, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses among many others.

General Letters

JAMES - The writer of this book is identified as a brother of Jesus. (Mark 6:3) Among other things, James teaches that faith without works is dead. He tells us that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

1 PETER - This letter was written to the churches in the northern part of Asia Minor. They were probably made up of both Jews and Gentiles. He tells them that they will undergo much suffering and persecutions. He urges them to be steadfast and to remember how much Christ suffered. He admonishes his readers repeatedly concerning their responsibilities as Christians.

2 PETER - This is probably written to the same churches as his first letter. In 2 Peter 1:3, he states that God's "divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness..." He then instructs his readers to add to their faith seven great characteristics that have come to be called the "Christian graces."

Virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (love) (2 Peter 1:5-7)

He also warns of false teachers that would come but promises they will receive proper punishment from God.

1 JOHN - John confirms his personal witnessing of Jesus the Christ. He declares that through that relationship they may have fellowship with him and the Father. He pleads with them to walk in the light which is God. He tells them not to love the world nor the things of the world. One great message is to love God, Christ, and one another.

2 JOHN - Written to a special person or church rejoicing with them that they are walking in truth and commands that they love one another. Real love is walking after the commandments of God. He warns that if anyone comes to them with a doctrine not of Christ that they are not to receive them into their house nor bid them God speed.

3 JOHN - This short letter was written to Gaius wishing that he prosper in health as his soul prospers. This may suggest that Gaius was or had been ill. Gaius is highly commended for his hospitality to the brethren as well as to strangers. He speaks of the ungodly brother, Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them. John names some of the sins of Diotrephes and promises to deal with him when he comes.

JUDE - He is thought to be the brother of Jesus. He pleads with the brethren to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 1:3) He reminds them of God's judgment and punishment of all those who have been ungodly all through the ages.

REVELATION - The book of Revelation gives us the assurance of the ultimate triumph of the church over all evil. It gives a glimpse of the majesty of God on His throne and the saved of all the ages gathered before him and praising him continually.

Duties of a Christian

When Jesus gave the great commission to his apostles as recorded in Matthew 28:19, 20, he told them to teach the new converts to observe all things whatsoever he had commanded them.

WORSHIP - (Hebrews 10:25-27) It is important that we meet for worship on the first day of the week.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

LORD'S SUPPER - (Acts 20:7) As we take communion on each first day of the week (Sunday), we remember the Lord's death on the cross.

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." See also 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

PRAY - Prayer is very important in the life of a Christian.

..."The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Timothy 2:1, 2)

SING - This is another way we can express our love and devotion to God.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16) See also 1 Corinthians 14:15.

GIVING - Giving to the Lord is a command as we read in 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

As Christians we must keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and the following scriptures will help us do that.

LOVE - Jesus said in John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37)

We are commanded to love each other in John 13:34. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." See also John 15:12

WORK - A Christian must work as we find in Philippians 2:12. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

A GOOD EXAMPLE - We must follow the advice that Paul gave Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12.

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity." (Titus 2:7)

AVOID SIN - In 1 Thessalonians 5:22, we are told to "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9)

GROW - A Christian must grow in his faith.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (1 Peter 2:2, 3)

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God..." (Hebrews 6:1, 2)

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

HELP OTHERS - Helping others is a part of our good work.

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15, 16)

BE HONEST - Honesty is very important in our lives.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
(Romans 12:17)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever

things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8) See also 1 Peter 2:12.

BE TRUTHFUL - God brings this out in one of the ten commandments. We are not to bear false witness.

We are told in Ephesians 4:25, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another."

Also in the same book (Ephesians 6:14), we are admonished to "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness."

BE TEMPERATE - This is one of the "Christian graces" in 2 Peter 1:6. We are to add temperance to our faith.

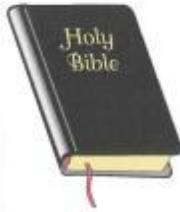
BE PATIENT - This also is one of the "Christian graces" which Peter mentions in 2 Peter 1:6.

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." (Hebrews 10:36)

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4)

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(2 Peter 1:8)



"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)

THE END