At the beginning of the game, each player has 16 pieces, or men.

There are only six unique pieces and these pieces are called 'major' or 'minor' based on their strength and ability.

(*Some chess books don’t consider Pawns to be pieces!)*

The Protestant Bible has 66 books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. In the Old Testament there are 16 prophets who are identified as being Major or Minor Prophets.

 Major: .[Isaiah](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rlz=1T4ADSA_enUS426US427&biw=1024&bih=589&q=isaiah&tbs=itm_s:1,itm_c:major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=2rNuToEM5OvSAfiVie0J&sqi=2&ved=0CGAQoA4wCg) [Jeremiah](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rlz=1T4ADSA_enUS426US427&biw=1024&bih=589&q=jeremiah&tbs=itm_s:1,itm_c:major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=2rNuToEM5OvSAfiVie0J&sqi=2&ved=0CGIQoA4wCw) [Ezekiel](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rlz=1T4ADSA_enUS426US427&biw=1024&bih=589&q=ezekiel+major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbs=itm_s:1,itm_c:major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=2rNuToEM5OvSAfiVie0J&sqi=2&ved=0CGQQoA4wDA) [Daniel](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rlz=1T4ADSA_enUS426US427&biw=1024&bih=589&q=daniel+major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbs=itm_s:1,itm_c:major+prophets+of+the+bible&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=2rNuToEM5OvSAfiVie0J&sqi=2&ved=0CGYQoA4wDQ)

 Minor: [Hosea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Hosea) [Joel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Joel) [Amos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Amos) [Obadiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Obadiah)

 [Jonah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Jonah) [Micah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Micah) [Nahum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Nahum) [Habakkuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Habakkuk)

 [Zephaniah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Zephaniah) [Haggai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Haggai) [Zechariah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Zechariah) [Malachi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Malachi)

The New Testament has 27 books that were written by multiple authors under the power of (or inspired by) the Holy Spirit. Paul is attributed as the author of many of the books – but does that make him the greatest?

One of the arguments the disciples had was when they wanted to know who among them would be first in the kingdom.

 Mark 9:33-35 Matthew 18:1-4 Luke 9:43-48

*"They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

What is it that drives us to be so competitive to want to beat someone else or be #1? We have to be very careful when we set out to be “The Best” at something. There is only a certain amount of time and resources in a day.

When we put anything ahead of serving and following Jesus, it can consume our time and thoughts. It becomes an “Idol” that we become a slave to.

When you are “The Best”, there is always someone out there who just might be a little better than you and is just waiting for the chance to “knock you down”. While you might be the best at something on earth for a short time, compared to God, we will never be good enough to earn your way into heaven.

Be careful what you put your faith in?

Surrounding the King are four different pieces or “men” (even though the Queen would be a lady!): The Queen, Bishops, Knights and Rooks.

I think of these as the first four books in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each “piece” has a special ability to perform just as each book of the Bible has special purpose of sharing the truth about Jesus Christ.

Beginners and non-chess players often think chess is a hard and complex game. However, there are really very few basic rules. Some religions have added and subtracted from God's word to make knowing the truth more complex than it really is.

God gave us 10 simple rules and these are called His *Commandments*.

**However, following these commandments will not earn you the gift of salvation.**

**By God's grace and faith in Jesus you may have the gift of eternal life.**

The Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, lists God's 10 Commandments.

**1.  *You shall have no other gods before me.***

God wants us to know him. He requires absolute and total loyalty. When Christ is in our hearts, our actions will show it, and others will see God at work. This also includes anything that interferes with a relationship with God: TV, sports, money, golf, job, other books, movies, chess…etc.

**2. *You shall not make for yourself a carved image.***

This is to remind you not to worship statues or idols, or other unholy objects, but to worship the Living Savior .We do not worship a cross but the Living God. Christians do not worship the cross, but Jesus who was hung on it to pay the penalty for the sins.

**3. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*.**

We are not to take the name of the Lord lightly or use His name in anger, foolishness, or empty, insulting and/or degrading ways. God is not pleased when we use our tongue to curse, in hypocritical worship, or in meaningless prayer. The movies and media today use the phrases “Oh my God” and “Oh God” or “Oh Jesus” in an inappropriate way.

**4. *Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy*.**

Sabbath means 'rest', but God intended for this day to stand for more than an absence of work. It was to be a day of praise and worship as well. It is a day for setting aside all thoughts of materialistic gain. God Himself set the pattern by ceasing from His labors after creating the world. Why, then, must modern-day Christians feel that being busy is equated with being spiritual?

**5. *Honor your father and your mother so your days may be long upon the land.***

God established parents as the authority figures in the family unit. Children often get their first impressions about God from their parents. Parents who walk in the Spirit, honestly desiring to follow the guidelines of the Scriptures, will set better examples for their children. Children who want to please God will respect their parents, regardless of pressure from the world and their peers. Being “Godly: parents is not a guarantee that the children will also be Christians (But it helps).

**6.  *You shall not murder.***

A person who cares about others does not want to harm them. No one has the right to take life from another. Chess Pieces are never “Killed”, they are captured!

**7.  *You shall not commit adultery*.**

The family is important to God. Adultery means being sexually involved with a married person. Fornication is a sin that means a sexual act between two unmarried persons. (1Timothy 1:10) Adultery and fornication are possible only if people are prepared to hurt others and to enjoy themselves at the expense of other people. A right attitude toward keeping God first and not harming others is tied together in these commandments. A person who does not steal will not take another's mate.

**8.  *You shall not steal.***

Stealing involves taking something that does not belong to you. The obvious is money or things, but it could be another's life, marriage partner, or reputation. This emphasizes the importance of going through lawful channels to get what you want. Be fair and honest in what you say and do.

**9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.***

A good relationship demands honesty in speaking of another. The old saying, "*A man's word is as good as his name*," is not taken seriously today. But God's people ought to cherish their own reputations and that of others. If a person is unwilling to speak ill of another, he is less likely to steal from him or to commit murder.

**10.  *You shall not covet*.**

Jesus elaborated on this commandment by stating, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew. 22:39). The negative and the positive work together. You do not harm people you care about. This tenth commandment is an outgrowth of the first. If a person's heart is fixed on the Lord, he will have the right attitude toward others. Consequently, the desires that rise from his heart will not cause pain or loss to others. The right motive (pleasing God who is first in your life) will result in obeying the other commandments (not hurting others).

*(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Pub.)*

Just as God has given us some rules to follow, all of the pieces on the chess board have to work together.

They all have a purpose and have their own individual strength. However, to get started, you DO NOT need to know how all the pieces move at this time.

**It is important to know that each piece has a unique way of moving and that every piece is placed on the board for a purpose.**

For now, it is only important to learn how to set up the pieces:

You have learned about the King, the Rook and the Pawn.



**PRAY GOD WILL SHOW YOU HIS PLANS AND HOW YOU MAY JOIN HIM. REMEMBER TO TAKE TIME TO LISTEN.**

**IT IS NOT A CONVERSATION IF YOU DO ALL THE TALKING.**

The Pieces

Queen: Every King needs a Queen. A Queen starts the game on a square that “matches her dress”. (The Queen starts on her own color).

The Queen is often given a value of 9 points.

Rook: Rooks are sometimes called Castles. The Castles go in the corners. A Castle is a fortress, strong and sturdy. They were made of Rock.

Kings lived in castles. ROOK is close to ROCK.

The Rook is often given a value of 5 points.

Knight: The Knights are next to the Rooks. Knights rode horses, so the horse is the symbol for the Knight. Horses can jump over things.

The Knights also protected their King.

The Knight is often given a value of 3 points.

Bishop: The Bishops are part of the Church.

The early Kings were appointed by God.

The Bishops are near the King and Queen.

The Bishop is often given a value of 3 points.

Pawn: The Pawns are the most numerous but considered the weakest piece. However, at the end of the game, they may be the only pieces that remain. If a Pawn reaches the other side, it is exchanged or promoted to another piece.

Pawns are assigned a value of 1 point.

King: Without a King there could be no game.

 The objective of the game is to capture your opponent's King.

 However, the King is never removed.

He is not assigned a value. He is Priceless!

Quick Value of Pieces:

When deciding what to move and what to capture, each piece can have a value assigned to it based on its strength**. These point values have no meaning in regard to who is winning the game.** The “point value” should only be used to help identify if a move *may* have merit.

The situation on the board will determine the value of a piece.

Once you learn how the pieces move you will see why it is important where the piece is on the board that gives it value.

**Parable of the Pieces:**

At the start of the game, the King and Queen are in the center of the 1st and 8th row on the board. You might think of these two pieces as the caring Mother and Father. Next to the Mom and Dad are the Bishops. The Bishops might represent the church and Mom and Dad need to be right with each other, right with God, and right with the church. The Rooks are in the corner, and Jesus is the ROCK and the FOUNDATION. Between the Rook (Jesus) and the Bishop (Church) is the Knight. The Knight is a very special piece on the board. All of the other men must move through adjoining or touching squares. None of the other pieces can go over or through other pieces that might be in the way. The Knight can represent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works all around us and works in us. The Knight has the ability to rise up and move over other pieces.

Now an important question:

WHAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE BOARD?

Answer:

**ALL OF THE PIECES ARE IMPORTANT!**

**You are important to God.**

**He has a plan and purpose for you.**

**God created you and He wants to have a relationship with you.**

**Pray that God will reveal His purpose for your life.**

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen*.

 (1 Peter 4:10-11)

The Bible also gives us this example using parts of the body to explain how important how every piece is and has a purpose:

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*

 (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)