

“I’m New to the Bible—Where Should I Start?”

By: David Sproule

The Bible is a big book. My personal Bible has almost 1,100 pages of two columns of 9-point text size, with over 700,000 words. Yes, it’s a big book. It’s not as big and complicated as some medical textbooks, but some folks treat it like it is. Still, it’s not a short story novel either.

Because it is a book big, it can be rather intimidating for folks who have never read it before (and even for some folks who have read it or have tried reading it). And that anxiety or uncertainty can sometimes cause us to avoid reading it or to make it harder than it actually is. As a result, folks will often ask, “Where should I start?”

That’s an interesting question on the surface. With any other book, if someone asked where to start, we might think them strange. “Where do you start nearly every other book on the planet? Page 1.” But the question may be asked for a variety of reasons. First, someone may ask because they are familiar enough with the Bible to know that there are different “parts” to it—two main sections, with 66 sub-sections. That may tell them that it might be beneficial or acceptable to start somewhere other than the first page. Or, someone may ask that question because they could be looking for a shortcut, thinking that someone who has read the Bible might be able to give them some insider information. Whatever the reason that the question is asked, I always enjoy hearing it.

My initial response is sometimes, “There’s no wrong place to start.” That might catch some people off guard, and others might disagree heartily. While I would not personally recommend this, I once heard of someone who answered the question by telling folks, who had never read the Bible before, to read the book of Revelation first. I get it—it’s fun to read “the end” of the book first to know where everything is going. But without some kind of Biblical foundation and recognition of Biblical terminology, that might be a particularly difficult place to start.

Could someone start on page one, read it from cover to cover, and benefit greatly from such? Of course! And that is probably the way that the majority of folks would do it. God put the books in order, so it would make sense to read them that way. What about starting with the New Testament first? Would that be a good place to start? What about reading Psalms and Proverbs first?

The answer to any of these places to start is YES! The main thing is to START! After that, the main thing is to KEEP GOING! It’s not a race! There is no minimum! Read it, remembering that ALL of it is God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and that He wrote it for you (Matt. 22:31). Enjoy it! (more next week)

Flood Deaths in Nepal and Arizona

By: Selected

In the past few days, the news has so graphically depicted the devastation in two separates areas of the earth.

In the mountainous area of Nepal, part of a glacier broke away from the rest of it. Whether it was caused by a small earthquake or not is immaterial. Shortly afterward in the amazing terrain of Nepal, the valleys were filled with a wall of water that crashed down from the heights. The wall of water, ice and mud was over 300 feet high. It was traveling at 105 mph. The exact number of deaths may never be known for it left behind a valley where the mud was five feet high.

More recently, there was a flood in part of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. It was the result of just one inch of rain which flowed into the canyon and the water rose over nine feet in one hour. Those who were camping beside the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon were trapped. While the total number who were killed is meaningless compared to the thousands who died in Nepal, it does show what can happen so suddenly when there is a flood.

Neither of these are worthy to be compared to what happened in the time of Noah. No one knows the topography of the earth before the flood, but it all changed as Noah was in the ark. In the creation, the Bible speaks of the firmament and the water above and below the firmament. How could a worldwide flood come in just forty days of rain? Part of the answer perhaps lies in the total amount water that was above the earth, both above and below the firmament.

The Bible mentions another source. It speaks of the day the flood began and says, "On that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were open. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights" (Gen. 7:11-12). It then says, "...the waters prevailed and greatly increased...and prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days" (Gen. 7:18, 24). I am not sure how much water was in the "fountains of the great deep," and I have no idea of how much water was above and below the firmament. The water began rising as the rain began, but it increased for 110 days after the rain stopped.

If an inch of rain in Arizona can produce rushing water nine feet high, imagine how much water there was in Noah's day. A wall of water in Nepal 300 feet high amazes us, but it is nothing compared to what Noah saw.

Do not ever overlook the reason for the flood. God cannot allow evil to go on and on. There is another time before us when God's judgment will come. The first judgment was water; the next judgment will be fire! Think about it!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly youth devotional after evening services at the Cammock home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Wesley Taylor, Cody McCoy's barber, who just had hernia and esophogus surgery.

Eddie Serenil as he returns back to work after his health struggles.

Tomas Guinan, Krista Lehtinen's nephew, who has another lump on his stomach. We prayed for him a few years back when he had cancer.

David Guinan, Tomas' dad and Krista's brother-in-law who had heart surgery recently is having some difficulties.

Kelly Cannady's mother passed away last week. She as gone to Virginia to be with family.

Steve Randle will have knee surgery on Thursday.

Service Roster

Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jake Jacobs
Song Leader Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Randy D'Herde

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Billy York
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Genesis Williams

Opening Prayer..... Benny Horton
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Bryce Dolan/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader Genesis Williams
Devotional..... James Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion..... Katy McCoy

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Sabrina Gonzalez..... Sept. 17

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class meets at 10am here in the fellowship hall. They will be studying "Women of the Bible."

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido—Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is
for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.
Psalm 30:5 NKJV

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 6, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....90
P.M. Worship.....54
Wednesday Worship.....70

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Trey Jenkins &
Daniel Owens
Home of Recovery and Restoration
India Mission Works
The Manna Project <https://mannafarm.org/>

midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.