

# Old Testament Survey

A Summary of the Contents and Lessons  
Contained in the Old Testament

Part of the  
**PRACTICAL DOCTRINE**  
*ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY COURSE*

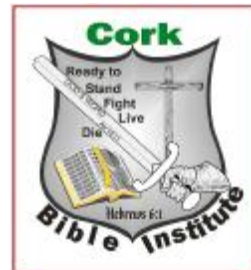
***“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us  
go on unto perfection”***  
*Hebrews 6:1*

An *Advanced* Bible Study and Discipleship Course  
for Mature Christians in Bible Institute Training

**STUDENT’S EDITION**

**Cork Bible Institute**

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## Class Requirements

Requirements To Complete This Class:

1. Keep these notes in an A4 binder.
2. Fill in the blanks in these notes.
3. Take notes during class.
4. Look up and read all the verses in the material as you read through the material.
5. T-H-I-N-K as you read this material. It will be a blessing to you, and it will also change your life.
6. Take all the Pop-Quizzes, and have a passing average score of 70%
7. Take the Final Exam, and make at least 70%
8. Complete the Class Project

Your overall score for the class will consist of the following components:

25%	Quality of notes taken
25%	Average Pop-Quiz scores
25%	Class Project
25%	Final Exam

This class will be recorded, so the sessions will be available for listening to via CD's, but they will cost €3 each.

Suggested books for your personal Library include:

Wilmington's Guide to the Bible  
Halley's or Unger's Bible Handbook  
Study of Genesis, by Pastor Craig Ledbetter  
Study of the Covenants, by Pastor Craig Ledbetter  
Study of Dispensations, by Pastor Craig Ledbetter

Class Project assigned for this course (worth 25% of your grade):

Summarize one of the following books in the Bible. You will have to write a two page paper, single spaced, describing the author, the time of writing, and the general list of events covered in the Book.

You can summarize one of the following Books: Ruth, Esther, Nehemiah, or 1 Samuel

## Preliminary Bible Information

### I. The Bible as a Whole

- A. Our Bible consists of a collection \_\_\_\_\_ books.
- B. These are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ groups of books
  - 1. The Old Covenant scriptures and the New Covenant scriptures; or, as we commonly name them, the Old and New Testaments.
  - 2. Each of these two Testaments are not in historical order, but have been laid-out according to content. In other words, the books of the Bible are grouped along with other books that speak of the same thing.
- C. The Bible is the most published book in the world of all time.
- D. It is the word of God for the heart of man. It alone has changed the ways of mans thinking and actions like nothing else.
- E. Therefore it will be the most hated object in the universe by Satan!

### II. The Old Testament

- A. **The First Books** - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
  - 1. These are called, The Pentateuch, or Torah
    - a. Pentateuch means " \_\_\_\_\_ "
    - b. Torah means " \_\_\_\_\_ " or "*teaching*."
  - 2. Who wrote the Pentateuch?
    - a. The Lord commanded \_\_\_\_\_ to write down various things; "in a book" (Ex 17:14); "write these words" (Ex 34:27)
    - b. Exodus says that " \_\_\_\_\_ wrote all the words of the Lord" (Ex 24:4); he wrote the itinerary of the exodus wanderings (Num 33:2); "Moses wrote this law" (Dt 31:9). In Exodus 24:7 it is said that Moses read the book of the covenant, which he must have just completed.
    - c. The rest of the OT bears witness to the writing of the Pentateuch by Moses. David referred to "the law of Moses" (1 Kgs 2:3). In the time of Josiah there was found in the temple the "book of the law of the Lord given through Moses" (2 Chr 34:14). Day by day Ezra read from "the book of the law of God" (Neh 8:18; cf. "the book of the law of Moses," 8:1).
    - d. In the NT, Jesus refers to "the book of Moses" (Mk 12:26; Lk 20:37) and otherwise mentions the commands or statements of Moses (Mt 8:4; 19:8; Mk 7:10; cf. Lk 16:31; 24:44). The Jews also quoted from the Torah as coming from Moses, and Jesus did not contradict them.
  - 3. What's The first Five Books All About?
    - a. Genesis deals with the fall of man and God's selection of His people, the Jews, to be the channel for His great plan of redemption.
    - b. The rest of the Pentateuch deals with Israel's deliverance from Egypt (first half of Exodus) and detailed explanation of God's Law:
      - 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ law (no longer applicable for today)
      - 2) the \_\_\_\_\_ law (still relevant for today for loving God and your neighbour).
      - 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ law (rules for how human are to govern themselves)
    - c. They are loaded with important principles for living.
- B. **The Historical Books:** Joshua to Ezra.

1. These books deal with Israel's conquest of the Promised Land and their general failure to fulfill their covenant obligations to God.
  2. Their disobedience ultimately brings God's judgment as He disperses Israel (721 BC.) and allows Judah to be taken into the Babylonian captivity for 70 years (586 BC.).
- C. **The Poetic Books:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations.
1. These books deal with a variety of life's issues.
  2. Psalms is a book of prayer and praise toward God.
  3. Proverbs deals with how to live life \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Job deals with the problem of \_\_\_\_\_ and Ecclesiastes deals with the problem of pleasure.
  5. Song of Solomon is a portrayal of married love.
  6. Lamentations features Jeremiah's laments over the fall of Jerusalem.
  7. Don't take the name "poetic" to mean not as valuable or literal as the other parts of the Bible! It just means they were written more for the heart!
- D. **The Four Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
1. These books focus on the sins of God's people, God's judgment, and the future promises of the New Covenant through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
- E. **The Twelve Minor Prophets:** Hosea through Malachi.
1. These books also denounces the sins of God's people, the means of God's judgment, and gives ultimate hope through prophecies of Christ's coming and redemptive work.

**III. The Canon of Scripture – How We Know the Bible is Complete**

**A. Definition**

1. Canon - KANON (Greek) - a measuring rule or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The term Canon of scripture means the complete collection of books which are regarded as of Divine authority. The word canon in Greek means a straight rod, rule, or measure. As applied to Scripture it means the rules by which certain books were declared to be inspired and accepted as such.

**B. Why do we need a canon of Scripture?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Criteria For Old Testament Canonicity**

1. The doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 1:21; 2Tim 3:16)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ evidence (Deuteronomy 31:24-26, Joshua 1:8, Judges 3:4).
3. Proven by \_\_\_\_\_ - New Testament quotes by Jesus Christ and others declare the Old Testament to be the Word of God, e.g. (Matthew 22:29, John 5:39, John 10:35). Many N.T. scriptures prove that the present Canon of Scripture of the O.T. was accepted in the days of Christ and the apostles (Mt. 21:42; 22:29; 23: 33; Lk. 11:51; 24:27 -32, 44; In. 5:39; 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
4. The Number Of Old Testament Books was “\_\_” in the Hebrew Cannon, 39 in English

5. The Apocryphal books - In some Bibles there is a section of up to 14 books called the Apocrypha- a group of spurious books that were rejected from our present canon of Scripture because they did not pass the tests required of inspired books:
  - a. These books are included in the apocrypha: 1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, additions to Esther, The wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch , The letter of Jeremiah, The prayer of Azariah, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, The prayer of Manassah, 1 & 2 Maccabees
  - b. They were not written or approved by a proven prophet of God
  - c. They were not recognized by the Jews, as inspired and a part of Scripture
  - d. They were not recognized or quoted by Christ and the apostles, a fact that is more striking when we realize that Paul even quoted twice from heathen poets
  - e. The last O.T. prophet predicted that the next messenger coming to Israel from God would be the forerunner of Christ (Mal. 3:1). Most of the Apocryphal books were written during the period between Malachi and Christ
  - f. Divine authority is not claimed by their authors, and by some it is virtually disowned (2 Macc 2:23; 15:38)
  - g. The books contain statements in conflict with the Bible's history
  - h. They are self -contradictory and, in some cases, clearly contradict the doctrines of Scripture
  - i. Josephus, who lived at the time of the apostles, did not regard the Apocryphal books as Scripture. He stated that the O.T. books (the ones in our present version) were the only inspired writings (see Josephus, Book I, section 8)
  - j. The Apocryphal books were not a part of the ancient versions of Scripture.
    - 1) They were first added after 300 A. D.
    - 2) The Laodicean Council in 363 A. D. rejected them as being uninspired, thus proving that by that time some were claiming inspiration for them.
    - 3) They first appeared in the Vatican Version of the 4th century. At the Council of Trent in 1546 A. D. Catholics accepted 6 of these books as inspired and added them to their modern versions of Scripture. They are: Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees
  - k. Philo and others did not regard the Apocryphal books as inspired
  - l. There is a lack of prophetic element in them; and there is an apparent imitation of the inspired O.T. books

#### **D. Inspiration of the Bible**

1. The creation of the Canon of Scripture was gradual and not created by any ecclesiastical authority.
  - a. The beginning books were written by Moses (Ex. 17:14), and then by Joshua, etc.
  - b. In David's time the office of recorder was established and detailed records were kept by all the official recorders of the kings of Israel.
  - c. The final collection of writings and the Canon of the O.T. was completed during the time of Ezra, Nehemiah (Ezra 7:6; 8:1-8).
  - d. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Sanhedrin moved to Tiberius and later to Jammia, a small town 13 mi. south of Joppa where, in 90 A.D. the Canon of the O.T. was again decided upon, the apocryphal books (most of which were written the last 3 centuries B. C.) being rejected from the Jewish Canon of Scripture.
  - e. This list of O.T. books called the Palestinian Canon has been universally accepted by the Bible-Believing and Protestant Church

#### **E. The Bible a Revelation**

1. Christianity is a revealed religion, the record being contained in the sacred Scriptures. Much of the Bible is a revelation. Man could never have known about ages of the eternal

past, Lucifer's past, the creation of the spirit and material worlds, the future eternal ages, and many other things related to God's plan for man except by direct revelation of these things through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:3; Col. 1:26; 2:3; Rev. 1:1). The many hundreds of prophecies are a direct revelation of things to come, which God alone could give (Acts 15:18; Eph. 2:7; 3:9-10; Rev. 1:1)

2. The ignorance of man regarding his origin, past, and eternal future; his lack of knowledge concerning the will of God; and the fact that all philosophers have failed to construct a complete coherent, and adequate religion these things make revelation absolutely necessary

#### F. Genuineness and Authenticity of the Bible

1. By genuineness we mean that the books of the Bible were actually written by the men whose names they bear, or that there is sufficient proof of their authorship, and that they were written at the time claimed
2. Authenticity means that the Bible relates truthfully the matters it deals with, and the contents are authentic and reflect the word of God as originally written
3. 6 proofs Bible genuine and authentic:
  - a. Claims of the Bible itself:
    - 1) The prophets of the O.T. claimed they were sent of God and that their messages were given to them by God (Lk. 1:70; Acts 3:31; 2 Pet. 1:21). Over 2,500 times the prophets claimed that God spoke by them (Isa. 8:5; Jer. 2:2; Ezek. 2:4; etc.)
    - 2) The whole Bible centres around the person and work of Jesus Christ. In the O.T. we have hundreds of predictions concerning Him, and in the N.T. we have the fulfilment and continuation of His life and ministry. He, Himself claimed to have been sent by God (In. 8:42; 7:16; 17:8). He performed miracles to confirm His mission (Acts 10:38); what He foretold came to pass and will yet come to pass. He put His seal upon the genuineness and authenticity of the O.T. (Mt. 5:17-18; 8:17; 12:40 - 42; Lk. 24:44; Jn. 5:39)
    - 3) The Bible also represents the commission of the apostles as divine. God confirmed their ministry by signs and wonders (Mk. 16:15-20; Acts 2:41-46; 5: 1-15; Heb. 2:1-4). In all their writings they confirmed the teachings of Christ; and their declaration thereof was by supernatural powers
    - 4) The testimony of the N.T. to the genuineness and authenticity of the O.T. is plain to see. The O.T. is quoted about 250 times in the N. T., and alluded to about 850 times. All O. T. books are either quoted or alluded to except Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon 2 Testimony of secular history
  - b. The events of Bible history were well known among all nations. Happenings of the N. T., having come to the knowledge of the then known world, were referred to by various secular authors of the first 4 centuries of the Christian era. Jerome, in 392 A. D., mentioned about 50 other authors as making quotations about and referring to N.T. events. They belonged to all parts of the world, but they agreed on one thing that the Jewish scriptures were genuine and authentic, referring to them as a distinct volume universally received as such. No event in ancient history can produce more than a fraction of the evidence by which the Bible in its entirety is sustained as genuine and authentic
  - c. Ancient manuscripts. No original MS. can be produced due to the perishable material written on, such as paper and vellum (skins of animals). However, because of the dry climate of Egypt and Palestine, many thousands of copies-whole books or parts thereof, have been preserved for us. It is not necessary to produce original MSS. to prove the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible any more than it would be necessary to produce the original Declaration of Independence to prove the many copies we have contain the statements of the original. Scholars are willing to admit the genuineness and authenticity of other writings if there are as many as 10 copies of



the originals to be found. On this basis the Bible can be proved genuine and authentic thousands of times Number of manuscripts:

- 1) Uncial manuscripts. All letters of uncial copies are 1 inch high; they are the oldest MSS. before the 9th century A. D.

a) Gospels	101
b) Acts; general epistles	22
c) Pauline epistles	27
d) Apocalypse (Revelation)	9
<hr/>	
e) Total.	156

- 2) Cursive manuscripts. Cursive copies are those in running hand-writing as introduced about the 9th century A. D., and used in Bible making up to the invention of the printing press, 1456 A. D.

a) Gospels	1, 420
b) Acts; general epistles	450
c) Pauline epistles	520
d) Apocalypse (Revelation)	195
<hr/>	
e) Total	2, 585

- 3) Since the catalogue of these MSS. Was made there have been many new discoveries of whole books and portions of the Bible-the Dead Sea scrolls of Isaiah and other ancient writings, for instance. Some Bible texts have been found which are at least 100 -200 years earlier than the above. Besides these Greek MSS. there are many in Syriac, Coptic, Latin, and other languages, of both testaments, some dating back to the 3rd century, B. C. In 1897 literally tons of papyri were found in the Nile valley about 120 mi. south of Cairo, thousands of pieces being written in the language of the N.T. In another discovery there were at least 1,000, 000 papyri; and of these many thousands have.. never been edited. Other collections have also been located, some dating back to 100 -600 A. D., and new discoveries are being made all the time. A recent report says that there are about 5,000 Greek MSS. of the N.T. in all, and from 20,000 to 30, 000 in other languages besides 100, 000 to 200, 000 quotations in the writings of the early church fathers. See point 5, below
- 4) Some Uncial manuscripts

- Sinaiticus or Codex Aleph, dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It was discovered by Dr. Tischendorf in the St. Catherine convent on Mt. Sinai in 1859. It contains the whole Bible adding also the Epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas, in part
- Alexandrinus or Codex A, dating back to the 5th century. It contains the whole Bible parts of Genesis, 1 Kings, Psalms, Matthew, John, and 2 Corinthians
- Vaticanus or Codex B, dating back to the 4th century. It contains almost all of O. T., and the N.T. down to Heb. 9:14
- Ephraem or Codex C, dating back to the century. It contains part of the O.T. and all the N.T. books except 2 Thessalonians and 2 John
- Bezae or Codex D, dating back to the 6th century .It is written in Greek and Latin in parallel columns and contains most of the gospels, Acts, and the epistles
- Claromontanus or Codex D, also in Greek and Latin like the Codex Bezae, and dating back to the 6th century. It contains most all the epistles Besides these there are many more dating back from the 6th to the 10th centuries which space will not permit the listing of.

- d. Lectionaries - These are collections of the gospels and epistles for reading in churches, some dating back from, the 7th to the 10th centuries. They help in determining the exact text. Of these there are more than 1, 000 of the gospels and 300 of the Acts and epistles
  - e. Patristic quotations - These are quotations of the Bible by early Christian writers- those of the first 3 centuries. They help in determining the exact text, filling the gap between the time of the apostles and the earliest MSS. of the 4th century. If the N.T. were destroyed it could be practically reproduced from these quotations of the early fathers alone. See The Ante-Nicene Fathers
  - f. Ancient versions - The many ancient versions of Scripture in many languages, dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the 12th century A. D. add much to the proof of the genuineness and authenticity of the Bible.
    - 1) Septuagint in Greek, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D.
    - 2) Persian version, 2nd century A .D.
    - 3) Samaritan Pentateuch, 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> century A. D.
    - 4) Version of Aquila. Greek of the O.T. about 160 A. D.
    - 5) Version of Theodotian, O.T. in Greek, 2nd century A. D.
    - 6) Version of Symachus, O.T. in Greek, 2nd century A. D.
    - 7) Peshitta Syriac version, 2nd century A. D. ..
    - 8) Armenian version, 5th century A. D.
    - 9) Egyptian version, 4th century A. D.
    - 10) Ethiopic v e r s i o n, 4th century A.D.
    - 11) Gothic version, 4th century A. D.
    - 12) Latin version, 4th century A. D.
    - 13) Georgian version, 6th century A. D.
    - 14) Chaldee targum paraphrases of portions of the Old Testament, 8th-11th centuries A.D.
    - 15) Arabic version, 8-12th century A. D.
4. The Bible text as we now have it is the same as that passed down through all these sources from the earliest times, so there should be no question in the mind of anyone regarding the genuineness and authenticity of the Scriptures

#### G. How we got our English Bible

1. Our English Bible is the result of 1200 years of work by all kinds of learned men. Portions were trans. from the Vulgate, the Latin version. beginning as far back as 700A.D., when Aldhelm trans. the Psalms into Saxon. Egbert translated the 4 gospels sometime later. In 735A.D. Bede trans. parts of the Scriptures into Saxon. King Alfred undertook a translation of the Psalms but died in 900 A. D. before it was finished. Elfric trans. the Pentateuch and some of the historical books in the 10th century .
2. Nothing else was done about translation from then to the time of John Wyclif, who made the first complete English Bible from the Vulgate in 1380 A. D.
3. The next was a N.T. by William Tyndale in 1535 and the Pentateuch in 1530.
4. In 1535 Miles Coverdale made the first complete printed English Bible.
5. Then came the Geneva Bible in 1560 A. D.,
6. Followed by Bishop's Bible in 1563 and revised in 1568.
7. The Roman church came out with the Douay version of the N.T. in 1582 and the whole Bible in 1609 which has been used by that church up until now.
8. In 1604 King James authorized 47 men to make a complete translation of the Bible from the original languages. It was finished in 1611 after 7-8 years of diligent work. It has been the most popular and accepted version of the English speaking world from that day until now. There have been several revised versions since then, and a number of Bibles in the so-called modern English, but none have been as well accepted and as lasting as the King James version - and perhaps never will be.

**H. How to Interpret the Bible**

1. **Simply** – always understand it simply as it reads – i.e., literally
2. **Frequently**, daily (Joh 1:8)
3. **Meditatively** (Ps. 1:3)
4. **In love** (Ps. 119:97-104)
5. Not for controversy, but for **profit** (Pr 3; 2Tim 3:16,17)
6. With consciousness of **need** (Mt. 5:6; Jn. 7:37-39; 2 Pet. 1:1-10; 3:18)
7. In **faith** (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6)
8. **Searchingly** (Jn. 5:39)
9. **Openness** to all of it (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12; Jude 3)
10. By **comparing** scripture with scripture (1 Cor. 2:13)
11. In the **Spirit** (Jn. 14;16-17; 15:26; 16:7-15; Gal 5:16,26)

## Brief Bible History Timeline to the Time of the Messiah

DATE	4000 BC	3750 – 3250 BC	3000 BC	2750 BC	2500 BC	2250 BC	2000 – 1750 BC	1500 BC	1250 BC
<b>EVENTS</b>	Creation of the world in 6 days				World-wide Catastrophic Flood 2348			Dividing the Red Sea Provision of Manna Crossing the Jordan River	
<b>Extra-Biblical World Events</b>					Pyramids, and Stonehenge constructed	Nimrod Early Babylonian Empire	Hittite Empire		
<b>PEOPLE</b>	Adam and Eve Cain and Abel Shem	Enoch 3382	Noah is born 2948	Shem, Ham and Japheth	Noah builds the Ark 2448	Tower of Babel 2247 Dispersion of the World's races	Call of Abram to leave Ur 2056 Ishmael Isaac Jacob and Esau Joseph sold into Egyptian slavery Pharaoh's Dreams Israel goes down to Egypt Israel become enslaved in Egypt for 400 years	Moses 1475 The Humiliation of Egypt by the Ten Plagues Israel's departure out of Egypt 1491 Joshua brings Israel into the Promised Land of Caanan	The Judges Gideon 1275 Sampson 1070 Samuel 1075
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	Genesis 1-5	Genesis 5	Genesis 5	Genesis 5	Genesis 6-9	Genesis 10,11	Genesis 12-50	Exodus – Deuteronomy Joshua	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel

DATE	1100 BC	1000 BC	900 BC	800 BC	700 BC	600 BC	500 BC	400 BC	300 BC	200 BC	100 BC
<b>EVENTS</b>	Founding of the Kingdom of Israel	Building the Temple in Jerusalem	Division of the Kingdom of Israel	Assyria Takes over Middle East	Ten Northern Tribes of Israel conquered by Assyria (they never return)	Babylon takes over the Middle East The Fall of Jerusalem under Babylon Judah is taken away into Captivity)	Persia takes over the Middle East  Rebuilding of the Temple Judah returns from Captivity)				Roman Empire takes over Europe and the Middle east 27BC
<b>Extra-Biblical World Events</b>						Buddha, Confucius	Founding of Rome Socrates Plato	Aristotle	Alexander the Great 336-323	Great Wall of China built 214 Mayan cities in Mexico 200 The Maccabean Revolt 150BC	Julius Caesar 46-44
<b>PEOPLE</b>	King Saul King David	King Solomon King Rehoboam King Jeroboam I		Elijah Elisha	Sennacherib King Hezekiah	King Jehoiachin Nebuchadnezzar Belshazzar Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego	Cyrus the Great 539-530 Darius I 522-486 Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem 445-433 Ezra restores Temple worship 458				
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes			Elijah, Joel, Micah,	Isaiah Jeremiah Micah Nahum Jonah Amos Hosea Habbakuk	2 Kings 24 Daniel 604-535 Nahum 664-612 Zephaniah 640 Ezekiel 593-570 Obediah 587 Haggai 520	Malachi 460	400 years of silence from God until Gabriel speaks to Zachariah (Lk 1:11-20), to Mary (Lk 1:26-37), and then when God speaks through John the Baptist			

## Outline of The Old Testament

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- E. **The \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 20-Deuteronomy 32)**. The giving of God's "Law" is the second most important gift to this sin-cursed world next to the granting of forgiveness through Jesus, the Lamb of God! The Law of God is perfect, and enables all people, and all nations to live safely, and wisely. Without it, there is only confusion, and corruption!
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