

**KEYSTONE MANUALS. TEACHER-  
TRAINING ESSENTIALS: FIRST  
STANDARD COURSE; PART II.  
CONTAINING SECTION ON THE  
BIBLE**

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**H. E. TRALLE**

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## KEYSTONE MANUALS

# TEACHER-TRAINING E S S E N T I A L S

*FIRST STANDARD COURSE*

*By*

H. E. TRALLE, M. A., Th. D.

Professor of Religious Pedagogy, Hardin College  
Author of "Sunday School Experience"

**Part II**

*Containing Section on THE BIBLE*

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## LESSON I

## THE TEACHER'S SOURCE-BOOK

IN the preceding twenty-five lessons the Sunday-school has been considered *in its relation to the pupil*. In these twenty-five lessons the Bible will be considered *in its relation to the teacher*.

1. *Its variety*. The Bible is a library of many kinds of books. It contains a *large and complex literature*, in poetry and in prose—songs and sermons, proverbs and parables, essays and elegies, epics and epistles, odes and orations, riddles and rhapsodies, lyrics and love-stories, the historical and the hortatory, the dramatic and the didactic. The Bible is the great source-book of pedagogical materials for the Sunday-school teacher.

The Jews counted our Old Testament books as twenty-two, instead of thirty-nine, regarding the twelve minor prophets as one, and also combining other books. We are accustomed to say that the Bible contains *sixty-six books*—thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament—but there are really more than sixty-six, for some of these are made up of smaller books and tracts.

The word *Bible* means "the books." It comes to us from the Greek through the Latin, along with "paper," from papyrus, or *byblus*, the name of a reed, the pith of which was widely used in antiquity as the material from which books were made.

2. *Its divisions*. The Bible does not divide itself, and does not name its divisions as we now have them. The

terms Old Testament and New Testament have interest and value, but they were not used in the present meanings until long after all the books of the Bible were written. The word "Testament" came to us from the Latin *testamentum*, of which the original, both in Greek and Hebrew, means *covenant*.

The Old Testament is so called because it embodies the Scriptures produced under the old, or Jewish, covenant, being "primarily the written record of the origin, terms, and history of the solemn agreement which existed between the Israelitish nation and Jehovah," and the New Testament is so called because it was produced under the new, or Christian, covenant. The usage grew out of the phrases "a new covenant" and "the old covenant," which are found in 2 Corinthians 3 : 6, 14.

The *names of our sixty-six books of the Bible* have a certain value, but the names are not a part of the original writings, for the writers themselves did not name their books. The writer of Genesis, for instance, did not call his writing "Genesis." So with the other books. These brain children of the inspired writers were named by editors and compilers long after the death of those who begot them.

It is the same with the *chapter and verse divisions* in our Bible. These are of comparatively recent origin, and are not to be regarded as a part of the original writings. They did not come into existence until about the middle of the sixteenth century of our era, long after the last of the Bible books were written. The chapter and verse divisions as we have them are a great convenience, and are on the whole well done, but there are many mistakes in them. Frequently a division breaks into the thought and obscures the meaning of the passage. This may be seen in the paragraph arrangement of our later versions.

In the matter of the *division of words* too, and of *punctuation*, the same thing is true. These are of much later