

The Statistics of the Bible

Rowland Jerry Okechukwu Ekeocha¹ 

¹Formerly of the Department Mechanical Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria

Abstract: By inspiration, I read the bible three times. The first reading gives birth to the idea, the second defines the objective while the third actualizes the objective which is this write-up called the Statistics of the Bible. The scope covers the number of books 78 (51 old testament, 27 new testament), the chapters 1345 (1085 old, 260 new), the verses 36095 (28139 old, 7956 new) and average verse 27 (26 old, 31 new). By way of upgrade, the number of words may be included in subsequent edition of this version. However, the numbers of words vary according to the bible version.

Keywords: Bible Verses, Bible Chapters, Bible Books, Bible Statistics

Introduction

I read the bible three times. The first reading was in no particular order. I read two chapters daily in the second approach. The third time, I read a chapter daily. I started on the fourth of March 2017 (Saturday) with the Old Testament and ended on twenty second of February 2020 (Saturday). I continued with the New Testament on the twenty third of February 2020 (Sunday) and ended on the eighth of November 2020 (Sunday). It therefore took me 1085 days and 260 days to complete the reading of the Old and New Testaments of the bible respectively. In other words, the Old Testament consists of 1085 chapters while the New Testament contains 260 chapters. The Old Testament comprises 51 books which includes 39 Ordinary Books (925 Chapters) and 12 Deuterocanonical Books (160 Chapters). The Deuterocanonical books range from Tobit to 2nd Maccabees on Table 1. The New Testament on the other hand consists of 27 books (260 Chapters). It was during the third reading that record was created for the development of the Statistics of the Bible. The objective of the write-up therefore is to present statistics containing the books, chapters and verses of the Bible.

Methodology

In the third approach I started keeping records of the Chapters and Verses of all the books of the Bible (51

books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament). Typical records are presented as follows.

Book :	Ruth
Chapter	Verse
1	22
2	23
3	18
4	18
Total	81

Book:	1 st Peter
Chapter	Verse
1	25
2	25
3	22
4	19
5	14
Total	105

The Statistics of the Bible are developed from these records as shown in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Result

Table 1 and Table 2 are statistics for the Old and New Testaments of the bible respectively. Column 2 shows the books. Columns 3 and 4 show the chapters and total chapters respectively while Columns 5 and 6 indicate the verses and total verses respectively. Column 7 represents the average verse.



Table 1: Old Testament

S/N	Books	Chapters	Total Chapters	Verses	Total Verses	Average Verse
1	Genesis	50	50	1492	1492	29.84
2	Exodus	40	90	1223	2715	30.58
3	Leviticus	27	117	858	3573	31.78
4	Numbers	36	153	1288	4861	31.77
5	Deuteronomy	34	187	1241	6102	32.63
6	Joshua	24	211	657	6759	32.02
7	Judges	21	232	618	7377	31.80
8	Ruth	4	236	81	7458	31.60
9	1 Samuel	31	267	810	8268	30.97
10	2 Samuel	24	291	683	8951	30.76
11	1 Kings	22	313	816	9767	31.20
12	2 Kings	25	338	719	10486	31.02
13	1 Chronicles	29	367	941	11427	31.14
14	2 Chronicles	36	403	822	12249	30.39
15	Ezra	10	413	278	12527	30.33
16	Nehemiah	13	426	406	12933	30.36
17	Ester	10	436	166	13099	30.04
18	Job	42	478	1070	14169	29.64
19	Psalms	150	628	2488	16657	26.52
20	Proverbs	31	659	915	17572	26.66
21	Ecclesiastes	12	671	222	17794	26.52
22	Song of Songs	8	679	117	17911	26.38
23	Isaiah	66	745	1289	19200	25.77
24	Jeremiah	52	797	1363	20563	25.80
25	Lamentations	5	802	154	20717	25.83
26	Ezekiel	48	850	1273	21990	25.87
27	Daniel	12	862	357	22347	25.92
28	Hosea	14	876	197	22544	25.74
29	Joel	3	879	73	22617	25.73
30	Amos	9	888	146	22763	25.63
31	Obadiah	1	889	21	22784	25.63
32	Jonah	4	893	48	22832	25.57
33	Micah	7	900	104	22936	25.48
34	Nahum	3	903	47	22983	25.45
35	Habakkuk	3	906	56	23039	25.43
36	Zephaniah	3	909	53	23092	25.40
37	Haggai	2	911	38	23130	25.39
38	Zechariah	14	925	207	23337	25.23
39	Malachi	4	929	55	23392	25.18
40	Tobit	14	943	242	23634	25.06
41	Judith	16	959	338	23972	25.00
42	Ester (Greek)	16	975	270	24242	24.86
43	Wisdom of Solomon	19	994	649	24891	25.04
44	Sirach	51	1045	1384	26275	25.14
45	Baruch	5	1050	138	26413	25.15
46	Letter of Jeremiah	1	1051	73	26486	25.20
47	Song of the three young men	1	1052	68	26554	25.24
48	Susanna	1	1053	64	26618	25.28
49	Bel and the Dragon	1	1054	42	26660	25.29
50	1 Maccabees	16	1070	924	27584	25.78
51	2 Maccabees	15	1085	555	28139	25.93

Table 2: New Testament

S/N	Books	Chapters	Total Chapters	Verses	Total Verses	Average Verse
1	Matthew	28	28	1071	1071	38.25
2	Mark	16	44	678	1749	39.75
3	Luke	24	68	1151	2900	42.65
4	John	21	89	878	3778	42.45
5	Acts	28	117	1007	4785	40.90
6	Romans	16	133	433	5218	39.23
7	1 Corinthians	16	149	437	5655	39.95
8	2 Corinthians	13	162	256	5911	36.49
9	Galatians	6	168	149	6060	36.07
10	Ephesians	6	174	155	6215	35.72
11	Philippian	4	178	104	6319	35.50
12	Colossians	4	182	95	6414	35.24
13	1 Thessalonians	5	187	88	6502	34.77
14	2 Thessalonians	3	190	47	6549	34.47
15	1 Timothy	6	196	113	6662	33.99
16	2 Timothy	4	200	83	6745	33.73
17	Titus	3	203	46	6791	33.45
18	Philemon	1	204	25	6816	33.41
19	Hebrews	13	217	303	7119	32.81
20	James	5	222	108	7227	32.55
21	1 Peter	5	227	105	7332	32.30
22	2 Peter	3	230	61	7393	32.14
23	1 John	5	235	105	7498	31.91
24	2 John	1	236	13	7511	31.83
25	3 John	1	237	15	7526	31.76
26	Jude	1	238	25	7551	31.73
27	Revelation	22	260	405	7956	30.60

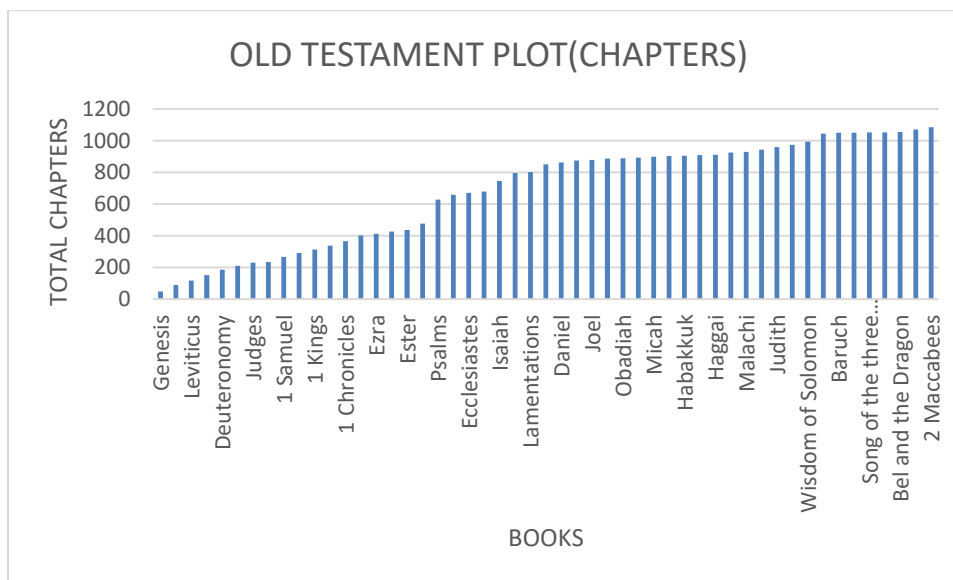


Figure 1: Plot of Old Testament Books and Total Chapters.

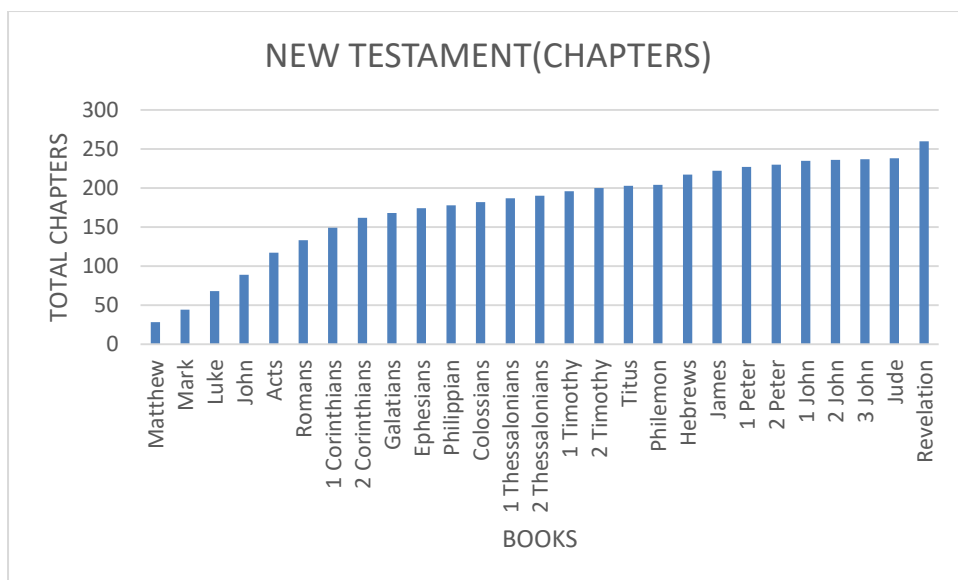


Figure 2: Plot of New Testament Books and Total Chapters.

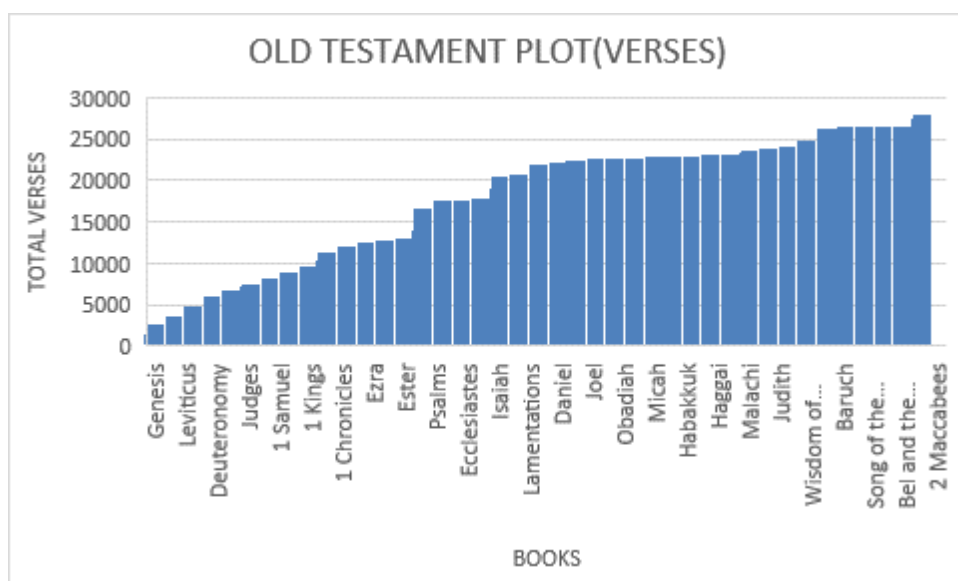


Figure 3: Plot of Old Testament Books and Total Verses

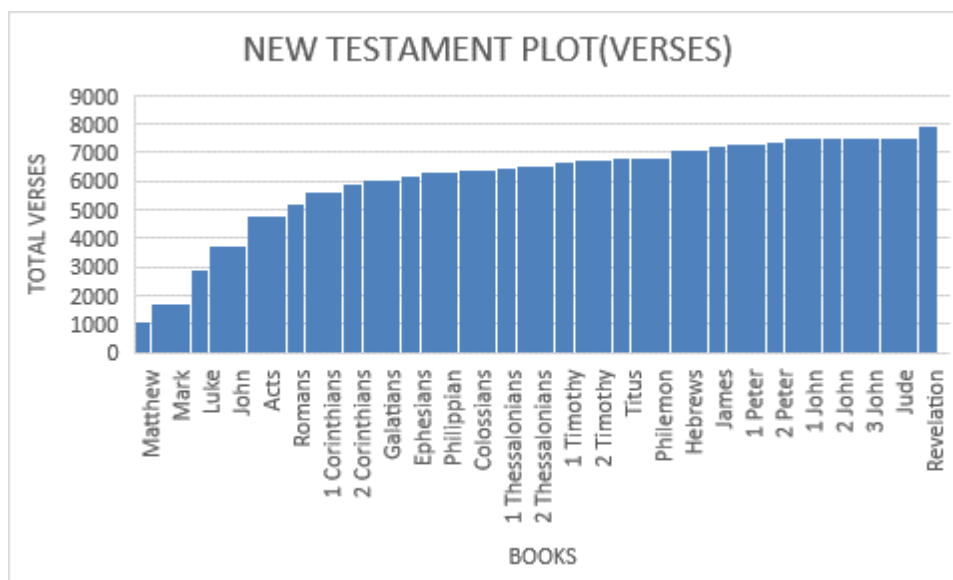


Figure 4: Plot of New Testament Books and Total Verses.

Interpretation

Total chapters indicate the cumulative number of chapters up to a particular book. For instance, the total chapters up to the book of Exodus is 90 consisting of 50 chapters for the book of Genesis and 40 chapters for the book of Exodus. Similarly, total verses up to the book of Exodus is 2715 comprising 1492 verses for the book of Genesis and 1223 verses for the book of Exodus. The average verse gives the quotient of the total verses and the total chapters. For example, the average verse of 30.58 up to the book of Exodus is the division of 2715 by 90 (the total verses and total chapters respectively up to the book of Exodus).

Discussion

As mentioned earlier, the Old Testament contains 51 books consisting of 39 Ordinary books of 925 chapters, 23337 verses and 12 Deuterocanonical books of 160 chapters, 4802 verses. The New Testament comprises 27 books of 260 chapters and 7956 verses. (Good News Bible,1979). There are three synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and the gospel of John. The four gospels contain 89 chapters and 3778 verses. Most of the books of the New Testament are written by St. Paul except the Gospels, Acts, James, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st 2nd 3rd John, Jude and Revelation. Even Hebrews is written in the style of St. Paul. The other 23 books of the New Testament, excluding the 4 Gospels, contain 171 chapters and 4178 verses. Of 51 books, 1085 chapters and 28139 verses of the Old Testament, the average number of verses is about 26 (25.93). The New Testament with 27 books, 260 chapters and

7956 verses has about 31 (30.60) as average number of verses. The bible contains 78 books, 1345 chapters, 36095 verses and 27 (26.84) average verses. Figures 1 and 2 are graphical presentations of the books and total chapters of the old and new testaments respectively. Similarly, figures 3 and 4 indicate the plot of books and total verses of the old and new testaments respectively. Notice that every book of the old testament is not reflected on the plots due to space. However, the total(cumulative) values of the chapters and verses are not affected by the omission on the plots.

Conclusion

I read the bible three times. God the Father gives me the inspiration in the first approach. God the Son, creates the path in the second reading because Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light. God the Holy Spirit perfects it in the third approach. Hence the formation and presentation of the Statistics of the Bible. Glory be to the father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end Amen. The bible comprises 78 books (51 Old and 27 New Testaments), 1345 chapters (1085 Old and 260 New Testaments), 36095 verses (28139 Old and 7956 New Testaments) and 27 average verses (26 Old and 31 New Testaments). (Good News Bible, 1979).

Reference

1. Good New Bible (with Deuterocanonical Books). Today's English Version, Imprimatur: Cardinal Basil Hume, O.S.B, Archbishop of Westminster, 25th July, 1979, Published by St. Paul's (United Bible Societies), 23rd Road TPS 111, Bandra, Mumbai 400050, India, ISBN 81-7109-563-1