

The following 12 sentences will help you understand the Bible, with a focus on the Old Testament. The sentences are adapted from Mitch Maher's "Clarifying the Bible: A DVD Presentation to Help Make Sense of it All."

**1. The Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God.**

Inspired –

Inerrant –

Authoritative –

**2. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ book which consists of \_\_\_\_\_ individual books.**

Consider the Bible's \_\_\_\_\_:

- Written over a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- Written by over \_\_\_\_\_ different authors from various walks of life.
- Written in \_\_\_\_\_ different languages.
- Written on \_\_\_\_\_ different continents.
- Written in various \_\_\_\_\_.
- And written in various \_\_\_\_\_.

Yet amongst all that diversity, from Genesis to Revelation the Bible demonstrates an incredible unity that leads us to the truth that it was written by a single author!

**3. The Bible's 66 books are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ testaments, the Old Testament with \_\_\_\_\_ books, and the New Testament with \_\_\_\_\_ books.**

**4. The Big Picture of the Bible can be understood in terms of 5 \_\_\_\_\_ divisions:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis - Malachi)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew - John)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans - Jude)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation)

**Old Testament Overview:**

5. The Old Testament consists of 39 books written \_\_\_\_\_ the birth of Christ.
6. The 39 books of the Old Testament are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ Historical Books, \_\_\_\_\_ Poetic Books, and \_\_\_\_\_ Prophetic Books.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pentateuch/Law/Torah (Historical) = Genesis – Deuteronomy
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Historical (Israel) = Joshua – Esther
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Poetic = Job - Song of Solomon
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Prophetic (Major) = Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Prophetic (Minor) = Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi
7. The key to understanding the Old Testament is to realize that the first 17 Historical Books cover the entire \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament, from creation to approximately 400 B.C., while the remaining 5 Poetic Books and 17 Prophetic Books \_\_\_\_\_ at proper places within that storyline.

***Poetical Books:***

***Historical Books:***

Gen	Exod	Num	Josh	Judges	1 Sam	2 Sam	1 Kings	2 Kings	Ezra	Neh.
	Lev	Deut		Ruth		1 Chron	2 Chron		Esther	

***Prophetical Books:***

8. The major storyline of the Old Testament, while foreign to many, is not difficult to learn, as its 4,000+ year history can be understood by learning Max Anders’ nine eras of the Old Testament:
- \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

\* Max Anders – *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*; Norman Geisler – *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*

9. Concerning the Poetic Books (Wisdom Books), Job is about \_\_\_\_\_, Psalms is about \_\_\_\_\_, Proverbs is about \_\_\_\_\_, Ecclesiastes is about \_\_\_\_\_, and Song of Solomon is about \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The first thing to realize about the Prophetic Books is that the descriptions Major and Minor refer to \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_, and the reference to length is inconsistent... thus the labels are unfortunate.
11. Concerning the Prophetic Books, there are 3 major categories to keep in mind: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_, though \_\_\_\_\_ of the Prophetic books do not fit into these categories.



12. The period between the Old Testament (approximately 400 BC) and the beginning of the New Testament (approximately 4 BC) is often referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_, though God was greatly at work behind the scenes preparing the way for his Son.