

# How to Locate Bible Passages

Antioch Bible Reading Resources

## Quick Facts:

- The Bible is divided into 66 books written by 40 different authors.
- The first 39 books make up the 'Old Testament,' meaning 'old covenant/contract.'
- The following 27 books make up the 'New Testament,' meaning 'new covenant/contract.'

## Things to Note:

- The books of the Bible are **not** organized chronologically. However, the Bible does generally move from least recent events towards most recent events.
- Most of the books in the Bible are organized according to genre of literature (Law, History, Wisdom, Prophecy, Gospels, Epistles, etc.).

## Helpful Suggestions:

- When attempting to locate a Bible passage, don't be afraid to use the Table of Contents.
- Memorizing the order of the books of the Bible can be a fun and effective way to navigate the Scriptures.
  - The iTunes store has many songs aimed at helping listeners memorize Bible books. Search "Books of the Bible."
  - Create your own Bible book memorization song.
  - Create acronyms to memorize smaller sections of Bible books. (For example: **General Electric Power Company** = **G**alatians - **E**phesians - **P**hilippians - **C**olossians).

## Understanding References:

- When someone quotes a Bible passage, they will typically use a Bible reference to indicate where that passage can be found in the Bible. Bible references are divided into four parts:
  - **Book:** The entire Bible is divided into 66 books. This part of the reference indicates which book of the Bible the passage is from.
  - **Chapter:** Books are then divided into chapters of varying lengths. This part of the reference indicates which chapter of the book the passage is from.
  - **Verse (begin):** Chapters are then divided into verses of varying lengths. This part of the reference indicates on which verse the passage begins.
  - **Verse (end):** This part of the reference indicates on which verse the passage ends. If the passage is only one verse, no end verse will be given in the reference.
- For example, the reference *John 3:16-17* means that the passage is found in the book of John, in the third chapter, starting on verse 16 and ending on verse 17. It reads, "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."