

# ReMarkable

## HOW TO READ THE BIBLE: FOR ALL ITS WORTH

"Come near to God and He will come near to you." JAMES 4:8

Im 139:10

882

0 Even there Your hand will <sup>a</sup>lead me,  
And Your right hand will lay hold of  
me.  
1 If I say, "Surely the <sup>a</sup>darkness will  
<sup>1</sup>overwhelm me,  
And the light around me will be night,"  
2 Even the <sup>a</sup>darkness is not dark <sup>1</sup>to You,  
And the night is as bright as the day.  
<sup>b</sup>Darkness and light are alike to You.  
3 For You <sup>a</sup>formed my <sup>1</sup>inward parts;  
You <sup>a</sup>wove me in my mother's womb.  
4 I will give thanks to You, for <sup>1</sup>I am  
fearfully and wonderfully made;  
<sup>a</sup>Wonderful are Your works,  
And my soul knows it very well.  
5 My <sup>1</sup>frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the <sup>b</sup>depths  
of the earth;  
6 Your <sup>a</sup>eyes have seen my unformed  
substance;  
And in <sup>b</sup>Your book were all written  
The days that were ordained for me,  
When as yet there was not one of  
them.  
7 How precious also are Your <sup>a</sup>thoughts  
to me, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
8 If I should count them, they would  
<sup>a</sup>outnumber the sand.  
When <sup>b</sup>I awake, I am still with You.

10 <sup>a</sup>Ps 23:2, 3  
11 <sup>1</sup>Lit <sup>a</sup>bruise;  
some  
commentators  
read <sup>a</sup>cover <sup>a</sup>Job  
22:13  
12 <sup>1</sup>Lit from  
<sup>a</sup>Job 34:22; Dan  
2:22 <sup>1</sup>John 1:5  
13 <sup>1</sup>Lit kidneys  
<sup>a</sup>Ps 119:73; Is  
44:24 <sup>a</sup>Job 10:11  
14 <sup>1</sup>Some  
ancient versions  
read You are  
fearfully  
wonderful <sup>a</sup>Ps  
40:5  
15 <sup>1</sup>Lit bones  
were <sup>a</sup>Job 10:8-  
10; Eccl 11:5 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
63:9  
16 <sup>a</sup>Job 10:8-10;  
Eccl 11:5 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
56:8 <sup>a</sup>Job 14:5  
17 <sup>a</sup>Ps 40:5;  
92:5  
18 <sup>a</sup>Ps 40:5 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
3:5  
19 <sup>a</sup>Is 11:4 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
6:8; 119:115 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
56:6; 26:9  
20 <sup>a</sup>Or of <sup>1</sup>Some  
mss read <sup>a</sup>lift  
themselves up  
against You  
<sup>a</sup>Jude 15 <sup>a</sup>Ex  
20:7; Deut 5:11  
21 <sup>a</sup>2 Chr 19:2;  
Ps 26:5; 31:6 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
119:158  
22 <sup>a</sup>Job 31:6; Ps  
26:2 <sup>a</sup>Ps 7:9;  
Prov 17:3; Jer  
11:20; 1 Thess  
2:4  
23 <sup>a</sup>Lit way of  
pain <sup>a</sup>Ps 146:9;

19 O that You would <sup>a</sup>slay the wicked,  
O God;  
<sup>b</sup>Depart from me, therefore, <sup>a</sup>men of  
bloodshed.  
20 For they <sup>a</sup>speak <sup>1</sup>against You wickedly,  
And Your enemies <sup>2b</sup>take Your name  
in vain.  
21 Do I not <sup>a</sup>hate those who hate You,  
O LORD?  
And do I not <sup>b</sup>loathe those who rise  
up against You?  
22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;  
They have become my enemies.  
23 <sup>a</sup>Search me, O God, and know my  
heart;  
<sup>b</sup>Try me and know my anxious  
thoughts;  
24 And see if there be any <sup>1b</sup>hurtful way  
in me,  
And <sup>b</sup>lead me in the <sup>a</sup>everlasting way.

### Psalm 140

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

1 <sup>a</sup>Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men;  
Preserve me from <sup>b</sup>violent men  
2 Who <sup>a</sup>devise evil things in their  
hearts;  
They <sup>b</sup>continually stir up wars.

Prov 15:9; 28:10; Jer 25:5; 36:3 <sup>a</sup>Ps 5:8; 143:10 <sup>a</sup>Ps 16:11  
140:1 <sup>a</sup>Ps 17:13; 59:2; 71:4 <sup>a</sup>Ps 18:48; 46:14; 140:11 2 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
7:14; 36:4; 52:2; Prov 6:14; Is 59:4; Hos 7:15 <sup>a</sup>Ps 56:6

referring to its two extremes (merism), vv. 8-9 specify all  
actual reality, the whole creation.  
v. 8-9) <sup>a</sup>lead me ... lay hold of me. Though this language  
curs in 73:23-24 to indicate God's solicitous care, it here  
notes God's inescapable supervision, not unlike the thought  
v. 5.  
v. 11-12 Just as the whole creation offers no hiding place  
v. 8-9), neither does even the darkness.  
v. 13-16 You Yourself put me together in the womb and  
dained the span of my life before I was born.  
v. 13 inward parts. Lit. "kidneys"—in Hebrew idiom, the

139:17 Your thoughts. As expressed in His works—and in con-  
trast with "my thought" (v. 2).  
139:18 When I awake. The sleep of exhaustion overcomes  
every attempt to count God's thoughts/works (see 63:6;  
119:148), and waking only floods my soul once more with the  
sense of the presence of this God.  
139:19-22 My zeal for You sets me against all Your adversaries.  
139:19 O that You would. Jealous impatience with God's  
patience toward the wicked—whose end will come (Is 11:4).  
But the psalmist leaves it to God.  
139:20 take Your name in vain. Perhaps by calling down curses

3 They <sup>a</sup>sharpen their tongues as a  
serpent;  
<sup>b</sup>Poison of a viper is under their lips.  
<sup>1</sup>Selah.  
4 <sup>a</sup>Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of  
the wicked;  
<sup>b</sup>Preserve me from violent men  
Who have <sup>1</sup>purposed to <sup>2a</sup>trip up my  
feet.  
5 The proud have <sup>a</sup>hidden a trap for me,  
and cords;  
They have spread a <sup>b</sup>net by the  
<sup>1</sup>wayside;  
They have set <sup>a</sup>snares for me. <sup>1</sup>Selah.  
6 I <sup>a</sup>said to the LORD, "You are my God;  
<sup>b</sup>Give ear, O LORD, to the <sup>a</sup>voice of my  
supplications.  
7 O <sup>1</sup>God the Lord, <sup>a</sup>the strength of my  
salvation,  
You have <sup>b</sup>covered my head in the day  
of <sup>2</sup>battle.  
8 <sup>a</sup>Do not grant, O LORD, the <sup>a</sup>desires of  
the wicked;  
Do not promote <sup>b</sup>his evil device, that  
they not be exalted. <sup>1</sup>Selah.  
9 <sup>a</sup>As for the head of those who surround  
me,  
May the <sup>a</sup>mischief of their lips cover  
them.  
10 <sup>a</sup>May <sup>a</sup>burning coals fall upon them;  
May they be <sup>b</sup>cast into the fire,  
Into <sup>1</sup>deep pits from which they  
<sup>a</sup>cannot rise.  
11 <sup>a</sup>May a <sup>1</sup>slanderer not be established in  
the earth;  
<sup>b</sup>May evil hunt the violent man  
<sup>2</sup>speedily."

140:3 tongues. See note on 5:9. Poison of a viper. See 58:4  
and note.  
140:4-5 Protect me from these proud and wicked hunters

883

3 <sup>1</sup>Selah may  
mean: Pause,  
Crescendo or  
Musical  
Interlude <sup>a</sup>Ps  
57:4; 64:3 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
58:4; Rom 3:13;  
James 3:8  
4 <sup>1</sup>Or devised  
<sup>1</sup>Lit push  
violently <sup>a</sup>Ps  
71:4 <sup>a</sup>Ps 140:1  
<sup>1</sup>Ps 36:11  
5 <sup>1</sup>Lit track <sup>a</sup>Job  
18:9; Ps 35:7;  
141:9; 142:3 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
31:4; 57:6; Lam  
1:13 <sup>a</sup>Ps 141:9;  
Is 8:14; Amos  
3:5  
6 <sup>a</sup>Ps 16:2;  
31:14 <sup>a</sup>Ps 143:1  
<sup>1</sup>Ps 116:1; 130:2  
7 <sup>1</sup>Heb YHWH,  
usually rendered  
LORD <sup>1</sup>Lit  
weapons <sup>a</sup>Ps  
28:8; 118:14 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
144:10  
8 <sup>a</sup>Ps 112:10  
<sup>1</sup>Eccl 9:25 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
10:2, 3  
9 <sup>a</sup>Ps 7:16; Prov  
18:7  
10 <sup>1</sup>Lit watery  
<sup>a</sup>Ps 11:6 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
21:9; Matt 3:10  
<sup>1</sup>Ps 36:12  
11 <sup>1</sup>Lit man of  
tongue <sup>a</sup>Lit  
thrust upon  
thrust <sup>a</sup>Ps 34:21  
12 <sup>1</sup>1 Kin 8:45;  
49: Ps 9:4;  
18:27; 82:3 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
12:5; 35:10  
13 <sup>a</sup>Ps 97:12  
14 <sup>a</sup>Ps 11:7; 16:11;  
17:15  
141:1 <sup>a</sup>Ps 22:19;  
38:22; 70:5 <sup>a</sup>Ps  
5:1; 143:1  
2 <sup>1</sup>Lit fixed <sup>a</sup>Ex  
30:8; Luke 1:10;  
Rev 5:8; 8:3, 4  
1 Tim 2:8 <sup>a</sup>Ex  
29:39; 41: 1 Kin  
18:29; 36; Dan  
9:21

12 I know that the LORD will <sup>a</sup>main-  
tain the cause of the afflicted  
And <sup>b</sup>justice for the poor.  
13 Surely the <sup>a</sup>righteous will give  
to Your name;  
The <sup>b</sup>upright will dwell in Your  
presence.  
**Psalm 141**  
A Psalm of David.  
1 O LORD, I call upon You; <sup>a</sup>hasten  
<sup>b</sup>Give ear to my voice when I call  
You!  
2 May my prayer be <sup>1</sup>counted as  
<sup>a</sup>incense before You;  
The <sup>b</sup>lifting up of my hands as t  
evening offering.  
3 Set a <sup>a</sup>guard, O LORD, <sup>1</sup>over my  
mouth;  
Keep watch over the <sup>b</sup>door of m  
thing,  
To practice deeds <sup>1</sup>of wickednes  
With men who <sup>b</sup>do iniquity;  
And <sup>a</sup>do not let me eat of their  
delicacies.  
5 Let the <sup>a</sup>righteous smite me <sup>1</sup>in  
kindness and reprove me;  
It is <sup>b</sup>oil upon the head;  
Do not let my prayer be refused it,  
<sup>2</sup>For still my prayer <sup>a</sup>is <sup>b</sup>against t  
wicked deeds.  
6 Their judges are <sup>a</sup>thrown down  
sides of the rock,

3 <sup>1</sup>Lit to <sup>a</sup>Ps 34:13; 39:1; Prov 13:3; 21:23 <sup>a</sup>Mic 7:5 4  
<sup>a</sup>Ps 119:36 <sup>a</sup>Is 32:6; Hos 6:8; Mal 3:15 <sup>a</sup>Prov 23:6 5  
lovingly <sup>1</sup>Lit And my prayer <sup>1</sup>Or in spite of their calamity  
9:8; 19:25; 25:12; 27:6 <sup>a</sup>Eccl 7:5; Gal 6:1 <sup>a</sup>Ps 23:5; 133:2  
6 <sup>2</sup>2 Chr 25:12

in Your presence. In contrast to the wicked (v. 10; see n  
11:7; 16:9-11).  
Ps 141 A prayer for deliverance from the wicked and

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR SCOTT

*Greetings!*

*Thank you for choosing to use **ReMarkable: How to read the Bible for all its Worth!**  
I wanted to say a few things before you dive into all this content.*

*First off: You'll find that, much like we discuss in the episodes, culture and context can have a major impact on your message. Knowing this, I'm sure you'll be able to adapt and mold this information for your own personal study, or youth group, or family bible study etc. This packet should help give you some great Synthetic understanding of the Bible.*

*Secondly: Those utilizing this packet should strongly consider purchasing a Study Bible. I personally enjoy using the Zondervan's NIV Study Bible and also the YouVersion App, which includes a lot of different translations, this is available on most app stores.*

*Finally: I believe you can experience God in a real, personal and tangible way and the goal of this course can be found in the words of Ephesians 1:17-18, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people."*

*May you draw near to God as He, himself, will draw near to you.*

*Blessings in your journey,*



Scott Johnston

*Bayside*

# ReMarkable

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE:  
FOR ALL ITS WORTH

---

When you change your **THINKING -**  
you change your beliefs

When you change your **BELIEFS -**  
you change your expectations

When you change your **EXPECTATIONS -**  
you change your attitude

When you change your **ATTITUDE -**  
you change your behavior

When you change your **BEHAVIOR -**  
you change your life!

## ***FOUR APPROACHES TO BIBLE STUDY***

**Synthetic** - Overview of the Bible as a whole to provide a grasp of the overall message

**Analytical** - Process of viewing the Bible verse by verse - for detailed understanding

**Topical or Doctrinal** - Study of the Bible according to the many topics and doctrines

**Biographical** - Study of the Bible according to its people and characteristics

## ***OVERALL BIBLE BASICS***

- ▶ The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors, covering a period of approximately 1,600 years.
- ▶ The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew (a few short passages in Aramaic). About 100 years (or more) before the Christian Era the entire Old Testament was translated into the Greek language. Our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.
- ▶ The word “testament” means “covenant,” or agreement. The Old Testament is the covenant God made with people about their salvation before Christ came.
- ▶ The New Testament is the agreement God made with people about their salvation after Christ came.
- ▶ In the Old Testament we find the covenant of law and Instruction, known as the Torah.
- ▶ In the New Testament we find the covenant of grace that came through Jesus Christ. One led into the other (Galatians 3:17-25).

**The Old begins what the New completes**

**The Old gathers around Sinai -**

**The New around Calvary**

**The Old is associated with Moses -**

**The New with Christ (John 1:17)**

**The Old Testaments begins with God (Genesis 1:1)**

**The New Testament begins with Christ (Matthew 1:1)**

**From Adam to Abraham we have the history of the human race**

**From Abraham to Christ we have the history of the chosen race**



## THE GENRES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS OF LAW Five	BOOKS OF HISTORY Twelve	BOOKS OF POETRY Five		BOOKS OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS Five	BOOKS OF THE MINOR PROPHETS Twelve	
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings	2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

## THE 9 MAIN ERAS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- 1. Creation**  
The creation of the world and man, and early events.
- 2. Patriarch**  
The birth of the Hebrew people through a family of patriarchs, covering a period of two hundred years.
- 3. Exodus**  
The exodus of the Hebrew people as they are delivered out of four hundred years of slavery in Egypt.
- 4. Conquest**  
The conquest of the Promised Land by the Hebrew people upon their return from Egypt.
- 5. Judges**  
A four-hundred-year period during which Israel is governed by rulers called judges.
- 6. Kingdom**  
An additional four-hundred-year period during which Israel becomes a full-fledge nation ruled by a monarchy.
- 7. Exile**  
A seventy-year period during which Israel's leaders live in exile, having been conquered by foreign countries.



# THE NINE CENTRAL FIGURES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



ERA	FIGURE	DESCRIPTION
Creation	<b>Adam</b>	The first <b>man</b>
Patriarch	<b>Abraham</b>	The first <b>patriarch</b>
Exodus	<b>Moses</b>	The leader of the <b>exodus</b>
Conquest	<b>Joshua</b>	The leader of Israel's <b>army</b>
Judges	<b>Samson</b>	The most famous <b>judge</b>
Kingdom	<b>David</b>	The most well-known Israelite <b>king</b>
Exile	<b>Daniel</b>	The major exilic <b>prophet</b>
Return	<b>Ezra</b>	The central <b>return</b> leader
Silence	<b>Pharisees</b>	The <b>religious</b> leaders

## OLD TESTAMENT - PRINCIPLE PLACES

The twelve principal places around which the history of the Old Testament is written are:

1. Eden (Genesis 1-3)
2. Ararat (Genesis 8:4)
3. Babel (Genesis 11:1-11)
4. Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:28-12)
5. Canaan (with Abraham) (Genesis 12:4-7)
6. Egypt (with Joseph) (Genesis 37-45, esp. 41:41)
7. Sinai (Exodus 19:16-20:21)
8. Wilderness (Numbers 14:26-35)
9. Canaan (with Joshua) (Joshua 1:1-9)
10. Assyria (captivity of Israel) (2 Kings 18:9-12)
11. Babylon (captivity of Judah) (2 Kings 24:11-16)
12. Canaan (Palestine-return of the exiles) (Ezra 1:1-2:70)

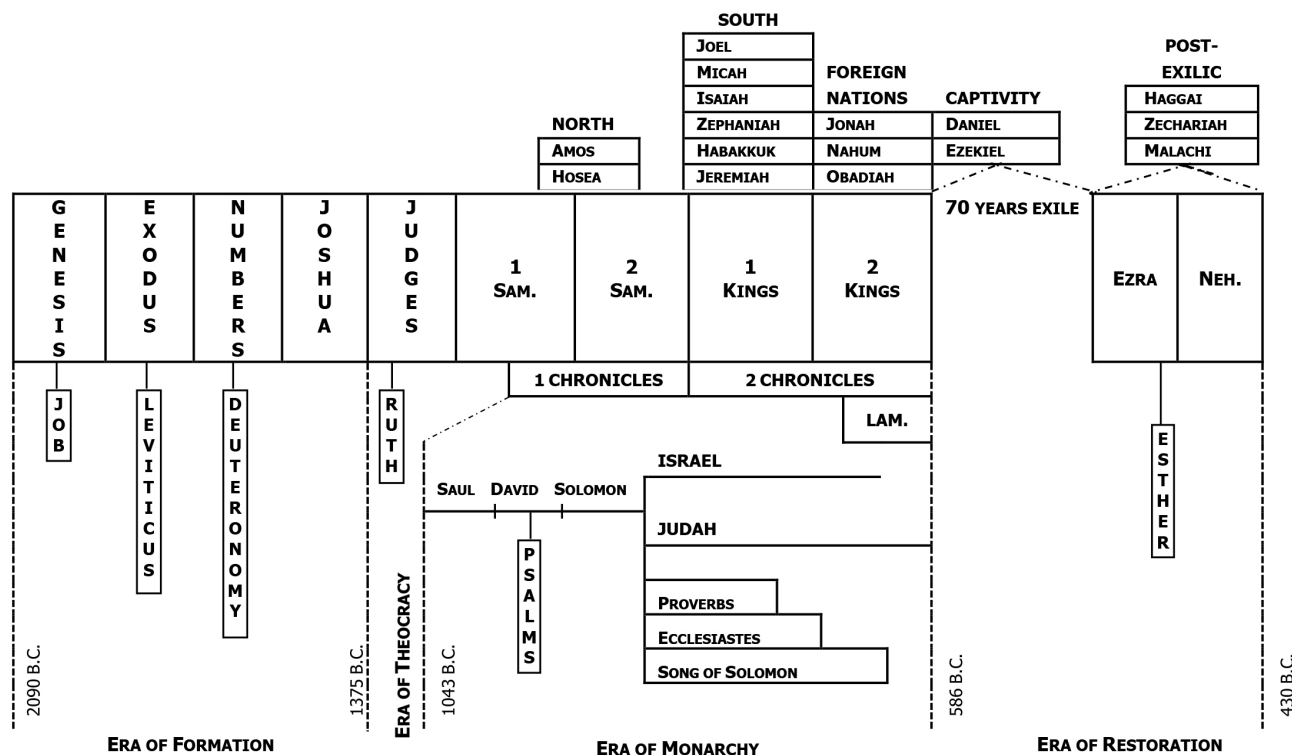
As you build the story of the Bible around these places you see the whole history in chronological order.

## OLD TESTAMENT - PRINCIPLE FACTS:

Still another way to think through the Bible is by following the great facts in order.

1. Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)
2. Fall of man (Genesis 3)
3. Flood (Genesis 6-9)
4. Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
5. Call of Abraham (Genesis 11:10-12:3)
6. Descent into Egypt (Genesis 46-47)
7. Exodus (Exodus 7-12)
8. Passover (Exodus 12)
9. Giving of the Law (Exodus 19-24)
10. Wilderness wanderings (Numbers 13-14)
11. Conquest of the Promised Land (Joshua 11)
12. Dark ages of the chosen people (Judges)
13. Anointing of Saul as king (1 Samuel 9:27-10:1)
14. Golden age of Israelites under David and Solomon-United Kingdom (2 Samuel 5:4-5; 1 Kings 10:67-8)
15. The divided kingdom - Israel and Judah (1 Kings 12:26-33)
16. The Captivity (2 Kings 17:25)
17. The Return (Ezra)

## CHRONOLAOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS



Adapted from Survey of the Old Testament, by Paul Benware, P. 22 (Moody Press, 1993)

## OLD TESTAMENT BOOK POEMS

### Pentateuch

In Genesis the world was made,  
In Exodus the march was told;  
Leviticus contains the law,  
In Numbers are the tribes enrolled;  
In Deuteronomy again  
We're urged to keep God's law alone.  
And these five books of Moses make  
The oldest writings that are known.

### Historical Books

Brave Joshua to Canaan leads,  
In Judges oft the Jews rebel;  
We read of David's name in Ruth,  
And First and Second Samuel;  
In First and Second Kings we read  
How bad the Hebrew state became;  
In First and Second Chronicles,  
Another history of the same.  
In Ezra captive Jews return,  
While Nehemiah builds the wall;  
Queen Esther saves her race from death.  
These books "Historical" we call.

### Poetical Books

In Job we read of patient faith,  
In Psalms are David's songs of praise;  
The Proverbs are to make us wise;  
Ecclesiastes next portrays  
How vain fleeting earthly pleasures are;  
The Song of Solomon is all  
About the love of God, and these  
Five books "Poetical" we call.

### Prophetical Books

Isaiah tells of Christ to come,  
While Jeremiah tells of woe,  
And in his Lamentations mourns  
The Holy City's overthrow.  
Ezekiel speaks of mysteries,  
While Daniel foretells kings of old;  
Hosea calls men to repent;  
In Joel, judgments are foretold.  
Amos tells of wrath, and Edom  
Obadiah is sent to warn,  
While Jonah shows how Christ should rise,  
And Micah where He should be born;  
In Nahum, Nineveh is seen,  
In Habakkuk, Chaldea's guilt;  
Zephaniah, Judah's sins,  
Haggai, the temple's built.  
Zechariah tells of Christ,  
And Malachi of John, his signs.  
The Prophets number seventeen,  
And all the books are thirty-nine.



## ***INTERESTING FACTS - NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS***

### **Three primary divisions:**

#### **The story of the New Testament.**

- ▶ About 60% of the New Testament.
- ▶ First 5 books.
- ▶ Matthew – Acts.

#### **The letters of the New Testament.**

- ▶ Next 21 books.
- ▶ Romans – Jude.

#### **The conclusion of the New Testament.**

- ▶ Final book.
- ▶ Revelation.



# ***PALESTINE***

AT THE TIME OF JESUS



## ***UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPELS***

<b>GOSPELS:</b>	<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>LUKE</b>	<b>JOHN</b>
<b>PORTRAIT:</b>	Mighty King	Humble Servant	True Humanity	Absolute Deity
<b>WRITTEN TO:</b>	The Jews	The Romans	The Greeks	The World
<b>THEME:</b>	Royalty and Authority of the King	Work and Service of the Servant	Jesus as Man	Jesus as God
<b>KEY VERSE:</b>	<b>MATTHEW 21:4-5</b>	<b>MARK 10:45</b>	<b>LUKE 19:10</b>	<b>JOHN 20:31</b>

## ***THE ORDER OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT***

<b>Book</b>	<b>Date (A.D.)</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Date (A.D.)</b>
James	45	Philippians	63
Galatians	49	Philemon	63-64
1 & 2 Thessalonians	49	1 Peter	63-66
Mark	51	1 Timothy	63-66
Matthew	50s or 60s	Titus	64-68
1 Corinthians	50s or 60s	Hebrews	66
2 Corinthians	55	2 Peter	67
Romans	56	2 Timothy	68-80
Luke	57	Jude	85-90
Acts	58	John	85-90
Colossians	60	1, 2, 3 John	90-95
Ephesians	61	Revelation	90-95

## ***WAYS TO CATEGORIZE THE FINAL BOOKS***

<b>ACCORDING TO THE WRITER —</b>			
<b>13 LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL</b>			
Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians
Philippians	Colossians		1 & 2 Thessalonians
1 & 2 Timothy	Titus		Philemon
<b>8 LETTERS WRITTEN BY OTHER WRITERS</b>			
	Hebrews	James	
1 & 2 Peter	1, 2 & 3 John	Jude	

### ACCORDING TO THE RECIPIENT — 3 GROUPS

- 1 - CHURCHES** in certain cities or regions: Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica
- 2 – INDIVIDUALS:** Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and John's friends – *"the chosen lady and her children"* (2 John 1), and Gaius (3 John).
- 3 – CHRISTIANS IN GENERAL:** Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 John, Jude, and Revelation

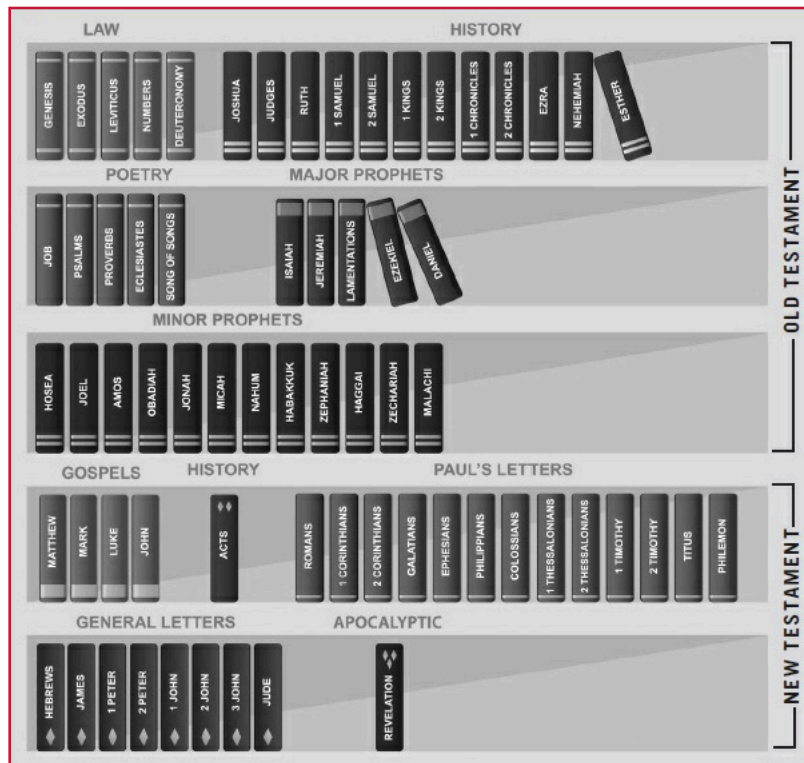
### ACCORDING TO THE CONTENT — BY CLUSTERING THE BOOKS ACCORDING TO THEIR OVERALL SUBJECT MATTER, WE CAN IDENTIFY FOUR GENERAL CATEGORIES:

<b>Christian Doctrine</b>	Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews, 2 Peter, 1 John
<b>Practical Advice</b>	1 Corinthians, Philippians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, James, 2 John
<b>Christian Leadership</b>	1 & 2 Timothy and Titus (often called the Pastoral Epistles)
<b>Personal Matters</b>	2 Corinthians, Philemon, 3 John, Jude

## ***A PLAN FOR READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 30 DAYS***

---

- |           |               |           |                               |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Matthew 1-9   | <b>16</b> | Acts 15-21                    |
| <b>2</b>  | Matthew 10-15 | <b>17</b> | Acts 22-28                    |
| <b>3</b>  | Matthew 16-22 | <b>18</b> | Romans 1-8                    |
| <b>4</b>  | Matthew 23-28 | <b>19</b> | Romans 9-16                   |
| <b>5</b>  | Mark 1-8      | <b>20</b> | I Corinthians 1-9             |
| <b>6</b>  | Mark 9-16     | <b>21</b> | I Corinthians 10-16           |
| <b>7</b>  | Luke 1-6      | <b>22</b> | Corinthians 1-13              |
| <b>8</b>  | Luke 7-11     | <b>23</b> | Galatians - Ephesians         |
| <b>9</b>  | Luke 12-18    | <b>24</b> | Philippians - 2 Thessalonians |
| <b>10</b> | Luke 19-24    | <b>25</b> | I Timothy - Philemon          |
| <b>11</b> | John 1-7      | <b>26</b> | Hebrews                       |
| <b>12</b> | John 8-13     | <b>27</b> | James - 2 Peter               |
| <b>13</b> | John 14-21    | <b>28</b> | I John - Jude                 |
| <b>14</b> | Acts 1-7      | <b>29</b> | Revelation 1-11               |
| <b>15</b> | Acts 8-14     | <b>30</b> | Revelation 12-22              |



## THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### GENESIS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** The Unlimited Power of God!

#### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites to show that though God created a good world, sin corrupted that creation, and God initiated a plan of salvation to restore it.

#### THEMES

Genesis is the book of beginnings – the beginning of the cosmos and the beginning of humanity. It includes the following themes: Creation – Sin – the Image of God – God's Global Plan of Redemption.

#### OUTLINE

- I. Primeval History: Four Great Events (1:1-11:26)
  - a. The Creation of the Universe; Adam and Eve (1-2)
  - b. The Fall and the Results of Sin (3-5)
  - c. The Flood (6-9)
  - d. The Scattering of the Nations (10:1-11:26)
- II. Patriarchal History: Four Great Characters (11:27-50:26)
  - a. Abraham (11:27-20:18)
  - b. Isaac (21-26)
  - c. Jacob (27:1-37:1)
  - d. Joseph (37:2-50:26)

### EXODUS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God understands your circumstances and will provide a way out!

#### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites as a reminder of how God had rescued them from oppression in Egypt and of his standards for their living as his people.

#### THEMES

Exodus describes the beginning of the nation of Israel, including God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt and his covenant with them. It includes the following themes: Deliverance – the Covenant – the Tabernacle – Moses.

#### OUTLINE

- I. Preparation for Israel's Deliverance from Bondage (1-4)
- II. Israel's Deliverance from Bondage (5-18)
  - a. Pharaoh's Resistance and the Lord's Reassurance (5:1-6:27)
  - b. Plagues on Egypt (6:28-12:36)
  - c. The Exodus from Egypt to Mount Sinai (12:37-18:27)
- III. The Covenant at Sinai (19-24)
- IV. The Tabernacle for Worship (25-40)
  - a. Instructions for Tabernacle Construction and Furnishings (25-31)
  - b. The Golden Calf (32-34)
  - c. Tabernacle Construction (35-40)

## LEVITICUS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Integrity in the details of life matters to God.

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Levites specifically and to the Israelites in general. It addresses religious issues of worship: the sacrificial system and the people's responsibility to maintain moral and ceremonial holiness – a requirement for the worship of God.

### THEMES

Leviticus means “matters pertaining to the Levites,” the priestly tribe of Israel. Accordingly, topics such as sacrifice and ceremonial laws that deal with food, skin disease, mildew, an incest are prominent. The book contains the following themes: Holiness – Sin, Sacrifice, and Atonement – Worship.

### OUTLINE

- I. Laws and Instructions for Offerings (1-7)
- II. Aaron and His Sons as God's Priests (8-10)
- III. Rules for Holy Living (11-15)
- IV. The Day of Atonement (16)
- V. Practical Holiness (17-22)
- VI. The Sabbath, Feasts and Seasons (23-25)
- VII. Conditions for God's Blessings (26-27)

## NUMBERS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Attitude matters: Beware of unbelief

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites as a reminder of God's faithful commitment to his people in spite of their failures. It calls its readers to fulfill their responsibility to God's call for holy living.

### THEMES

Numbers describes the Israelites' wandering in the desert. It contains the following themes: God's Mercy and Faithfulness – God's Justice – Hope.

### OUTLINE

- I. Israel at Sinai, Preparing to Leave for Canaan (1:1-10:10)
- II. From Sinai to Kadesh (10:11-12:16)
- III. Israel at Kadesh, the Delay Resulting From Rebellion (13:1-20:13)
- IV. From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (20:14-22:1)
- V. Israel on the Plains of Moab. Anticipating the Taking of Canaan (22:2-32:42)
- VI. Supplements Dealing with Various Matters (33-36)

## DEUTERONOMY

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** The blessings of obedience and the pain of disobedience!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites to challenge them to obey God and reject idolatry.

### THEMES

Deuteronomy records three speeches given by Moses at the end of his life and calling the Israelites to renew their covenant with God. The book contains the following themes: The Covenant – Choices – the Poor.

### OUTLINE

- I. Preamble (1:1-5)
- II. Historical Prologue (1:6-4:43)
- III. Stipulations of the Covenant (4:44-26:19)
  - a. Primary Demands (4:44-11:32)
  - b. Supplementary Requirements (12-26)
- IV. Ratification: Curses, and Blessings (27-30)
- V. Leadership Succession Under the Covenant (31-34)

## JOSHUA

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Possess the land. Life's too short to stop short of God's best!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites to remind them of God's faithfulness and to encourage them to commit themselves to the Lord.

### THEMES

Joshua describes Israel's conquest and settlement of Canaan, the Promised Land. It contains the following themes: God, the Great Warrior – God's faithfulness.

### OUTLINE

- I. Preparation and Entrance into Canaan (1:1-5:12)
- II. Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - a. Jericho and Ai (5:13-8:35)
  - b. Gibeonites, Amorites, and Southern Cities (9-10)
  - c. Northern Kings (11)
  - d. List of Defeated Kings (12)
- III. The Division of the Land by Tribes (13-21)
- IV. Joshua's Farewell and Death (22-24)



## JUDGES

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Pride and rejecting God lead to frustration!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Israelites to recount Israel's history after the conquest of Canaan but prior to the time of its first king.

### THEMES

Judges describes the life of Israel from the death of Joshua to the rise of the monarchy. The period of the judges was a time of great moral, spiritual, and political confusion and failure. Even so, it was also a time when God demonstrated his continuing love toward his people. Judges contains the following themes: God's Faithfulness – Compromise – Need for Godly Leadership.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy (1:1-3:6)
  - a. First Episode (1:1-2:5)
  - b. Second Episode (2:6-3:6)
- II. Oppression by Enemies and Deliverance by judges (3:7-16:31)
  - a. Othniel (3:7-11)
  - b. Ehud and Shamgar (3:12-31)
  - c. Deborah (4-5)
  - d. Gideon, Tola, and Jair (6:1-10:5)
  - e. Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (10:6-12:15)
  - f. Samson (13-16)
- III. Epilogue: Religious and Moral Disorder (17-21)
  - a. First Episode (17-18)
  - b. Second Episode (19-21)

## RUTH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** The power of God is using all people and all circumstances!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the people of Israel to demonstrate the legitimacy of David's kingship despite the presence of a Moabite woman in his ancestry.

### THEMES

Ruth describes the self-sacrificing devotion of a Moabitess named Ruth. The book contains the following themes: Acceptance – Kindness and Faithfulness – Redemption.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: Naomi Emptied (1:1-1-5)
- II. Naomi Returns from Moab (1:6-22)
- III. Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (2)
- IV. Ruth Goes to Boaz (3)
- V. Boaz Arranges to Marry Ruth (4:1-12)
- VI. Conclusion: Naomi Filled (4:13-17)
- VII. Epilogue: Genealogy of David (4:18-22)

## 1 SAMUEL

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** No enemy is too big for someone walking with God!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the people of Israel to demonstrate God's continuing relationship with them and to provide an accurate history of the development of Israel's monarchy.

### THEMES

First Samuel describes the transition of Israel's leadership from judges to kings. Its prominent characters are Samuel (Israel's last judge), Saul (Israel's first king), and David (later to become Israel's second – and greatest – king). Its themes include: Kingship – Obedience – Friendship and Loyalty.

### OUTLINE

- I. Background for the Establishment of Kingship in Israel (1-7)
- II. Establishment of Kingship in Israel (8-12)
- III. Saul Fails as King (13-15)
- IV. David's Rise to the Throne and Conflict with Saul (16-30)
- V. The Death of Saul (31)

## 2 SAMUEL

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Walking with God over a long time is key to success!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the people of Israel as a record of the reign of David, Israel's greatest king. It provides the history of David's great successes and tragic failures.

### THEMES

Second Samuel describes the rise of David's kingship after the death of Saul. It portrays David as the ideal, though imperfect, king. It includes the following themes: The Davidic Covenant – Consequences of Sin – Abuse of Power.

### OUTLINE

- I. David Becomes King Over Judah (1-4)
- II. David Becomes King Over all Israel (5:1-5)
- III. David's Kingship in Its Accomplishments and Glory (5:6-9:13)
- IV. David's Kingship in Its Weaknesses and Failures (10-20)
- V. Final Reflections on David's Reign (21-24)

## 1 KINGS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Obedience brings blessing!

### OVERVIEW

The book of Kings (1 and 2 Kings) was originally written for the Jews living in exile in Babylon to preserve a detailed history of Israel and Judah – from the last days of King David (c.970 B.C.) to the exile to Babylon (c.586 B.C.). First Kings includes the history of the United Kingdom under King Solomon (1:1-11:43), as well as that of the first 80 years of the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah (12:1-22:53)

### THEMES

First Kings describes the history of the kings of Israel and Judah in the context of the Mosaic and Davidic covenants. Israel's welfare depended on the obedience of its kings to God and their fidelity to the Mosaic covenant. First Kings includes the following themes: The Mosaic Covenant – the Davidic Covenant – One True God.

### OUTLINE

- I. Solomon's Reign (11-12:24)
- II. Israel and Judah from Jeroboam I/Rehoboam to Ahab/Asa (12-25-16:34)
- III. Elijah and King Ahab (17:1-22:40)
- IV. Jehoshaphat, King of Judah (22:41-50)
- V. Ahaziah, King of Israel (22:51-53)

## 2 KINGS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Disobedience brings heartache!

### OVERVIEW

The book of Kings (1 and 2 Kings) was originally written for the Jews living in exile in Babylon to preserve a detailed history of Israel and Judah – from the last days of King David (c.970 B.C.) to the exile to Babylon (c.586 B.C.). Second Kings includes the history of the divided kingdom (1:1-17:41), as well as that of the surviving kingdom of Judah (18:1-25:30)

### THEMES

Second Kings describes the history of the kings of Israel and Judah in the context of the Mosaic and Davidic covenants. The welfare of the people depended on the obedience of their kings to God and their own fidelity to the Mosaic covenant. Second Kings includes the following themes: Judgment – Prophets.

### OUTLINE

- I. Elijah and Elisha (1:1-8:15)
- II. Israel and Judah from Joram/Jehoram to Israel's Exile (8:16-17:41)
- III. Judah from Hezekiah to the Babylonian Exile (18-25)

## 1 CHRONICLES

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** It is never too late to let God work!

### OVERVIEW

The books of Chronicles (1 and 2 Chronicles) were originally one book written to the post-exilic Jews to give them an accurate historical record and help them recognize their heritage and calling.

### THEMES

First Chronicles describes the reign of David, Israel's greatest king. It includes the following themes: The Davidic Covenant – Preparations for Temple Worship.

### OUTLINE

- I. Genealogies: From Creation to Restoration (1-9)
- II. The Reign of David (10-26)
  - a. Saul's Death and David's Rise to Power (10-12)
  - b. Return of the Ark (13)
  - c. David's Reign Established (14-17)
  - d. David's Victories and Census (18-21)
  - e. Plans for Temple Construction and Organization (22-26)
- III. Kingdom Organization and Staffing (27)
- IV. Preparations for the Temple, Solomon's Coronation, David's Death (28-29)

## 2 CHRONICLES

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Rebuilding requires hope and dedication!

### OVERVIEW

The books of Chronicles (1 and 2 Chronicles) were originally one book written to the post-exilic Jews to give them an accurate historical record and help them recognize their heritage and calling.

### THEMES

Second Chronicles describes the reign of Solomon, Israel's wisest and wealthiest king, and records the division of the kingdom. Second Chronicles deals almost exclusively with kingdom of Judah, describing its spiritual decline and eventual fall. It includes the following themes: Blessing or Judgment – Worship.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Reign of Solomon (1-8)
  - a. Request for Wisdom (1)
  - b. Temple Construction and Dedication (2-7)
  - c. Solomon's Activities (8)
- II. Visit of the Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Splendor (9:1-28)
- III. Solomon's Death (9:29-31)
- IV. The Kings of Judah (10:1-36:14)
- V. The Destruction of Jerusalem (36:15-23)

## EZRA

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** The word of God needs to guide our thoughts and actions!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Jews who were returning from exile to encourage them to continue the work of restoring Jerusalem, the temple, and the community.

### THEMES

Ezra Describes God's faithfulness in keeping his promise to return his people to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. It includes the following themes: God's Sovereignty – Restoration – Action.

### OUTLINE

- I. First Exiles Return to Judah (1-2)
- II. Rebuilding of the Temple (3-6)
- III. Ezra's Return (7-8)
- IV. Ezra's Ministry (9-10)

## NEHEMIAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God wants to use leaders to build a wall of protection!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Jews who were returning from exile to encourage them to continue the work of restoring Jerusalem, the temple, and the community.

### THEMES

Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the restoration of God's people. It contains the following themes: Renewal – Prayer – Opposition.

### OUTLINE

- I. Nehemiah Leads in the Rebuilding of the Wall (1:1-7:3)
- II. Changes Under Ezra (7:4-10:39)
- III. Jerusalem Repopulated and Wall Dedicated (11-12)
- IV. Nehemiah's Return to Jerusalem and Leadership Role (13)

## ESTHER

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God will deliver his children!

### OVERVIEW

This brief account was written to record the events that led to the establishment of the celebration of Purim (9:2-32) as a commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews during the Persian period. It was likely also written to demonstrate God's sovereignty and care for his people.

### THEMES

Esther describes the events leading to the establishment of the feat of Purim, which commemorates the deliverance of the Jews during the Persia period. It includes the following themes: God's Sovereignty – Racism – Service – Obedience – Pride.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Feasts of Xerxes (1:1-2:18)
- II. The Feasts of Esther (2:19-7:10)
- III. The Feasts of Purim (8-10)

## JOB

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Why do the righteous suffer?

### OVERVIEW

Written to address the question of suffering, a subject that is pondered as much today as it was 3,000 years ago.

### THEMES

Job describes the suffering of a “blameless and upright” man (1:1). It contains the following themes: God’s Sovereignty – God’s Goodness and Justice – Satan – a Proper Response to Suffering.

### OUTLINE

- I. Prologue: Job’s Happiness; Job’s Testing (1-2)
- II. Dialogue – Dispute: Job and His Friends (3-27)
  - a. Job’s Opening Lament (3)
  - b. Round 1: Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar Speak; Job Answers (4-14)
  - c. Round 2: Three Friends Speak; Job Answers (15-21)
  - d. Round 3: Two Friends Speak; Job Answers (22-26)
  - e. Job’s Closing Speech (27)
- III. Interlude on Wisdom (28)
- IV. Monologues (29-42:6)
  - a. Job (29-31)
  - b. Elihu (32-37)
  - c. God (38:1-42:6)
- V. Epilogue: God Judges Three Friends; Job Restored (42:7-17)

## PSALMS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Praise God!

### OVERVIEW

The psalms were originally individual poems meant to be sung. In the course of time, they were collected to form small books that were used for worship. Psalms is a collection of five of these books.

### THEMES

Psalms is a compilation of 150 poems that model a personal relationship with God. Because the book covers nearly every area of life and doctrine, it’s impossible to summarize its many themes and teachings. Psalms is perhaps most easily described as: A Portrait of God – A Model of a Personal Relationship with God – A Contrast of the Ways of the Righteous with Those of the Wicked.

### OUTLINE

- I. Book One: Psalms 1-41
- II. Book Two: Psalms 42-72
- III. Book Three: Psalms 73-89
- IV. Book Four: Psalms 90-106
- V. Book Five: Psalms 107-150

## PROVERBS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Get wisdom!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the people of Israel to show them how wisdom can be practically applied to everyday life.

### THEMES

A proverb is a general truth condensed into a short, catchy statement or story giving practical insights applicable to everyday life. The book of Proverbs gives instructions for practical living that include the following themes: Wisdom – Practical Living.

### OUTLINE

- I. Prologue: Purpose and Theme (1:1-7)
- II. Superiority of the Way of Wisdom (1:8-9:18)
- III. Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)
- IV. Sayings of the Wise (22:17-24:34)
- V. More Proverbs of Solomon (25-29)
- VI. The Words of Agur and Lemuel (30:1-31:9)
- VII. Epilogue: The Excellent Wife (31:10-31)

## SONG OF SOLOMON (SONG OF SONGS)

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Love God!

### OVERVIEW

Song of Solomon is a love poem or compilation of love poems written to God's people to honor and celebrate his gift of romantic, sexual love. Because of the book's highly sensual nature, some scholars have interpreted it as an allegory of God's love for his people. Others have set aside these interpretive explanations.

### THEMES

Songs of Solomon describes God's gift of romantic love. It includes the following themes: Love is a Beautiful Gift from God – Marital Contentment – Love is Both Pleasurable and Painful.

### OUTLINE

- I. First Meeting (1:1-2:7)
- II. Second Meeting (2:8-3:5)
- III. Third Meeting (3:6-5:1)
- IV. Fourth Meeting (5:2-6:3)
- V. Fifth Meeting (6:4-8:4)
- VI. Literary Climax (8:5-7)
- VII. Conclusion (8:8-14)

## ISAIAH OUTSTANDING

**LESSON:** Salvation is of God!

### OVERVIEW

Isaiah's primary ministry was to the people of Judah, who weren't living according to God's law. But he prophesied judgment upon Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations. He also preached a message of repentance and salvation for those who would turn to God.

### THEMES

Isaiah describes God's judgment of sin as well as his forgiveness, comfort, and hope. Other than the Psalms, Isaiah contains the most Messianic prophecies of any Old Testament book. It includes the following themes: Judgment and Salvation – God as King – The Suffering Servant.

### OUTLINE

- I. Messages of Rebuke and Promise (1-6)
- II. Immanuel and His Kingdom (7-12)
- III. God's Judgment Against the Nations (13-23)
- IV. Judgment and Promise (24-27)
- V. Five Woes on Unfaithful Israel and One on Assyria (28-33)
- VI. More Judgment and Promise (34-35)
- VII. Transition from Assyrian Threat to Babylonian Exile (36-39)
- VIII. Deliverance and Restoration of Israel (40-48)
- IX. The Servant's Ministry and Israel's Restoration (49-57)
- X. Everlasting Deliverance and Judgment (58-66)

## JEREMIAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Go and tell!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the people of Judah in the southern kingdom and to Jerusalem, as capital city.

### THEMES

Jeremiah describes God's just judgment on the people of Judah for their continuing sin, it includes the following themes: Repentance – Judgment – Restoration.

### OUTLINE

- I. Jeremiah's Call (1)
- II. Warnings and Exhortations to Judah (2-29)
- III. Promises of Restoration (30-33)
- IV. Historical Insertion (34-35)
- V. The Sufferings of Jeremiah (36-38)
- VI. Fall of Jerusalem and Following Events (39-45)
- VII. Judgment Against the Nations (46-51)
- VIII. Historical Appendix (52)

## LAMENTATIONS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God's grace always shines!

### OVERVIEW

Written to express the Jewish people's pain, grief, and horror at the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

### THEMES

Lamentations describes the overwhelming grief, anger, fear, loneliness, and hopelessness that accompanied the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. It contains the following themes: Judgment – Appropriate Response to Judgment – God's Character.

### OUTLINE

- I. Jerusalem's Sorrow (1)
- II. The Lord's Anger Against His People (2)
- III. The Hope of Consolation (3)
- IV. Contrast Between the Past and Present (4)
- V. Judah's Appeal for God's Forgiveness (5)

## EZEKIEL

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Judgment and restoration!

### OVERVIEW

Ezekiel addressed his words to the Israelites living in exile. Initially he wrote to warn them of coming judgment; later, to encourage them with promises of the coming restoration and of God's mercy.

### THEMES

Ezekiel warned of the coming judgment on Israel and other nations and promised the future salvation of God's people. The book contains the following themes: Judgment – God's Sovereignty – Future Hope.

### OUTLINE

- I. Ezekiel's Call and Commission (1-3)
- II. Judgment Against Judah and Jerusalem (4-24)
  - a. The Siege of Jerusalem Symbolized (4-5)
  - b. Prophecy of God's Judgment on His People (6-7)
  - c. Prophecy of the Temple Corrupted by Idolatry (8-11)
  - d. The Coming Exile Acted Out and Prophesied (12)
  - e. Prophecies of Judgment on Sin (13-24)
- III. Judgment on the Nations (25-32)
- IV. The Hope of Consolation and Preparation for Restoration (33-39)
  - a. The Prophet as a Watchman (33:1-20)
  - b. The Reasons for Jerusalem's Fall (33-21-33)
  - c. Unfaithful Shepherds and the Good Shepherd (34)
  - d. God's Judgment on Edom (35)
  - e. Hope for the Mountains of Israel (36:1-15)
  - f. Recap of the Prophet's Message (36:16-38)
  - g. New Life for the Valley of Dry Bones (37)
  - h. The Battle with Gog (38-39)
- V. Renewed Worship (40-48)

## DANIEL

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God is sovereign!

### OVERVIEW

Daniel wrote to his fellow Jewish exiles in Babylon to remind them of God's sovereign control over world history and to encourage them with God's promises of restoration.

### THEMES

Daniel describes six historical narratives (1:1-6:8) and four visions (7:1-12:13). It contains the following themes: God's Sovereignty – Faithfulness to God – Prophecies of Future Events.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Captivity, Faithfulness, and Elevation of Daniel and His Three Friends (1)
- II. The Destinies of the Nations (2-7)
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Statue (2)
  - b. Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image and its Worship (3)
  - c. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of a Large Tree (4)
  - d. Belshazzar's and Babylon's Downfall (5)
  - e. Daniel's Deliverance from the Lions' Den ((6)
  - f. Daniel's Dream of Four Beasts (7)
- III. Israel's Destiny (8-12)
  - a. Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat (8)
  - b. Daniel's Prayer and His Vision of the 70 "Sevens" (9)
  - c. Daniel's Vision of Israel's Future (10-12)

## HOSEA

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Return unto God!

### OVERVIEW

Hosea initially delivered his message of doom orally to the northern kingdom of Israel. After the fall of Samaria, his words were transcribed to scrolls as a record of prophecy fulfilled and as a warning of judgment, a call to repentance, and a promise of restoration.

### THEMES

Hosea describes the prophet Hosea's marriage, mandated by God, to an adulterous woman. His life portrayed God's love for his people in spite of their unfaithfulness to him. The book recounts the sin of the northern kingdom of Israel, Israel's defeat by Assyria as judgment for that sin, and God's future restoration of his people. Hosea includes the following themes: God's Faithfulness, Mercy, and Unfailing Love – Judgment for Sin – Repentance and Restoration.

### OUTLINE

- I. Hosea's Marriage (1-3)
- II. Hosea's Message (4-14)
  - a. Israel's Unfaithfulness (4:1-6:3)
  - b. Israel's Punishment (6:4-10:15)
  - c. God is Faithful (11-14)



## JOEL

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Repent, for the “day of the Lord” is coming!

### OVERVIEW

Joel warned the people of Judah (the southern kingdom) of coming judgment and urged them to repent and turn to God.

### THEMES

Joel described the devastation caused by a locust plague and tied it to the coming day of the judgment, referred to here and elsewhere in the prophetic books as the “day of the Lord.” Joel revealed God’s passionate concern for his people and his desire for intimacy with them. The book includes the following themes: Judgment – Repentance and Salvation.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Locust Invasion and Call to Repentance (1:1-2:17)
  - a. A Call to Mourning and Prayer (1:1-14)
  - b. The Announcement of the Day of the Lord (1:15-2:11)
  - c. A Call to Repentance and Prayer (2:12-17)
- II. Salvation in the Day of the Lord (2:18-3:21)
  - a. The Lord’s Restoration of Judah (2:18-27)
  - b. The Lord’s Renewal of His People (2:28-32)
  - c. The Coming of the Day of the Lord (3)

## AMOS

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Prepare to meet your God!

### OVERVIEW

Amos prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel during a time of peace, success, and great material prosperity.

### THEMES

Amos describes the idolatry, self-indulgence, immorality, injustice, corruption, and oppression of the poor in the northern kingdom of Israel. It includes the following themes: Social Justice – Judgment.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-2)
- II. Judgments on the Nations (1:3-2:16)
- III. Judgments on God’s People (3:1-5:17)
- IV. Announcements of Exile (5:18-6:14)
- V. Visions of Amos (7:1-9:10)
- VI. Restored Israel’s Hope for the Future (9:11-15)

## OBADIAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Possess your possessions!

### OVERVIEW

Written to condemn the Edomites for their treachery and violence toward the people of Judah and for their arrogance and indifference toward God.

### THEMES

Obadiah described the longstanding feud between God’s people and the Edomites. The book predicted the destruction of Edom as God’s vindication of his people. It includes the following themes: Judgment for Edom – Deliverance and Restoration for Israel.

### OUTLINE

- I. Title and Introduction (1)
- II. The Doom of Edom (2-14)
- III. Edom in the Day of the Lord (15-21)

## JONAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Arise and go!

### OVERVIEW

Jonah was addressed to the northern kingdom (Israel) during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.), a time of great territorial and commercial expansion. Assyria, whose capital was Nineveh, was Israel’s worst enemy at the time. This book expresses God’s concern for, and mercy toward, even the adversaries of his people.

### THEMES

The book of Jonah describes the prophet Jonah’s reluctant ministry to the people of Nineveh, Israel’s hated enemy. It includes the following themes: God’s Sovereignty – God’s Compassion and Mercy – Mission.

### OUTLINE

- I. Jonah Flees From God (1-2)
  - a. Jonah’s Commission and Flight (1:1-3)
  - b. The Storm (1:4-6)
  - c. Jonah’s Disobedience Exposed (1:7-10)
  - d. Jonah’s Punishment and Deliverance (1:11-2:1; 2:10)
  - e. Jonah’s Prayer (2:2-9)
- II. Jonah Reluctantly Fulfills His Mission (3-4)
  - a. Jonah’s Response (3:1-4)
  - b. The Ninevites’ Response (3:5-9)
  - c. The Ninevites’ Repentance (3:10-4:4)
  - d. Jonah’s Deliverance and Rebuke (4:5-11)

## MICAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Hear Him!

### OVERVIEW

Micah ministered primarily to the southern kingdom of Judah, but he also addressed the northern kingdom of Israel, predicting the fall of Samaria (1-6) that would take place in 722 B.C. His message was aimed at greedy and oppressive landowners (2:1-5). They supported Israel's corrupt political and religious leaders, who had led the nation into moral decay.

### THEMES

Micah demonstrates the balancing of God's justice and mercy. God punishes the wicked but saves and restores those who repent. Micah includes the following themes: Judgment Against Oppressors – Restoration – Justice.

### OUTLINE

- I. Judgment Against Israel and Judah (1-3)
- II. Israel and Judah Have Hope (4-5)
- III. The Lord's Case Against Israel (6)
- IV. Misery Turns to Triumph (7)

## NAHUM

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Beware, the Lord avenges!

### OVERVIEW

Nahum wrote to the people of Nineveh, the capital city of the ruthless Assyrians, and to the nation of Judah. His message of doom for Nineveh (approximately 100 years after the Ninevites' repentance under Jonah's ministry) was a comfort to the people of Judah, who had seen the northern kingdom of Israel defeated and carried into exile by the Assyrians and were themselves suffering under their vicious cruelty.

### THEMES

Nahum described the coming judgment on Nineveh. The book includes the following themes: Judgment – Deliverance.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Lord as Nineveh's Judge (1)
  - a. God's Anger Against Nineveh (1:2-8)
  - b. God's Judgment on Nineveh and Victory for Judah (1:9-15)
- II. Nineveh's Fall (2)
- a. The Siege (2:1-10)
- b. The Desolation (2:11-13)
- III. Woe to Nineveh (3)
  - a. Nineveh's Sins (3:1-4)
  - b. Nineveh's Coming Doom (3:5-19)

## HABAKKUK

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Live by faith!

### OVERVIEW

The book of Habakkuk is a dialogue between God and Habakkuk that was composed for the people of Judah. Habakkuk was troubled by Judah's idolatry, indifference to God, and social injustice. He wondered how long God would ignore the wickedness of his people. God responded by revealing that his judgment would come through the Babylonians. This perplexed Habakkuk even more. How could a just God use the Babylonians, a people even more wicked than Judah, to punish his people?

### THEMES

The book of Habakkuk describes the prophet Habakkuk's struggle to understand God's justice in the face of wickedness, oppression and injustice. It includes the following themes: Justice – Faith.

### OUTLINE

- I. Habakkuk's First Question (1:1-4)
- II. God's Answer (1:5-11)
- III. Habakkuk's Second Question (1:12-2:1)
- IV. God's Answer (2:2-20)
- V. Habakkuk's Prayer (3)

## ZEPHANIAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** God is mighty to save!

### OVERVIEW

Zephaniah wrote to the people of Judah to warn them of God's impending judgment, to urge them to repent, and to give them hope of restoration.

### THEMES

Zephaniah describes the prophet Zephaniah's ministry to the people of Judah. It warns of impending judgment and promises a future society of justice. It includes the following themes: Judgment – Restoration.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: Announcement of Total Judgment (1:1-3)
- II. The Day of the Lord Coming on Judah and the Nations (1:4-18)
- III. God's Judgment on the Nations (2:1-3:8)
- IV. The Promise of Redemption (3:9-20)

## HAGGA

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Build for God!

### OVERVIEW

Zerubbabel had returned to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. with about 50,000 Jews to rebuild the temple. Over the years they had become discouraged by opposition and had abandoned the project. Haggai's messages were given to encourage the Jews to complete the temple rebuilding project.

### THEMES

Haggai spoke to a discouraged people who had misplaced their priorities. He directed them to think about what they were doing (or, more appropriately, what they weren't doing). Get their priorities straight, and work wholeheartedly for God. The book of Haggai contains the following themes: Priorities – Obedience.

### OUTLINE

- I. First Message: The Call to Rebuild the Temple (1:1-11)
- II. The Response of Zerubbabel and the People (1:12-15)
- III. Second Message: The Promised Glory (2:1-9)
- IV. Third Message: A Defiled People Blessed (2:10-19)
- V. Fourth Message: The Promise to Zerubbabel (2:20-23)

## ZECHARIAH

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Turn to Him!

### OVERVIEW

Zechariah encouraged the Jews who had returned from exile in Babylon to complete the rebuilding of the temple. He also prophesied concerning Jerusalem's future place in God's kingdom.

### THEMES

Zechariah was written as an encouraging message to a people who had lost their sense of identity and purpose in God's plan. It includes the following themes: Israel's Near Future -- Israel's Distant Future.

### OUTLINE

- I. A Call to Repentance (1:1-6)
- II. Eight Night Visions and Prophecies (1:7-6:8)
- III. The Crowning of Joshua the High Priest (6:9-15)
- IV. Fasting and the Future (7-8)
- V. The Advent and Rejection of Messiah (9-11)
- VI. The Advent and Reception of Messiah (12-14)

## MALACHI

**OUTSTANDING LESSON:** Repent and return!

### OVERVIEW

Written to the Jews who had returned from Babylon. The temple in Jerusalem had by this time been rebuilt (516 B.C.) but the people had fallen into a state of spiritual apathy. They were disillusioned about their future and skeptical of God's promises.

### THEMES

Malachi describes the complacency, hypocrisy, disillusionment, and indifference of God's people after the temple in Jerusalem had been rebuilt. It includes the following themes: Israel's Unfaithfulness – Judgment.

### OUTLINE

- I. God's Covenant Love for Israel (1:1-5)
- II. Israel's Unfaithfulness Rebuked (1:6-2:16)
  - a. The Unfaithfulness of the Priests (1:6-29)
  - b. The Unfaithfulness of the People (2:10-16)
- III. The Lord's Coming (2:17-4:6)
  - a. His Coming Will Bring Purification and Judgment (2:17-3:5)
  - b. Repentance is Appropriate Preparation for the Lord's Coming (3:6-18)
  - c. The Day of the Lord is Certain to Come (4)

# ***The Books of the New Testament***

## **MATTHEW**

**Outstanding Lesson:** To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal King

### **OVERVIEW**

Matthew's main purpose is to prove to his Jewish readers that Jesus is their Messiah. He does this primarily by showing how Jesus in his life and ministry fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures. Although all the Gospel writers quote the OT, Matthew includes nine proof texts unique to his Gospel to drive home his basic theme: Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT predictions of the Messiah. Matthew even finds the history of God's people in the OT recapitulated in some aspects of Jesus' life. To accomplish his purpose Matthew also emphasizes Jesus' Davidic lineage.

### **Themes**

Matthew's gospel includes the following themes: Jesus as Fulfillment of Jewish Scriptures – Jesus as Teacher, Son of David, Son of God, Immanuel – Jesus as the New Israel – the Great Commission.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Birth and Early Years of Jesus (1-2)
- II. The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry (3:1–4:11)
- III. Jesus' Message and Ministry (4:12–25:46)
- IV. The Arrest, Trials and Death of Jesus (26:14–27:66)
- V. The Resurrection of Jesus and the Great Commission (28)

## **MARK**

**Outstanding Lesson:** To present the person, work, and teachings of Jesus.

### **OVERVIEW**

Written to encourage Roman Christians and to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah, Mark presents a rapid succession of vivid pictures of Jesus in action – His true identity revealed by what He does, not necessarily by what He says. It is Jesus on the move.

### **THEMES**

Mark presents Jesus as the mighty Messiah and Son of God who exercises authority to overcome the forces of Satan, sin and disease. Key themes include: The Gospel – The Kingdom of God – Jesus the Authoritative Christ and Son of God – Jesus the Servant of the Lord – A Call for Cross-bearing Discipleship.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry (1:1-13)
- II. Jesus' Ministry in and beyond Galilee (1:14-9:50)
- III. Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Perea (10)
- IV. The Passion of Jesus (11-15)
- V. The Resurrection of Jesus (16)

## **LUKE**

**Outstanding Lesson:** Jesus Christ is the perfect human and Savior!

### **OVERVIEW**

This is the most comprehensive of the Gospels. Luke stresses Jesus' relationships with people; emphasizes prayer, miracles, and angels; records inspired hymns of praise; and gives a prominent place to women.

### **THEMES**

Luke includes the following themes: Historical Foundations – The Universal Scope of the Gospel – Fulfillment of Prophecy – God's Purpose and Plan – Women – Jerusalem and Jesus.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction (1:1-3)
- II. Birth and Childhood of John the Baptist and Jesus (1:4-2:52)
- III. The Ministry of John the Baptist (3:1-20)
- IV. The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus (3:21-4:13)
- V. His Public Ministry in Galilee (4:14–9:50)
- VI. From Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27)
- VII. Jesus' Last Days: Sacrifice and Triumph (19:28–24:53)

## JOHN

**Outstanding Lesson:** To prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

### OVERVIEW

John's Gospel presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God, who "became a human being and lived among us." As the book itself says, this Gospel was written so that its readers might believe that Jesus is the promised Savior, the Son of God, and that through their faith in Him they may have life.

### THEMES

John writes to call his readers to faith in Christ. This book includes the following themes: Jesus as the Son – Dualistic Perspective – Miracles – Spiritual Symbols and Metaphors – Jesus' Self-revelation – The Holy Spirit.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-18)
- II. John the Baptist and the First Disciples of Jesus (1:19-51)
- III. Jesus' Public Ministry (2-12)
- IV. The Last Days in and Near Jerusalem (13-19)
- V. The Resurrection and Appearances of the Lord (20)
- VI. Epilogue: Another Appearance in Galilee (21)

## ACTS

**Outstanding Lesson:** The early church exploded through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers were growing in fellowship and faith, and reaching out to the world.

### OVERVIEW

Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. It is a connecting link between Christ's life and the life of the church, between the Gospels and the Letters.

### THEMES

The book of Acts tells the remarkable story of how the Gospel is spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth! It contains the following themes: Jesus' Commission to His Disciples – The Coming of the Holy Spirit – God's Purpose and Plan – The Unstoppable Gospel – Geographic and Ethnic Movements – Paul.

### OUTLINE

- I. Peter and the Beginnings of the Church in the Holy Land (1-12)
- II. Paul and the Expansion of the Church from Antioch to Rome (13-28)

## ROMANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Because of God's great mercy, all people can be saved!

### OVERVIEW

Written to Christians in Rome and believers everywhere, Paul's writings are an organized and carefully presented statement of his faith. Because all mankind is under the power of sin, Paul presents the facts of the Gospel and man's need for a Savior and the results of this relationship with God.

### THEMES

The central theme of the letter is the righteousness of God. People are made right with God ("justified") by faith alone apart from human effort.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-15)
- II. Righteousness from God (1:16-17)
- III. The Unrighteousness of All People (1:18-3:20)
- IV. Righteousness Imputed: Justification (3:21-5:21)
- V. Righteousness Imparted: Sanctification (6-8)
- VI. God's Righteousness Vindicated:  
The Justice of His Way with Israel (9-11)
- VII. Righteousness Practiced (12:1-15:13)
- VIII. Conclusion (15:14-33)
- IX. Commendation, Greetings and Doxology (16)

## 1 CORINTHIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** God's Word speaks to and provides solutions for all our problems.

### OVERVIEW

The letter revolves around the theme of problems in Christian conduct in the church. It thus has to do with progressive sanctification, the continuing development of a holy character. Obviously Paul was personally concerned with the Corinthians' problems, revealing a true pastor's (shepherd's) heart.

### THEMES

Although established for several years, the church at Corinth was spiritually immature. Key themes include: Divisions in the Church – Principles of Conduct – Spiritual Gifts – Love.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-9)
- II. Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:21)
- III. Moral and Ethical Disorders in the Life of the Church (5-6)
- IV. Instruction on Marriage (7)
- V. Instruction on Questionable Practices (8:1-11:1)
- VI. Instruction on Public Worship (11:2-14:40)
- VII. Instruction on the Resurrection (15)
- VIII. Conclusion: Practical and Personal Matters (16)

## 2 CORINTHIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Be committed to the truth of God's Word and be prepared to reject all false teaching!

### OVERVIEW

An intensely personal and autobiographical letter, Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to affirm his ministry, defend his authority as an apostle, and refute the false teachers in Corinth.

### THEMES

This emotional and heartfelt letter contains the following themes: Authority – Reconciliation – Commitment.

### OUTLINE

- I. Paul's Explanation of His Conduct and Ministry (1-7)
- II. The Collection for the Christians at Jerusalem (8-9)
- III. Paul's Vindication of His Authority (10-13)

## GALATIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** We are free in Christ! Free from the law and the power of sin! Free to serve our living Lord!

### OVERVIEW

The Galatians were beginning to turn from faith to legalism. Paul wrote to refute those caught up in tradition and Jewish law and call believers back to the pure Gospel. He begins by defending his right to be called an apostle and goes on to explain that the Good News is for everyone and that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus, building his case for Christian liberty.

### THEMES

Galatians is a passionate defense of the Gospel message. It contains the following themes: Faith – Salvation – Fruit of the Spirit.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-10)
- II. Authentication of the Apostle of Liberty and Faith (1:11–2:21)
- III. Justification of the Doctrine of Liberty and Faith (3-4)
- IV. Practice of the Life of Liberty and Faith (5:1–6:10)
- V. Conclusion and Benediction (6:11-18)

## EPHESIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** We are called to live in unity in Christ!

### OVERVIEW

Covering a vast amount of doctrine and practice, Ephesians was written to provide a concise summary of God's plan of salvation and to encourage Jews and Gentiles to unity in the faith.

### THEMES

Ephesians may be divided into two themes. The first three chapters are more doctrinal, concerning God's divine purpose in Christ and the believers' position in Christ. The final three chapters speak practically of how believers ought to live in light of their position in Christ.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. The Divine Purpose: The Glory and Headship of Christ (1:3-14)
- III. Prayer That Christians May Realize God's Purpose and Power (1:15-23)
- IV. Steps Toward the Fulfillment of God's Purpose (2-3)
- V. Practical Ways to Fulfill God's Purpose in the Church (4:1–6:20)
- VI. Conclusion, Final Greetings and Benediction (6:21-24)

## PHILIPPIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Rejoice and be thankful in all things!

### OVERVIEW

Paul's letter thanks the Philippians for their support of his ministry and encourages them to greater unity, joy and contentment in Christ.

### THEMES

Philippians contains one pervasive theme: The Great Joy of Knowing Christ.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Philippians (1:3-11)
- III. Paul's Personal Circumstances (1:12-26)
- IV. Exhortations (1:27–2:18)
- V. Paul's Associates in the Gospel (2:19-30)
- VI. Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ and Necessity of Growth (3:1–3:16)
- VII. Contrast Between the Enemies and Friends of the Cross (3:17-4:1)
- VIII. Final Exhortations, Thanks and Conclusion (4:2-23)



## COLOSSIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone!

### OVERVIEW

Paul wrote to the Colossian church to call them back to the truth of the Gospel and away from false teachers.

### THEMES

Paul opposes the false teaching in the church at Colossae. The key theme of this book is the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-14)
- II. The Supremacy of Christ (1:15-23)
- III. Paul's Labor for the Church (1:24-2:7)
- IV. Freedom from Human Regulations Through Life with Christ (2:8-23)
- V. Rules for Holy Living (3:1-4:6)
- VI. Final Greetings and Benediction (4:7-18)

## 1 THESSALONIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Stand firm and remain faithful in the midst of crisis.

### OVERVIEW

Paul praises the young church at Thessalonica for standing firm and remaining faithful in the face of severe persecution. He encourages them to love one another, grow in righteousness and maintain their hope in the promise of Christ's return.

### THEMES

Paul was encouraged by the Thessalonians and their faithfulness. The book contains the following themes: Encouragement - Relationships - Godly Living - The Return of Christ.

### OUTLINE

- I. Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (1)
- II. Defense of Paul's Actions and Absence (2-3)
- III. Exhortations to the Thessalonians (4:1-5:22)
- IV. Concluding Prayer, Greetings and Benediction (5:23-28)

## 2 THESSALONIANS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Patiently watch for Christ's return, and work for Him while we wait!

### OVERVIEW

Second Thessalonians was written to calm and encourage the church because of inaccurate reports about the arrival of the day of the Lord. Paul wanted to correct false teachings and deal with the idleness of those who refused to work and the busybodies who were causing problems.

### THEMES

Because the church was getting sidetracked from its fundamental mission, Paul wrote with these three themes in mind: Encouragement - Correction - Accountability.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1)
- II. Instruction (2)
- III. Injunctions (3)

## 1 TIMOTHY

**Outstanding Lesson:** Live as a godly example to others.

### OVERVIEW

Paul wrote 1 Timothy to give encouragement and instruction to Timothy, a young leader.

### THEMES

First Timothy is a personal letter and a handbook of church administration and discipline. It contains the following themes: False Teachers - Public Worship - Qualifications of Church Leaders.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Warnings Against False Teachers (1:3-11)
- III. The Lord's Grace to Paul (1:12-17)
- IV. The Purpose of Paul's Instructions to Timothy (1:18-20)
- V. Instructions Concerning Church Administration (2-3)
- VI. Instructions Concerning False Teaching (4)
- VII. Instructions Concerning Different Groups in the Church (5:1-6:2)
- VIII. Miscellaneous Matters (6:3-19)
- IX. Concluding Appeal and Benediction (6:20-21)

## 2 TIMOTHY

**Outstanding Lesson:** Stand courageously for the Truth, know the Word and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

### OVERVIEW

Paul knew he was going to be executed soon when he wrote this final letter to Timothy, revealing his heart and his priorities – sound doctrine, steadfast faith, confident endurance, and enduring love.

### THEMES

A book of encouragement and instruction, 2 Timothy includes the following themes: Faithfulness – Preparation – Courage.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1–4)
- II. Paul's Concern for Timothy (1:5–14)
- III. Paul's Situation (1:15–18)
- IV. Special Instructions to Timothy (2)
- V. Warning About the Last Days (3)
- VI. Paul's Departing Remarks (4:1–8)
- VII. Final Requests, Greetings and Benediction (4:9–22)

## TITUS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Be living examples of our faith to the world!

### OVERVIEW

This letter encourages and gives instructions to Titus in his leadership role on the island of Crete.

### THEMES

Similar to 1 Timothy, Titus includes the following themes: Sound Doctrine – Leadership – Relationships – Good Deeds.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1–4)
- II. Concerning Elders (1:5–9)
- III. Concerning False Teachers (1:10–16)
- IV. Concerning Various Groups in the Congregations (2)
- V. Concerning Believers in General (3:1–8)
- VI. Concerning Response to Spiritual Error (3:9–11)
- VII. Conclusion, Final Greetings and Benediction (3:12–15)

## PHILEMON

**Outstanding Lesson:** Christian relationships must be full of forgiveness and acceptance.

### OVERVIEW

Paul writes to his friend Philemon asking him to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus and to accept him as a brother in the faith.

### THEMES

This private, personal letter to a friend includes the following themes: Forgiveness – Barriers – Respect.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1–3)
- II. Thanksgiving and Prayer (4–7)
- III. Paul's Plea for Onesimus (8–21)
- IV. Final Request, Greetings and Benediction (22–25)

## HEBREWS

**Outstanding Lesson:** Living in Christ is having the best there is in life!

### OVERVIEW

Written to Jewish Christians struggling in their faith, the message of Hebrews is that Jesus is better, Christianity is superior, Christ is supreme and completely sufficient for salvation.

### THEMES

Hebrews calls Christians to stand firm. It contains the following themes: Christ's Superiority and Sacrifice – New Covenant – Maturity – Faith – Endurance.

### OUTLINE

- I. Prologue: The Superiority of God's New Revelation (1:1–4)
- II. The Superiority of Christ to Leading Figures Under the Old Covenant (1:5–7:28)
- III. The Superior Sacrificial Work of Our High Priest (8:1–10:18)
- IV. A Call to Follow Jesus Faithfully and with Perseverance (10:19–12:29)
- V. Conclusion (13)

## JAMES

**Outstanding Lesson:** Vibrant faith is demonstrated through concrete action!

### OVERVIEW

James wrote to Jewish Christians who had been scattered because of persecution. He calls them to demonstrate authentic faith through their actions.

### THEMES

Concerned with practical matters related to the believer's walk, James contains the following themes: Faith and Works – Trials – Law of Love – Wise Speech – Riches and Poverty.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1)
- II. Trials and Temptations (1:2-18)
- III. Listening and Doing (1:19-27)
- IV. Favoritism Forbidden (2:1-13)
- V. Faith and Deeds (2:14-26)
- VI. Taming the Tongue (3:1-12)
- VII. Two Kinds of Wisdom (3:13-18)
- VIII. Warning against Worldliness (4)
- IX. Warning to Rich Oppressors (5:1-6)
- X. Miscellaneous Exhortations (5:7-20)

## 1 PETER

**Outstanding Lesson:** Our true identity is as God's children and our true home is in His presence!

### OVERVIEW

Written to encourage Christians driven out of Jerusalem to stand firm through suffering in expectation of their eternal inheritance.

### THEMES

First Peter contains the following themes: Salvation – Persecution – Family Life – Judgment.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Praise to God for His Grace and Salvation (1:3-12)
- III. Exhortations to Holiness of Life (1:13–5:11)
- IV. The Purpose of the Letter (5:12)
- V. Final Greetings and Benediction (5:13-14)

## 2 PETER

**Outstanding Lesson:** Grow in your faith and knowledge of Christ.

### OVERVIEW

Written three years after 1 Peter, this letter warns believers of false teachers infiltrating the church. The best opposition is a solid understanding of the truth. By having a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, believers can recognize and avoid spiritual counterfeits.

### THEMES

This book includes the following themes: True Christian Faith – False Teachers – Christ's Return.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Exhortation to Growth in Christian Virtues (1:3-11)
- III. The Purpose and Authentication of Peter's Message (1:12-21)
- IV. Warning Against False Teachers (2)
- V. The Fact of Christ's Return (3:1-16)
- VI. Conclusion and Doxology (3:17-18)

## 1 JOHN

**Outstanding Lesson:** To have God's Son is to have eternal life!

### OVERVIEW

In this letter, John's spiritual children are under spiritual attack from false teachers. John responds with comfort and assurance. For those who are trying to deceive them he has strong words.

### THEMES

John's central theme is true fellowship with God. Other themes included are: Sin – Truth and Error – Family.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: The Reality of the Incarnation (1:1-4)
- II. The Christian Life as Fellowship with the Father and the Son (1:5–2:28)
- III. The Christian Life as Divine Sonship (2:29–4:6)
- IV. The Christian Life as an Integration of the Ethical and the Christological (4:7–5:12)
- V. Conclusion: Great Christian Certainties (5:13-21)

## 2 JOHN

**Outstanding Lesson:** Following God's Word is essential to Christian living.

### OVERVIEW

In 2 John, the apostle expresses joy that the church is remaining faithful to the apostolic teaching. He encourages them to love one another, live in obedience and to avoid false teachers.

### THEMES

This brief letter contains the following themes: Truth – Love – False Leaders.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1-3)
- II. Commendation (4)
- III. Exhortation and Warning (5-11)
- IV. Conclusion and Final Greetings (12-13)

## 3 JOHN

**Outstanding Lesson:** Practice hospitality, continue to walk in the truth, and do what is right.

### OVERVIEW

John wrote to commend Gaius, who was taking care of traveling teachers and missionaries, and to warn against people like Diotrephes, who was proud and refused to listen to spiritual leaders in authority.

### THEMES

This letter gives us an important glimpse into the life of the early church. It contains the following themes: Hospitality – Pride – Faithfulness – Discernment.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1-2)
- II. Commendation of Gaius (3-8)
- III. Condemnation of Diotrephes (9-10)
- IV. Exhortation to Gaius (11)
- V. Example of Demetrius (12)
- VI. Conclusion, Benediction and Final Greetings (13-14)

## JUDE

**Outstanding Lesson:** Keep strong in the faith, don't be deceived!

### OVERVIEW

Jude wrote to motivate Christians to action. He wanted them to recognize the dangers of false teaching, to protect themselves and other believers, and to win back those who had already been deceived.

### THEMES

Written to defend against a growing heresy, Jude contains the following themes: False Teachers – Apostasy – Holiness.

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1-2)
- II. Occasion for the Letter (3-4)
- III. Warning Against False Teachers (5-16)
- IV. Concluding Doxology (24-25)

## REVELATION

**Outstanding Lesson:** God Wins!

### OVERVIEW

Revelation provides a vision of God's ultimate purpose for humanity. The central message is God's sovereignty over human history. Cataclysmic disaster is predicted for the world, yet through it all God is in control.

### THEMES

Revelation is written in "apocalyptic" form – a type of Jewish literature that uses symbolic imagery to communicate hope. It contains the following themes: God's Sovereignty – Christ's Return – God's Faithful People – Judgment – Hope.

### OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-8)
- II. Jesus Among the Seven Churches (1:9-20)
- III. The Letters to the Seven Churches (2-3)
- IV. The Throne, the Scroll and the Lamb (4-5)
- V. The Seven Seals (6:1–8:1)
- VI. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
- VII. Various Personages and Events (12-14)
- VIII. The Seven Bowls (15-16)
- IX. Babylon: The Great Prostitute (17:1–19:5)
- X. Praise for the Wedding of the Lamb (19:6-10)
- XI. The Return of Christ (19:11-21)
- XII. The Thousand Years (20:1-6)
- XIII. Satan's Doom (20:7-10)
- XIV. Great White Throne of Judgment (20:11-15)
- XV. New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem (21:1–22:5)
- XVI. Conclusion and Benediction (22:6-21)

## RESOURCES

### 3 Commitments Worth Making

- ▶ I will read through the New Testament or Old Testament in the next 90 days.
- ▶ I will take GROWTH TRACK
- ▶ I will join a Bible study to learn more about God's will for my life.

#### I. BIBLE STUDY SKILL #1: MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

*"Happy is the one who reads this book and happy are those who...obey what is written in (it)."*  
REVELATION 1:3 (GN)

#### II. BIBLE STUDY SKILL #2: MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

*"Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart."* PROVERBS 7:2-3 (LB)

### HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

1. For longer verses, divide the verse into two or three parts.
2. Identify 3-6 main words, read the verse several times while emphasizing those words.
3. Reread the verse several times, glancing away more and more each time.
4. Put the verse on an index card, so you can carry the verse and review it several times throughout the day.

#### III. BIBLE STUDY SKILL #3: APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*"...whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."*  
MATTHEW 5:19

## APPENDIX

#### 1. Which version of the Bible should I read and study?

- ▶ The best personal study Bible: "The Life Application Bible - NLT" (TYNDALE)
- ▶ The best topical study Bible: "Thompson Chain Reference Bible - NIV" (KIRKBRIDE)
- ▶ The best background study Bible: "The NIV Study Bible" (ZONDERVAN)
- ▶ The best doctrine study Bible: "The Disciples Study Bible" (HOLMAN)

#### 2. When to memorize a verse:

- ▶ During your quiet time
- ▶ While exercising
- ▶ While waiting (spare moments)
- ▶ At bedtime (PSALM 63:6)

#### 3. Benefits from memorizing Scripture

- ▶ **It helps me resist temptation.**

*"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* PSALM 119:11

- ▶ **It helps me make wise decisions.**

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."* PSALM 119:105

- ▶ **It strengthens me when I'm under stress.**

*"...your promises to me...are my only hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!"* PSALM 119:49-50 (LB)

- ▶ **It comforts me when I'm down.**

*"Your words are what sustain me...They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me."* JEREMIAH 15:16 (LB)

*"It is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips."* PROVERBS 22:18

- ▶ **It helps me witness to pre-Christians**

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*  
1 PETER 3:15

## ***THE NAMES OF GOD***

Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of His character. You can take each of these eight (8) names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as affirmations of praise!

**Jehovah-Sham:** *“God is Present with me”* (EZEKIEL 48:35)  
You are here! I am never alone!

**Jehovah-Rohi:** *“God is my Shepherd”* (PSALM 23:1)  
You lead me and feed me and protect me!

**Jehovah-Jireh:** *“God is my Provider”* (GENESIS 22:14)  
You see what I need before I even ask!

**Jehovah-Rophe:** *“God is my Healer”* (EXODUS 15:26)  
You can heal my body, emotions and relationships!

**Jehovah-Tsidkenu:** *“God is my righteousness”* (JERERIMIAH 23:6)  
You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

**Jehovah-M’Kiddish:** *“God is my Sanctification”* (LEVITICUS 20:8)  
You make me holy and like Jesus!

**Jehovah-Shalom:** *“God is my Peace”* (JUDGES 6:24)  
You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

**Jehovah-Nissi:** *“God is my Banner”* (EXODUS 17:15)  
You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

***Think about the implications of these names and you’ll have plenty to praise God for!***



## ***EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS***

When in sorrow .....	call John 14
When men fail you .....	call Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful .....	call John 15
When you have sinned .....	call Psalm 51
When you worry .....	call Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger .....	call Psalm 91
When God seems far away .....	call Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring .....	call Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful .....	call Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical .....	call I Corinthians 13
For Paul's secret to happiness .....	call Colossians 3:12-17
For understanding of Christianity .....	call II Corinthians 5:15-19
When you feel down and out .....	call Romans 8:31
When you want peace and rest .....	call Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God .....	call Psalm 90
When you want Christian assurance .....	call Romans 8: 1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel .....	call Psalm 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish .....	call Psalm 67
For a great invention/opportunity.....	call Isaiah 55
When you want courage for a task .....	call Joshua 1
For how to get along with fellow men .....	call Romans 12
When you think of investments and returns .....	call Mark 10
If you are depressed .....	call Psalm 27
If your pocketbook is empty .....	call Psalm 37
If you are losing confidence in people .....	call I Corinthians 13
If people seem unkind .....	call John 15
If discouraged about your work .....	call Psalm 126
If you find the world growing small and yourself great .....	call Psalm 19

### **Alternate Numbers:**

For dealing with fear .....	call Psalm 34:7
For security .....	call Psalm 121:3
For assurance .....	call Mark 8:35
For reassurance .....	call Psalm 145:18

## ***SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY***

### **1. Small Groups.**

### **2. Study Bible.**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| *The Best Personal Study Bible:   | "The Life Application Bible" (Tyndale) |
| *The Best Topical Study Bible:    | "Thompson Chain Reference Bible-NIV"   |
| *The Best Background Study Bible: | "The NIV Study Bible" (Zondervan)      |
| *The Best Doctrine Study Bible:   | "The Disciples Study Bible" (Holman)   |

### **3. Bible Handbooks.**

- \*"Richard's Complete Handbook" (Word)
- \*"Halley's Bible Handbook" (Zondervan)
- \*Eerdmans's Bible Handbook" (Eerdmans)

### **4. Other Important Study Tools and Websites:**

- \*As many different translations as you can afford.  
(These can be purchased in parallel editions.)
- \*A complete concordance to match your translation or a Bible online
- \*"The Kingdom of the Cults" (Walter Martin)
- \*"The New Bible Dictionary" (Eerdmans)
- \*"The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands" (Moody)
- \*"Net.Bible.Org"
- \*BlueLetterBible.com

1. <https://dailydoseofgreek.com/learn-biblical-greek/> Lectures on Greek
2. <http://www.ntgateway.com/greek-ntgateway/greek-new-testament-texts/>  
Link to New Testament Greek Texts
3. <http://www.biblewebapp.com/reader/> Super helpful color-coordinated  
Greek passages. customizable
4. <https://biblicalgreek.org/> Resource link for lessons on Biblical Greek
5. <https://biblehub.com/> Okay link for Bible study
6. <https://www.studylight.org/> Decent link for Bible Study  
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/> Great way to search topically through bible

# THE PROCESS

## ***A Message from Pastor Scott,***

Below is an in-depth example of how I do this with my own Bible Study. In this I used various resources to study God's Word and went pretty in-depth. You do NOT need to write down everything, or as much as I have here! The purpose is about opening our hearts to what God has to say, not to "do" more. When you draw near to God He will draw near to you. I hope this helps and may you be blessed as you study The Word of God.

## **2PROAPT on Ephesians 4:1-16**

### **PRAY**

Start with prayer, ask God to open your heart and to help you see what you don't see yourself. Write it in this section. What would you, God, want to reveal to me about myself, others or yourself? Help me to see and hear what you would want me to see and hear.

### **PREVIEW**

Quickly Skim the passage and Write down what you THINK the passage could be about in ONE SENTENCE. This should be a gut reaction from your first quick skim of the passage. The main idea from this passage of scripture is that we are called to make every effort to build up the unity of the body of Christ.

### **READ & OBSERVE**

Walk slowly through the passage here. Highlight, underline, circle things that stand out to you. During this time you should be marking down observations. Below I started with Questions and then followed up with answers I could find. All Questions are GREAT. Choose between 2-4 Areas below to focus on: Literary, Grammar, History and Cultural.

***What is the word "Therefore" there for?*** An interesting observation that can be seen here is found in the deliberate shift of verse 1 from the previous half of the letter, specifically in Paul's use of the word, therefore. The first three chapters seem to deal with the believer's theology while this shift occurs to the second half of Ephesians which seems to deal with the believer's conduct. Paul is saying what you believe informs how you behave.

***Why does Paul talk a lot about oneness?*** Another interesting literary observation is the repetition of the theme of unity in this passage. In fact, seven times in the first six verses of this passage he emphasizes the "oneness" of our faith. Just before this, Paul speaks about "putting up with one another..." and "making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit...". In verse twelve, he mentions again the theme of unity that the work of the saints is to, "build up the body of Christ..." and that we would "attain to the unity of the faith." He finishes this section by once again stating "As each one does its part, the body builds itself up."

A very interesting literary observation is that Paul's description of the believers as "the body of Christ" is not unique to this passage. Other places in the epistles, Paul mentions this idea most notably in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Throughout both that passage and this one, Paul's second theme (within the context of unity) is individuality. "But to each one..." and "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers..." In Ephesians 5 it uses the context of the Body of Christ and is brought up as well.

***Who is Paul writing to? Why?*** There are some interesting historical observations we can make here. Paul writes this to the church in the ancient city of Ephesus, which during New Testament times, was the Roman capital of the province of Asia Minor. The city itself was of great significance in the past as well as in the first century A.D. It as located at the mouth of the Cayster River and while it stood it was the center of major international trade routes, which in turn brought much wealth and prosperity to the city itself. Though upon reaching the first century A.D. Ephesus had lost its significant trading power due to the combination of deforestation, overgrazing and the Mediterranean goat. These things and more cause the harbors of Ephesus to be overwhelmed, though thankfully the engineers were able to repair enough to provide Ephesus the desired trade and traffic needed.

***Why is Paul concerned about Unity?*** In 190 B.C. The Romans took it from the Macedonian-Greeks who in turn had taken it from the Ionians who had originally seized the city in 555 B.C. The Romans gave it to Eusmenes II, king of Pergamos though received it back in 133 B.C. after the death of Attalus III of Pergamos. In A.D 29 the city suffered damage from an earthquake but was rebuilt by the emperor Tiberius. This gesture is what possibly prompted the large following of Emperor worship in Ephesus.

---

<sup>1</sup> Green and McDonald, The World of the New Testament. 506

<sup>2</sup> Tenney, The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible. 325-326

**What's the culture like?** When we look at the cultural observations it is interesting to note that Ephesus like other major Roman/Greek cities, had major structures which stood in grand display. One such structure was a 24,000 seat theatre where shows and spectacles entertained folks. However, the gem of the city was the temple of the Goddess Diana, or Artemis and was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. this temple would have been a hub for cult prostitutes (serving the goddess of fertility), a Banking and financial center for Ephesus, and a refuge for those “unjustly” accused by the Roman government. “It was the center for worship of the pagan goddess Artemis (Diana). It was also known as a center of occult (magic) practices.”

Through these wonders and pagan practices, the city of Ephesus flourished, not as much in trade, but rather in tourism. The building of the temple of Artemis was so impactful on the ancient world, it is said that All Asia and the world revered Ephesus’ great temple to Artemis. The temple was the center of Ephesus economic system, as implied by the guild master in Acts 19. In other words, Ephesus was a cosmopolitan melting pot of different cultures and ideas, centering around the pagan worship of Artemis, and the tourism of the grand city and its theatre.

### **WHAT'S GOD TRYING TO TELL ME?**

This should be like the Preview Section, except now that you’ve studied more, write what you think the passage is mainly about. Again this should be no longer than one sentence.

***The purpose of this passage is that because of the calling of Christ, we are to make every effort, in love, to build up the body of Christ through our unique gifts that He himself has given to us for this purpose.***

### **APPLY**

Come up with several applications of the passage and how it can change the way you live.

Do I celebrate the unique gifts of my fellow pastors, teachers, evangelists or do I selfishly keep to my own gifts?

How can I identify moments and opportunities to use my gifts to build up the Body of Christ?

Whose unique giftings am I neglecting that has led to disunity within the Body of Christ?

As a husband, I hope to promote our unity in Christ and celebrate, in love, our individual giftings.

### **PRAY**

Feel Free to Write your Prayer here. Thank you Lord for revealing your lessons to me, thank you for revealing your heart to me and I ask that you continue to work in me and through me. Give me opportunities to share this with others this week. In your name I pray – Amen.

### **TELL**

Describe here how you shared your what your thoughts were. How did it go? Did they receive what you had to say? Did they not? What was the experience like? Did they help you see something you hadn't before?

---

<sup>3</sup> Royal Publishers Inc. Illustrated Davis Dictionary of the Bible. 223-224

<sup>4</sup> Royal Publishers Inc. Illustrated Davis Dictionary of the Bible. 223-224

## ***TRY STARTING WITH THESE PASSAGES***

### ***2PROAPT #1***

Mark 4:35-41

### ***2PROAPT #2***

Romans 3:19-26

### ***2PROAPT #3***

Genesis 3:8-20

### ***2PROAPT #4***

Matthew 6:5-15

### ***2PROAPT #5***

Jonah 2

### ***2PROAPT #6***

Philippians 1:3-11

### ***2PROAPT #7***

Proverbs 5

### ***2PROAPT #8***

Acts 4:32-37

### ***2PROAPT #9***

John 15:1-17

### ***2PROAPT #10***

Psalms 62

### ***2PROAPT #11***

Jeremiah 29:1-14

### ***2PROAPT #12***

Matthew 23:1-12

### ***2PROAPT #13***

Leviticus 1

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999, 2008).

John D. Davis, *Illustrated Davis Dictionary of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Royal Publishers Inc., 1973).

Platt, David, *Secret Church: Survey of the New Testament* (Accessed at [Radical.net/Secret\\_church](http://Radical.net/Secret_church))

Platt, David, *Secret Church: Survey of the Old Testament* (Accessed at [Radical.net/Secret\\_church](http://Radical.net/Secret_church))

Stephens, *The New Testament World in Pictures* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press. 1987).

Strong, *Strong's Dictionary of the Bible*. (Accessed on 9/26/2018 at [NET.Bible.Org](http://NET.Bible.Org))

Tenney, *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. The Zondervan Corp. 1982.

Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998, 2005).