**Introduction**

This document is dedicated to people who are interested in how to begin reading the Bible, comprehending the information or message in the books of the bible, and learning about Christianity.

The skills you can learn from this document can be transferred to any other work of literature or jobs such as: Homeschooling, Working at a library or teaching a kid how to read.

This document will also cover how to get into Christian Apologetics as well.

[!] = section being edited

# **Step 1: Background Inspection**

 Ask background questions such as:

 •What is this book about?

 •How should this book be read, and is it part of a series of books?

This is important, because the Old Testament or the Tanakh is divided into three sections, and you will not understand certain books like the Book of Job until you realize it's part of a trio of books called the “Books of Wisdom”, is the last book in the series, and it’s message won’t be revealed until you read book one and two which are Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes respectively

•The Torah or the first five books of the Old Testament which covers Mosaic Law, and teaching.

•The Nevi’Im which covers prophecy, and the lives of the prophets such as : Book of Isaiah, and Book of Jonah

•the Ketuvim which covers literature of the Israelites such as the: Song of Solomon, Book of Psalms, Lamentations.

Note: The book of Daniel the most prophetic book of the Bible is part of the Ketuvim, and not the Nevi’im

 •What is the context of when this book was written?

 •What are the concordances of this book?

 •What are the roots or definitions of words in this book?

# **Step 2: Reading Tier and Form**

Now the next thing to do after asking these questions is deciding how you will decipher these books, and to do that you must pick a “Reading-Form”.

These reading-forms are:

## •**Elementary Inspections [Beginner Level]**

This form is the most simple, even a child could do this one.

 In this form you are looking for symbols in a book such as: the four trees in the Garden of Eden being a prophecy about Christ, you record these symbols on a piece of paper so you can see how they are referenced later in a book, say them out loud, and turn them into a sentence

You would want to use this form when interpreting the parables, prophecies, and the like.

## •**Inspectional Inspections [Intermediate Level]**

This form is like skimming through a book to get a general idea of what you are getting into. You would read the prefacing of a book, the table of contents, index, glossary or you would read, but not question the arguments, no note-taking.

You choose this method, because it's fast, and to help decide if this book is worth reading for you.

## •**Analytical Inspections [Advanced Level]**

This form is the one you want to use if you want to learn life lessons, and apply the book to real life activities.

In this form you will:

•Classify books according to their subjects, like how the Tanakh is split into the Torah, Nevi’im, Ketuvim, and how the New Testament is split into Gospels and Pauline Epistles.

•Explain what the book is in simple terms in other words; a summary. When you are able to summarize the book this shows you are beginning to understand the book. Summarize the book to your friends, and families or start discussions with people. Try the Feynman-Learning technique to begin learning this form.

•Break down the book into its main points, and arguments,and try to connect it to the point above. Like in the Book of Ecclesiastes or the “most-depressing book in the Bible” King Solomon is making an argument against hedonism.

•Understand the problems or questions the author is trying to solve. An example of this would be in the Book of Job, one of the books of wisdom. In this book God is trying to help fix Jobs' warped view of God. Job views God as a “prosperity machine”, and God is helping him not to place value on material goods, but on spiritual goods.

This form would be used when reading The Ketuvim, parables, and the like.

This form is enough to understand the book, but not the subject the book is about, and we must train this skill so we can reach the next stage.

## •**Synoptical Inspections [Master Level]**

In this form you will be reading multiple books on a subject, and comparing them to come to your own conclusions. This is like reading multiple news articles to form an opinion on an event.

## •Find relevant passages or arguments in each book

## •Summarize, and translate the ideas or jargon in these books into a more understandable language that you can comprehend.

## •Come up with questions, and see how these authors attempt to answer them. You may not get answers for your questions, because the authors may have thought it was obvious or simply did not think about it.

## •Now that you have a list of opposing answers to your questions it's time to compare them to see which one is the most logical, and time to make an informed opinion on this subject.

Reading the Bible will require you to incorporate all four forms, and you should be able to tell when it's time for each to be used.

[There is a man named Jonathan Pageau who is exceptional at all these stages, and is able to go more in depth about this than I am.](https://www.youtube.com/c/JonathanPageau/videos)

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# **Step 3: First Time**

This section will address what order you should read scripture, or what Testament you should begin with.

If you are reading scripture for the first time I would suggest reading with a more spiritually mature Christian like a pastor or priest to help you, because they would understand the context of certain books in theory for example.

Now, for which Testament to read first?

I would say start off with the New Testament before reading the Old Testament.

I say read the New Testament before the Old, because the Old Testament is incredibly dense, full of prophecies, concordances, symbolism, etc.

When you read the New-Testament you will develop a Christian worldview, Christian way of thinking, see the prophecies being fulfilled, and you will understand the symbolism being used in the Old Testament, because the New Testament frequently references the Old Testament, and we see this in Christ’s teachings alongside Saint Paul's teachings.

But the cons to reading the New Testament first is that some of it doesn’t make sense, because the Old Testament is the context to the New. For example it seems like Jews hate Samaritans for no reason in the New Testament until you learn in the Old Testament that Jews were forced to mix with the Samaritans during their diaspora, and they hate them for not being true members of the Tribe of Judah.

So the Old Testament is like the prequel to the New Testament in summary.

I would start with reading the gospels, specifically the Gospel of Mark, because it is the shortest gospel, and does a great job at summarizing the life of Christ. After reading the Gospel of Mark you read Saint Paul's letters to the Romans which develops your understanding of Christian Theology, and world-view.

After reading both the Gospel of Mark, and Letter to Romans you may read the rest of the gospels, Pauline Letters, and eventually start the Old Testament.

# **Step 4 : Apologetics [!]**

This section will cover what apologetics is, and how to get into apologetics.

Apologetics is a subset of Christian Theology dedicated to defending objections to Christianity through rational arguments, writings, and so on.

It's good to learn apologetics as a Christian in order to bring people to the faith, and defend your beliefs. So, I have constructed a list of apologists in order to help raise people in the faith. [Keep in mind that you will also have to read books as well, so I have constructed a list for that as well.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K-Dqv7f37XuPn6XrKlTfTqiBvMzLXvl0-f2ixO80xK0/edit?usp=sharing)

Recommended Apologists:

## **Beginner Level:**

Frank Turek/ CrossExamined

C.S. Lewis/Mere Christianity

Catholic Answers

Baltimore Catechism 1-2

## **Intermediate Level:**

Baltimore Catechism 3

New Testament

Fisheaters

Church Fathers [ ]

## **Advanced Level:**

Jay Dyer/JaysAnalysis

Reason & Theology

G.K Chesterton/Heretics

William Lane Craig

Old Testament

Church Fathers [ ]

## **Master Level:**

Church Fathers[ ]

# **Feedback Form**

<https://tinyurl.com/4pcs5ajj>

If that does not work try this link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUDuyuHGjKC0pJdJvaLarHBqUn3LLhlQ-IQoNO6Pb9jhjkNw/viewform