

Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 4

Notes by Brian H. Butler B.A., D.O., F.A.S.K.

Class of '64 Graduate & former Faculty Member of Ambassador College, England.

These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped Home Study Course made between 1977-98 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D. Former Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

HOME BIBLE STUDY LESSON 4 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOLY BIBLE

When we consider any and virtually all translations of the 'complete' Bible of 66 books in the order we have them today, they do not compare with the early manuscripts either in the number of books nor the original order.

Every Bible in the world, hundreds or thousands of millions need very serious revision so they are aligned with the inspired original manuscripts.

How could this have happened? What is the consequence of their being in the wrong order? Confusion, and also the truths and Plan of the book and its storyline are obscured

In the Book as we have it, the story flow is hidden from the reader; when the original order is restored the true story emerges.

Those who had canonised the Old Testament and the New Testament were directly inspired by Jesus Christ to put the complete Bible together. Canon means rule or standard.

Scholars have known that these facts are true, but have not acted on it.

If restored to the original order, the centre of the Bible is the four Gospels and Acts. Christ's life, teaching, mission and Gospel is in the exact centre of the Holy Bible.

The Old Testament was canonised by Ezra who worked with 120 Elders. The New Testament was canonised by Peter and Paul, and finally by John at the end of the 1st Century A.D. likely to and call initially then by John at the end of the first century.

David, in Psalm 19 tells of the perfection in the motions of the heavens.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Looking at the heavens and the Earth, we see the incredible glory of God in the creation of the Universe, or rather what we can actually see of it.

Psalm 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

We see the glory of the stars, but not only that, in what we see God is actually 'talking' to us and revealing knowledge to us.

Psalm 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The 'line' and the perfection of the architectural design of the heavens is 'talking' to us, and provide a 'tabernacle' or special place for the sun, which warms the whole earth each day as it rotates. The stability of the heavenly movements, more accurate than any clock man can create, reveals the perfect hand of God. Then the Psalmist compares the perfection of the heavens with the perfection of God's Law.

Psalm 19:7 The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The inspired Psalmist, or rather Christ, is telling us that the Bible, the Law, the Statutes and the Commandments are perfect. The Bible is not just a book put together by men as they thought fit, but Master-crafted by the Creator of all things. It is tragic how few human beings actually believe that.

In Romans Paul quotes from Psalm 19:2-4, Romans 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

We are not talking about the nonsense of pagan and 'new age' astrology, but of pure astronomy. Our watches are set by the heavens. Even going

back 2000 or more years, we can be accurate to seconds. With the ingenuity of astronomers and their ability to tell what was going on with the heavenly bodies thousands of years ago, and modern equipment, they can project the patterns on a Planetarium screen for all to see, and we are confronted with the evidence that God's Universe is both orderly and timely.

The Word, or YHWH, the God of the Old Testament was Jesus Christ, and we need to know well all the many names of the Deity to be clear who is being referred to in each reference in the Bible. This is a study in itself.

Originally there were forty-nine or 7×7 books in the complete Bible which is the number of perfection. The Old Testament contains 22 books one for each of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The New Testament has 27 books. Add the Old and the New together, $22 + 27 = 49$ or absolute perfection.

There were three divisions in the Old testament and four divisions in the New Testament which equals seven division again a perfect number.

Christ speaks of the three divisions of the Old Testament - The Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, eleven books which include the Psalms.

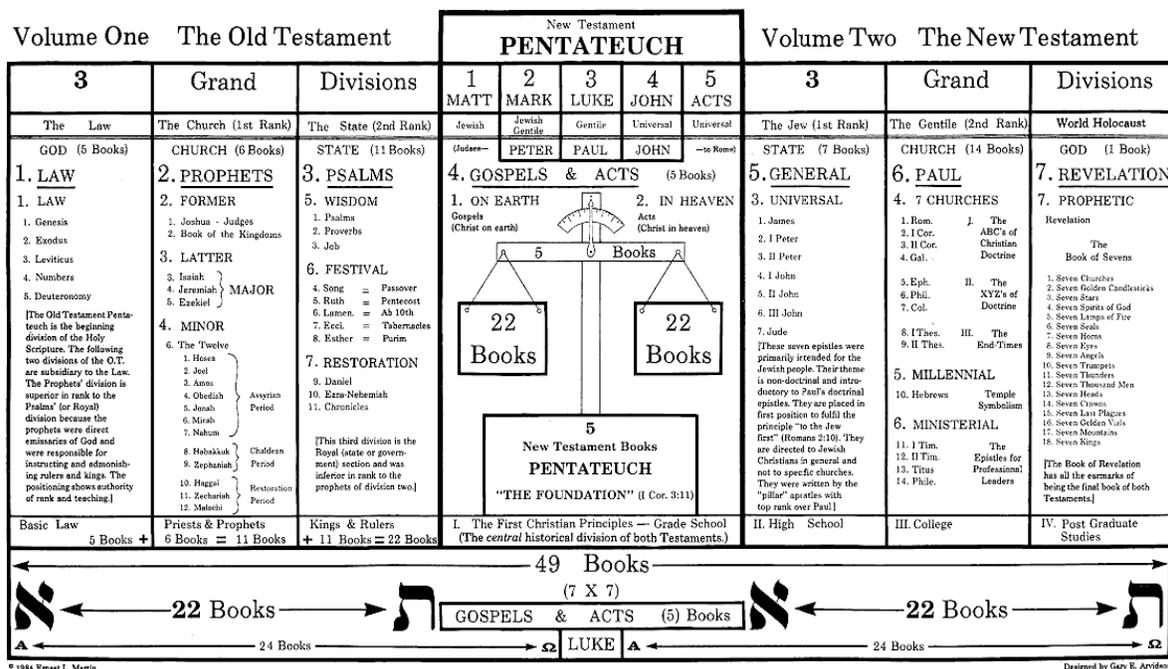
Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me.

It is important to note that Christ's teachings of the New Law were given both before and after His resurrection.

THE HOLY BIBLE – GOD’S PERFECT STRUCTURE AND DESIGN

The Bible we have today has 66 books. The Old Testament contains 39 books. The New Testament contains 27 books. 39+27 = 66. This man-made structure and order obscures the perfection and completeness of the Holy Bible, God’s Word to mankind. In the 4th/5th century A.D., Saint Jerome, commissioned by Pope Damasus in 382, made up the Vulgate version in Latin. Jerome avoided the original order. He put the Bible together in the Egyptian order as he thought fit. This confused the perfection and obscured the message of the Bible. This created chaos, so often the result of man’s interference with the plan of God.

The Old Testament Canon was inspired by God, and arranged by Ezra in the 5th Century B.C. originally consisted of 22 books, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The New Testament 27 books were finally Canonized by John in the last decade of the first century A.D. after Jesus Christ had inspired him to write the book of Revelation. Revelation is the 49th book, completing the numerical perfection of 7x7. The first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are known as the Law. The number 5 is the number of Law. The 5 books, the New Testament Law, the Gospels and Acts form the exact centre of the Bible when all the books are in the Divine Order as seen on this chart.



The five books of the Old Testament Law can be compared to the five books of the New Testament Law Pentateuch, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. The central book is Luke, the best source of N.T. history.

In the correct original order of the books of the New Testament, the New Law is followed by the fifth division of the Bible which is called the 'Universal Epistles'. This comprises James, I & II Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, and lastly Jude which equals seven epistles.

These are the prologue to Paul's fourteen books, the sixth division, which includes Hebrews although there is some doubt in the minds of 'scholars' as to whether Paul wrote Hebrews, Dr. Martin is certain that he did.

Paul wrote nine epistles to seven churches, Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Phillipians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians. Hebrews which is seen as the 'Millennial' book, then follow the 'Ministerial Epistles' 1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Fourteen Epistles in all.

The 7th division is the Book of Revelation.

The inspired order reveals so clearly the perfect structure of the New Testament, $5+7+14+1=27$ books. The Bible, 22 of the O.T. plus 27 of the N.T. = 49 books or the perfect number of 49 books, with the life and story of Christ in the New Testament 'Law of Love' being central to the whole Bible.

The proper order also reveals clearly the principle of 'Progressive Revelation' which runs as a thread throughout the whole Bible. God has first communicated with His fledgling children with the rigours of the O.T. Law which was the beginning of their serious 'Kindergarten' schooling.

In the N.T. Paul was growing in Grace and knowledge, and Peter and the other disciples were as well. This is how God always works, as He reveals in all His dealings with those He chooses to educate about His Plan for humankind. He does not just put a funnel to our heads and pour it all in at once. God teaches us by giving us 'Here a little and there a little, precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line' over time.

Those who quote even just one precept out of context and use it as their authority from God to control people with the principle are Satan's ministers. It is this practice which enslaves people to men's organisations.

This is why Christ urges us not to listen to the doctrines of men, but to take part in our own education by studying and listening to what He has for us and continue to grow in Grace and knowledge.

In the inspired order, then came the preparation of Christ's teaching of primary schooling in the Gospels, Acts. Then the secondary school of the 'General' Epistles. The first of Paul's letters began University Education in Romans, Corinthians and Galatians; followed by the advanced studies of

the revelation of the 'Mystery' 63 A.D. recorded in Ephesians, Phillipians, and Colossians, which gave the 'capstone' of the Gospel, and the fact that we are to become God's actual children.

The Post Graduate teachings came with Christ's Book of Revelation written by John at the end of the 1st Century A.D. under inspiration as indeed are all the Books of the Bible.

The whole Bible is written in 'another tongue' which is God's own special way of communicating with His children. This 'other tongue' is not understood by the billions in the world at any given time, but only by those whose eyes, ears, and minds are specifically opened by Christ to receive His message when He decides the time is right for each individual.

There were 7000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal in the past.

Romans 11:4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

Christ said of the Truth, that there would be the 'few that find it'.

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The 'few' who will make it into the first resurrection at Christ's return are undoubtedly also those who do not get entangled with the churches of this world, or 'defile themselves with women'. 'Woman' in this context means 'church'.

Revelation 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Historically, Judah and Israel had looked to joining up with other nations for their support and protection instead of relying on God who says:

Isaiah 8:12 Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. 13 Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14 *And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.* 15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

This referred to Judah and Israel, and is important because it is quoted twice in the New Testament that God would be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to those who did not look to Him for protection and support.

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

In this narrative, Isaiah suddenly refers to the need to secure the Scriptures, and he is talking about Canonisation. The Apostles certainly realized the importance and the relevance of Isaiah 8 in the 1st Century.

Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Jesus Christ was directly inspiring Isaiah when he was giving specific instruction for Canonisation and the disciples knew that. They knew that it was fast becoming necessary. God says through Isaiah, bind up and seal the law among whom? Among and by my disciples. Remember it is Christ who is inspiring Isaiah to write these words.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Peter was the number one Apostle at that time.

This instruction from Christ for His Disciples to assemble the Bible applies today as much as when it was first written.

Churchianity and other religions of men have adapted and adopted doctrines of demons as the mainstay of their core beliefs. The largest church in the world has its own ideas of what should be included in their doctrines.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Some churches misuse the Law of God, continuing to insist obedience to and enforce the Old Testament physical laws of the schoolmaster which Christ replaced with the New Gospel of the Law of Faith and Love.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

2 Timothy 3: 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4: 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The fables of man's notions as to what the Bible teaches, like suggesting that when the Bible says Babylon it means Rome; or that the churches of Revelation were sequential through history rather than concurrent; or that the United Kingdom and America are Israel. These plausible fallacies have deceived many into believing what men teach, rather than relying on Christ to reveal His Truths.

Not long after Christ's ascension, in the 1st Century A.D., people claiming to be Christians began to allow and embrace many false doctrines, as the Apostles warn in the Scriptures.

Around 62-63 A.D., it had become apparent to the Ecclesia that Christ was not going to return imminently. There was growing resistance to Apostolic authority in A.D. 66-67, and an insurrection was taking place among

Christians. Peter, Paul with Luke, and John saw the need to keep Christ's teachings pure and safe from corruption. They were working with official inspired documents, but they could not stem the tide of rebellion against the true Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Hundreds of years later in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Centuries A.D. various Councils of men, who had decidedly not been eyewitnesses to all that happened, came together with what clearly was seen as a body of literature that was "one piece". Their intention was to ratify the inclusion of many of these false doctrines, and further systematically corrupt the purity of the Scriptures. These 'cunningly devised fables', such as the doctrine of the 'Trinity' still form much of the body of belief of the main denominations of Churchianity to this day.

So is it likely, as most 'scholars' believe, that the Living Christ allowed those Councils of spiritually perverted men to finalize the Canonisation of the New Testament? Christ certainly did allow them to pollute His Book with a certain amount of distorted error as part of His 'blinding' of the world. But the Canonisation? Absolutely not! It is clear when we examine the Scriptures carefully, that it was Christ's own disciples and Apostles who Canonized and sealed up the Word.

So when people question how one can be sure that any writings give an accurate account of what Christ taught, we have scriptural evidence that He made sure that the Canon was in the hands only of those who had known Him and personally were eyewitnesses of all He did.

The original manuscripts had to be written by those who had been actual eyewitnesses of all of Christ's preaching and teachings in Judea, Jerusalem, Berea, Samaria, and Galilee. Only His Apostles could do this, especially in an era of insurrections and distortions of the true Gospel similar to those we have in our time. The Canon had to be secure from adulteration. Under inspiration John completed the task in Ephesus around 96 A.D.

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, (the scriptures and yourselves) **having escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of His Majesty.

They select few were there on the Mount of Transfiguration and saw the vision. Matthew chapters 16 and 17 tell the whole marvelous story.

2 Peter 1:17 For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Peter is emphasizing that no part of the official scriptures is the subject of private interpretation, and that 'light', God's Word was shining by God's Power in the dark and murky place of this world, protecting the 'more sure word of prophecy', and would continue to do so "until the day dawn" when Christ returns.

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

How can we be sure that any writings included in the Bible are an accurate account of events and facts? In 44-45 A.D., only Peter and John were still alive, and were concerned about this. The Manuscripts had to be written only by those who had been eyewitnesses of all of Christ's preaching, teaching and works in Jerusalem, Judea, Berea, Samaria, and Galilee.

Peter is making it clear that he did have the authority directly from Christ to do what he was doing with the Word of Christ. Only Christ's Apostles were authorized to be involved with the Canon. Especially as it was during an era of fables, distortions, insurrections, with pretenders like Simon Magus who were conspiring against the purity of the true Gospel, as many others have done through the centuries and do to this day. The truth had to be free from any form of adulteration, and it was John, humanly the brother of our Lord who finalized the Canon of the New Testament in A.D. 96. The

Bible we have, despite its many 'errors' was assembled under the watchful eye of Christ.

Work has been done to produce a current translation in the proper order as accurately as it is possible to do, and in fact such a version is now available. When this fact becomes better known, and studied by those who are given the 'eyes to see', knowledge of the true Gospel will begin to spread throughout the Earth as prophesied.

Regrettably many of the 'top scholars' do not believe that Peter wrote II Peter, or that John wrote Revelation, and they believe that the books 'just came together' of themselves. For instance many say or opine:

1. "Surely you are not so naïve to believe that Peter wrote 1st and 2nd Peter, and that John wrote 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John and the book of Revelation?"
2. Virtually all 'scholars' think that the N.T. Canon was put together in the 2nd Century, but there is no historical evidence of this.
3. 'Scholars' are not at all concerned about the chaos that has resulted from Saint Jerome who lived 347 – 420 A.D. Pope Damasus commissioned him to produce the Latin Vulgate.

Jerome started by revising the Gospels, using the Greek manuscripts available. This he did because of the vast differences he found in the Latin versions, as there were as many Latin versions as there were original manuscripts. About the same time, he started revising the Old Testament by using the Septuagint which was a Greek version of the Old Testament.

It is said that Jerome had 'visitations' from 'angels' who guided him in his work. Jerome's completed work was called the 'Vulgate' because he used the common or vulgar language of early medieval times. He jumbled up the books in the order he thought fit which resulted in chaos and confusion, and the proper theme of the Bible became obscured. The Vulgate Latin Bible was completed in 400 A.D.

4. Ecclesiastical Scholars are not at all interested in the order of the books being restored, as they do not appreciate or understand why this is important.

Until these, and other false notions are set straight, and the Bible is given the respect it deserves, the world will blunder on in sublime ignorance of the Majesty of the Holy Scriptures as we should have them now.

We can be very thankful that Christ has inspired some of His Ecclesia to perform the massive task of 'cleaning' up the translations and correcting the order of the books directly from the original manuscripts so that we can have a 'more sure Word of Prophecy' at this crucial time in world history.