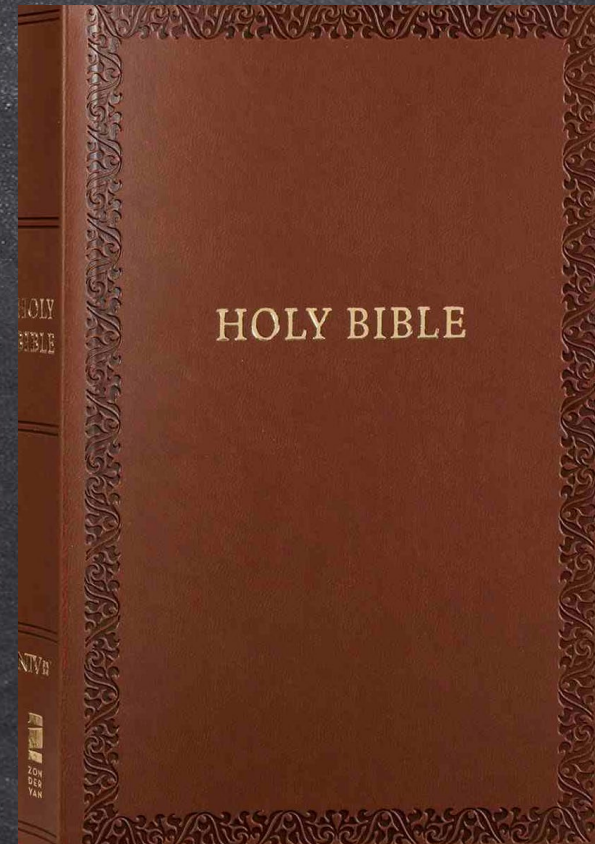


How to Read the Bible

Part 1: What is the Bible?

All-time Best Seller

- 5-7 billion copies sold and distributed
- Translated into 2,000 languages
- Print, online, audio



American Bible reading stats (2021)

- 181 million Americans opened a Bible
- 1/3 at least once a week
- 1/6 read daily

The Barna logo consists of the word "Barna" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

We know we should
read the Bible, but how?

What is the Bible?

- A collection of 66 books
- Written over more than 1500 years
- About 40 human authors
- The inspiration of the Holy Spirit

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"

- 2 Tim 3:16

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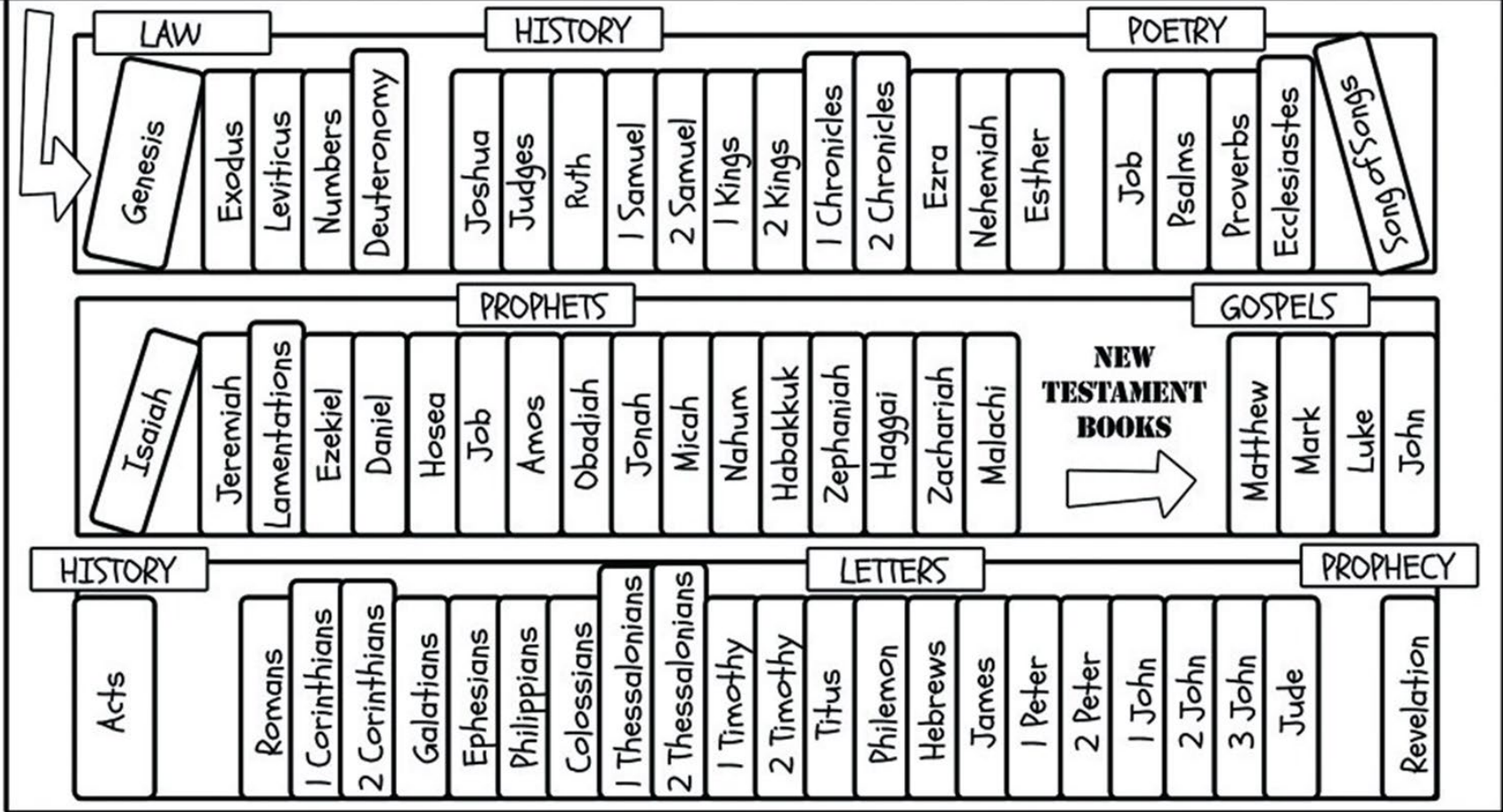
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- "Testament" = Covenant
- The Bible's primary concern is how we can have a relationship with God.

"The Old Testament is the
New Testament concealed,
and the New Testament is
the Old Testament revealed."

Books of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

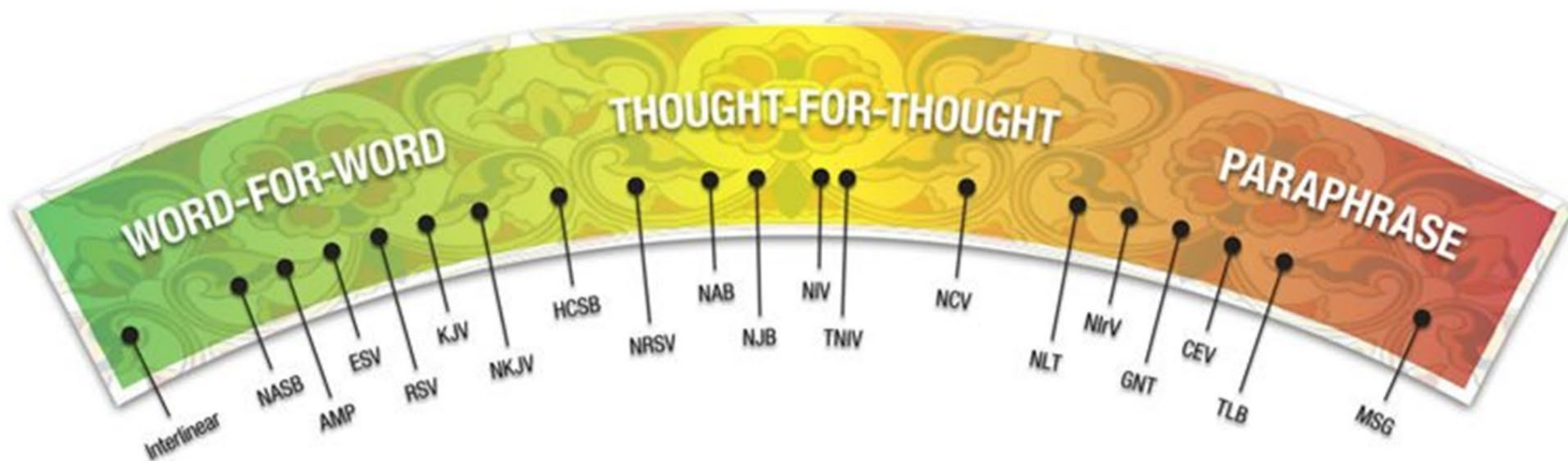


The Incarnational Analogy

- Jesus is 100% God and 100% human
- The Bible is 100% divine and 100% human
- Jesus is the "Word made flesh" (John 1)



Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
ESV - English Standard Version
RSV - Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NIV - New International Version
TNIV - Today's New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation

NirV - New International Reader's Version
GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
MSG - The Message

3 Steps to Studying the Bible

1. Observation - What does the passage say?
2. Interpretation - What does the passage mean?
3. Application - Who is God calling me to be?
What is God calling me to do?

Observation

- Who/what/where/when?
- Key words/phrases
- Ideas/concepts
- Genre: Poetry, narrative, epistle, etc.

Interpretation

- "A text cannot mean now what it couldn't mean then."
- Context
- Cross references - Use scripture to interpret scripture
- Culture

Application

- What does the passage say about my relationship with God? With others? With myself?
- How does this passage change/challenge/inspire the way I think?
- What I should I do or become?

Matthew 5:29-30

"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

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