



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



My personal top (20)
books of the Bible

Warm greetings.

It came to my mind that I should produce/write an edition that shares my ‘Best twenty books in the Bible!’ Of course, I truly cannot say that these are the ‘best’ twenty books in the Bible! That would be silly! The Bible consists of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Bible was written over a span of about 1,500 years, from roughly 1400 BC to 95 AD.

THESE 66 books were eventually compiled into one volume, one book consisting of two Testaments. I think this is useful to highlight 20 of these books. Some of our readership or viewers may be young and some old, some new believers and some believers in Jesus for a very long time.

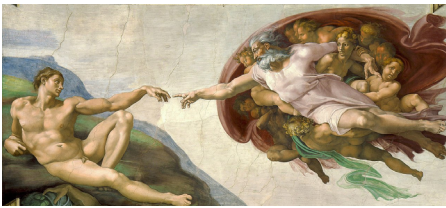
Some believers study the Bible through systems like ‘Read through the Bible in a whole year’ and they follow a prescribed pre set course which takes them through the whole Bible in exactly one year. Many people enjoy this way to know the Bible.

As we also grow in faith, we realise that some books are more generally relevant than others, although at the same time, **ANY BOOK or chapters of**

a book can be super relevant if God directs you by the Holy Spirit to read that book or chapter. Nothing is unimportant in the Bible. Not even one word! Praise the Lord.

But, for what it is worth, I still would like to share a simple paragraph or so about each of my favourite books, and I feel confident some of them will be the same as yours. Please feel free to make your own lists if you wish.

Here are mine in chronological order. Starting with the Old Testament of course.



1. **Genesis.** Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It covers important topics such as: the Creation of the World and the Universe, and Adam and Eve, the temptation of Eve and the fall of man and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden by God.

It talks about Noah and the great Flood, his descendents and the building of the tower of Babel. The ‘first father of faith’ Abraham and then Isaac his son, and Jacob and finally Joseph and his time in Egypt where he rose to be the second ruler. Joseph’s storage granaries and his actual tomb and inscriptions have all been discovered in Egypt!



2. **Ruth.** well that’s a long time from Genesis to Ruth, but this is because the short book of Ruth, only four chapters, focuses our minds on the marriage between Ruth, the Moabite and Boaz, the wealthy man in Bethlehem, the place where Jesus Christ would be born. Ruth, we can say was a righteous and kind woman and God grafted her in to the family tree of the Messiah! Boaz and Ruth were also grandparents of (King) David. She is the woman who spoke the famous phrase we use today; ‘until death do us part’. However she said it to her mother-in law! A good

example for all godly daughters-in-law to say to their godly mothers in law!



3. **1 Samuel.** This is the first full book describing the long and tumultuous history of the Jewish Kings, the 'Children of Israel', the people of Judaea and so much more. This long book documents the rise of King David from being a shepherd boy and the youngest son in a large family (from Bethlehem). Some other kings are mentioned in this book, and we begin the learning process of all the good or evil things some of them did, including King Saul and his long 'WAR' AGAINST David, and also the famous story of David and Goliath is in this book! As it says in the New Testament; 'Now all these things happened unto them for examples.....

1 Corinthians 1:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.



4. **Job.** We wrote two special editions about dear Job, someone who suffered greatly in his life and his final overcoming, which caused him to be richer, greater and wiser than he ever was in the beginning, which was quite rich already! The devil wanted to do something to test some human and God was so proud

of Job's righteous life, that he said to Satan; 'have you considered My servant Job?...' Job's message of faith during severe trials has resonated across thousands of years and encouraged millions of people!

5. **Psalms.** The book of 150 Psalms or hymns/songs, many composed by King David and his generation, point us to God to love Him and trust in Him fully. **There are hundreds of verses in Psalms worth memorising, both verses and whole chapters. Some psalms even contain prophetic words about the coming Messiah (Jesus Christ) and events in the Millennium, far into the future.** Possibly we could say Psalms is the most important book in the Old Testament, because if you only had the Book of Psalms, it would guide you into true fellowship with God and His Son and the Spirit. As the Indian man once said, who had been given a copy of the psalms when he was young and later was given a copy of the New Testament when he was older: 'all these years I have been walking by starlight (The Psalms) but now I am walking under daylight!' But the starlight was enough to keep him in the faith for four decades.

6. **Proverbs.** Is the book that immediately follows Psalms, and a great deal of it was apparently written by King Solomon, the son of King David. **Great and deep advice is available to the hungry soul who studies the Proverbs carefully and with prayer.**



7. **The Song of Solomon.** I hope

you will research this book of hidden meanings. What is this short book? Just a love story and a yearning for the man or a desire for the woman? Or does it contain much greater depth, such as the desire of Christ for his bride and the spiritual love making and spiritual connections that would help us survive on this earth much better, if we implemented its meanings! Certainly many great Christian mystics and men and women of God believe this to be the case.

8. **Isaiah.** Isaiah was called by God in a truly supernatural way! No true believer can really read Isaiah chapter 6 verses 1-9 and not be deeply moved! Isaiah was faithful to the Lord for many decades, preaching an unpopular message, prophesying against his own nation, other neighbouring and far-flung nations. The accuracy of his prophecies are 100% except the ones that still remain to be fulfilled in the Millennium and even beyond! He spoke a lot about the Messiah to come and gave advice and rebuke individually to various kings and other leaders of his day! He helped save his nation from destruction by the Assyrians and guided King Hezekiah through difficult times. The world needs another Isaiah, just as it needs another...

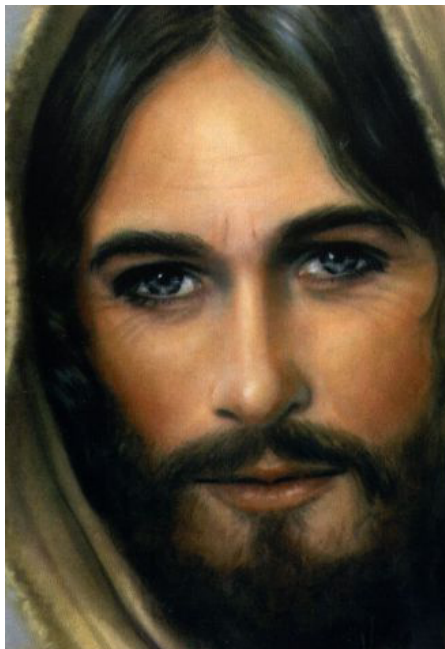


9. **Jeremiah.** The book of

'beautiful warnings! The most amazing prophet called by God as a young boy and ordained to be a prophet to the nations. Read his calling and talk with God in chapter 1. Jeremiah went on to 'oversee' in a sense the destruction of Israel and Jerusalem which he prophesied for some decades. His warnings were not heeded by the Jewish people and many of them were subsequently taken as slaves to Babylon. The Book of Jeremiah has many beautiful warnings and spoken with great force and sincerity. Despite imprisonment and many threats, Jeremiah actually survived the Babylonian takeover and was regarded as a good man by the Babylonian leadership! Many people believe his book contains the same warnings God has for the world of today!



10. **Daniel.** The book of Daniel has tremendous stories and visions and dreams in its 12 chapters! The Lord and angels prophesied through him about the world empires that would shortly come to pass, and his visions and dreams also told about the Antichrist, the very last days of mankind. All Christians today should know the book of Daniel if they hope to be prepared for the terrible days of the end. The visions and prophecies of Daniel match exactly with some of those in the Book of Revelation. Daniel was taken to Babylon during the fall and destruction of Jerusalem. He lived there and served under three different king and empires, and it seems therefore that he must have lived into his 80's. In this book we also find the famous message of the 'Handwriting on the Wall!' and the story of the 'Fiery Furnace' and the inspiring stand of faith by the three Hebrews!



New Testament

11. **Matthew.** The gospel of Matthew is 28 chapters, written by the great apostle Matthew. His Gospel contains many notable passages including the end times Jesus spoke of in chapter 24, and the 'Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount' in chapters 5-7! Many other parables and miracles are described. Matthew presents Jesus as the Jewish Messiah very clearly, his genealogy in chapter 1 is especially powerful and interesting to read. (links below)

12. **Luke.** The Gospel of Luke we can say almost the same things as Matthew. Luke is very methodical. See links below

13. **John.** The Gospel of John. John was the beloved of the Lord. He was known perhaps as having the closest relationship with him. He was also possibly the youngest of the disciples. He shares beautiful descriptions about Jesus and John the Baptist in this book and rightly and clearly shows the great struggle they both had with the religious leaders of their day. Many classic and feeding chapters are only found in his Gospel, such as chapters 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17! John wrote three epistles also and 'received the Revelation of Jesus Christ', the last book in the Bible.

14. **ACTS.** The Acts of the

Apostles. What happened to the Apostles after Jesus rose. This book, written by the Apostle Luke, goes into great details, sharing the many miracles done by Philip, Steven, Peter and John, Paul the Apostle and others. The spreading of the Word of God across the surrounding nations and its acceptance or rejection by various cities and countries and individuals. The receiving of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem and by the gentile for the very first time! Acts still is a wonderful blue print in some ways for missionaries and anyone wishing to win others to faith in Jesus.

15. **Romans.** One of many epistles (letters), written by Paul in this case, to 'new' groups of both Jewish and gentile believers across the known world. Romans continues to speak strongly to us today. The key points of the Book of Romans include salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the universal nature of sin and its consequences, the revelation of God's righteousness in the gospel, God's sovereign plan for both Jews and Gentiles, and the call to live a transformed, loving, and unified life as the community of God's people.

16. **Ephesians.** Paul's letter to the Ephesus 'churches'. I once spent three weeks just reading the first three chapters of Ephesians, and it was one of the most life-changing periods in my life! There are so many spiritual phrases and explanations that are capable of taking you out of this world and into the spirit world. I highly recommend people to pray earnestly and then read this book in at least two translations, one of which should be an amplified version, to uncover the very original meanings of some of these phrases!

17. **Hebrews.** No one is really sure who wrote the Epistle of Hebrews. Hebrews contains a great variety of messages; Receiving the rest of God through faith. The divine importance of Jesus Christ, and how everything created and all humans and angels has now been put under his authority! The 'doctrine' of the High Priest, and Jesus Christ being

High Priest, and Jesus Christ being the High Priest. The mention of Melchizedek! The famous 40 verse chapter about 'Faith'. Chastening, and the importance of obedience to God, separation from the world and encouragement to follow the life of Christ. What more can you ask for in one book!?

18. James. While James only covers 5 chapters, it has always been about my favourite epistle. Dear James, the kind and loving and yet bombastic disciple. A man not afraid to call a spade a spade, or sin a sin! If you had a pastor like James, you would be thriving for Christ. James loved the poor, and has a great many messages in this book. The damage the tongue can cause, the 'evil' rich, the evil or favouritism in the body of Christ, wars and lusts and so much more. Take a week to meditate and pray over James and your life will truly never be the same! Praise the Lord.

19 1 John. Dear John, whom we have already mentioned, has written three letters/ epistles. This first one explains a lot about Love, Jesus, the forgiveness of sins, love for God and each other brother and sister. John again like he did in his gospel, cuts clearly through to the heart of our faith-Love!

20. The Revelation to John. Admired by millions of people, who were also struck in awe down

through two thousand years is the climax of the Bible- The Book of Revelation. **Readers are warned not to add a word or letter to this book, or face eternal punishment.** Revelation begins with messages from Jesus to seven churches in Asia! Still very applicable to us today! As it continues, the book describes so much going into the future, the opening of the 'seven sealed scroll' the last seven years, the rise of the antichrist and the false prophet, the tribulation, and the spiritual events in heaven during the end time, the tribulation the wrath of God, and the final fall of 'Babylon the Great Whore'. The seven world empires which match parts of the book of Daniel. The coming of Christ at the seventh trump, the beginning of the Millennium when we reign with Christ for a1,000 years, and the **new** Jerusalem coming down from Heaven after the creation of a new heavens and a new earth! **What a finale!**

God bless you all! Enjoy God's wholesome Word, in whatever way He shows you.

Until next week!

Jerry and the WCF Team.

OPEN THOU MINE EYES, THAT I MAY
BEHOLD WONDROUS THINGS OUT
OF THY WORD.PSALM 119:18

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