

Learn to Read the Bible Effectively

Distance Learning Programme

Summary of the
Books of the Bible



SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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GENESIS

Author - Moses

Time - Creation to 1650 B.C.

Summary - "Genesis" means "beginning". As its title implies, it is the foundation of the Bible, on which everything is built. The book tells of the Creation, followed by the rebellion of our first parents. It then records the growth of wickedness in the earth, followed by the Flood, in which the only human survivors were Noah and his family. Another rebellion against God's commands is stopped by the introduction of different languages. The rest of the book is the early history of the Jewish nation (also called the Israelites or the children of Israel). This mainly concerns four outstanding men - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Creation and early history - Chapter 1 v 1 to 11 v 32

1 v 1 to 2 v 25	Creation
3 v 1 to 24	The rebellion of Adam and Eve
4 v 1 to 26	The first murder
5 v 1 to 32	The descendants of Adam
6 v 1 to 9 v 29	The Flood
10 v 1 to 32	The descendants of Noah
11 v 1 to 32	The introduction of different languages

The early history of the Jewish nation - Chapter 12 v 1 to 50 v 26

12 v 1 to 18 v 33	Abraham's faith and wandering
19 v 1 to 38	The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
20 v 1 to 18	Abraham's lapse in faith
21 v 1 to 34	The birth of Isaac
22 v 1 to 24	Abraham's faith confirmed
23 v 1 to 20	The death of Abraham's wife, Sarah
24 v 1 to 67	Finding a wife for Isaac
25 v 1 to 34	The birth of Jacob and Esau
26 v 1 to 35	Isaac and Abimelech
27 v 1 to 28 v 4	Isaac blesses Jacob
28 v 5 to 22	Jacob escapes from Esau
29 v 1 to 30 v 24	Jacob marries Leah and Rachel
30 v 25 to 31 v 55	Jacob and Laban
32 v 1 to 33 v 20	Jacob and Esau meet
34 v 1 to 31	The Dinah incident
35 v 1 to 29	Jacob returns to Bethel
36 v 1 to 43	Esau's descendants
37 v 1 to 11	Joseph dreams of greatness
37 v 12 to 36	Joseph sold by his brothers

38 v 1 to 30	Judah and Tamar
39 v 1 to 45 v 28	Joseph in Egypt
46 v 1 to 49 v 28	Jacob and his other sons go into Egypt
49 v 29 to 50 v 26	Death of Jacob and Joseph

EXODUS

Author - Moses

Time - 1650 - 1500 B.C.

Summary - The title "Exodus" means "a going out". It records the great numerical growth of the Israelites during their slavery in Egypt. It introduces Moses and records the plagues God brought upon Egypt to secure His people's release from slavery. After this, the people are given the Law at Mount Sinai. The book concludes with a description of the making of the Tabernacle. This is the second book of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Jewish Scriptures.

The liberation of Israel - Chapter 1 v 1 to 18 v 27

1 v 1 to 7	Introduction
1 v 8 to 22	Slavery in Egypt
2 v 1 to 4 v 31	Preparation of the deliverer
5 v 1 to 7 v 7	The mission of Moses to Pharaoh
7 v 8 to 11 v 10	God's wonders in the land of Egypt
12 v 1 to 51	The Passover and the departure of Israel
13 v 1 to 18 v 27	Israel crossing the red sea and in the wilderness

Israel at Sinai - Chapter 19 v 1 to 40 v 38

19 v 1 to 24 v 11	Establishment of the covenant at Sinai
24 v 12 to 31 v 18	Directions for the tabernacle and the priesthood
32 v 1 to 34 v 35	The covenant broken and restored
35 v 1 to 39 v 43	Building of the tabernacle
40 v 1 to 38	Erection and consecration of the tabernacle

LEVITICUS

Author - Moses

Time - 1500 B.C.

Summary - The third book of the Pentateuch takes its name from one of the twelve sons of Jacob, Levi, whose family was chosen by God to act as priests and assistants in the Tabernacle. The book covers the national and personal laws given by God to the Jewish people regarding worship and religious activities. It contains laws regarding cleanliness, morality, ethics and hygiene which guided the Jews on a day-to-day basis, and still does today. Animal sacrifice was introduced as a covering for the individual and national sins of the people.

Sacrifice as the basis of acceptable worship - Chapter - 1 v 1 to 17 v 16

1 v 1 to 6 v 7	The offerings
6 v 8 to 10 v 20	The priesthood
11 v 1 to 16 v 34	The people
17 v 1 to 16	The altar

Obedience as the basis of acceptable living - Chapter 18 v 1 to 27 v 34

18 v 1 to 20 v 27	Regulations for the people
21 v 1 to 22 v 33	Regulations for the priests
23 v 1 to 24 v 23	Regulations for the nation
25 v 1 to 27 v 34	Regulations for the land

NUMBERS

Author - Moses

Time - 1500 - 1460 B.C.

Summary - Numbers is the fourth book of the Pentateuch. It is a historical book, whose name refers to the two censuses which were taken to number the people. However, it was known to the Jewish people as "In the Wilderness", because it primarily tells of the rebellion of the Israelites in the desert where they wandered after the Exodus from their slavery in Egypt. Because of this rebellion, only two men of the men of fighting age leaving Egypt were to enter into the land of Canaan promised to Abraham in Genesis. The rest died in the desert. The book covers a thirty-eight-year period.

Preparation in the wilderness - Chapter 1 v 1 to 10 v 10

1 v 1 to 54	Census of warriors
2 v 1 to 34	Arrangements of the camp
3 v 1 to 4 v 49	Arrangements of the Levites
5 v 1 to 31	The camp cleansed from defilement

6 v 1 to 27	Separated to God
7 v 1 to 88	Dedication of the tabernacle
7 v 89 to 10 to 10	God with his people

Provocation in the wilderness - Chapter 10 v 11 to 19 v 22

10 v 11 to 36	Journeying at God's command
11 v 1 to 12 v 16	Murmuring and discontent
13 v 1 to 14 v 45	Lack of faith and rejection
15 v 1 to 41	Instructions for the next generation
16 v 1 to 19 v 22	Revolt against God's appointments

Vindication in the wilderness - Chapter 20 v 1 to 36 v 13

20 v 1 to 21 v 3	The fortieth year: From Kadesh to Hor
21 v 4 to 22 v 1	To Moab via Ezion-Geber
22 v 2 to 25 v 18	Balaam's curse turned into a blessing
26 v 1 to 36 v 13	Preparations to enter the Land

DEUTERONOMY

Author - Moses

Time - 1460 B.C.

Summary - This book is the last of the Pentateuch. Its Greek name means "second law", which was the repetition of the law recorded in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. It was given to the nation of Israel on the plains of Moab just prior to their entrance into the Promised Land of Canaan under the command of Joshua. This was Moses' last address to the nation as a whole prior to his death at the end of their wanderings in the desert. At this time only two men were left of the generation which escaped from Egypt. Therefore, the repetition of the law was extremely important to the welfare of the new generation.

First discourse : Israel's faithlessness and God's care - Chapter 1 v 1 to 4 v 43

1 v 1 to 46	Failure to go into the promised land
2 v 1 to 3 v 29	Thirty-eight years of wandering
4 v 1 to 40	Lessons of the past impressed upon the new generation
4 v 41 to 43	Appointment of cities of refuge

Second Discourse : What the present generation should heed -***Chapter 4 v 44 to 26 v 19***

4 v 44 to 5 v 33	Review of the Divine covenant
6 v 1 to 26 v 19	What the covenant demands

Third Discourse: The nation's solemn responsibility - Chapter 27 v 1 to 28 v 68

27 v 1 to 26	A ceremony of remembrance in the Land
28 v 1 to 14	The blessings of the Law
28 v 15 to 68	The curses of the Law

Fourth Discourse: Terms that would ensure Israel's continued occupancy of the Land-***Chapter 29 v 1 to 30 v 20***

29 v 1 to 15	With whom the covenant was made
29 v 16 to 29	Punishment resulting from breaking the covenant
30 v 1 to 20	Divine mercy in spite of failure

Fifth Discourse: Moses' final words of advice - Chapter 31 v 1 to 23***Sixth Discourse: The written law preserved as a witness - Chapter 31 v 24 to 29******Seventh Discourse: A Psalm of witness against Israel - Chapter 31 v 30 to 32 v 52***

31 v 30 to 32 v 43	Repetition of Divine goodness and human folly
32 v 44 to 52	Sequel to the Song - compare Exodus 15

Eighth Discourse: Future glory of the tribes - Chapter 33 v 1 to 29

33 v 1 to 5	Introduction
33v 6 to 25	The blessings
33 to 26 to 29	The source and summary of the blessings

Ninth Section: The Death of Moses - Chapter 34 v 1 to 12

JOSHUA

Author - Joshua

Time - 1460 - 1420 B.C.

Summary - Joshua was selected by God to succeed Moses and lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. The book outlines the conquest and occupation by Israel under his military leadership. God explicitly states that all the inhabitants of the land were to be utterly driven out or destroyed in order to ensure spiritual purity and complete devotion to God by the Israelites.

Entrance into the Promised Land - Chapter 1 v 1 to 5 v 12

1 v 1 to 9	God's commission to Joshua
1 v 10 to 18	Joshua's mobilisation for crossing the Jordan
2 v 1 to 24	Mission of the spies
3 v 1 to 5 v 1	Crossing of the Jordan
5 v 2 to 12	Renewal of circumcision and Passover observance

Conquest of the Promised Land - Chapter 5 v 13 to 12 v 24

5 v 13 to 6 v 5	Appearance of the captain of the Lord's host
6 v 6 to 8 v 29	The central campaign
8 v 30 to 35	Establishment of Israel's covenant as the law of the land
9 v 1 to 10 v 43	The southern campaign
11 v 1 to 15	The northern campaign
11 v 16 to 23	Summary of the conquest
12 v 1 to 24	Appendix: Catalogue of the defeated kings

Division of the Promised Land - Chapter 13 v 1 to 22 v 34

13 v 1 to 6	God's command to divide the land
13 v 7 to 33	Territory of the tribes east of the Jordan River
14 v 1 to 15	Beginning of the division of Canaan
15 v 1 to 63	Territory of the tribe of Judah
16 v 1 to 17 v 18	Territory of the Joseph tribes
18 v 1 to 19 v 51	Territories of the seven remaining tribes
20 v 1 to 21 v 42	Cities of refuge and inheritance of Levi
21 v 43 to 45	Summary of the conquest and apportionment
22 v 1 to 34	Appendix: Departure of the tribes east of the Jordan River

Joshua's final speeches - Chapter 23 v 1 to 24 v 33

23 v 1 to 16	Joshua's farewell address to the leaders of Israel
24 v 1 to 28	Renewal of the covenant commitment at Shechem
24 v 29 to 33	Appendix: Death of Joshua and subsequent conduct of Israel

JUDGES

Author - Unknown

Time - 1420 - 1140 B.C.

Summary - The book of Judges, which means “Champions” or “Rescuers”, covers the period from the death of Joshua to the birth of Samuel. This was a time of great immorality as the result of the failure of the Israelites to drive out the inhabitants of the land. There were “judges” set up by God who were to direct and judge the affairs and people of Israel. The book of Judges closes by setting the stage for the people’s desire for a human king.

Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 5

1 v 1 to 36	Political background of the period of the Judges
2 v 1 to 5	Religious background of the period of the Judges

History of the Judges - Chapter 2 v 6 to 16 v 31

2 v 6 to 3 v 6	Israel’s failure to subdue the enemy nations
3 v 7 to 16 v 31	The oppressors and the deliverers of Israel

Lawless condition during the period of the Judges - Chapter 17 v 1 to 21 v 25

17 v 1 to 18 v 31	Appendix 1: Corruption of doctrine
19 v 1 to 21 v 25	Appendix 2: Corruption of practice

RUTH

Author - Unknown

Time - 1250 B.C.

Summary - The book of Ruth is dated to the period of the Judges. It shows that in a time of national decline and immorality, God preserved a remnant who could serve as the core for a future revival. This would be accomplished in Ruth’s descendant, David, from whom the Messiah would come. It is thought that the book was written after the period of the Judges and describes customs of that time period.

1 v 1 to 22	Ruth’s noble choice
2 v 1 to 23	Ruth’s faithful service
3 v 1 to 18	Ruth’s virtuous appeal
4 v 1 to 22	Ruth’s blessed reward

1st & 2nd Books of SAMUEL

Author - Samuel, Nathan and Gad

Time - 1,150 - 1,000 B.C.

Summary - 1 Samuel is the first of two historical books which describe Israel's transition from a loose confederation of tribes to a strong and united nation. It portrays the anointing of the first king of Israel, Saul, by a great prophet, Samuel. It recounts the degenerating reign of Saul and the succession to his throne of David, a man "after God's own heart". In the original Hebrew text, the books of Samuel were considered one book by the Hebrew scribes. The second book begins with the ascension of David to the throne. The rest of the book records the eventful reign of David. It concludes with the blessing of Solomon by David.

1 SAMUEL

The life of Samuel - Chapter 1 to 7 v 17

1 v 1 to 4 v 1a	The birth and childhood of Samuel
4 v 1b to 7 v 1	The capture and return of the tabernacle ark
7 v 2 to 17	The victory over the Philistines

The life of Saul - Chapter 8 v 1 to 14 v 52

8 v 1 to 22	Israel's request for a king
9 v 1 to 12 v 25	Political life of Saul
13 v 1 to 14 v 52	War and independence

The early life of David - Chapter 15 v 1 to 31 v 13

15 v 1 to 35	Saul rejected by Samuel
16 v 1 to 13	David anointed to be king
16 v 14 to 19 v 17	David in the court of Saul
19 v 18 to 31 v 13	David in exile

2 SAMUEL

The life of King David - Chapter 1 v 1 to Chapter 20 v 26

1 v 1 to 4 v 12	David, king at Hebron
5 v 1 to 8 v 18	David, king at Jerusalem
9 v 1 to 20 v 26	David's life as king

The last days of David - Chapter 21 v 1 to 24 v 25

21 v 1 to 14	The famine
21 v 15 to 22	Heroic exploits
22 v 1 to 51	David's psalm
23 v 1 to 7	David's testament
23 v 8 to 39	Heroic exploits
24 v 1 to 25	Census and plague

1st & 2nd Books of KINGS**Author** - Uncertain**Time** - 1000 - 586 B.C.

Summary - In the original Jewish texts, these books were regarded as one book. The two books contain the history of the Jewish monarchy from the death of David (around 970 B.C.) to the Babylonian exile (586 B.C.). They trace the division of the Jewish nation into the Kingdom of Judah in the south and the Kingdom of Israel in the north. 1 & 2 Kings record Israel's history from a religious, rather than a civil, viewpoint. As such, they record the religious progress of the nation and show the various steps in the moral growth and decay of the kingdom. 1 Kings opens with Israel in its glory, and 2 Kings closes with Israel in ruins. The purpose of the Book of Kings is to record the lives and characters of the nation's leaders as a warning and exhortation to all subsequent generations of believers.

1 KINGS***The united kingdom from Solomon to Rehoboam - Chapter 1 v 1 to 11 v 43***

1 v 1 to 2 v 46	Solomon's ascension to the throne
3 v 1 to 4 v 34	The wisdom and wealth of Solomon
5 v 1 to 9 v 28	Solomon's building activity
10 v 1 to 29	The golden age of Solomon
11 v 1 to 43	Solomon's false religion, decline and death

The divided kingdom (Part 1) - Chapter 12 v 1 to 22 v 53

12 v 1 to 16 v 28	Early antagonism between Israel and Judah, from Jeroboam to Omri.
16 v 29 to 22 v 53	From Ahab to the accession of Ahaziah

2 KINGS

The divided kingdom (Part 2) - Chapter 1 v 1 to 17 v 41

1 v 1 to 9 v 10	From Ahaziah to the accession of Jehu
9 v 11 to 17 v 41	From Jehu to the destruction of Israel

The Kingdom of Judah to the final destruction of the southern kingdom - Chapter 18 v 1 to 25 v 30

18 v 1 to 20 v 21	The kingdom under Hezekiah
21 v 1 to 26	The reigns of Manasseh and Amon
22 v 1 to 23 v 30	Reform in Judah and Israel under Josiah
23 v 31 to 25 v 26	The last days of Judah
25 v 27 to 30	Epilogue : The release of Jehoiachin

1st & 2nd Books of CHRONICLES

Author - Ezra

Time - 1,050 - 536 B.C.

Summary - Like the Books of Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles were originally one book, according to Jewish tradition. However, the Chronicles are not simply a repeat of the history already recorded in the books of Samuel and Kings. The book of Chronicles was written to remind the nation of their entire history, and of their position among other nations, emphasising the history of priestly worship from the death of Saul to the end of the Babylonian captivity. The Chronicles contain more detail on the organisation of public worship, of religious ceremonies, of Levites and singers, and of the relationship of kings to the worship of God, than does the book of Kings. The history of the northern kingdom is omitted from the Chronicles because the northern kingdom had no bearing on the development of the true worship of God in Jerusalem.

1 CHRONICLES

Genealogies - Chapter 1 v 1 to 9 v 44

1 v 1 to 54	Patriarchs
2 v 1 to 4 v 23	Judah
4 v 24 to 43	Simeon
5 v 1 to 26	Tribes east of the Jordan River
6 v 1 to 81	Levi
7 v 1 to 40	Six other tribes
8 v 1 to 40	Descendants of Benjamin
9 v 1 to 34	Jerusalem's Inhabitants after the exile
9 v 35 to 44	Descendants of the father of Gibeon.

The reign of David - Chapter 10 v 1 to 29 v 30

10 v 1 to 14	Background: the death of Saul
11 v 1 to 20 v 8	David's rise
21 v 1 to 29 v 30	David's latter days

2 CHRONICLES***The reign of Solomon - Chapter 1 v 1 to 9 v 31***

1 v 1 to 17	Solomon's inauguration
2 v 1 to 7 v 22	Solomon's temple
8 v 1 to 9 v 31	Solomon's kingdom

The Kingdom of Judah - Chapter 10 v 1 to 36 v 23

10 v 1 to 11 v 23	The division of the kingdom
12 v 1 to 36 v 16	The rulers of Judah
12 v 1 to 16	Rehoboam
13 v 1 to 22	Abijah
14 v 1 to 16 v 14	Asa
17 v 1 to 20 v 37	Jehoshaphat
21 v 1 to 20	Jehoram
22 v 1 to 9	Ahaziah
22 v 10 to 23 v 21	Athaliah
24 v 1 to 27	Joash
25 v 1 to 28	Amaziah
26 v 1 to 23	Uzziah
27 v 1 to 9	Jotham
28 v 1 to 27	Ahaz
29 v 1 to 32 v 33	Hezekiah
33 v 1 to 20	Manasseh
33 v 21 to 25	Amon
34 v 1 to 35 v 27	Josiah
36 v 1 to 16	Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah
36 v 17 to 23	The exile

EZRA

Author - Ezra

Time - 538 - 458 B.C.

Summary - In general, Ezra covers the events of the Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity. The decline of Babylon and its eventual overthrow by the Persians enable the Jews to return to Jerusalem. The Jews are numbered and are allowed to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple. Samaritan assistance is rejected and their opposition is a contributing factor to the slow progress of the Temple construction. Despite the delays, the Temple is completed and dedicated to God during this period.

The exiles return from Babylon - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 70

1 v 1 to 4	The Decree of Cyrus
1 v 5 to 11	Preparations for the journey
2 v 1 to 70	Those who returned

Temple building begins - Chapter 3 v 1 to 4 v 24

3 v 1 to 13	The altar and the foundation
4 v 1 to 24	Opposition to the work

The building completed - Chapter 5 v 1 to 6 to 22

5 v 1 to 5	Work resumed
5 v 6 to 17	Tattenai's letter to Darius
6 v 1 to 12	Decrees of Cyrus and Darius
6 v 13 to 22	The Temple finished

Ezra's journey to Jerusalem - Chapter 7 v 1 to 8 v 36

7 v 1 to 10	Ezra introduced
7 v 11 to 28	Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra
8 v 1 to 36	The journey to Jerusalem

The great reformation - Chapter 9 v 1 to 10 v 44

9 v 1 to 15	The tragic report and Ezra's prayer
10 v 1 to 17	The abandonment of mixed marriages
10 v 18 to 44	List of those with foreign wives

NEHEMIAH

Author - Nehemiah

Time - 445 - 460 B.C.

Summary - The book of Nehemiah begins with Nehemiah returning from Babylon as Governor of Jerusalem appointed by Artaxerxes king of Persia. He plans and oversees the rebuilding of the city walls despite the discouraging opposition and disunity within the Jewish population. The wall is completed and more exiles are returned and registered as Jewish citizens. Nehemiah's dedication to God drives him to make several religious reforms. A public reading of the Law and arrangements for worship are among these reformations.

Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 20

1 v 1 to 11	Tragic news from Jerusalem, and Nehemiah's prayer
2 v 1 to 8	The granting of Nehemiah's request
2 v 9 to 20	Nehemiah's survey of the walls, and his report

The building of the wall - Chapter 3 v 1 to 7 v 4

3 v 1 to 32	The workmen and their tasks
4 v 1 to 23	The opposition of enemies
5 v 1 to 19	Reformations of Nehemiah as Governor
6 v 1 to 7 v 4	The wall finished despite intrigues

Civil and religious reformations in Jerusalem - Chapter 7 v 5 to 10 v 39

7 v 5 to 73	List of Jews who returned with Zerubbabel
8 v 1 to 18	The reading and observance of God's Law
9 v 1 to 10 v 39	A public confession and covenant

Lists of inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem - Chapter 11 v 1 to 12 v 26

Dedication of walls and organisation of Temple service - Chapter 12 v 27 to 47

Nehemiah's final reformations - Chapter 13 v 1 to 31

ESTHER

Author - Not known for certain

Time - 510 B.C.

Summary - Esther is an historical book, written during the period of the captivity. It records the plot of Haman, the prime minister to the Persian king, to exterminate the Jewish race. This plot is foiled by Esther, the queen of Persia, who was a Jewess. This book gives us the origin of the Feast of Purim, which celebrates God's goodness in delivering the Jews from Haman.

Vashti divorced - Chapter 1 v 1 to 22

Esther made queen - Chapter 2 v 1 to 23

Haman's plot against the Jews - Chapter 3 v 1 to 15

Esther's decision - Chapter 4 v 1 to 17

Esther's first banquet - Chapter 5 v 1 to 14

Haman humiliated before Mordecai - Chapter 6 v 1 to 14

Esther's second banquet - Chapter 7 v 1 to 10

Mordecai's counter-decree - Chapter 8 v 1 to 17

The Jews victorious, and Purim instituted - Chapter 9 v 1 to 10 v 3

JOB

Author - Unknown

Time - apparently around 1600 B.C.

Summary - Job is the first poetic book of the Old Testament. The book reads like a play. It relates the anguish of the righteous man Job as he and his friends struggle to explain the affliction which has befallen him and has stripped him of his wealth, his family, and his health. The dialogue continues between Job and his friends as each presents his opinion on the reasons behind such troubles. God eventually intervenes and Job is restored to health and prosperity after he submits to God's supremacy.

Affliction of Job - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 13

1 v 1 to 5	Description of Job
1 v 6 to 2 v 10	Affliction of Job
2 v 11 to 13	Arrival of Job's three friends

Debates between Job and his three friends - Chapter 3 v 1 to 31 v 40

3 v 1 to 14 v 22	First Cycle of Debate
15 v 1 to 21 v 34	Second Cycle of Debate
22 v 1 to 31 v 40	Third Cycle of Debate

*The Speeches of Elihu - Chapter 32 v 1 to 37 v 24**Restoration of Job - Chapter 38 v 1 to 42 v 17*

38 v 1 to 40 v 5	God's first challenge to Job
40 v 6 to 41 v 34	God's second challenge to Job
42 v 1 to 17	Job's submission and restoration

PSALMS

Author - David and others

Time - 1450 - 700 B.C.

Summary - The Psalms are divided into five sections, each according to a specific classification. The Psalms are a form of Hebrew poetry, many of which were accompanied by music. The content of the Psalms includes prophecy of Christ, praise to God, and visions of the future Kingdom of God and its glory. David is named as author of approximately half of the Psalms. A handful of other men are responsible for about fifteen, while the remainder are unnamed.

Section 1 Concerns man - Gives the advice of God to man
Psalms 1 - 41

Section 2 Concerns Israel - The advice of God to Israel
Psalms 42 - 72

Section 3 Concerns the sanctuary and the Law
Psalms 73 - 89

Section 4 Concerns Israel and the nations of the earth
Psalms 90 - 106

Section 5 Concerns God and His Word
Psalms 107 - 150

PROVERBS

Author - Solomon and others

Time - 1,000 - 700 B.C.

Summary - In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is the attitude which puts God first as man's rightful guide and master. The book does not hesitate to link good and bad with reward and penalty. Much can be learned by testing personal conduct against the positive and negative standards and warnings as recorded in the Proverbs. Throughout the book, the view is presented that all men fall into two basic classes. Both are known by their habits, their deeds, their "fruits", their chosen "ways" in life, and their fitting ends. They are either with God or without Him, good or evil, or wise or foolish. There is even a mutual tension between the two classes, the two ways of life, which shows up in every aspect of life.

Superiority of the way of wisdom - Chapter 1 v 1 to 9 v 18

1 v 1 to 7	Introduction
1 v 8 to 9 v 18	The righteous woman, Wisdom, versus the evil woman

Main collection of Solomon's Proverbs - Chapter 10 v 1 to 22 v 16

10 v 1 to 15 v 33	Contrasting Proverbs
16 v 1 to 22 v 16	Proverbs largely parallel

The Words of the Wise, Thirty Sayings - Chapter 22 v 17 to 24 v 22

The Words of the Wise, Appendix - Chapter 24 v 23 to 34

Proverbs of Solomon compiled by Hezekiah's Men - Chapter 25 v 1 to 29 v 27

Appendices - Chapter 30 v 1 to 31 v 31

30 v 1 to 33	The words of Agur
31 v 1 to 9	The words of Lemuel
31 v 10 to 31	Alphabetical poem about the Virtuous Woman

ECCLESIASTES

Author - Solomon

Time - 960 B.C.

Summary - The name Ecclesiastes comes from the root meaning "to assemble together". As such, the book forms a collection of many wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon. The book is mainly composed of observations of life. Solomon, having lived a full life with all its pleasures, concludes that life is "vanity". "Vanity" in Ecclesiastes, and elsewhere in Scripture, does not mean foolish pride, but the emptiness of life apart from God. It means "that which soon vanishes away". What better man to speak about life than a man who was given all it had to offer. Without God, life would be meaningless, and all his worldly possessions would amount to nothing. Therefore, the conclusion of his studies states that man should love and fear God and obey His commandments.

1 v 1 to 11	The futility of all human endeavours
1 v 12 to 2 v 26	The test of practical experience
3 v 1 to 22	Men's opportunity limited by time
4 v 1 to 16	Human folly greatly increased by oppression
5 v 1 to 8	Folly of insincere worship
5 v 9 to 6 v 2	Vanity of riches
6 v 3 to 11 v 6	Vanity of human desires
11 v 7 to 12 v 8	Advice and warning to youth
12 v 9 to 14	Conclusion

SONG OF SOLOMON

Author - Solomon

Time - About 960 B.C.

Summary - Its consists of speeches in Hebrew poetry. It depicts the beauty and pure love between a man and a woman which develops into a mature undying relationship. Some believe that it shows the relationship between Christ and his bride, the body of believers, which will be consummated at his return. The basic message is the purity and sacredness of love. There are various interpretations, we will give just one.

1 v 1 to 8	Song 1: The ardent love and becoming humility of the bride
1 v 9 to 2 v 7	Song 2: Love's communion and self-sacrificing devotion
2 v 8 to 17	Song 3: Signs of the bridegroom's coming
3 v 1 to 5	Song 4: His sudden appearance
3 v 6 to 4 v 7	Song 5: The splendour of marriage
4 v 8 to 5 v 1	Song 6: Entering the inheritance
5 v 2 to 6 v 10	Song 7: The first advent call and espousal of the bride
6 v 11 to 13	Song 8: Anticipating his coming
7 v 1 to 9	Song 9: The flowing beauty of the bride
7 v 10 to 8 v 4	Song 10: The bride's deep longing and ardent desire for the groom's return
8 v 5 to 7	Song 11: The joy and communion of true marriage
8 v 8 to 14	Song 12: Love's labour in the future

ISAIAH

Author - Isaiah

Time - 740 - 690 B.C.

Summary - Isaiah ministered during the rule of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His primary focus was the coming judgement on the southern kingdom of Judah due to its great wickedness. Isaiah identified the root of Judah's trouble as its idolatry and apostasy. Although he spoke of judgements on other nations as well, he urged the kings and the people to put their trust in God rather than in alliances with earthly powers. He comforted his people with the realisation that God loves those who are faithful to Him and keep His commandments. He spoke of the future Messiah who would come to redeem the nation and restore the Kingdom.

Rebuke and promise - Chapter 1 v 1 to 6 v 13

1 v 1 to 31	Rebellion confronted with judgement and grace
2 v 1 to 4 v 6	Punishment for sin as preparation for glory
5 v 1 to 30	Judgement and exile in store for Israel
6 v 1 to 13	The Prophet cleansed and commissioned by God

Impending invasion and future hope - Chapter 7 v 1 to 12 v 6

7 v 1 to 16	Deliverer promised
7 v 17 to 8 v 22	Assyrian invasion foretold

9 v 1 to 7	Messiah, Israel's only hope
9 v 8 to 10 v 4	Chastisement rejected - God's outstretched hand
10 v 5 to 34	God's judgement on Assyria
11 v 1 to 12 v 6	David's kingdom restored

Judgement upon the nations - Chapter 13 v 1 to 23 v 18

13 v 1 to 14 v 27	Fall of Babylon
14 v 28 to 32	Downfall of Philistia
15 v 1 to 16 v 14	Downfall of Moab
17 v 1 to 14	Downfall of Damascus and Samaria
18 v 1 to 7	The regathering of Israel
19 v 1 to 20 v 6	Afflictions of Egypt
21 v 1 to 10	Babylon to be conquered and her Idols destroyed
21 v 11 to 12	Defeat of Edom; victory for Israel
21 v 13 to 17	Dedan and Kedar to be routed
22 v 1 to 25	Fall of Jerusalem foreseen; Eliakim to replace Shebna
23 v 1 to 18	Downfall and enslavement of Tyre

General rebuke and promise, 1 - Chapter 24 v 1 to 27 v 3

24 v 1 to 23	Universal judgement upon universal sin
25 v 1 to 12	God praised as deliverer and comforter of Zion
26 v 1 to 21	Song of joy over Judah's conversion
27 v 1 to 13	Oppressors to be punished but God's people preserved

Woes on the unbelievers of Israel - Chapter 28 v 1 to 33 v 24

28 v 1 to 29	Judgement of Ephraimite drunkards and Jewish scoffers
29 v 1 to 24	Disaster ahead for hypocrites
30 v 1 to 33	Confidence in Egypt versus confidence in God
31 v 1 to 9	God, not Egypt, to be Jerusalem's defence
32 v 1 to 20	Israel's final deliverance, and her spiritual renewal
33 v 1 to 24	Punishment of the treacherous, and triumph of Christ

General rebuke and promise, 2 - Chapter 34 v 1 to 35 v 10

34 v 1 to 17	Utter destruction of Gentile world powers
35 v 1 to 10	Promise of Salvation

The volume of Hezekiah - Chapter 36 v 1 to 39 v 8

36 v 1 to 37 v 38	Destruction of Judah averted
38 v 1 to 39 v 8	Destruction of Judah's king averted

The volume of comfort - Chapter 40 v 1 to 66 v 24

40 v 1 to 48 v 22	The purpose of peace
49 v 1 to 57 v 21	The Prince of Peace
58 v 1 to 66 v 24	The programme of peace

JEREMIAH

Author - Jeremiah and Baruch

Time - 630 - 575 B.C.

Summary - Jeremiah warns of the impending military force of Babylon that would destroy Jerusalem and enslave the Jews. He urges Jerusalem to turn from its wicked ways, but there is no response. He further warns of the false prophets who are leading the people astray with deceptive doctrines and falsehoods. He urges the Israelites to submit to the Babylonian authority as the instrument of God's judgement. They do not heed his warnings and the people are carried away to Babylon. He predicts that the captives will return after seventy years to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

Introduction and the prophet's call - Chapter 1 v 1 to 19***Prophecies against Jerusalem and Judah - Chapter 2 v 1 to 45 v 5***

2 v 1 to 20 v 18	In the reign of Josiah and Jehoiakim
21 v 1 to 39 v 18	Various periods until Jerusalem's destruction
40 v 1 to 45 v 5	After the fall of Jerusalem

Prophecies against the nations - Chapter 46 v 1 to 51 v 64

46 v 1 to 28	Against Egypt
47 v 1 to 7	Against Philistia
48 v 1 to 47	Against Moab
49 v 1 to 6	Against Ammon
49 v 7 to 22	Against Edom
49 v 23 to 27	Against Damascus
49 v 28 to 33	Against Arabia
49 v 34 to 39	Against Elam
50 v 1 to 51 v 64	Against Babylon

Historical appendix - Chapter 52 v 1 to 34

52 v 1 to 30	Judah's fall and captivity
52 v 31 to 34	Jehoiachin's liberation

LAMENTATIONS**Author** - Jeremiah**Time** - 580 B.C.

Summary - Lamentation means "to express suffering". In this book, Jeremiah, who had witnessed the fall of Jerusalem and had himself been taken captive, but later released, expresses his sorrow regarding the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity of the nation at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar's army. The book describes and explains the afflictions brought against the city of Jerusalem as well as surrounding nations who scoff at Jerusalem's troubles. It emphasises that this is the result of divine judgement for the sins of the people. It also underlines the lessons that Jerusalem should learn from its troubles. The book also reflects the love and sorrow of God for the very people He is chastening.

The suffering, ruined city of Zion - Chapter 1 v 1 to 22

1 v 1 to 11	Wretched condition of devastated Jerusalem
1 v 12 to 22	Lament of the Daughter of Jerusalem

The suffering, ruined holy place of Zion - Chapter 2 v 1 to 22

2 v 1 to 10	God's judgements on the ramparts and on His sanctuary
2 v 11 to 19	Lament of the eyewitness of this judgement
2 v 20 to 22	Terrors of this day of God's anger

The suffering representative of smitten Zion - Chapter 3 v 1 to 66

3 v 1 to 18	The sorrows God sent His servant
3 v 19 to 42	The servant's prayer of reassurance
3 v 43 to 66	The servant's prayer for vindication

The suffering people of Zion - Chapter 4 v 1 to 22

4 v 1 to 11	Horrors of the siege, and the fate of Zion's nobility
4 v 12 to 20	Causes and climax of Zion's catastrophe
4 v 21 to 22	A prophecy against haughty and gloating Edom

Supplications of penitent Zion - Chapter 5 v 1 to 22

5 v 1 to 18	Zion's plea to God to regard her affliction and disgrace
5 v 19 to 22	A final address to God

EZEKIEL

Author - Ezekiel

Time - 593 - 560 B.C.

Summary - Ezekiel was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and taken to Babylon. This book records his activities during his exile in Babylon. His message was directed to his fellow countrymen who were still in Palestine, and later to his fellow captives in Babylon. He gave the good news to his fellow exiles that the nation, after being chastened, would be restored to their own land and God's Kingdom would rise. This yet future Kingdom will last forever, and God's people will never again be cast out.

Prophecies against Judah and Jerusalem - Chapter 1 v 1 to 24 v 27

1 v 1 to 3 v 27	Introduction : The call of Ezekiel
4 v 1 to 7 v 27	Overthrow of city and state predicted
8 v 1 to 11 v 25	The sin and fate of Jerusalem
12 v 1 to 19 v 14	Moral necessity of the captivity
20 v 1 to 24 v 27	Israel's coming downfall inevitable and necessary

Prophecies against foreign nations: - Chapter 25 v 1 to 32 v 32

25 v 1 to 7	Ammon
25 v 8 to 11	Moab
25 v 12 to 14	Edom
25 v 15 to 17	Philistines
26 v 1 to 28 v 19	Tyre
28 v 20 to 26	Sidon
29 v 1 to 32 v 32	Egypt

Prophecies of the restitution of Israel - Chapter 33 v 1 to 39 v 29

33 v 1 to 33	The prophet: His function in preparation for the new age
34 v 1 to 31	The corrupt priesthood
35 v 1 to 36 v 38	The land: Israel to be restored and made fruitful
37 v 1 to 28	The People: resurrection of the dry bones of Israel; Reunion of Judah and Israel
38 v 1 to 39 to 29	Peace: The Lord to defend Israel against Gog's invasion

Vision of the new Temple and the new Law - Chapter 40 v 1 to 48 v 35

40 v 1 to 43 v 27	Description of the new Temple
44 v 1 to 46 v 24	A new service of worship with an ideal ministry and sacrificial system
47 v 1 to 48 v 35	Israel reorganised according to tribal divisions

DANIEL**Author** - Daniel**Time** - 605 -535 B.C.

Summary - Daniel was of the royal line of Jewish kings, and, like Ezekiel, had been taken as a young man captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. This is why he is found in the king's palace. The book of Daniel predicts the destiny of two opposing powers: The Kingdom of Men and The Kingdom of God, stressing that "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men". Daniel's prophecies generally do not deal with Israel as much as with the nations that control Israel. The book of Daniel contains prophecies that span the time from Daniel's day until the coming Kingdom Age.

The universal sovereignty of God - As revealed through personal experience - Chapter 1 v 1 to 6 v 28

1 v 1 to 21	Introduction - experiences of Daniel
2 v 1 to 49	Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpretation
3 v 1 to 30	Nebuchadnezzar's pride - experience of Daniel's three friends
4 v 1 to 37	Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and interpretation - his pride shaken
5 v 1 to 31	Pride of Belshazzar and his downfall
6 v 1 to 28	Daniel's experience in the den of lions

The universal sovereignty of God - Prophetic revelation - Chapter 7 v 1 to 12 v 13

7 v 1 to 28	Vision of the four beasts
8 v 1 to 27	Vision of the ram and he goat
9 v 1 to 19	Daniel's prayer and confession
9 v 20 to 27	Prophecy of the coming Messiah
10 v 1 to 21	Daniel's vision of the glory of God
11 v 1 to 45	Daniel shown in vision events leading up to the return of Christ
12 v 1 to 13	The vision continues with the resurrection and the Kingdom of God

HOSEA

Author - Hosea

Time - 755 - 710 B.C.

Summary - The book of Hosea describes the patient long-suffering of God towards the rebellious and unfaithful northern kingdom of Israel. However, it is made clear to the Israelites that punishment will engulf anyone who remains wilfully rebellious. A key theme is Hosea's marriage to the unfaithful Gomer, which is symbolic of the relationship between God and Israel.

The prophet's married life - Chapter 1 v 1 to 3 v 5

1 v 2 to 9	His marriage to Gomer
1 v 10 to 11	A message of hope
2 v 1 to 13	Judgement on faithless Israel
2 v 14 to 23	The restoration of faithless Israel
3 v 1 to 5	Hosea's redemption of his faithless wife

Israel's unfaithfulness and consequent judgement - Chapter 4 v 1 to 13 v 16

4 v 1 to 3	The guilt of the people
4 v 4 to 8	The guilt of the priests
4 v 9 to 10	Punishment for all
4 v 11 to 19	Immoral cult practices
5 v 1 to 7	Judgement on kings and priests for leading the people astray
5 v 8 to 15	Disastrous foreign policies of Ephraim and Judah
6 v 1 to 6	Israel's plea and God's rejoinder
6 v 7 to 7 v 7	The crimes of Israel
7 v 8 to 8 v 3	Israel's disastrous foreign policy
8 v 4 to 14	Israel's idolatry and wicked alliances
9 v 1 to 9	The exile of Israel foretold
9 v 10 to 14	Israel's ancient apostasy at Baal - peor
9 v 15 to 17	Israel's apostasy at Gilgal
10 v 1 to 8	Destruction of the Baal cult prophesied
10 v 9 to 10	The sin at Gibeah
10 v 11 to 15	The ruin of Israel
11 v 1 to 7	God's love; Israel's ingratitude
11 v 8 to 11	God's pity for his people
11 v 12 to 12 v 14	The sins of Jacob
13 v 1 to 3	The wicked bull-worship
13 v 4 to 11	The gracious God to bring destruction
13 v 12 to 16	Inescapable ruin

Israel's conversion and renewal - Chapter 14 v 1 to 9

14 v 1 to 3	The call to repentance
14 v 4 to 8	The promise of pardon
14 v 9	A parting admonition

JOEL**Author** - Joel**Time** - 618 - 608 B.C.

Summary - The book of Joel begins by describing a devastating swarm of locusts which cause national disaster to the agriculture of Israel. Joel calls the nation of Judah to a day of repentance due to the Divine judgement. The last portion of the book is concerned with events associated with the "Day of the Lord". The message is that if Judah repents, God will richly bless them and forgive them.

The locust plague is the harbinger of the Day of the Lord - Chapter 1 v 2 to 2 v 17

1 v 2 to 20	A threefold calamity - locusts, drought, and fires
2 v 1 to 17	The scourge as the forerunner of the Judgement day

The averting of judgement and bestowal of blessings - Chapter 2 v 18 to 3 v 21

2 v 18 to 27	The blessings in the immediate future
2 v 28 to 32	The outpouring of the divine spirit
3 v 1 to 16	Judgement upon the nations
3 v 17 to 21	The blessings on God's people

AMOS**Author** - Amos**Time** - 765 to 750 B.C.

Summary - The book of Amos was written during a period of national optimism in the northern kingdom of Israel. King Jeroboam II was ruler, and politically and materially the northern kingdom rivalled the age of Solomon and David. Amos, a shepherd by trade, was called by God to pronounce judgement by denouncing Israel's luxurious living, idolatry, and moral depravity. Amos urges the people to repent before the judgements of God come upon them. "Seek God and live", was Amos' plea to the nation. He also foretells the dispersion of the Israelites, but points to a day when God would regather them in the land of their forefathers.

Judgements against the nations - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 16

1 v 1 to 2	Superscription and proclamation
1 v 3 to 2 v 3	Indictment of neighbouring nations
2 v 4 to 5	Indictment of Judah
2 v 6 to 16	Indictment of Israel

Three discourses against Israel - Chapter 3 v 1 to 6 v 14

3 v 1 to 15	A declaration of judgement
4 v 1 to 13	The depravity of Israel
5 v 1 to 6 v 14	A lamentation for Israel's sin and doom

Five visions of Israel's condition - Chapter 7 v 1 to 9 v 10

7 v 1 to 3	The devouring locusts
7 v 4 to 6	The flaming fire
7 v 7 to 17	The plumb line
8 v 1 to 14	The basket of ripe fruit
9 v 1 to 10	The Judgement of the Lord

The promise of Israel's restoration - Chapter 9 v 11 to 15

OBADIAH

Author - Obadiah

Time - 585 to 565 B.C.

Summary - Obadiah's name means "servant of Yahweh" ("Yahweh" is the Hebrew name of God). Obadiah was a prophet who pronounced judgement upon the nation of Edom for its antagonism against Israel. Edom is the nation that descended from Esau, the twin brother of Jacob, who had his name changed to Israel. Edom was to be punished for the violence against Israel they committed when invading the land.

Title and introductions - Verse 1***Judgement on Edom - Verse 2 to 14******The Day of the Lord - Verse 15 to 21***

JONAH

Author - Jonah

Time - 775 to 760 B.C.

Summary - The book is concerned with the commission of Jonah to warn the city of Nineveh (capital of Assyria) to repent and obey God's commandments so that they might avoid destruction. Jonah is reluctant to preach this message and is therefore swallowed by a great fish. He remains in the belly of the fish for three days. Upon his release, he preaches the message to the people of Nineveh, who believe his message, repent of their sins and are spared by God.

Jonah's flight - Chapter 1 v 1 to 17

Jonah's prayer - Chapter 2 v 1 to 10

Jonah's preaching - Chapter 3 v 1 to 10

Jonah's displeasure - Chapter 4 v 1 to 11

MICAH

Author - Micah

Time - 735 to 700 B.C.

Summary - Micah, who was contemporary with Isaiah, was to the southern kingdom of Judah what Amos was previously to the northern kingdom of Israel. Both were fierce critics of the rich and powerful who exploited the poor. Though Micah's prophecies refer especially to Judah, they concern all of Israel. Micah's leading ideas are the regeneration of Israel's remnant through judgement, the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the line of David, and the conversion of the nations through that Kingdom. The conclusion of his prophecy is a triumphant expression of faith, which is seen in its true quality against the background of the materialism and the corruption of the reign of Ahaz.

Superscription to the prophecy - Chapter 1 v 1

Approaching judgement of Israel and Judah because of persistent sin - Chapter 1 v 2 to 16

1 v 2	The call to attention
1 v 3 to 4	Terrible coming of God announced and described
1 v 5	Sins of the capital city representative of those of the nation
1 v 6 to 7	Fearful consequences of this judgement

1 v 8 to 16 The prophet's reaction and his vision of this judgement

Doom of corrupt oppressors and false prophets - Chapter 2 v 1 to 3 v 12

2 v 1 to 5 Woe upon the land monopolisers
 2 v 6 to 13 False preaching of lying prophets
 3 v 1 to 7 Denunciation of the leaders of the people
 3 v 8 Micah's consciousness of power from the spirit of God
 3 v 9 to 12 Gross sin and crime to bring destruction upon
 Jerusalem

Vision of hope from the coming one - Chapter 4 v 1 to 5 v 15

4 v 1 to 5 v 1 Final triumph of Jerusalem
 5 v 2 to 15 Coming mighty leader to be born in Bethlehem and to
 restore Israel.

The Lord's case against Israel - Chapter 6 v 1 to 7 v 20

6 v 1 to 5 First complaint of God
 6 v 6 to 8 Israel's first reply
 6 v 9 to 16 Second complaint of God
 7 v 1 to 10 Israel's second reply - a confession of sin
 7 v 11 to 13 Israel's promised blessing - follow judgement
 7 v 14 to 17 Final plea for Israel to be gathered from many nations
 7 v 18 to 20 Doxology: The triumph of grace

NAHUM

Author - Nahum

Time - 620 B.C.

Summary - The book of Nahum was written approximately 140 years after the recorded events in the book of Jonah. During that period of time, Nineveh had turned from its repentant attitude and had taken the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity. Whereas Jonah gives a message of mercy and repentance, Nahum gives an indictment of doom upon Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. They who were once used as God's tool against the people of Israel and Jerusalem, will now be destroyed because of their great wickedness.

Nineveh's doom declared - Chapter 1 v 1 to 15

1 v 1 to 8	Character of Nineveh's judge
1 v 9 to 11	Declaration of Nineveh's doom
1 v 12 to 15	Comfort to Nineveh's oppressed

Nineveh's doom described - Chapter 2 v 1 to 13

2 v 1 to 5	City besieged
2 v 6 to 10	City overwhelmed
2 v 11 to 13	City made desolate

Nineveh's doom deserved - Chapter 3 v 1 to 19

3 v 1 to 5	Cause of the overthrow
3 v 6 to 13	Lesson of the overthrow
3 v 14 to 19	Certainty of the overthrow

HABAKKUK**Author** - Habakkuk**Time** - 620 to 605 B.C.

Summary - The book begins with Habakkuk complaining of injustice in Judah and with his inability to understand God's failure to judge the wicked and morally deprived nation of Babylon. Habakkuk is shown that God's people must continue to trust in His mercy regardless of the circumstances about them. The wicked appear to prosper while the righteous are chastened. However, this prosperity of the wicked is only temporary. God will not abandon those who obey and follow His commandments - "*the just shall live by faith*" (Cp. *Psalms 73*).

Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1***The prophet's complaint of unchecked violence in Judah - Chapter 1 v 2 to 4******The Lord's answer - The Chaldean is His Instrument of punishment - Chapter 1 v 5 to 11******A second problem - The Chaldeans are more wicked than the Judeans - Chapter 1 v 12 to 2 v 1******The Lord's second answer - The promise is certain, and faith will be rewarded - Chapter 2 v 2 to 4***

Five curses for disobedience - Chapter 2 v 5 to 20

A vision of divine judgement - Chapter 3 v 1 to 16

The triumph of faith - Chapter 3 v 17 to 19

ZEPHANIAH

Author - Zephaniah

Time - 635 to 615 B.C.

Summary - Zephaniah was contemporary with Jeremiah. He prophesied during King Josiah's reign, who was responsible for a great religious reformation. This followed the wicked reigns of Kings Manasseh and Amon, who led the nation into various forms of idolatry. Zephaniah pronounces inescapable judgements against Jerusalem for their sins, and exhorts national repentance. He further speaks of the "day of the LORD", when God will intervene to judge sin.

Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1

A warning of impending judgement - Chapter 1 v 2 to 18

1 v 2 to 6	The judgement announced
1 v 7 to 13	The judgement defined
1 v 14 to 18	The judgement described

An exhortation to immediate repentance - Chapter 2 v 1 to 3 v 8

2 v 1 to 3	An invitation to repentance
2 v 4 to 3 v 8	A detailed warning of judgement

A promise of future blessing - Chapter 3 v 9 to 20

3 v 9 to 13	The promise of conversion
3 v 14 to 20	The promise of restoration

HAGGAI

Author - Haggai

Time - 520 B.C.

Summary - Haggai speaks to the few Jews who have returned to Judah from the captivity in Babylon. He exhorts them to “consider their ways” and to complete the Temple as its foundation had been laid eighteen years before. The people responded, and the Temple was completed in 516 B.C. Haggai further pronounces that pagan empires will be overthrown by God, and Judah will be elevated during the time of the Messiah.

A message to arouse - Chapter 1 v 1 to 11

A message to commend - Chapter 1 v 12 to 15

A message to encourage - Chapter 2 v 1 to 9

A message to confirm - Chapter 2 v 10 to 19

A message to assure - Chapter 2 v 20 to 23

ZECHARIAH

Author - Zechariah

Time - 520 to 490 B.C.

Summary - Zechariah was a younger contemporary of Haggai. He also encouraged the people to rebuild the Temple. Like Daniel and Revelation, this book contains visions symbolising future events. It contains detailed references to the coming Messiah. The book concludes with descriptions of the enemies of Jerusalem being judged and of the future glory of God’s Kingdom.

Introduction - The call to repent - Chapter 1 v 1 to 6

The night visions of Zechariah - Chapter 1 v 7 to 6 v 8

1 v 7 to 17	Vision of the horses and riders
1 v 18 to 21	Vision of the horns and artisans
2 v 1 to 13	Vision of the surveyor
3 v 1 to 10	Vision of Joshua the high priest
4 v 1 to 14	Vision of the golden lampstand
5 v 1 to 4	Vision of the flying roll
5 v 5 to 11	Vision of the woman in the ephah
6 v 1 to 8	Vision of the chariots

The crowning of Joshua - Chapter 6 v 9 to 15

Questions concerning fasting - Chapter 7 v 1 to 8 v 23

7 v 1 to 3	The question
7 v 4 to 14	The lesson from history
8 v 1 to 23	God's purpose of blessing for Israel

The future of the nations, Israel, and Messiah's Kingdom - Chapter 9 v 1 to 14 v 21

9 v 1 to 11 v 17	The first burden
12 v 1 to 14 v 21	The second burden

MALACHI

Author - Malachi

Time - 500 to 475 B.C.

Summary - Malachi's message comes to the people in a time of great spiritual decline. It is approximately eighty years after the rebuilding of the Temple, and the promises of the coming Messiah have not yet happened. As a result, the people had become lax and had an increasingly casual attitude toward God and worship. Malachi states that their sacrifices were unacceptable to God, husbands were unfaithful, and the priests had neglected God's covenants.

An unholy nation - Chapter 1 v 1 to 14

A faithless priesthood - Chapter 2 v 1 to 10

A treacherous people - Chapter 2 v 11 to 16

A nation of robbers - Chapter 2 v 17 to 3 v 15

A faithful remnant to be vindicated - Chapter 3 v 16 to 4 v 6

MATTHEW

Author - Matthew

Time - 4 B.C. to 30 A.D.

Summary - Matthew's Gospel is aimed at a Jewish audience. Its purpose is to witness that Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. Matthew emphasises the words of the Lord regarding the Kingdom of Heaven. This was done to counterbalance the popular Jewish belief of the day that the Messiah would be a militant leader who would overthrow the current Roman occupation and re-establish the throne of David.

Key Verse - *"Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" Matthew 1 v 1*

Unique Features - Matthew makes no less than sixty references to the Old Testament writings as fulfilled in Christ, so that the word "fulfilled" becomes characteristic of the book. The word "Kingdom" occurs fifty-five times; "Kingdom of Heaven" thirty-two times; "Son of David" seven times. The Jews laid great store on Scripture, and this Gospel, written particularly for them, abounds in such references.

Preparation - Chapter 1 v 1 to 4 v 11

1 v 2 to 2 v 23	Jesus' birth
3 v 1 to 17	His baptism
4 v 1 to 11	His temptations

Preaching - Chapter 4 v 12 to 7 v 29

4 v 12 to 25	Proclaiming the Kingdom
5 v 1 to 7 v 29	What Jesus taught

Eleven works showing Christ's ability to rule - Chapter 8 v 1 to 10 v 42

8 v 1 to 4	The cleansing of the leper
8 v 5 to 13	Centurion's servant healed of palsy
8 v 14 to 15	Peter's wife's mother's fever
8 v 16 to 27	The stilling of the storm
8 v 28 to 34	Gergesene demoniacs healed
9 v 1 to 17	The man cured of the palsy
9 v 18 to 22	The woman with haemorrhage
9 v 23 to 26	The ruler's daughter raised
9 v 27 to 31	Two blind men given sight
9 v 32 to 38	The dumb demoniac healed
10 v 1 to 42	The Apostles empowered to preach

There are a couple of digressions - see Chapter 8 v 18 to 22,
9 v 9 to 17 - but they are related to the miracles performed;
the miracles revealed physically what the Gospel can do spiritually.

What people thought : Reactions to his call - Chapter 11 v 1 to 18 v 35

11 v 1 to 15	John the Baptist - in doubt
11 v 16 to 19	"This generation" - unresponsive
11 v 20 to 30	Galilean cities - unrepentant
12 v 1 to 45	The Pharisees - unreasonable
12 v 46 to 50	His family - misunderstanding
13 v 1 to 58	The multitudes - undiscerning
14 v 1 to 13	Herod the king - unintelligent
14 v 14 to 36	The disciples - of little faith
15 v 1 to 20	Jerusalem scribe - unimpressionable
15 v 21 to 39	Gentile multitudes - seeking
16 v 1 to 12	Pharisees, Sadduces - unrelenting
16 v 13 to 18 v 35	The Apostles - needing education

Passover - Chapter 19 v 1 to 28 v 20

19 v 1 to 25 v 46	Parables and entry into Jerusalem
26 v 1 to 27 v 66	Arrest, trial and crucifixion
28 v 1 to 20	Resurrection

MARK

Author - Mark

Time - 4 B.C. to 30 A.D.

Summary - The book of Mark describes in detail Jewish customs and is therefore thought to be aimed at a non-Jewish audience (in particular, Romans). Mark describes in very life-like terms the miracles of Jesus, and great detail is given of the crucifixion and death of Jesus. It is thought that Mark was the first of the four Gospels, probably written between 65 and 70 A.D. It is thought that the book was taken by dictation from the Apostle Peter, because some events contained in the book are unique to Peter.

Key Verse - *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."* Mark 10 v 45

Unique Features - Being originally written (as is thought) for Romans, there are very few references to the Old Testament Scriptures contained in this Gospel. Jewish words are explained (*Chapter 3 v 17; 5 v 41; 7 v 11, 34; 14 v 36*); and also Jewish customs (*Chapter 7 v 3 to 4; 14 v 12; 15 v 42*). Latin expressions are frequently used such as Legion, Centurion, etc. The Romans admired action, and this Gospel depicts the Lord as a worker.

Sanctification - Chapter 1 v 1 to 13

1 v 1 to 8	The witness of John
1 v 9 to 13	The anointing of Jesus

Service - Chapter 1 v 14 to 8 v 30

1 v 14 to 3 v 12	First disciples and first work
3 v 13 to 6 v 6	Appointment of Apostles and extension of labour
6 v 7 to 8 v 30	Co-operating in service

Sacrifice - Chapter 9 v 1 to 15 v 30

8 v 31 to 10 v 57	Anticipated
11 v 1 to 14 v 42	Approached
14 v 43 to 15 v 47	Accomplished

Service Renewed - Chapter 16 v 1 to 20

LUKE

Author - Luke

Time - 4 B.C. to 30 A.D.

Summary - The book of Luke gives us the most complete look at the life of Jesus. Luke uses eyewitnesses as sources for his writings. He stresses Jesus' humanity (since Luke was a doctor himself) and compassion as well as the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer.

Key Verses - *"Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man!" Luke 23 v 47*
"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"
Luke 19 v 10

Unique Features - It was written particularly for Greeks, who delighted in wisdom, beauty and system. Luke, therefore, tells the story of Jesus, unfolding his development in a systematic manner, setting the facts in chronological order in a manner not attempted by the other writers. Luke was an artist with the pen, drawing the portrait of Jesus as the perfect man. He followed up by writing the book of Acts (the Acts of the Apostles).

The Son of Man in his human relationships - Chapter 1 v 1 to 4 v 13

1 v 1 to 4	Prologue
1 v 5 to 2 v 52	In the days of Herod
3 v 1 to 4 v 13	Thirty years later

The Son of Man as prophet to King in Galilee - Chapter 4 v 14 to 9 v 50***The Son of Man in his Judean / Perea ministry - Chapter 9 v 51 to 19 v 27***

9 v 51 to 13 v 21	In Judea
13 v 22 to 19 v 27	In Perea

The Son of Man rejected as Israel's King - Chapter 19 v 28 to 23 v 56

19 v 28 to 22 v 46	Before the arrest
22 v 47 to 23 v 56	After the arrest

The Son of Man Glorified - Chapter 24 v 1 to 53

24 v 1 to 8	The initial appearance after resurrection
24 v 9 to 53	The next forty days

JOHN

Author - John

Time - 4 B.C. to 30 A.D.

Summary - The book of John was written in order that men may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and consequently the Redeemer of all who believe in him and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. John cites eight signs to establish and prove this point, culminating in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. John is the only one of the four Gospels that does not cite any parables; instead John emphasises Jesus as the manifestation of God.

Key Verse - *"but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* John 20 v 31

Unique Features - There are many key words in John's Gospel, and dominant throughout is the word "believe", which occurs over eighty times. The word, however, implies a belief that has developed into faith or conviction. As such, this Gospel was written for believers. They are enabled thereby to perceive the inner strength of Jesus, and to see that it stemmed from a greater than he, even God. Another peculiarity is the frequent use of the word "Jew". It is only found once in Matthew, twice in Mark and in Luke, but over sixty times in John.

John concerns himself more with the Judean ministry, which Matthew and Mark hardly touch upon, and he records eight miracles (which he terms “signs”) that set in sequential order the whole purpose of God in Christ.

From everlasting - Chapter 1 v 1 to 18

1 v 1 to 8 God before Christ

1 v 9 to 18 God in Christ

God Manifest in the Flesh - Chapter 1 v 19 to 19 v 42

1 v 19 to 12 v 50 In the world

13 v 1 to 17 v 26 To his own

18 v 1 to 19 v 42 Arrest, trial and crucifixion

To Everlasting - Chapter 20 v 1 to 21 v 25

20 v 1 to 18 The empty tomb

20 v 19 to 21 v 25 Resurrection appearances

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Author - Luke

Time - 30 to 60 A.D.

Summary - Acts records the foundation and activities of the first-century church. It illustrates the struggles and problems that they faced as well as the solutions to overcome the problems. It describes the power that was given to a select number of men by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to promote the Gospel. The book also traces the missionary journeys of Paul as he helped form churches throughout Asia Minor, southeastern Europe and Rome.

The Witness to Christ

Key Verse - *“But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” Acts 1 v 8*

Preparation for preaching - Chapter 1 v 1 to 2 v 4

In Jerusalem - Chapter 2 v 5 to 7 v 60

In Judea and Samaria - Chapter 8 v 1 to 25

To the end of the earth - Chapter 8 v 26 to 28 v 31

8 v 26 to 40	Towards Africa
9 v 1 to 15 v 35	Towards Asia
15 v 36 to 18 v 17	Towards Europe
18 v 18 to 26 v 32	In Asia
27 v 1 to 28 v 31	In Rome

ROMANS**Author** - Paul**Time** - 58 to 60 A.D.

Summary - Paul was instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ to be a minister to the Gentile people. He begins the letter by showing how all men are sinners in the eyes of God and therefore worthy of death. However, Paul explains that Jesus Christ was the "last Adam" in whom no sin was found, and is able to provide an acceptable covering for men's sin if they agree that God is always right, accepting all that Jesus said and follow after him in their own lives. With this in mind, Paul explains the distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles and the final outcome of all things when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God.

Christ - The power of God to us

Key Verse - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith". Romans 1 v 16 to 17*

Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1 to 15***Doctrinal - How the Gospel relates to salvation - Chapter 1 v 16 to 8 v 39***

1 v 16 to 3 v 20	Condemnation
3 v 21 to 5 v 21	Justification
6 v 1 to 8 v 17	Sanctification
8 v 18 to 39	Glorification

National - How the Gospel relates to Israel - Chapter 9 v 1 to 11 v 36

9 v 1 to 33	Selection
10 v 1 to 21	Rejection
11 v 1 to 36	Restoration

Practical - How the Gospel relates to conduct - Chapter 12 v 1 to 15 v 13

12 v 1 to 21	Social responsibilities
13 v 1 to 14	Civil responsibilities
14 v 1 to 15 v 13	Congregational responsibilities

Epilogue - Personal matters - Chapter 15 v 14 to 16 v 27**1st and 2nd Letters to the CORINTHIANS****1 CORINTHIANS****Author** - Paul**Time** - 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary - Written to the church at Corinth by the Apostle Paul. He deals with a series of problems and false teachings that were present in the newly formed church. Most members were from an immoral pagan background and were encouraged to change their way of life. There were also problems with those who tried to “blend” the teachings of Christ with the Law of Moses.

Christ: The wisdom of God to us

Key Verses - *“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect”*

1 Corinthians 1 v 17

“But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” 1 Corinthians 1 v 24

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

*1 Corinthians 2 v 7 & 8****Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1 to 9******Reproof: Concerning divisions - Chapter 1 v 10 to 4 v 21******Correction: Concerning inconsistencies - Chapter 5 v 1 to 6 v 20***

Instruction: Answers to problems - Chapter 7 v 1 to 15 v 58

7 v 1 to 17	Concerning the marriage state
7 v 18 to 24	Regarding circumcision and slavery
7 v 25 to 40	Regarding virgins and marriage
8 v 1 to 11 v 1	Regarding meat offered to idols
11 v 2 to 16	Regarding sisters in the ecclesia
11 v 17 to 34	Regarding the Lord's Supper
12 v 1 to 14 v 40	Regarding Spirit gifts
15 v 1 to 58	Regarding the resurrection

General Matters - Chapter 16 v 1 to 24**2 CORINTHIANS****Author** - Paul**Time** - 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary - This second letter to the church at Corinth was also penned by Paul. It was written after he made a "painful" and unsuccessful visit to the young church in an attempt to give instruction and guidance on several divisive issues. Upon learning that a majority of members had repented, he wrote the letter of 2nd Corinthians. It gives encouragement, yet teaches of the suffering that each member must face for the Lord Jesus' sake. He concludes by surmising that when he is weakest, then God is able to work through him most powerfully. This letter was, in all likelihood, written about six months after the first letter to the Corinthians.

Christ: The comfort of God to us

Key Verses - *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* 2 Corinthians 1 v 3 and 4

Introduction: The voice of experience - Chapter 1 v 1 to 11***Explanation: Paul the minister - Chapter 1 v 12 to 5 v 21***

1 v 12 to 2 v 11	Concerning his motives
2 v 12 to 5 v 21	Concerning the ministry

Exhortation: Paul the father - Chapter 6 v 1 to 9 v 15

6 v 1 to 7 v 16	Concerning spiritual matters
8 v 1 to 9 v 15	Concerning material matters

Vindication: Paul the Apostle - Chapter 10 v 1 to 12 v 18

10 v 1 to 11 v 15 The critics and their pretensions

11 v 16 to 12 v 18 The apostle and his credentials

Conclusion: Future Intentions - Chapter 12 v 19 to 13 v 14**GALATIANS****Author** - Paul**Time** - 48 - 50 A.D.

Summary - The letter to the churches in Galatia focuses on the divisions that Jewish Christians were causing among new Gentile converts. These Judaisers were trying to convince the Gentiles that first, Paul's authority was given by men and not by God, and secondly, that they needed to be circumcised and to keep the ritual law in order to be saved. Paul argues that both Jew and Gentile alike enjoy in Christ complete salvation. Through Christ they can be justified, that is, reckoned right with God, by association with the Promises made to Abraham. Reliance on the Law would only lead to death, and could not produce life-giving freedom, as only Christ could grant that freedom. Paul was showing that all legalistic variations of the Gospel are perversions of it and should be shown as such.

Key Verses - *"If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain"**Galatians 2 v 21**"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" Galatians 3 v 6**"We ... wait for the hope of righteousness by faith" Galatians 5 v 5****Introduction and salutation -******Chapter 1 v 1 to 5******The purpose of the letter -******Chapter 1 v 6 to 9******Personal details - Illustrating the authenticity of Paul's Gospel -******Chapter 1 v 10 - 2 v 21******Doctrinal - A declaration of the Gospel -******Chapter 3 v 1 to 4 v*****31**

3 v 1 to 14

Justification by faith

3 v 15 to 29

Faith's relation to the law

4 v 1 to 31

Relationship of faith to the law illustrated

Practical - the demands of the Gospel - Chapter 5 v 1 to 6 v 10

5 v 1 to 12	The call to liberty
5 v 13 to 26	Liberty in reality
6 v 1 to 10	Freedom in Christ must be mutually enjoyed

Concluding review - Chapter 6 v 11 to 18**EPHESIANS****Author** - Paul**Time** - 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary - The letter is divided into two sections. The first outlines the blessings and spiritual riches in Christ; the second the walk in imitation of Christ. The letter illustrates the abundance of spiritual riches that Christ himself received, namely grace, glory, mercy, immortality, and was written to foster the development of Christ-like behaviour. By doing so, the believer would learn to walk worthy of his vocation; not as Gentiles which know not God, but as children of light who show forth love and walk correctly in all aspects of life and action until the return of the Lord Jesus. It is thought that this letter was one of several letters which were circulated to the different churches in Asia and that it was written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28 v 30).

Key Verses - *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."*
Ephesians 1 v 18 to 20

Our wealth in Christ - Chapter 1 v 1 to 3 v 21

1 v 1 to 2	Salutation
1 v 3 to 23	The origin of the church
2 v 1 to 22	The construction of the church
3 v 1 to 21	The function of the church

Our walk in Christ - Chapter 4 v 1 to 6 v 24

4 v 1 to 16	Responsibilities in the church
4 v 17 to 6 v 9	Individual conduct
6 v 10 to 24	Faith's warfare

PHILIPPIANS

Author - Paul

Time - 62 A.D.

Summary - The tone of this letter is more personal in nature than any other letter. Paul outlines his own beliefs and states that all believers must not be self-centred in their lives, but must look to Christ for an example of self-sacrifice and unity in purpose. He further contrasts enemies of the cross with those who are friends of the Lord Jesus and the cross. It is thought that Paul wrote this epistle while he was in prison.

Christ: The sufficiency of God to us

Key Verses - *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” Philippians 3 v 7 to 8*

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind” Philippians 3 v 13 to 15

Christ our life - Chapter 1 v 1 to 30

Christ our mind - Chapter 2 v 1 to 30

Christ our goal - Chapter 3 v 1 to 4 v 1

Christ our strength - Chapter 4 v 2 to 23

COLOSSIANS

Author - Paul

Time - 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary - The letter to Colossae was written in response to the heresies that were brought to Paul's attention. The major errors that had crept into the church were:

- the exaltation of angels or other "elemental spirits",
- the belief that self-denial and religious rituals produce spirituality, and
- the claiming of a special knowledge beyond that found in the Gospel of Christ.

Paul states that these are ideas based on human tradition and are therefore worthless. He teaches love, humility, submission to authority, and finally prayer to establish a believer in the wisdom of God.

Christ : The fullness of God to us

Key Verses - *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead"* Colossians 2 v 8 - 12

Introduction -

Chapter 1 v 1 to 15

Doctrinal - "That you may be filled" -

Chapter 1 v 16 to 2 v 23

Practical - "Seek those things which are above" -

Chapter 3 v 1 to 4 v 6

Personal - "That he may know your

circumstances" - Chapter 4 v 7 to 18

1st & 2nd Letters to the THESSALONIANS

Author - Paul

Time - 50 A.D.

Summary - The main focus in these letters is the state of the dead in Christ. It deals with their resurrection and the future Kingdom of God. Paul appears to have written these letters because of the large number of newly baptised believers in Thessalonica. He was forced out of the city by jealous Jews. The occurrence of "you know" in the letters indicates that Paul had begun to teach them but was interrupted and therefore wishes to solidify the subject matter. Further encouragement is given in the second letter regarding the punishment of those wicked men who were persecuting them.

1 THESSALONIANS - Christ as our hope

Key Verses - *"You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come." 1 Thessalonians 1 v 9 and 10*

Looking back: how they were called - Chapter 1 v 1 to 3 v 13

1 v 1 to 10	Through example
2 v 1 to 20	Through preaching
3 v 1 to 13	Through after-care

Looking on: How they should live - Chapter 4 v 1 to 18

Looking forward: Watching and waiting - Chapter 5 v 1 to 28

2 THESSALONIANS - Christ As Our Victory

Key Verses - *"And to you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ... when he comes, in that day, to be glorified in his saints and to be admired among all those who believe" 2 Thessalonians 1 v 7 to 10*

Consolation: - From the fact of Christ's coming - Chapter 1 v 1 to 12

Caution: Instruction on the time of Christ's coming - Chapter 2 v 1 to 17

Command: Injunctions in view of Christ's coming - Chapter 3 v 1 to 18

1st & 2nd letters to TIMOTHY

Author - Paul

Time - Between 62 and 66 A.D.

Summary - Paul gives Timothy encouragement and reminds him of the work at hand. He reveals his fears to Timothy of the dangers within the church and gives advice for the godly conduct of all individuals. The two letters to Timothy, along with that to Titus are often called the Pastoral letters, because they were addressed to pastors, or leaders, of churches and not to the churches themselves.

1 TIMOTHY

The charge - Guard that which has been committed to you

Key Verses - *"This charge I commit to you, son Timothy ... that ...you may wage a good warfare"*
1 Timothy 1 v 18

"O Timothy! guard what was committed to your trust"
1 Timothy 6 v 20

Introduction - Chapter 1 v 1 to 20

Ecclesial conduct - Chapter 2 v 1 to 3 v 16

Ecclesial problems - Chapter 4 v 1 to 6 v 10

Personal admonition - Chapter 6 v 11 to 21

2 TIMOTHY

The challenge - Stir up the gift of God

Key Verses - *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you"*
2 Timothy 1 v 6

"The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"
2 Timothy 2 v 2

"Perilous times will come"
2 Timothy 3 v 1

<i>Hold on to the charge -</i>	<i>Chapter 1 v 1 to 18</i>
<i>Encourage others to take up the charge -</i>	<i>Chapter 2 v 1 to 26</i>
<i>Guard the charge in the face of apathy -</i>	<i>Chapter 3 v 1 to 17</i>
<i>Preach the charge at all seasons -</i>	<i>Chapter 4 v 1 to 8</i>
<i>Paul's final words -</i>	<i>Chapter 4 v 9 to 22</i>

TITUS

Author - Paul

Time - 62 to 66 A.D.

Summary - This letter was written by Paul from Nicopolis to Titus who was teaching the churches on the island of Crete. The letter provides Titus with instruction and advice for his conduct as well as guidance for dealing with the believers in Crete.

The caution - What a church must aim for

Key Verse - *"That you should set in order the things that are lacking"*

Titus 1 v 5

An orderly church - Chapter 1 v 1 to 16

A sound church - Chapter 2 v 1 to 15

A practical church - Chapter 3 v 1 to 15

PHILEMON

Author - Paul

Time - 61 - 62 A.D.

Summary - Paul writes to Philemon whose slave, Onesimus, had run away to Rome, where he met Paul and became a Christian. Paul sends him back to his rightful owner with his personal letter of recommendation to accept him back with love and charity.

Responsibilities in Christ

Salutation - v 1 to 3

Paul's praise of Philemon - v 4 to 7

Paul's plea for Onesimus - v 8 to 17

Paul's pledge of repayment - v 18 to 22

Final greetings - v 23 to 25

HEBREWS

Author - Probably Paul

Time - 63 A.D.

Summary - This letter persuasively presents the distinctiveness of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The letter is primarily written to Jewish Christians who were wavering between Judaism and Christianity. Its primary message was to prove that Jesus Christ was the fulfilment of all Old Testament prophecy and symbol. With Christ as the fulfilment, there was no longer a need to offer the animal sacrifices, etc., required under the Mosaic Law. Christ is the High Priest and mediator of all believers in all ages who look for the salvation of God.

Christ - The New and Living Way

Key Verses - *"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he consecrated for us, though the veil, that is, His flesh; and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching".*

Hebrews 10 v 19 to 25

Christ the Son: Better than his Predecessors - Chapter 1 v 1 to 7 v 28

1 v 1 to 3	A better voice than the prophets
1 v 4 to 2 v 18	A better name than the angels
3 v 1 to 19	A better apostle than Moses
4 v 1 to 13	A better leader than Joshua
4 v 14 to 6 v 20	A better priest than Aaron
7 v 1 to 28	A better priestly order than the Levitical

Christ the Sacrifice: Confirming the better covenant - Chapter 8 v 1 to 10 v 18

8 v 1 to 5	Christ the antitype of the Mosaic order
8 v 6 to 13	Christ the mediator of a better covenant
9 v 1 to 5	The Mosaic Tabernacle
9 v 6 to 10	The lessons it taught
9 v 11 to 14	Christ provided a better sanctuary
9 v 15 to 28	Christ provided a better sacrifice
10 v 1 to 4	The limitations of animal sacrifices
10 v 5 to 10	The effectiveness of Christ's offering
10 v 11 to 18	The completeness of his offering

Christ and faith: the true and better way - Chapter 10 v 19 to 13 v 21

10 v 19 to 39	Faith - The true response
11 v 1 to 40	Faith - The moving power of the ages
12 v 1 to 13	Faith leads to Christ
12 v 14 to 13 v 21	Faith expresses itself in practical morality

Final words - Chapter 13 v 22 to 25

JAMES

Author - James

Time - 43 - 50 A.D.

Summary - The letter of James contains practical information pertaining to everyday life as a Christian. It is not directed at any church in particular, but rather to Jewish believers, revealing their responsibilities to the principles of the Law as manifested in Christ. It focuses on real faith, and shows that there is a need to develop faith as an energising power that would find its outworking in a changed life; therefore, the epistle dwells on practice and not doctrine.

Faith in action

Key Verse - *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"*
James 2 v 26

How faith can triumph over trials - Chapter 1 v 1 to 27

How faith can govern action towards others - Chapter 2 v 1 to 26

How faith can discipline the tongue - Chapter 3 v 1 to 18

How faith can purify character -

Chapter 4 v 1 to 17

How faith can create confidence in God -

Chapter 5 v 1 to 20

1st and 2nd Letters of PETER

1 PETER

Author - Peter

Time - 60 A.D.

Summary - This letter was written to Christians in Asia Minor to help establish a joyful hope in the face of coming persecution. Peter sternly warns that persecution would come and that each individual must stand fast against it.

Triumph in tribulation

Introduction -

Chapter 1 v 1 to 2

The call and what it involves -

Chapter 1 v 3 to 2 v 10

The pilgrim life and how to live it -

Chapter 2 v 11 to 4 v 11

The fiery trial and how to bear it -

Chapter 4 v 12 to 5 v 11

Final words -

Chapter 5 v 12 to 14

2 PETER

Author - Peter

Time - 66 A.D.

Summary - The theme of this letter is true knowledge. The newly formed church was threatened by false teachers, and therefore Peter exhorts the Christians to be aware of this danger. Peter explains that false teachers had crept in and were secretly subverting the true doctrine of the Gospel.

The true knowledge and the sure hope

The well-founded Gospel message should produce an enthusiastic response -

Chapter 1 v 1 to 21

Warnings against evil doers and false teachers -

Chapter 2 v 1 to 22

The certainty of the Lord's return -

Chapter 3 v 1 to 18

1st, 2nd & 3rd Letters of JOHN

1 JOHN

Author - John the apostle

Time - 85 to 100 A.D.

Summary - This letter was written to a community who faced heresy. John teaches how to walk in the light and also to keep in remembrance the sacrifice which the Lord Jesus Christ made for them.

The Truth and the ecclesia

Introduction: Why the letter was written -

Chapter 1 v 1 to 4

God is Light -

Chapter 1 v 5 to 2 v 29

God is love -

Chapter 3 v 1 to 4 v 21

God is life -

Chapter 5 v 1 to 21

2 JOHN

Author - John the apostle

Time - 85 to 100 A.D.

Summary - The letter is addressed to an "elect lady", who is advised to have minimal fellowship with unbelievers. The ideas of love, truth, and obedience are emphasised.

The Truth and the home

Introduction -

v 1 to 4

Exposition: love defined -

v 5 to 6

Exhortation -

v 7 to 9

Application: False charity to be avoided - v 10 to 11

Information - v 12 to 13

3 JOHN

Author - John the apostle

Time - 85 to 100 A.D.

Summary - The letter commends Gaius for allowing Christian teachers the use of his home and financial means. He is urged to receive only good men, which were known by their works and to shun evil men.

The Truth and the individual

Gaius: The sincere, dedicated and loveable - v 1 to 8

Diotrephes: The domineering, self-assertive, arrogant - v 9 to 11

Demetrius: of good repute to all - v 12

Last words from John - v 13 to 14

JUDE

Author - Jude

Time - Around 60 A.D.

Summary - Jude warns of the danger of the false teachers who have “slipped in” unknown to the newly converted Christians. He further outlines the past judgements upon evil men who forsook the Word of God and perverted it into the traditions of men.

Contending earnestly for the faith

Introduction - v 1 and 2

The need to contend: Apostate teachers - v 3 to 16

The way to contend: Available resources - v 17 to 25

REVELATION

Author - The apostle John

Time - 95 A.D.

Summary - This is the final book of the New Testament and the Bible as a whole. John is shown events down the ages affecting the true believers and the events leading up to the return of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The vision is highly symbolic, and shows the corruption of the church as well as the judgements on those who are held accountable.

The events down the ages that lead eventually to the Kingdom of God.

Key Verse - *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants - things which must shortly take place. And he sent and signified it by his angel to his servant John”*
Revelation 1 v 1

Jesus Christ and the redeemed - Chapter 1 v 1 to 20

Jesus Christ and the ecclesia - Chapter 2 v 1 to 3 v 22

Jesus Christ and the Kingdom - Chapter 4 v 1 to 22 v 21

4 v 1 to 5 v 14	Introduction
6 v 1 to 7 v 17	The seven seals
8 v 1 to 11 v 19	The seven angelic trumpeters
12 v 1 to 14 v 20	The development and destruction of the beast, his image and organisation
15 v 1 to 16 v 21	The seven vials of Divine wrath
17 v 1 to 20 v 15	The judgement of the great whore and triumph of the Lamb
21 v 1 to 22 v 21	New heavens and new earth

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