

Introduction and Explanation

taken from
Jesus Christ: A Bible Study in Simple English
by Howard Killion, Ph.D.

A Short Explanation about the Bible

The **Bible** is the written Word of God. It has two main parts. The first part is the **Old Testament**. It has 39 **books**, or smaller parts. These books were written between 450 and 1,500 years before Jesus. Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago. The second main part is the **New Testament**. It has 27 books. These books were written between 20 and 60 years after Jesus died. About 40 different people wrote these 66 books of the Bible. The Bible says that God “inspired” these people (directed their thoughts and ideas) about what to write.

Later teachers of the Bible **divided** the books of the Bible into **chapters**. They also divided the chapters into **verses**. This makes it easy to tell where a group of words, a sentence, or several sentences are found in the Bible. For example, the first story in this bible study is found in Matthew 1:18-25. This means that this story can be found in the book of Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25. You can find the book of Matthew by looking in a list of the books of the Bible found at the beginning of the Bible. It is the first book of the New Testament.

The stories and other parts of the Bible written in this bible study are taken from the New Life Version. This is a **translation** in simple English. It puts the words of the Bible’s original languages (Hebrew and Greek) into English that is easy to read. This is helpful for students of English as a Second Language (ESL). You can buy a copy of this New Life Version of the Bible by going to www.newlifebible.org or by calling 1-800-324-9734. You can also write Christian Literature International, P.O. Box 777, Canby, Oregon 97013. A copy will not cost very much.

Other Explanations

New or special words are printed in **bold print** like this: **God**. Some words are in vocabulary lists with an explanation next to each word or phrase. You can understand the other boldly printed words by reading the words and sentences around them. An **asterisk** looks like this: *. In the vocabulary lists, asterisks are printed next to the boldly printed words or phrases if they are not usually used in English. **Titles** (the names at the beginning) of the different chapters and parts of this bible study are also printed in bold. For example, the title of this part is **Other Explanations**.

Answers to the questions are printed at the end of each lesson. You will learn more if you write your own answers for the whole lesson first. Then read the printed answers.



MAP 2

Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Gaza were parts of David's Kingdom of Israel a thousand years before Jesus.



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