

## HOW TO READ AND NOT MISUNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

- 1 Do not think that you are the first to understand God's message and that there were no true Christians before you. This would be the way to have one more founder of those strange sects.
- 2 Do not think that whatever word of God you may find in the Bible has been said straight to you to solve your problem this very day. Each word was given by God to people living under concrete circumstances. Think of what their problem was and what God wanted them to understand. Then you may ask: What light does this message shed on the present time and circumstances?
- 3 God taught his people for more than fifteen centuries from Abraham to the apostles, and he did not teach everything from the beginning. Do not wander, then, that Moses and even the Prophets ignored important things we are told of by the witness of Jesus who is the Word of God.
- 4 From the very first message which God gave his people, he had in mind the coming of his Son and the mystery of his cross and resurrection. All is to be understood in this light.
- 5 In the Bible, the most important things are taught clearly. However, some pages that actually have little to teach us were written in a sophisticated way according to an old literary style. Do not cling to some strange sentences to the point of forsaking what is clear and fundamental.
- 6 Read your Bible continually, not to learn what you do not know yet, but as a proof of your love and faithfulness to God. If you persevere, he shall give you the understanding of everything.

There are 73 Books in the HOLY BIBLE (46 books in the Old Testament containing 1,068 chapters, 27 books in the New Testament, containing 260 chapters. Total 1,328 Chapters).

### The New Testament Includes

**THE FOUR GOSPELS.** The word Gospel means Good News. These are the books in which Jesus' apostles wrote what they had seen and learned from him.

The book of the **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES** written by Luke who is also the author of the third Gospel follows.

Then, there are more than twenty **LETTERS** which the apostles addressed to the first Christian communities.

### The Old Testament Includes

**HISTORICAL BOOKS.** Here we see God's action in human history in order to liberate a people he wants to make his own. We see God teaching this people and giving meaning to their national history. Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy and the books of Samuel stand out among these books.

**PROPHETIC BOOKS.** God intervenes in history through his prophets whom he entrusted the task of communicating his word.

**WISDOM BOOKS.** They highlight the importance of an individual's formation and efforts in order to become a responsible person and a believer.

<http://www.seraphim.my/bible>