
SESSION # 2

Why the Bible is Challenging to Read

If you find the Bible challenging to read, it's probably because it contains challenging material!

Always remember:

"It is the Glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter. "
Proverbs 25:2

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?

The disciples posed this question to him in *Matthew 13:10*.

His answer reveals that it is a separation process. *"It is given unto you. . . unto them it is not given."* (If a question of whether or not this is fair arises, consider Paul's comment in *Romans 9:18-21*)

TO WHOM IS TRUTH REVEALED?

1. To "babes." *Matt. 11:25-26*
2. To humble seekers of truth. *1 Cor. 1:17-31*

HOW DOES ONE GAIN UNDERSTANDING?

1. *By application of time and energy.*

Social status or financial position will not give anyone an advantage over another.
Understanding requires an investment made "without money."
Isaiah 55:1,3
Prov. 23:23

2. *Incrementally*

God's revelation has occurred over time expressed by many voices, each contributing to the complete message.
Hebrews 1:1

UNDERSTANDING IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO SEEK DILIGENTLY

We must ask in faith (and this involves prayer), but understanding is assured if we are patient to receive it.
Matt. 7:7-8
James 1:5-6

**SOME PEOPLE READ THE BIBLE
TO FIND WHAT THEY BELIEVE**

**SOME PEOPLE READ THE BIBLE
TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY FIND**

Why Two Testaments?

WHAT IS A TESTAMENT?

The Contents Page of the Bible shows it as divided into two parts: the Old and New Testaments.

"Testament" means covenant, that is, an agreement, promise, or pledge between two parties.

The teaching of the Bible is based upon covenants of promise that God made with faithful men in times past.

It teaches that *"Jesus Christ (came) . . . to confirm the promises made unto the fathers; and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy (Rom. 15:8-9)."*

Again: *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:4)."*

The Lord Jesus Christ is described as the Mediator of the New Covenant – *Heb. 9:15*.

WHY OLD and NEW TESTAMENT?

The events surrounding the Lord Jesus Christ provide a natural division of the scripture, between those writings dealing with the Old Testament written in Hebrew and the New Testament written in Greek. However, it must be remembered that this division of the Bible into Old and New Testaments is man-made.

It is true that the old covenant refers to the Law of Moses which is no longer binding on people, but the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) actually contains far more than just the old covenant. In fact, it contains the promises which were made before the old covenant which the Lord Jesus Christ came to confirm. He becomes the mediator of the new covenant based on these promises.

The whole Bible is the revelation of God, and is one complete and indivisible book. Some claim that the Old Testament became outdated when Christ appeared nearly 2000 years ago, but that is not so. The New Testament constantly refers the reader back to the Old, time and time again.

Christ, in preaching, told his listeners to *"search the Scriptures"* (*John 5:39*), meaning the Old Testament. It would be better to call the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scripture, as the concept of the Old Testament is misleading and even the Bible itself calls this material the Scriptures.

Christ appealed to those same Scriptures to expound the things concerning himself: "*Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them*" (the disciples) "*in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:27).*" The Bible will never be properly understood if the Hebrew Scripture is neglected. The Gospel, itself, is based upon an Old Testament promise: "*God preached the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed (Gal. 3:8).*"

To illustrate this, consider the following promises (or covenants) made by God in the Old Testament:

1. In Eden following the sin of Adam and Eve - *Gen. 3:15.*
2. To Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the "fathers of old."
3. To David - *2 Samuel 7:12-17*
4. Promises of the Kingdom to the prophets - *Isaiah 9:6-7.*

Also, in the New Testament we read the angel's testimony in *Luke 1:31-33*:

- v. 31 - relates to the "seed (descendant) of the woman" promised to Adam & Eve
- v. 32 - relates to the promise of the "Son of God" made to David
- v. 33a - relates to "the seed" (descendant) that was promised to Abraham
- v. 33b - relates to the promises made to the prophets concerning the Kingdom of the Messiah

Consider also Zacharias' proclamation in *Luke 1:67-79.*

Another example of how God's promises span the testaments is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Gal. 3:28-29 - Promises concerning Abraham, Christ, Believers.

God's Promises are not yet complete. This is made evident through the prophecy of Jeremiah, given in chapter 31, verses 31-34 concerning the restoration of Israel.

Using Cross References

There is no better commentary on the Bible than the Bible itself. No source is more appropriate for interpreting God's Word than God Himself. It is in this area that the use of cross references can be so valuable.

WHAT IS A CROSS REFERENCE?

They are verse "references" supplied by the publishers which direct the reader to other locations in the Bible where the same word or the same or similar event or phrase may be found.

TYPES OF CROSS REFERENCES INCLUDE:

1. Center Column References
2. End of Verse/Footnotes
3. Separate books (Treasury of Scripture Knowledge)

USES OF CROSS REFERENCES:

1. Link Teachings/Prophecies Between OT & NT
 - A. Luke 1:31-33 - Gabriel's words to Mary
- throne of David
Cross Reference to:
2 Samuel 7:11
 - B. John 1:19-28 - Jew's question to John the Baptist
- "*Art thou that prophet?*"
Cross Reference to:
Deut. 18:15-18
 - C. Luke 4:16-21- Christ reading from Isaiah
- "*the Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . .*"
Cross Reference to:
7 Isaiah 61:1,2

Leviticus 25:9-10 (Jubilee) – does not appear in all Bibles D. Acts 13:16-37 - Paul speaks to the Jews in Antioch

- numerous quotes . . .

Cross References to:

Psalm 2:7

Isaiah 55:3

Psalm 16:10

2. Fill in details on Persons, Places, Subjects, etc.

A. Hebrews 5:6 - Melchizedek - who is he?

Cross References to:

Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 7:17,21 – does not appear in all Bibles

Passage in Hebrews 7 also references:

Genesis 14:18-20

B. Matthew 12:38-42 - Queen of the South

- who is she?

Cross Reference to:

1 Kings 10:1

C. Acts 1:1- The former Treatise

- what was it?

Cross Reference to:

Luke 1:3

D. Ezekiel 21:25-27

- "*whose right it is*"

Cross Reference to:

Gen. 49:10 – does not appear in all Bibles

3. Filling in of details of Parallel Accounts

A. History of Kings of Israel & Judah

1. 1 Kings 15:34 - King Baasha

- walked in the ways of Jeroboam . . .

Cross References to some of:

1 Kings 12:28-29

1 Kings 13:33

1 Kings 14:16

2. 1 Kings 15 :23-24 - King Asa

- diseased in his feet

Cross References to:

2 Chronicles 16:12

3. 1 Kings 22:41-45 - King Jehoshaphat

- he made peace with the king of Israel

Cross References to some of:

2 Chronicles 18:1

2 Chronicles 21:6

2 Chronicles 22:2

2 Kings 8:18

B. Gospel Accounts

1. Luke 21:5-36 - Mt. Olivet Prophecy

- who are the "they" that asked him in v.7?

Cross References to:

Matthew 24:1-51 (disciples, privately)

Mark 13:1-37 (in particular, Peter, James, John, and Andrew, privately)

2. Luke 9:7-9 - Concerning John the Baptist

- John was beheaded by Herod, why?

Cross References to:

Matthew 14:1-3

Mark 6:14-16

3. Luke 23:39-43 - Repentant Thief

- Thief repents on cross

Cross References to:

Matthew 27:44 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Mark 15:29-30 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

4. Clarification of Passage/Meaning

A. Matthew 9:10-13 - "Mercy, and not sacrifice

- "I will have mercy... "

Cross References to:

Matt. 23:23 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Micah 6:8

1 Sam. 15:22 – *does not appear in all Bibles*

B. Acts 8:27-40 - Philip and the Eunuch

- Reading from Isaiah

Cross Reference to:

Isaiah 53: 7, 8

C. John 4:3-42 - Preaching to Samaritans

- Location (v. 5)

Cross References to:

Genesis 33:19

Joshua 24:32 (note context of chapter 24) – *does not appear in all Bibles*

Workshop – Cross References

Please complete these three exercises to practice using cross-references.

Exercise 1

Gabriel's words to Mary

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Luke 1: 31-33 in your Bible otherwise refer to the following page where the text for this is displayed (page 29):

In Luke we are reading the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary the mother of Jesus. The angel refers to the fact that her son, who will also be the Son of God will sit on the throne of his father David. Find the cross-reference in the Old Testament where the throne of David was originally promised to Jesus.

(Hint: In the centre margin you will find listed the verse numbers. Go to the number 32. Look for something in "2 Samuel")

Exercise 2

"the former treatise"

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Acts 1:1 in your Bible otherwise refer to page 31:

The writer tells Theophilus that he has already written a book "the former treatise" about the things that Jesus began to do and teach. What is the name of this book? Who wrote both of these books? Use a cross reference to answer both of these questions.

Exercise 3

Story of Philip and the Eunuch

If you have cross-references in your Bible look up Acts 8:27-40 in your Bible otherwise refer to page 32

Philip joined a eunuch in a chariot who was reading in the book of Isaiah. He was really interested in this part of Isaiah and was in fact learning about Jesus. Using your cross references find the place in Isaiah where the eunuch was reading.

10 ^aAnd the whole multitude of the people were praying ¹without at the ²time of incense.

An Angel Announces the Birth of John the Baptist

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of ^athe altar of incense.

12 And when Zach-a-ri'-as saw him, ^ahe was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zach-a-ri'-as: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and ^athou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and ^amany shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be ^agreat in the sight of the Lord, and ^bshall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, ^ceven from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the ¹children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 ^aAnd he shall go before him in the spirit and power of E-li'-as, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Zacharias Is Unable to Speak

18 And Zach-a-ri'-as said unto the angel, ^aWhereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well ¹stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am ^aGabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee ¹these glad ²tidings.

20 And, behold, ^athou shalt be ¹dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their ²season.

21 And the people waited for Zach-a-ri'-as, and marvelled that he ¹tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as ^athe days of his ¹ministration were ²accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to ^atake away my reproach among men.

10 ^aLev. 16:17
¹outside
²Lit. hour

11 ^aEx. 30:1

12 ^aLuke 2:9

13 ^aLuke 1:57, 60, 63

14 ^aLuke 1:58

15 ^a[Luke 7:24-28]
^bNum. 6:3
^cJer. 1:5

16 ¹Lit. sons

17 ^aMal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 3:2; 11:14

18 ^aGen. 17:17
¹advanced

19 ^aDan. 8:16
^bLuke 2:10
¹this good news

20 ^aEzek. 3:26; 24:27
¹mute
²own time

21 ¹delayed

23 ^{a2} Kin. 11:5
¹service
²completed

25 ^aGen. 30:23

27 ^aMatt. 1:18
¹betrothed

28 ^aDan. 9:23
^bJudg. 6:12
¹Rejoice

29 ^aLuke 1:12
¹considered
²greeting

30 ^aLuke 2:52

31 ^aIs. 7:14
^bLuke 2:21

32 ^aMark 5:7
^{b2} Sam. 7:12, 13, 16
^{c2} Sam. 7:14-17
^aMatt. 1:1
¹Most High

33 ^a[Dan. 2:44]

34 ¹I am a virgin

35 ^aMatt. 1:20
^b[Heb. 1:2, 8]
¹Most High
²zone

36 ¹relative

37 ^aJer. 32:17

38 ¹maid-servant

39 ^aJosh. 21:9

40 ¹greeted

41 ^aActs 6:3
¹greeting

42 ^aJudg. 5:24

43 ¹why

Gabriel Announces Christ's Birth

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin ^aespoused¹ to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, ^aHail,¹ *thou that art highly favoured,* ^bthe Lord is with thee: *blessed art thou among women.*

29 And when she saw him, ^ashe was troubled at his saying, and ¹cast in her mind what manner of ²salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found ^afavour with God.

31 ^aAnd, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and ^bshalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, ^aand shall be called the Son of the ¹Highest: and ^bthe Lord God shall give unto him the ^cthrone of his ^dfather David:

33 ^aAnd he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Mary Miraculously Conceives

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I ¹know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, ^aThe Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the ¹Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy ²thing which shall be born of thee shall be called ^bthe Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy ¹cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For ^awith God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the ¹handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elisabeth

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, ^ainto a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zach-a-ri'-as, and ¹saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the ¹salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was ^afilled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, ^aBlessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And ¹whence is this to me, that

THE ACTS

of the Apostles

JESUS' last recorded words have come to be known as the Great Commission: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (1:8). The Book of Acts, written by Luke, is the story of the men and women who took that commission seriously and began to spread the news of a risen Savior to the most remote corners of the known world.

Each section of the book (1—7; 8—12; 13—28) focuses on a particular audience, a key personality, and a significant phase in the expansion of the gospel message.

As the second volume in a two-part work by Luke, this book probably had no separate title. But all available Greek manuscripts designate it by the title *Praxeis*, "Acts," or by an expanded title like "The Acts of the Apostles." *Praxeis* was commonly used in Greek literature to summarize the accomplishments of outstanding men. While the apostles are mentioned collectively at several points, this book really records the acts of Peter (1—12) and of Paul (13—28).

Prologue to Acts

THE former treatise have I made,
TO ^aThe-oph'-i-lus, of all that Je-
sus began both to do and teach.

2 ^aUntil the day in which he ¹was
taken up, after that he through the
Holy Ghost ^bhad given command-
ments unto the apostles whom he
had chosen:

CHAPTER 1

1 ^aLuke 1:3

2 ^aMark 16:19

^bMatt. 28:19

¹Ascended
into heaven

3 ^aMark

16:12, 14

¹presented

²suffering

Appearances of the Resurrected Christ—Luke 24:44-49

3 ^aTo whom also he ¹shewed him-
self alive after his ²passion by many
³infallible proofs, being seen of them
forty days, and speaking of the

³unmistakable

called Simon, which beforetime in the same city ^aused¹ sorcery, and ²bewitched the people of Sa-ma'-ri-a, ^bgiving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they ¹had regard, because that of long time he had ²bewitched them with ³sorceries.

12 But when they believed Philip ¹preaching the things ^aconcerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and ¹wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the ^aapostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Sa-ma'-ri-a had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, ^athat they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For ^aas yet he was fallen upon none of them: only ^bthey were baptized in ^athe name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then ^alaid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because ^athou hast thought that ^bthe gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor ¹lot in this matter: for thy ^aheart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, ^aif perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art ¹in ^athe gall of bitterness, and ²in the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, ^aPray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Sa-mar'-i-tans.

Philip Witnesses to the Ethiopian Treasurer

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto ^aPhilip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the

⁹ ^aActs 8:11; 13:6 ^bActs 5:36 ¹practised ^{magi}c ²astonished

¹¹ ¹paid attention ²astonished ³magic arts

¹² ^aActs 1:3; 8:4 ¹as he preached

¹³ ¹was amazed

¹⁴ ^aActs 5:12, 29, 40

¹⁵ ^aActs 2:38; 19:2

¹⁶ ^aActs 19:2 ^bMatt. 28:19 ^cActs 10:48; 19:5

¹⁷ ^aActs 6:6; 19:6

²⁰ ^a[Matt. 10:8] ^b[Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17]

²¹ ^aJer. 17:9 ¹portion

²² ^{a2} Tim. 2:25

²³ ^aHeb. 12:15 ¹poisoned by bitterness ²bound by

²⁴ ^aJames 5:16

²⁶ ^aActs 6:5 ¹deserted

²⁷ ^aPs. 68:31; 87:4 ^bJohn 12:20

³¹ ¹asked

³² ^aIs. 53:7, 8 ^bJohn 19:9 ¹silent

³³ ^aLuke 23:1-25 ^bLuke 23:33-46 ¹justice

³⁵ ^aLuke 24:27

³⁶ ^aActs 10:47; 16:33

³⁷ ^a[Mark 16:16] ^bMatt. 16:16

³⁹ ^aEzek. 3:12, 14

⁴⁰ ^aActs 21:8 ¹Ashdod, Josh. 11:22

CHAPTER 9

¹ ^aActs 7:57; 8:1, 3; 26:10, 11 ¹murder

² ^aActs 22:5 ¹asked ²the Way

way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Ga'-za, which is ¹desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, ^aa man of E-thi-o'-pi-a, an eunuch of great authority under Can-da'-ce queen of the E-thi-o'-pi-ans, who had the charge of all her treasure, and ^bhad come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read E-sa'-ias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet E-sa'-ias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he ¹desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, ^aHE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND LIKE A LAMB ¹DUMB BEFORE HIS SHEARER, ^bSO OPENED HE NOT HIS MOUTH:

33 IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS ^aJUDGMENT¹ WAS TAKEN AWAY: AND WHO SHALL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS ^bTAKEN FROM THE EARTH.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, ^aand began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here* is water; ^awhat doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, ^aIf thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, ^bI believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, ^athe Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at ¹A-zo'-tus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to ^aCaes-a-re'-a.

Saul Is Converted and Blinded Acts 22:4-11; 26:13-18

9 And ^aSaul, yet breathing out threatenings and ¹slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And ¹desired of him ^aletters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of ²this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Overview of the Books of the Bible – Genesis

GENESIS

The single most important book of the Bible.

Beginning or foundation of the Bible, from which everything is built. Everything revealed in the other books of the Bible has its beginning in the book of Genesis. It is the first book of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

The name itself means "origin, source, or begetting."

It, with the book of Revelation, stand as two end posts bridging the revelation of God to man; the first telling how it all began, the second revealing in symbol how it all will finish. In Genesis there is seen the beginnings of all that which Revelation predicts as the consummation of the Divine purpose in the earth.

For example:

Genesis speaks of a natural creation (*Gen. 1*); Revelation of a spiritual creation (*Rev. 3:14*);

In Genesis the serpent speaks (*Gen. 3:1-5*); in Revelation it is restrained (*Rev. 20:2*).

In Genesis, the curse is imposed (*Gen. 3:17*); in Revelation it is removed (*Rev. 22:3*).

In Genesis, sorrow and death make their appearance (*Gen. 3:16-19*); in Revelation they are taken away (*Rev. 21:4*).

In Genesis, access to the tree of life is denied (*Gen. 3:24*); in Revelation, access to it is opened (*Rev. 2:7*).

In Genesis, the first paradise is closed to man (*Gen. 3:23*); in Revelation it is opened to him (*Rev. 21:25*).

Genesis basically can be divided into two parts:

EARLY HISTORY	Chapters 1 to 11
PATRIARCHAL HISTORY	Chapters 12 to 50

The first division records four outstanding events:

1. The Creation
2. The Fall of Man
3. The Flood
4. The Confusing of Tongues (Tower of Babel)

Patriarchal history is concerned with four outstanding individuals:

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

In addition to the natural separation into two periods of time, the book of Genesis is also divided naturally into 12 sections. These natural breaks are as follows:

1. Creation - Introduction (*Gen. 1:1 - 2:3*).
2. The Generations of the heavens and the earth (*Gen.2:4 - 4:26*).
3. The Book of the Generation of Adam (*Gen. 5:1 - 6:8*)
4. The Generations of Noah, a just man (*Gen. 6:9 - 9:29*).
5. The Generations of the sons of Noah (*Gen. 10:1 - 11:9*).
6. The Generations of Shem (*Gen. 11:10-26*).
7. The Generations of Terah (Abraham) (*Gen. 11:27 - 25:11*).
8. The Generations of Ishmael (*Gen. 25:12-18*).
9. The Generations of Isaac (*Gen. 25:19 - 35:29*).
10. The Generations of Esau (*Gen. 36:1-8*).
11. The Generations of the Sons of Esau (*Gen. 36:9-43*).
12. The Generations of Jacob (*Gen. 37:1 - 50:26*).

Some Points to Consider from Genesis:

1. Harmony of the Creation account. *Gen. 1-2*
2. God's First Promise to Man. *Gen. 3:15*
3. God called Abram *Gen. 12:1*
4. God's Covenant with Abram/Abraham. *Gen. 12, 13, 15, 22*
5. How Israel came to be in Egypt. *Gen. Chapters 15, 37-50*