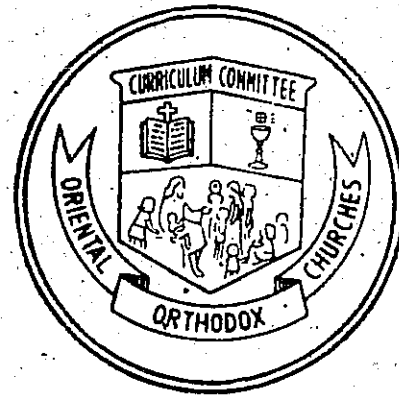


GOD'S STORY



LATER PRIMARY
DEPARTMENT

STANDARD IV
STUDENTS' TEXT



Christian Nurture Series
prepared by the Editorial Committee
authorised by the Standing Committee
OF
THE ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES

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Unit: 1 GOD'S BOOK

Aim: To teach the child to handle the Bible as a book and to see its use in the worship of the Church.

Lesson 1.

Books Of The Bible

(2 Tim. 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:19,21)

Everyday we read the Holy Bible at home. The Bible is not a single book but a collection of books. It was written and handed over to us through centuries. Some of its writers were prophets; some were kings and some were disciples of Jesus. But behind the writers stands the Holy Spirit of God.

God has revealed Himself from time to time to those who loved Him. Those men of God who received



this revelation from God and those who heard it from them wrote it down. Their visions included the creation of the universe, the origin of mankind, the beginning of sin, suffering in the world and God's way of salvation. As the Holy Bible is written with the help and guidance of God, it is known as the holy writings or 'God's Book'.

This Book which gives the account of the long history of mankind is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The history of God's dealings upto Jesus Christ is in the Old Testament and His acts in Christ are in the New Testament.

In the Old Testament there are books of Law such as Genesis and Exodus. Judges and Kings are books of history. Psalms and Proverbs are poems. Isaiah and Jeremiah are among the 15 prophetic books.

God created man in His own image. Man lived with God in joy and peace. But when he disobeyed God, he lost his fellowship with God. Thus sin and death entered the creation. But God did not forsake man. To liberate man from sin, God sent His Son to this world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, identified Himself with the sufferings of man. He died for us on the Cross of Calvary, rose from the dead and conquered death.

The New Testament tells us this history of Salvation. Of the twelve disciples of Jesus, Mathew, John, Peter, James and Jude have written books which are included in the New Testament. Mathew has written a Gospel. John has written a Gospel, three Epistles and the Book of Revelation. Epistles written by Peter, James and Jude are also included in the New Testament. A good portion of the New Testament is formed by the Epistles written by St. Paul. He wrote 14 Epistles.

Text for Memorization

Mt. 4:4

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'.

Activity

Learn by heart Psalm-1

Some More About The Holy Bible

We have learned that the Holy Bible has two main divisions. The Bible contains 73 books, 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Bible which we use now contains only 66 books. The books namely Tobit, Judith, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, The Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach and Baruch are the Old Testament books not included.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are the first five books of the Old Testament. They are together called the 'Books of Moses'. The first book, 'Genesis' contains 50 chapters. We can read the story of creation in the first two chapters. The account of the flood during the time of Noah is in the 7th chapter. From the 12th chapter onwards the story of Abraham and his family is told.

In the book of Exodus we read how Moses delivered the Israelites from Egypt. The ten commandments, God gave to Israel are recorded in the 20th chapter.

In the books of history we see the accounts of the judges, priests, prophets and kings who led Israelites. In the Old Testament there are many poems. The Book of Psalms contains 150 lovely hymns. Psalm 23 is very famous. The proverbs of Solomon are moral teachings. The books of prophets revealed the will of God to man. The coming of Messiah is foretold in many prophecies. The prophet Joel is the most important among those who prophesied about the Spirit of God. The love of God is exposed in the book of Hosea and the justice of God is revealed in the Book of Amos.

In the New Testament there are four Gospels written by Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. These books contain the life history and teachings of Jesus Christ. The famous 'Sermon on the Mount' is included in St. Mathew chs. 5-7. The story of 'The Good Samaritan' is seen in St. Luke chapter 10 and the story of the 'Prodigal Son' in chs. 15.

The 'Acts of the Apostles' speaks mainly about the activities of the Apostles and the early Church. In chapter 2 we read about the Holy Spirit coming on the Apostles. The martyrdom of Stephen is recorded in chapter 7 and the conversion of Paul in chapter 9.

There are 13 Epistles of St. Paul and 7 General Epistles written by Apostles of Jesus. The last book of the Bible is 'the book of Revelation'. It contains the revelation to St. John, while he was in the island of Patmos.

Text for Memorization.

Ps. 23:1,2.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."

Activities

1. Learn by heart Psalm. 100
2. Find out the Bible portion in which David killed Goliath.

Questions:

1. Give the names of the Epistles written by St. Paul.
2. Who are the authors of the General Epistles?

Lesson 3

Bible In Worship

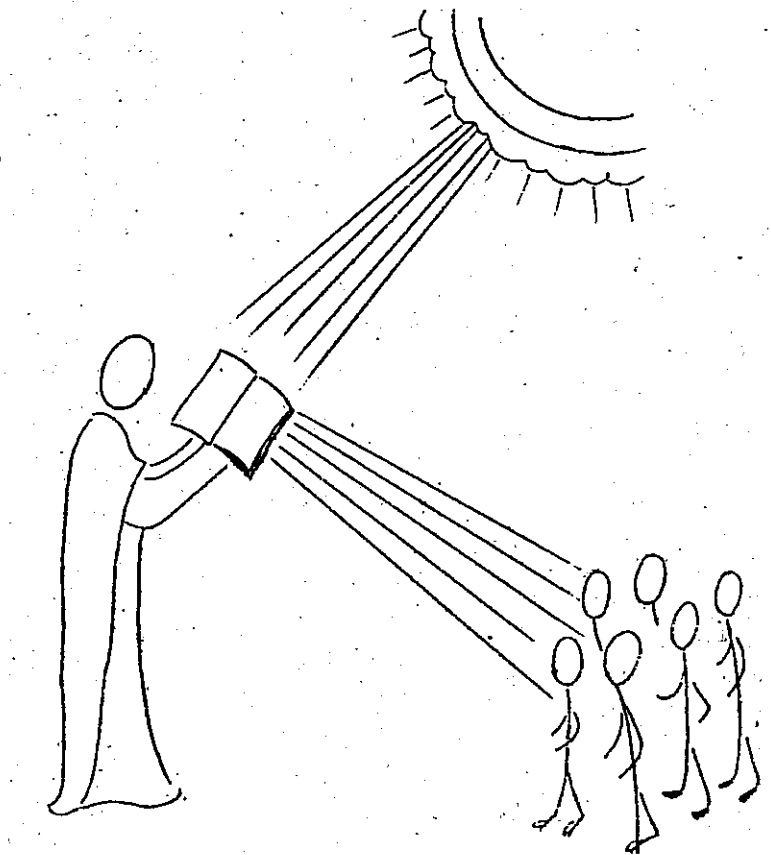
There is an important place for the Bible in our worship. Most of our prayers are full of Biblical passages. The Holy Fathers used to pray 7 times a day. Those are evening, bed time, midnight, morning, the third hour, noon and the ninth hour.

We begin all our prayers with the 'Kauma.' The portion "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory, Hosanna in the highest" comes from Isaiah 6:3. 'Our Father who art in heaven', the prayer which our Lord taught the disciples is recorded in Mathew 6:9-13. 'Hail Mary, full of grace' is formed from the verses 1:28, 42, 43 of Luke.

We use many of the psalms in our prayers. The psalm 51 is used in the morning prayer. Psalms 91 and 121 are used in the evening prayer. 'Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory be to thee O! God' is the praise of God taken from Revelation 19:1,3,4,6.

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit," this part of the Sermon on the Mount and "My soul magnifies the Lord", the beginning of Song of Mary are repeated in many passages of our prayer.

In the Holy Qurbana and other Sacraments the Bible is profusely used. Relevant portions from the Bible are read during Holy Qurbana and other Sacraments. The famous prayer of prophet Elijah (I kings 18:37) "Lord! answer me" is repeated thrice by the Priest in the Holy Qurbana. The prayer used for



blessing the bread and wine by the priest is also taken from the Gospel portion (Mt. 26:26-28)

In prayers, Holy Qurbana, and Sacraments we use several important portions from the Bible. Bible reading helps our spiritual growth. In our private prayers also the Bible is very useful. We should read and learn Bible everyday.

Text for Memorization

Psalm 119: 105

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Activities

1. Learn by heart Psalm 51.
2. Find out the Bible references of the Prayers used in Kauma.
3. Find out the Bible references of the hymns used in Holy Qurbana.

Unit: 2

GOD CHOOSES HIS PEOPLE

Aim: To teach the way God had chosen the people from Adam to Abraham.