



Lagoa Christian Fellowship

Bible Survey

Overview of the Entire Bible

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.



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Introduction

The Bible is the greatest book ever written. Inside its pages are the answers to the most important questions of life: “What is life all about?” “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” “Where am I going?” The message of the Bible centers on the person of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the universe and Savior of all creation. The Bible has been recognized as a book in a class by itself. Consider the following testimonies to its character:

A characteristic that sets the Bible apart from other literature, both ancient and modern, is its harmony or unity. The Bible is a compilation of books written over a long period of time. However, it contains one unfolding story from beginning to end. The Bible is made up of 66 separate books, yet consistently it reveals one dynamic message— the dealings of a loving God with mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Integrated message system from beyond the cosmos

The Bible is actually 66 different books **written** by over 40 different authors, on 3 different continents, in 3 different languages, over a period of 1500 years, yet it is one integrated message system, with a kick – It tells of things that will take place thousands of years before they transpire.

Fifteen Hundred Years

The 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New Testament were composed over a period of approximately 1,500 years. Probably the first books written were what we know as the books of Moses or the Law of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), composed around 1400 B.C. The last books of the New Testament were written around A.D. 90 and include the writings of the Apostle John (the Gospel of John, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Revelation). The composition of Genesis through Revelation, therefore, involves a time span of around 1,500 years.

Forty Authors from Different Backgrounds

These 66 books were composed by over 40 different authors who came from a variety of educational and cultural backgrounds. For example, Joshua was a military general; the prophet Daniel was a prime minister; David and Hosea were shepherds; Luke a doctor; Paul a Rabbi and tentmaker; Peter and John fishermen; and Nehemiah a court servant. The writers' backgrounds were remarkably diverse.

Different Places

The books of the Bible were written in a variety of places on three different continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. For example, the prophet Ezekiel wrote his work while held captive in Babylon. The Apostle Paul wrote four of his letters from prison in Rome. King David penned some of his psalms while he was a fugitive in the wilderness. The fact that these authors wrote from different geographical locales shows that God could and would reveal His word wherever He wished. It was not a situation, similar to other religions, where a person had to be in one particular place to receive the word from the gods or God. The God of the Bible has revealed Himself in a variety of different places.

Three Languages

The books of the Bible were written in three different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. For the most part, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew (there are a handful of chapters in Daniel and Ezra composed in Aramaic). The New Testament was entirely written in the common Greek of the day, called *koine*.

Christ-Centered

The main theme of the Bible is the person of Jesus Christ. Both the Old and New Testaments testify to Jesus Christ as the Lord of Glory.

One Author

The explanation that the Bible gives for its remarkable unity is that it is inspired by God. The author of the books of the Bible is God the Holy Spirit. Hence, the harmony of the Bible can be understood by realizing that the ultimate author behind the books is God. This fact puts the Bible in a class by itself.

A Challenge

Locate fifteen people who all speak the same language, have the same amount of education, and come from the same social background. Put them in separate rooms and ask them to write their opinion on only two controversial subjects, such as the nature and existence of God, and the purpose of life here on earth. Would you expect their writings to agree? Would you find one unfolding account from beginning to end with no contradictions or distortions? Not at all. You would expect to get about fifteen different opinions. Then how can we explain the unity of the Bible? The Bible consists of forty authors, not fifteen, writing from different educational backgrounds, different languages, and different cultures and on many extremely controversial subjects. Yet, they write with complete unity and harmony.

Conservatively one-third of the Bible is prophecy

Another feature that separates the Bible from any other book is its ability correctly to predict the future. Scripture contains a wealth of prophecies that were made years before they were accurately fulfilled. **The role of the biblical prophet was to act as a spokesman for God to the people.** The prophet not only predicted future events in God's plan, they also exhorted and admonished the people as the Lord directed. Though their job of exhortation occupied more of their time and words than did their predictions of future events, it is with the predictive aspect of prophecy that we are impressed.



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A walk through the Old Testament

The first thing we meet when we open the Bible is the Old Testament. The Old Testament divides itself neatly in a pattern that makes it very easy to remember. Just remember the numbers...

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Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy compose what in the Hebrew is called the Torah, and in the Greek is called the Pentateuch. In English we call them the first **five** books of Moses. They lay out for us the basic Law.

Following the Law, we come to nine books that cover Israel's pre-exile history. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, The books of Samuel, the books of Kings, and the books of Chronicles. These **nine** books compose the history of Israel before they were exiled out of the Land into Babylon.

After 2 Chronicles we arrive at the book of Ezra, then Nehemiah, and then Esther. These make up the post-exile history of the Nation of Israel. These **three** books give the account of the people's return to the Land of Israel.

Next we find the books concerning the Inner life. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are the **five** books that speak about the heart of man.

Following those five books we come to another **five** books which cover the area of basic prophecy. Isaiah, Jeremiah (who incidentally had so much to say he wrote a sequel called Lamentations), then Ezekiel and Daniel. The first three books were written right before the exile while the last two were actually written in exile.

After the five books of basic prophecy we arrive at the Minor Prophets called minor because their prophecies were shorter. The first **nine** Minor Prophets compose the pre-exile prophets. These were those that prophesied during the time before the deportation into Babylon.

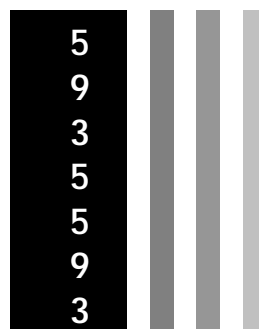
Finally we come to the post-exile prophets. These **three** books -- Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were written after the return of the children of Israel into their homeland.

It's very easy to remember the books of the Old Testament if you just think of the number

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Once you remember that number then you'll know –

Basic Law
Pre-exile history
Post-exile history
Inner-life
Basic prophecy
Pre-exile prophecy
Post-exile prophecy



The Basic Law

The **five** books of Moses called the Torah make up what is the Basic Law. The Basic Law was written by Moses, given by God, and endorsed by Jesus Christ.

Some scholars have had trouble subscribing to the fact that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Jesus believed that Moses wrote them:

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law?

So that settles the issue of who wrote it!

Genesis

Genesis is the book of beginnings. In Genesis we discover the creation of time, and space. We see God creating the universe and filling it. The focus of all of that creation would be a man who rebels against God. Throughout the rest of Genesis we find God drawing men into a relationship with himself.

In Genesis we find every basic doctrine laid out. The Origin of Man, Man's rebellion against God, God's judgment of sin, God's provision for man and answer to his rebellion and many others are all found in Genesis.

God's solution to man's rebellion begins in the Garden and bottlenecks through a childless couple – Abram and Sarai. God promises them that their descendants will become a great nation and occupy the land of Israel.

The time and ground that the book of Genesis covers, goes from the Fertile Crescent area in the Middle East to Egypt, and spans almost 2400 years.

Fertile Crescent	Canaan	Egypt
Eden to Haran	Haran to Canaan	Canaan to Egypt
2000 years	281 years	81 years

Genesis chiefly follows the lives of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. They are who we call the Patriarch's. The book ends in Egypt when the family of 70 moves down from Israel to dwell in Egypt.

In Genesis 5 we find a genealogy of Names starting with Adam and ending with Noah. One of the names in this family tree is Enoch. According to the New Testament book of Jude Enoch was a prophet who preached about the second coming of Jesus Christ. Enoch named his son Methuselah, which in Hebrew means 'his death shall bring.' If you do the math, you will discover that the year Methuselah died was the year the flood took place. God had not only given Enoch prophecy concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ but also had given him instruction to name his own son prophetically. Since we find meaning in Methuselah's name let's look at the other names in Genesis 5 one after the other.

Adam means Man
Seth means appointed
Enosh means mortal
Kenan means sorrow
Mahalalel means the blessed God
Jared means shall come down
Enoch means teaching
Methuselah means his death shall bring
Lamech means poor and those being
destroyed
Noah means Comfort

In Genesis 5 we discover that God has hidden a prophecy behind the names in the chapter: Man is appointed mortal sorrow, but the blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring to the poor and those being destroyed ...Comfort!

That is the Gospel

Spiritually Speaking – Genesis teaches the method of Faith

Exodus

The book of Exodus picks up the story in Egypt where Genesis leaves off. Exodus is a book of exiting and redemption. Exodus is the story of God leading His people out of the Land of slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had been in Egypt 430 years before they were delivered by the hand of a man named Moses. Moses brings the Israelites out of Egypt through the Red Sea and into the wilderness, where they travel for two months till they arrive at Mt. Sinai.

The book of Exodus is based on four events or points – Passover, the Red Sea, the giving of the Law, and the construction of the tabernacle. All of the events were very significant.

The Passover was a feast that commemorated the deliverance from Egypt when the death angel passed over Egypt and took the lives of all the first born in Egypt, except those that placed the blood on their doors in the shape of a cross. The Red Sea opened miraculously to allow the Israelites to pass through onto dry land and when their enemies pursued them the armies of Egypt were drowned in the Red Sea.

God gave the people His holy standard for their lives at Sinai. The answer to the Law of God was the Tabernacle; God is holy and unchanging and the tabernacle made it possible for man to meet with God and for God to dwell among the people.

The time line and travel plans in the book of Exodus are as follows:

In Egypt	In the wilderness for	At Sinai
430 years	2 months	10 months

Spiritually Speaking – Exodus shows the design for deliverance

Leviticus

Leviticus covers **1 month on the Mountain of Sinai.** Leviticus is the Law, it's the rules, it's all the regulations that God gives to the people concerning how they were to worship the Lord and how they were to walk with the Lord.

- Chapters 1-10 cover the area of worship to the Lord.
- Chapters 11-27 cover the area of walking with the Lord

The Lord has called Moses to meet with Him at the top of the Mountain. Here at the top of the mountain, God tells Moses that He has chosen Israel to bring His presence to the world. He gives them this Law with the agreement that He will protect them and treasure them.

Spiritually Speaking – Leviticus shows the way to wholeness

Numbers

The book of Numbers in Hebrew is called 'In the wilderness.' Numbers covers

At Mt. Sinai	In the wilderness	the plains of Moab
20 days	38 years, 3 months & 10 days	5 months

It is named in English for the two numberings that take place. It examines the organization of the people of Israel, from chapter 1-12 the old generation is in focus, in chapters 13-20 we see the tragic transition, and in chapters 21-36, the new generation is in focus. The Israelites would not believe that God would enable them to conquer the inhabitants of Canaan, and to take possession of the land that God had promised to Abraham so many years earlier. As a result of their lack of faith, they were condemned to wander in the wilderness for 38 years.

The book of numbers reveals that God, having rescued His people out of the Land of slavery and taught them about worship, now mobilizes them for the work He has ahead of them.

Spiritually Speaking – Numbers shows us the incomplete Christian life

Deuteronomy

The name Deuteronomy derives from two words, deuterios which means second, and nomos which means Law. The Hebrew name for the book is actually, 'These be the words.' The book covers a time span of

1 month on the plains of Moab.

Deuteronomy consists of 3 sermons, the 1st is historical, and the 2nd is legal, while the third is prophetic.

Historical sermon	Legal sermon	Prophetic sermon
1:1 – 4:43	4:44 – 26:19	27:1 – 34:12

The first four chapters review the love and care of the Lord for His people in their wilderness experience. The next twenty-two chapters are the great review of the Law, as God was expecting His people to live in a sin saturated society. Chapter twenty-seven through the end of the book speaks of the mighty revelation of Israel's future.

The book of Deuteronomy ends with the Death of Moses. Scholars have concluded by the overwhelming evidence that Joshua wrote the last chapter of this book.

Spiritually Speaking – Deuteronomy shows us the Law that delivers



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Pre-exile History

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles compose the grouping of books in the Bible known as the pre-exile history of Israel. These **nine** books compose the history of Israel before they

There are a few very strange events that transpire in this section of the Old Testament of which namely is the Long day of Joshua where the sun stands still.

Now if you were asked to locate Mars, Venus, and Jupiter in the night sky, with all the modern technology we have you probably couldn't do it. As we survey History we quickly discover that the ancients lived in absolute fear of the planets. They built monuments to study and worship them.

Scientifically, we know that in Joshua's case, what actually took place was the earth's rotation slowed down. There is a 'Long Day' account in every ancient culture in the world. Many believe that it was the consequence of a extremely close pass of the planet mars. A very close pass would cause the rotation of the earth to slow, have a catastrophic result on the oceanic tides, would cause major earth quakes, and would produce meteor showers from breakaway material off of Mars.

Interesting that the satirist Jonathan Swift wrote about the moons of Mars - Phoebes and Demos, meaning fear and panic in his epic, 'Gulliver's travels' centuries before they were discovered by the invention of the telescope. It has been suggested that because his job was taking bits of social fears and capitalizing on them, he picked up the names from some of the contemporary, more "uncivilized cultures."

were deported out of their Land into Babylon.

Joshua

The book of Joshua is divided into three sections

Chapter 1-5	Chapters 6–12	Chapters 13–24
Crossing the river	Conquering the enemy	Claiming the inheritance
Jordan River	Canaan	2 ½ tribes east of Jordan & 9 ½ tribes west of Jordan
1 month	7 years	8 years

Joshua had been born a slave; experienced the redemption from Egypt, sat at the feet of Moses, and led the armies of Israel. With Caleb and ten others he had spied out the Promised Land. His had been the glowing report along with Caleb of the land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua and Caleb were the only two left of the generation that came out of Egypt that would enter the Promised Land.

The book of Joshua is about the people of Israel's entrance into the Promised Land. After Moses death Joshua takes up the reigns and leads the people into the Promised Land. Israel begins taking territory and cleaning house. Under Joshua's leadership they conquered the walled cities, defeated great enemies, overthrew kingdoms, and overcame giants. Subsequently the Land of Canaan was divided up among the 12 tribes of Israel, with still more enemies to conquer.

Spiritually Speaking – Joshua is the guidebook to Victory

Judges

The book of Judges covers a time span of **400 years in the Land** of Canaan. The book of Judges is about men and women who were called to do great exploits of God. After Israel had entered into the Promised Land, it was allocated among the tribes, and they began to

move into their inheritance from God. The nation of Israel fails to carry out the work that God gave to them, and soon becomes affected by the heathen people of the Land. The people of Israel become increasingly rebellious. The story focuses on the people that God raised up to deliver the people of Israel from their oppressors.

The book of Judges reveals a pattern that God's people follow as they begin serving the Lord, and then succumb to sin, wind up enslaved by sin, start to feel sorry about their sin, and subsequently are saved from their sin. The nation of Israel continues this pattern throughout the book and their enslavement comes by way of the nations around them. Over and over God raises up a deliverer to bring the people out of oppression and into peace.

Spiritually Speaking – Judges is the pattern of defeat

Ruth

The book of Ruth covers twelve years moving from Moab to Bethlehem in the Land of Israel. The setting of the book of Ruth is in the book of Judges. It shows that despite the prevailing apostasy of the Nation, there were individuals living Godly lives.

Key to ruth

Ruth is a picture of the Church

Boaz is a picture of Christ

Naomi is a picture of the Nation Israel

The unnamed servant is a picture of the Holy Spirit

Spiritually Speaking – Ruth is the Romance of redemption

1 Samuel

The book of 1 Samuel takes place over a period of **94 years in Canaan.** The book clearly divides itself into three sections, with each section paying attention to the life of the man in focus.

Chapter 1 - 7	Chapter 8 - 15	Chapter 16 - 31
Samuel -- The Voice of God Expression of God's will	Saul – the man of the Flesh	David – the man of faith A mind set on the Spirit

1 Samuel ends with the Death of Saul – the man of the flesh.

Spiritually Speaking – 1 Samuel shows the death of the flesh

2 Samuel

The next volume of Samuel is focused on David. The book opens up with the death of Saul, the man of the flesh. Whereas Saul was the man of the Flesh, David is the Man of Faith. Second Samuel covers over 40 years in Hebron and Jerusalem.

Chapter 1 - 4	Chapter 5 - 24
David in Hebron	David in Jerusalem
7 ½ years	33 years

As this volume focuses on David, the first 7 ½ years compose David's patient years in Hebron from chapter 1 - 4, waiting to begin reigning as king, and the following 33 years consist of prosperity in the kingdom and life of David from chapter 5 - 12, and peril in the kingdom and life of David from chapter 13 - 24.

Spiritually Speaking – 2 Samuel is the story of a Christian's life when it's given to God

1 Kings

For 120 years the twelve tribes were united and ruled by one single throne. The throne was held by Saul, David, and Solomon each reigning 40 years. With the death of Solomon, ten tribes broke away from the throne of David to set up an independent kingdom to the North. This kingdom in the North was eventually ruled from Samaria by various dynasties. The kingdom of the South was ruled by David's royal line.

1 Kings is the story of a kingdom being lost. In this first volume God ruled His people thru Solomon for 40 years. Solomon starts well but finishes poorly and with the succession of his son Rehoboam the nation splits in two.

Chapter 1 - 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13 - 22
God rules the people through a King	The split of the kingdom	God speaks to His people through a prophet
40 years		90 years
a United Kingdom		a Divided Kingdom
Jerusalem is the capital of the entire country		Samaria is the capital of Israel & Jerusalem is the capital of Judah

Spiritually Speaking – 1 Kings shows how to lose a kingdom

2 Kings

The second volume of the Kings continues where the first volume leaves off. The kingdom is divided, with ten tribes in the North and two tribes in the South. Kings come and go in both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. The northern kingdom was ruled by various dynasties, all the kings of which were bad, but some were worse than others. The kingdom of Judah in the South was ruled by the heirs and successors of David. Most of Judah's kings were bad.

God sends prophets to the Israelites in both kingdoms to warn them of impending judgment, but they are frequently persecuted and their message ignored. Increasingly, both nations rebel against the Lord and are expelled from the Land as God had warned them long before.

Chapter 1 - 17	Chapter 18 - 25
Israel deported into Assyria	Judah deported to Babylon

131 years	155 years
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The northern nation of Israel is the first to be deported. The dominant empire on the scene at that time was the Assyrian kingdom. The Assyrians conquered the ten northern tribes in the north, took them into their land, and replaced them with their own representatives in order to destroy the northern kingdom's identity. The Southern kingdom withstood the Assyrians and maintained their territory until the Babylonians conquered the Assyrians, and then were able to conquer Judah.

Spiritually Speaking – 2 Kings shows us a wasted life

1 Chronicles

The Chronicles were written after the captivity in Babylon was over, while the Kings were written before the captivity. Just as 1 and 2 Kings, the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles was originally one book.

The first 10 chapters of the book of First Chronicles spans thousands of years. All the time and action that transpired in the entire history of man to the end of Saul's reign is summarized in the first ten chapters. Chapter 1 – 10 covers the material from Genesis through the end of 1 Samuel. Chapter 11 through the end of the book corresponds to the material covered in 2 Samuel, when Israel was a united kingdom under David. The focus is the line of David's throne.

Chapter 1 - 10	Chapter 11 - 29
Thousands of years in Israel	33 years in Israel

Spiritually Speaking – 1 Chronicles deals with the supreme importance of the temple in our lives

2 Chronicles

The book of Second Chronicles documents the Davidic dynasty beginning with Solomon and ending with the Babylonian Invasion. The material corresponds to that in 1 and 2 Kings.

Chapter 1 - 9	Chapter 10 - 36
40 years in Judah	393 years in Judah

The books of Kings give us history from the point of the prophets; Chronicles gives us history from the point of the priests. The books of the Kings give history from a human standpoint, The Chronicles from the divine. The Kings show man ruling and the Chronicles show God ruling.

Spiritually Speaking – 2 Chronicles deals with God’s king in God’s house

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Post-exile History

To really understand the Bible it must be understood that there was a major milestone in their history called the Exile. The Israelites were in captivity for 70 years. The **3** books that make up the post-exile history section of the Old Testament are Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

The combined accounts of Ezra and, Nehemiah tell the story of the returning remnant of Jews after their 70 year captivity in Babylon, undertaking to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, its walls, and its temple. Just as the exile took place in three stages, the return of the people of Israel occurred in three stages. The first to stages are covered in the book of Ezra and the third in Nehemiah.

Ezra

Chapter 1- 6	Chapter 7 – 10
Persia - Jerusalem	Persia – Jerusalem
22 years	1 year

The book of Ezra is named after one of the main characters in the account.

Chapters 1 – 6 documents the first remnant of Israel led back from Babylon to Israel by Zerubbabel, the governor, together with Jeshua the high priest. They rebuilt the temple and reestablished the ancient worship.

Chapter 7 – 10 tell the story of the second wave of returning Jews that occurred around 50 years later.

Under the leadership of Ezra, this second group of Israelis returns home to Israel with the purpose of financing the rebuilding of the temple. Zerubbabel was a descendant of King David, and Ezra was a descendant of Aaron the High priest. The book of Ezra gives the account of the restoring of the temple through the leadership of these two men.

These two waves of returning Jews were sent out of what had been Babylon when they went into captivity but had since been overthrown by the Medo-Persian Empire, under which they were returned.

Spiritually Speaking – Ezra shows the way back to God

Nehemiah

The book of Nehemiah spans **19 years in Jerusalem**. The purpose of the third wave of Jews being allowed to return to Israel from Babylon was to begin repairing the walls of the city. The Israelites had been expelled 70 years, subsequently they began returning under Zerubbabel, and then under Ezra, and now under Nehemiah. By this time they had been returning in waves over the course of about 90 years.

The book of Nehemiah tells the account of their returning to rebuild the broken down defenses of the city of Jerusalem. They come up against various threats and dangers; enemies of Israel trying to sabotage the project. They succeed and the book ends in a major reformation of lifestyle for the people of Israel, who now have rebuilt walls, a rebuilt temple and a city under construction.

The first 7 chapters show the work of construction, the next three show us their work of consecration, and chapter 11 – 13 are the people's work of consolidation.

Spiritually Speaking – Nehemiah is about rebuilding defenses

Esther

Esther takes place in Persia over the course of 10 years. It occurs in between the time of Ezra and the time of Nehemiah. The book of Esther is one of the greatest books in the entire Bible.

Esther is the story of a young Israeli woman who is living in captivity in the land of Persia. The king is in search of a new queen, and discovers Esther. The story of Esther describes a man named Haman who sets out to deceive the king into slaughtering all of the Jews. Haman's plan is foiled by the interceding work of Esther and her uncle Mordecai. The book ends with the Death of Haman and the promotion of Mordecai to Prime Minister – second to the king.

The Parable of Esther

The kingdom represents the body
The king represents the soul
Vashti represents the unregenerate spirit
Esther represents the regenerated spirit
Mordecai represents the Holy Spirit
The people of Mordecai represent the fruit of the Spirit

Spiritually Speaking – Esther shows us a Queen under control

The three sieges of Jerusalem

In order to understand properly how Bible history transpired, it is important to know about **the Captivity**.

The northern kingdom of Israel was under constant threat from Assyria. God permitted Assyria to bring the ten northern tribes into judgment. The Babylonian Empire had succeeded the Assyrian Empire, and so the southern kingdom had Babylon to fear, and eventually they too were brought into captivity. The Babylonian Empire was succeeded by the Medo-Persian Empire. The Persians later fell to the Greeks under Alexander the Great. In time the Romans mastered the world over the Greeks

After the Assyrians took the ten northern tribes captive, Judah held out for over 100 years. When the Babylonians took over Nebuchadnezzar succeeded where the Assyrians failed.

There were three sieges that Nebuchadnezzar made. The first siege was on the way home from defeating King Necho at the battle of Carcemesh. He lays siege to Judah and takes it. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a vassal puppet king over Judah named Jehoiachin. At this time, the false prophets in Judah encouraged Jehoiachin to rebel against Nebuchadnezzar, while Ezekiel and Jeremiah were saying to yield. Jehoiachin decides to rebel, and thus Nebuchadnezzar lays a second siege on Judah. Nebuchadnezzar defeats Jehoiachin and sets up Zedekiah as a vassal king. Again the false prophets tell King Zedekiah that he should rebel, while Ezekiel and Daniel are saying, "No if you rebel this time the city will be destroyed." By this time Nebuchadnezzar is sick of these people and has had enough. Nebuchadnezzar lays a third siege, levels the city of Jerusalem, and takes them all captive.



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Inner life

The Inner life section of the Old Testament consists of **5** books – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. These five books give us intimate insight into the human being. The book of Job teaches us all about the spirit of man. The books of Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes teach us about the soul of man; about the emotions, mind, and will of man. The book of Solomon gives us insight into the body of man.

Job

The book of Job is believed to be the oldest book in the world. It takes place in the land of **Uz in Northern Arabia at about 2000 B.C.** Job was probably published during the days of Joseph, long before Moses. The book of Job gives us the divine view point of God.

Job shows us the explanation of his troubles that he began having, and the reason for the extent of his troubles as the book begins with a picture of Satan coming to God to ask permission to persecute Job.

We see the disasters of Job, as God allows Satan to hurt him in chapters 1 -2; the next 40 chapters describe the debates of Job with his friends about why he is going through such trouble, and the explanation of the Lord; the last chapter shows the deliverance of Job. The book ends with Job being restored to greater wealth than he had previously.

Spiritually Speaking – Job deals with the hardest question

Psalms

The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. It contains the longest and the shortest chapter in the Bible. It contains some very significant, as well as prophetic psalms. Psalm 2 is a dialogue between the trinity, while Psalm 22 is read in the first person as hanging from the cross.

The book of Psalms divides into five sections that each correspond to the five books of Moses.

Psalm 1-41	Ps. 42-72	Psalm 73-89	Psalm 90-106	Psalm 107-150
Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Man in view	Israel in view	Sanctuary in view	Earth in view	Praise of God's word

Of the 150 Psalms, 2/3rds are accredited to various authors, while the remaining psalms are anonymous. David wrote seventy-three, David's choir director wrote twelve.

A good way to study the Psalms is to observe the circumstances that gave them birth.

Psalm 3 – 2 Samuel 15 – 18	Psalm 56 – 1 Samuel 21:10; 27:4; 29:2-11
Psalm 30 – 2 Samuel 5:11 – 12	Psalm 57 – 1 Samuel 22
Psalm 34 – 1 Samuel 21:10 – 22:1	Psalm 59 – 1 Samuel 19
Psalm 51 – 2 Samuel 11- 12	Psalm 60 – 2 Samuel 8:13 - 14
Psalm 52 – 1 Samuel 21 – 22	Psalm 63 – 1 Samuel 22:5; 23:14 – 16
Psalm 54 – 1 Samuel 23:19; 26:1	Psalm 142 – 1 Samuel 22:1 or 24:3

So too the Psalm 120 – 134 are called the Songs of degrees, which are the choruses sung by the people of Israel on their trips to Jerusalem for the feasts.

Spiritually Speaking – Psalms is the worship of an honest heart

Proverbs

The proverbs were written for the most part by Solomon in Judah. The book is written by the wisest man in the world next to Jesus Christ himself, as the Bible tells us in 1 Kings Chapter 3. They are teachings on wisdom.

The book divides into 4 sections

1	2	3	4	5	6
1 - 1:7	Ch.1:8-9	10:1-22:16	22:17-24:34	25 - 29	30 - 31
Intro	Lessons for wisdom	Instruction	Collection of wisdom	Instruction	Virtue of wisdom

Spiritually Speaking – Proverbs was given that men may know Wisdom

Ecclesiastes

The message of Ecclesiastes is not to set your heart on anything in this world. Written by someone who possessed most of what this world had to offer, Solomon pretends that there is no God and says if all that exists is the cosmos then nothing we do in life has any value. His final point is that in order to have real significance in this life we need God, and God is there then everything that I do has value if I live in reverence of Him.

The word Ecclesiastes is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word translated 'The preacher.'

The book of Ecclesiastes is a sermon given by Solomon. The first 11 verses state the preacher's subject. The following 10 chapters contain the preacher's sermon. Chapter 11 – 12 give the preacher's summary.

Spiritually Speaking – Ecclesiastes is the inspired book of Error

Song of Solomon

The Song of Solomon **is** the greatest book in the whole of scripture. It is a romantic love poem with two levels – Natural and Supernatural. It tells the story of the love of Solomon for his shulamite bride, while it really speaks of the love of Christ for the Church.

Spiritually Speaking – Song of Solomon is a love song and a hymn



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Basic Prophecy

The **5** books of Basic prophecy – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel are called the Major Prophets. They stand in contrast to all the prophetic books following called the Minor Prophets, due to their sheer size. Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesied just before the Babylonian captivity, while Ezekiel and Daniel actually prophesied during the captivity.

Isaiah

There are many Scholars that believe the book of Isaiah was written by two men who were both named Isaiah. They argue that one Isaiah wrote the first 39 chapters while a second Isaiah wrote the remaining 27. However in John chapter 12 of the New Testament the author quotes from Isaiah 53 and then quotes from Isaiah 6 and in between those two quotes he says 'that same Isaiah said.' This means those scholars are simply wrong.

Isaiah was written by the prophet Isaiah, known as the greatest of all the prophets. It is one of the most important books of the Bible. Isaiah was prophesying in Judah when the ten northern tribes of Israel were being destroyed by the Assyrians.

Chapter 1 -36 prophesy of the threat of Assyria, in chapter 37 – 39 the threat moves from Assyria to Babylon, and then chapter 40 – 66 prophesy of the threatening invasion of Babylon.

The book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters with 39 chapters in the first half and 27 chapters in the second half. Chapter 40 is a prophesy of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, and chapter 66 prophesies of a new heaven and new earth. The first 35 chapters of the book are split up into 6 parts: 6 prophecies about Judah, 6 prophecies about Israel, 10 prophecies about the nations around them, a group of 4 chapters that deal with the world, and finally a group of six prophecies against Jerusalem, then a wrap up of 2 chapters concerning all nations. Chapters 36 – 39 are chapters about history that are inserted in between the material before and after them. In chapter 40 through 66 there are three groups of nine chapters each. In the middle of the middle section we find chapter 53 which is one of the most incredible messianic psalms in the Bible.

Spiritually Speaking – Isaiah shows the salvation of the Lord

Jeremiah

Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of Judah's last five kings – Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. Jeremiah was born under the reign of the wicked king Manasseh. He began his ministry at 14. Jeremiah was of the priestly tribe of Levi. Son of Hilkiyah the priest, he was to follow in his fathers footsteps, but was called into the prophetic ministry.

He was the most courageous of the prophets; thrown into a dungeon, rejected by his family, and scorned by other priests and prophets, he still preached for over forty years. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Zephaniah and Habakkuk.

The first 2 chapters give a summary of Jeremiah's first five years of ministry during the days of King Josiah. Chapter 13 – 45 describe Jeremiah's prophecies to the surrounding nations, and the last 3 chapters concern the collapse of Babylon

Spiritually Speaking – Jeremiah teaches a profile for courage

Lamentations

Lamentations is often thought of as the appendix to the book of Jeremiah. Lamentations focuses primarily on the temple. The first and the fifth chapter deal with Jerusalem's wretchedness, chapter two and three with Jehovah's wrath, and chapter three deals with Jeremiah's woes. The setting for this book is immediately following the destruction of Jerusalem that he had predicted himself.

The Hebrew title of the book is, 'How?' Each chapter is composed as an acrostic poem with twenty-two verses corresponding to the twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet, except the third chapter which has sixty-six verses with three verses devoted to each letter.

Spiritually Speaking – Lamentations is the therapy for trouble

Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a prophet during the time of the exile. Ezekiel, like Jeremiah was a priest called to be a prophet. Called the most mystical prophet, his ministry was one of the most shocking and bazaar in the Bible.

Actually Ezekiel was a younger contemporary of Jeremiah who had been taken captive to Babylon. Ezekiel's entire ministry was in Babylonia. There were two prophets during the captivity, Ezekiel and Daniel. Ezekiel was the older of the two, and prophesied during the first twenty to twenty-five years of the 70 year captivity. He details Satan's origin in Chapter 28, in Chapters 36 – 37 he talks about the regathering of the nation Israel, Chapters 38 – 39 tell of the impending invasion that **could happen**

any day now, and Chapters 40 through 48 describe the temple that will be built during the millennium.

The Millenium

There are 1,845 Old Testament references to the millennial kingdom with 17 books giving prominence to it, and 318 references in the New Testament. The millennium is a literal thousand year period where Christ will reign over all the earth.

Pious, one of the early church fathers in the third century, allegorized most of scripture. In the subsequent years, Augustine who was the bishop of Hippo in 391, revolutionized the medieval church with his writings on doctrine. Augustine defeated many rampant church heresies that had developed from the allegorizing of scripture. As the Church became more of an instrument of the state, it wasn't politically expedient to look toward a literal return of Christ to rid the world of its evil rulers, so the millennium was left as an allegory.

During the reformation there was a failure to reexamine Eschatology – the facts about end-times. Thus many today still believe the millennium is an allegory (Amillennialism). Amillennialism denies Israel's role in God's plan and leads to what is called replacement theology, where the church replaces Israel in God's plan. This heresy led to the Holocaust.

- Every Christmas we celebrate Jesus destiny to sit on the throne of David, which hasn't happened yet. We pray, 'Thy kingdom come.'

Chapter 1 - 24	Chapter 25 - 32	Chapter 33 - 48
Before the siege	During the siege	After the siege
Ezekiel is commissioned & prophecies at Israel	Prophecies at surrounding nations	Return of Israel to the Lord
The Fall of Judah	The foes of Judah	The future of Judah

Spiritually Speaking – Ezekiel promises the presence of God

Daniel

Daniel is one of the most well-known prophets in scripture. Written in the 6th century B.C., his book divides into two parts. The first six chapters cover the historical half of the book, while the second half is prophetic.

In Chapter 1 Daniel and his friend's refusal to compromise results in their being exalted and given positions of authority and responsibility in the

In chapter 6 King Darius appoints Daniel the head of a hereditary priesthood called the Magi, whom we see, later on, following a star to Bethlehem.

kingdom. Chapter 2 describes Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Future world powers as interpreted by Daniel. Chapter 3 is the story of Daniel's three friends preserved in the fiery furnace. Chapter four is written by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. Chapters 5 and 6 are the well known stories of the writing on the wall, and Daniel in the Lion's den.

The remaining six chapters give the account of world history to the present day and beyond, the exact date that Jesus presented himself as the king of Jerusalem.

Spiritually Speaking – Daniel is the promise of illumination



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Pre-exile Prophecy

The **Nine** books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah are known as the pre-exile prophecies. **These nine books were written by the prophets of Judah and Israel before the Exile into Babylon.** The remainder of the Old Testament is called the minor prophet section because the prophecies are shorter than those of the previous 5.

Hosea

Hosea stands head and shoulders above the other books in this section sheerly because of its content. Written while the northern kingdom was submerged in Idolatry, it depicts God's love for his people even to the uttermost.

Chapters 1 – 3 deal with the prophet Hosea’s tragic home life, while chapters 4 – 14 deal with Hosea’s tragic homeland.

Hosea’s life was a living illustration of God’s love for Israel. Hosea marries a prostitute, who bears him children, that he later finds out aren’t his, and then leaves him for another man. The story ends with Hosea buying his wife out of the slavery that she had been sold into, to bring her back to be the wife of his life, and the mother of her children.

Spiritually Speaking – Hosea promises God’s persistence

Joel

Joel, whose name means Jehovah is God, was prophesying against the southern nation of Judah during a great plague of locusts that were destroying the land. Joel used this plague of locusts as an illustration of terrible times to come.

The book of Joel falls into four divisions

Chapter 1	Chapter 2:1 - 11	Chapter 2:12 - 27	Chapter 2:28 – 3:21
The present famine	The predicted foes	The promised forgiveness	The prophetic focus

The book of Joel is an 11th hour appeal to the people of Judah. The book’s theme is that there is always room for repentance.

Spiritually Speaking – Joel is the revelation of God’s hand & the promise of ultimate meaning in human events

Amos

A native of Judah, he was called to preach in and against the northern ten tribes. Amos was a country boy who was called by God into the prophetic ministry. He was what we would consider a cowboy. Amos was from Tekoa, which is 6 miles from Bethlehem, and 10 miles from Jerusalem. It was out in the country, and well known for its figs that weren’t very good

and the revolting long haired sheep indigenous to the area. So to the Intellectual elite in the north comes this fig-picking, sheep-herding mountain man, with prophecies of doom. Amos uses imagery from the countryside throughout the book.

The first 2 chapters consist of 8 prophecies against the surrounding nations, Judah, and finally Israel. Chapters 3 – 6 consist of three sermons concerning the present, the past, and the prospective. The last two chapters describe five visions of the prophet concerning sin.

The Basic theme of the book is that the northern nation thinks their military is secure, they think they are economically prosperous, while they are worshipping Idols and they've abandoned their heritage.

Spiritually Speaking – Amos teaches God doesn't play favorites

Obadiah

Obadiah's name means the servant of Jehovah. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, coming in at one chapter. The main theme of the book is the pronouncement of judgment upon Edom, the southwestern neighboring enemy of the northern and southern kingdom. The book of Obadiah is a classic warning against anti-Semitism – the nation that helps the Jews will be blessed while the nations that persecute the Jews will pay dearly. The Prophecy divides into two parts.

Verses 1 - 16	Verses 17 - 21
The doom of Edom	The deliverance of Israel

The Israelis are the descendants of Jacob, and the Edomites were the descendants of Esau, the twin-brother of Jacob. This chapter tells of the hostility that had developed between these twin nations. Throughout the scriptures there is hatred between these peoples. Herod the great who massacred the babies of Bethlehem was Idumean, an Edomite descendant.

Spiritually Speaking – Obadiah is a promise of spiritual victory

Jonah

The most successful prophet in biblical history, Jonah's story is probably the best known. Jonah was a Hebrew prophet commissioned by God to preach to the Assyrians in Nineveh. Jonah didn't want to go until God explained to him the problem a little more clearly.

As the story unfolds, Jonah runs from God's call, by taking a boat to Tarshish – modern day Spain-Portugal. The escape was interrupted by a storm at sea, and when Jonah is determined to be the cause of the weather problems, he is pitched overboard, and consequently swallowed by a sea creature of some sort and vomited up on the shores of Nineveh, on the banks of the Tigris River. Jonah proceeds to preach an 8 word sermon to the Ninevites and they all respond in the greatest revival ever.

Many have tried to discredit the Bible by pointing out two 'creature-events' that stagger the imagination. One is in the book of Job and the other is in the book of Jonah. The book of Job speaks of a fire-breathing dragon and the book of Jonah speaks of a prophet-eating fish. In Job 41 we read of 'Leviathan,' who in verse 19 is said to be able to breathe fire.

Spiritually Speaking – Jonah shows God's patience with man

Job 41 lists 6 academic scientific research conditions that are necessary for a controlled fire.

- Seals-to control humidity
- Supply of oxygen
- Electrical transfer of Energy
- Friction or vibration
- Phosphorus
- Sulfur

In verses 14 – 18, 25, 31, and 32 we discover that the scales on Leviathan's face form a seal so that no air can penetrate, that when he makes a guttural hiss or vibration – like most reptiles - there is a transfer of electrical energy that causes his eyes to shine, when he raises himself up out of the water, he breathes oxygen, in the water that he swims he leaves a glowing trail – characteristic of Phosphorus, and we read that the water he swims in smells like a pot of ointment – All ancient ointments used sulfur.

In Jonah 1:17, 'The Lord prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.'

The word for fish in Jonah 1 could be translated sea monster, meaning a great beast that swims in the sea. Throughout history, there has been five times where men have been swallowed by fish. 3 of the 5 men survived – one of them being Jonah. The vehicles in which they were carried mostly sperm whales and whale sharks and while they were in the bellies of these animals the digestive juices had burned off all of their hair and bleached them whiter than an albino. That's significant because an ancient Assyrian cuneiform was discovered that told of a white god of destruction who would come.

The story of Jonah in the belly of the fish is no less than supernatural. It is a picture of Jesus Christ in His death burial, and resurrection. Jonah's prophecy follows the chapter divisions of the Bible.

1. Jonah's disobedience
2. Jonah's distress
3. Jonah's discovery
4. Jonah's displeasure

Nineveh was 40 days from ground zero of God's judgment when He spared them. The message of Jonah is that God spares the repentant.

Micah

The book of Micah's central theme answers the question that his name gives; Micah means who is like God? Throughout the first and second chapters it speaks of God's judgment upon those that failed to be godly when they were provided everything they needed for godliness. In chapter

The book is divided into three parts. The first three chapters describe the failure of the nation. Then comes a wonderful section in chapters four and five that is a vision of the future Messiah. The last three chapters give us the pleading of God to the nation.

The way to God-likeness according to Micah is putting away our wickedness confessing our guilt before God, looking to him to pardon our iniquities and cast all our sins into the depth of the sea.

Spiritually Speaking – Micah is the promise of God’s pardon

Nahum

Nahum could be thought of as the sequel to Jonah. Nahum unfolds the fierce wrath of God upon Nineveh, a city that had caused Him to withhold His wrath previously because of their repentance at the message of Jonah. At their repentance they had been spared so much by the same God that would now punish them unmercifully.

Nahum’s name means comfort. He gave this message in Judah when the Assyrians were besieging it. The words of the prophet must have provided some comfort to the people of Judah, hearing that Nineveh would be judged.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
The Character of God	The destruction and its cause	
Nineveh’s Doom declared	Doom described	Doom deserved

Spiritually Speaking – Nahum is the promise of God’s unswerving character

Habakkuk

The book of Habakkuk is written by a man whose name means embracer or wrestler. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and saw the rising power of Babylon. He sees the corruption and violence of His own home land and cries out to God to respond. God’s response is that He will raise up the Babylonians to bring His judgment to Judah. The prophet sees that God is going to use the terrible pagan nation of Babylon to judge His own people. God shows Habakkuk that the sins of the Babylonians would soon be judged and they would be overthrown, but His purposes for His people would forever remain.

The book of Habakkuk divides into three sections corresponding to the chapter divisions.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
The prophet is troubled	The prophet is taught	The prophet is

One of the major themes in this book is prayer. The book in its entirety depicts the prophet going to God with his problems. Habakkuk provides a foundational verse in the second chapter that is elaborated in three different books. Habakkuk 2:4 says, '...the just shall live by faith,' Romans deals with the just, Galatians with the living, and Hebrews with faith.

Spiritually Speaking – Habakkuk shows history in God's hands

Zephaniah

Zephaniah was the great-great-grandson of king Hezekiah of Judah, and so was part of the royal family. Zephaniah was the point man for the revival under King Josiah. Zephaniah's prophecy of *God's salvation from wrath* is the same subject that sparked the great awakening in the 1800's.

Spiritually Speaking – Zephaniah is the backside of God's love



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Post-exile Prophecy

The **three** final books of the Old Testament are called the post-exile prophets, because they prophesied during the time after the captivity of Babylon, during the time of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Haggai

Haggai is one of the most fantastic of all the Minor Prophets. He prophesied in Jerusalem. Haggai was called by God to rebuke and then encourage the people of God with their divine commission to rebuild the temple.

After the people of Israel had returned in the first wave to begin rebuilding the temple, the book of Ezra shows that there were enemies of Israel within the Land that wanted to thwart the work of rebuilding the temple. They succeeded to some degree and the temple was left unfinished. Haggai began his ministry at this time when part of the temple was built.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2:1 - 9	Chapter 2:10 - 19	Chapter 2:20 - 23
A call to build	A call to behold	A call to behave	A call to believe

Spiritually Speaking – Haggai promises material blessing

Zechariah

Zechariah was a priest as well as a prophet, and his book is called the apocalypse of the Old Testament. Zechariah prophesies as a contemporary of Haggai and his message is to encourage the people to rebuild the temples, and to rebuild their faith in God's promises for them.

There are more messianic prophecies in Zechariah than any of the other minor prophet. The first 6 chapters deal with ten visions of the future, while chapters 7 & 8 record special messages from the Lord, he gave to the Jewish people with their priests and leaders. Chapters 9 - 14 are messianic and deal with the first and second coming of Christ.

Spiritually Speaking – Zechariah is God saying if you return to me I'll return to you

Malachi

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. Malachi means 'My messenger' and some scholars have suggested that he might have been

an angel sent from God to bring a close to the Old Testament canon. He prophesied possibly a whole century after Haggai and Zechariah. By his time the nation had sunk into an all time low Sacrilege, profanity, witchcraft, fraud, and oppression were prevailing.

Chapter 1 -2	Chapter 3 - 4
The Lord's complaints	The Lord's coming

Though chapter three tells of the coming of John the Baptist, after Malachi wrote this, there would be 400 years of silence without a prophetic voice through a prophet of God.

In this book God is speaking to a people with calloused hearts, who doubt His love for them, deny their guilt before Him, deny having wronged Him, deny having wearied Him, don't understand what He wants from them, and discover what it means to have robbed Him.

Spiritually Speaking – Malachi promises God's responsibility

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This number makes understanding the Old Testament easier for everyone. Remember that there are 5 books of basic law, followed by 9 books of pre-exile history, next there is 3 books of post-exile history, followed by 5 books on the inner life, 5 books of basic prophecy, 9 books of pre-exile prophecy, and then 3 books of post-exile prophecy. Once you remember the number, you'll remember the layout.

As you make your way through the Old Testament it becomes terribly obvious that God went to great lengths to demonstrate design. We see the hand of God not just in the books themselves but also in the way they are put together.



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A walk through the New Testament

All the books of the New Testament fit into 5 categories: History, dealing with the life of Christ and the early church, Eschatology, which is the doctrine of end-times; Ecclesiology, which is the doctrine of the church;

Christology which is the doctrine of the person and work of Christ; and Soteriology, which is the doctrine of Salvation.

History of the life of Jesus Christ and the early church				
Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts

Eschatology	Ecclesiology	Christology	Soteriology
1 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Corinthians	Ephesians	Romans
2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Timothy	Philippians	Galatians
1 & 2 Peter	Titus	Colossians	James
Jude	1 & 2 & 3 John	Philemon	Hebrews

Revelation is in a category of its own

As they appear in order in the Bible they show proof of design. In the gospels we have the Life of Jesus himself, who is God's program for completing us. In Acts we see how Christ's life is at work in the Body, from Romans to Galatians we see what it means to have the life of Christ in us, from Ephesians to Philemon we see how we are to operate in that life within the Body, from Hebrews to Jude we see how faith allows all that Christ is in us and all that we have in him to out flow in our experience, and finally Revelation covers the completion of God's redemption.

The first 5 books of the New Testament are historical, while the 13 books following are theological, and the 9 books that bring it to an end are general.

Spiritually speaking – the New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed

Historical Section

The first thing we come to when we arrive at the New Testament is the Four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the four gospels that present to the reader, the life of Jesus Christ.

Why four Gospels?

Each gospel presents Jesus Christ in a different way. Matthew, written to the Jews, presents Jesus as the king of the Jews, while Mark, which was written to the Romans, presents Him as the servant of all. Luke, written to the Greeks, presents Jesus as the perfect man, and John, written to the church, presents him as God.

As you survey the camp of Israel in the Old Testament you quickly discover that the camp arrangement was in the form of a Roman cross. Three tribes were to camp on the north of the tabernacle, three to the south, the three largest tribes to the east, and three smallest to the west. Each group of three tribes rallied around a central ensign. Judah, Issachar, and Zebulon numbering in at 186,400 had to camp to the east and mustered around the ensign of Judah which was the Lion. Reuben, Simeon, and Gad ringing in at 151,450 camped to the south and mustered around the Ensign of Reuben which was a man. Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin numbered in at 108,100 mustered around the ensign of Ephraim on the west – an ox. Dan, Asher, and Naphtali totaled 157,600 and camped to the north under Dan's eagle. The principle was they had to camp on the sides around the tabernacle. Now these ensigns they flew are significant because Matthew presents Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Mark as the beast of burden – the ox. Luke as the man. The Eagle has always been a symbol of deity, as Jesus was portrayed in John. The four gospels represent the four units of camp around the tabernacle

After the Gospels we have the book of Acts. So when we open up to the New Testament there are five books of Grace, just as in the Old Testament the first five books are the five books of the Law.

Matthew

Matthew was written by Matthew the tax-collector, disciple of Jesus. Matthew was a Jew writing to a Jewish audience. Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah, the promised king of the Jews. As a Jew in Matthew's Gospel he starts his genealogy of Jesus with the first Jew, namely Abraham, making his way through David to Joseph the Legal father of Jesus Christ. Over and over again, Matthew shows that Jesus fulfilled prophecy after prophecy. Matthew was written sometime before the early sixties A.D.

Matthew begins in Bethlehem and ends in Judea.

1 - 3	Chapter 4 - 18	Chapter 19 - 28
Bethlehem-Nazareth	Ministry in Galilee	Ministry in Judea

1 - 10	11 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 27	28
The King revealed	The king resisted	The king retiring	The king rejected	The king resurrected

Matthew is a unique gospel, with a strong emphasis on the kingdom of God. He uses the term thirty-two times. Matthew is the anchor to the Old Testament. 42% of Matthew is unique to Matthew. It is interesting that the number of vocabulary words that are unique to Matthew in the New Testament, yet that happens in every other gospel, epistle and letter.

In the original language, Matthews' genealogy's number of words is divisible by 7, and the exact number of letters is divisible by seven. The number of vowels, as well as the number of consonants, is both divisible by seven. The number of words beginning with a vowel, as well as the number of words beginning with a consonant, is both divisible by seven. The number of words that occur more than once is divisible by seven. The number of words that occur in more than one form is divisible by seven. The words that occur in only one form are divisible by seven. The number of nouns is divisible by seven, while there are only seven words that aren't nouns. The number of names is divisible by seven, and there are only seven other kinds of nouns beside names in the genealogy. The number of male names is divisible by seven, and the number of generations is divisible by seven. Neat!

Mark

Mark's Gospel is unique in a way that Mathew's is not. Mark was not a disciple; he was not one of the twelve. When Peter was writing 1st Peter, he affectionately called Mark "his son." It may well have been Peter that originally led him to Christ. What is known is that It was Mark's companionship with Peter that resulted in his intimate portrait of Christ we call the Gospel of Mark. So in fact, this is actually the Gospel of Peter, written down by his apprentice John Mark.

The Gospel of Mark was written around 63 A.D. He shows Jesus Christ as the servant of all, the man who gets the job done, thus there is no

genealogy – nobody is interested in the pedigree of a servant. Mark was writing to the Romans, and his gospel is very fast-paced. 7% of Mark is unique to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark divides into 3 sections

Chapter 1 – 8:26	Chapter 8:27 – 10:52	Chapter 11 – 16:20
3 years	6 months	8 days
Galilee and Perea		Judea and Jerusalem

Luke

59% of Luke’s gospel is not found in any other gospel. Luke was Paul’s apprentice and personal physician, and in essence this is Paul’s gospel. Luke’s concern is to present Jesus Christ as the perfect man. Therefore Luke starts his genealogy with the first man – Adam. Luke traces Jesus’ genealogy through David, to Nathan his son and ends with Mary. Thus Luke traces Mary’s line. Matthew traces Jesus’ legal line while Luke traces his blood line.

Chapter 1-4	Chapter 5-9	Chapter 10-19	Chapter 20-24
The savior’s coming	The Savior’s career		The Savior’s cross
	His work in Galilee	His way to Golgotha	
Israel	Galilee	Israel	Jerusalem

Luke’s audience is Greek; it is written in a more classical and polished style than the others. So strong was the Greek’s ideal of perfect manhood that they had made all their gods in the image of man, deifying in the process their vices as well as their virtues. Luke presents Christ as the One whom, being both Man and God, could fully realize the deepest aspirations of the Greeks.

John

John’s purpose is to present Jesus in all His deity. He starts with a genealogy that reaches back beyond the beginning of time; it shows us the genealogy of the pre-existent one. While the first three gospels concentrate on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee, the gospel of John concentrates on Jesus ministry in Jerusalem and Judea. While Matthew focuses on what Jesus said, Mark on what Jesus did, and Luke on what

Jesus felt; John focuses on who Jesus was. Matthew is writing to the Jew, Mark to the Roman, Luke to the Greek and John to the church.

Chapter 1 – 12:36	Chapter 12:36 - 19	Chapter 20 -21
A few years	A few hours	A few days
Public ministry	Private ministry	

John's Gospel shows the incarnation and presentation of the Son of God in the first four chapters. In chapters 5 – 12 John deals with the opposition of the Son of God. In chapters 13 – 17 John describes the preparation of the disciples. The last four chapters deal with the crucifixion and the resurrection.

The four gospels have been compared to the camp of Israel, which had four parts. As we follow Matthew, he surveys the entire camp. Mark brings us into the courts of the tabernacle where is the place of service and sacrifice. Luke passes us into the holy place of prayer, and ministry. Finally John ushers us into the Holy of holies wherein dwells God himself.

Acts

The book of Acts is the sequel to the book of Luke. Written by the same author. According to Roman tradition, an appellant's trial documents had to precede him before the trial; therefore many scholars have concluded that these two volumes written by Luke are actually the trial documents that preceded Paul before his court date in Rome. Interestingly, in these two volumes Roman centurions are always painted in a good light, and the riots are always shown to be caused by the Jewish leadership and not the Christians which was of primary concern to Rome.

The book of Acts divides nicely into three basic sections:

Chapter 1 - 7	Chapter 8 - 12	Chapter 13 – 28
Jerusalem	Judea & Samaria	Uttermost parts
2 years	13 years	14 years
God's man- Peter	God's martyr-Stephen	God's missionary-Paul

The book of Acts is the History of the church from its origin on the day of Pentecost to its spread all over the western part of the Roman Empire.

Theological Section

The second section of the New Testament is the theological section written by Paul, which is divided into 2 parts. From the book of Romans to the book of 2 Thessalonians we have the epistles written to local churches. 1 Timothy to Philemon consists of epistles addressed to individuals.

Galatians was written after Paul's first missionary journey
1 & 2 Thessalonians was written during Paul's second missionary journey
Paul wrote **Romans, 1, & 2 Corinthians** during his third missionary journey
Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians, were written in Jail
Paul wrote **1 Timothy** and **Titus** upon his release from prison
2 Timothy was written during his second imprisonment – Death Row

Romans

The book of Romans is probably the most important book of the entire Bible. The central theme is the imparting of God's righteousness to the sinner who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul shows us the black picture of human sin, the gift of salvation from God, the freedom from the power and penalty of sin, the promised plan of God for his people Israel, and the practical application of Christian living.

The book of Romans divides into three sections:

Chapter 1 - 8		Chapter 9 - 11		Chapter 12 - 16
Principle of Christianity		Problem of Christianity		Practice of Christianity
Sin	Salvation	Sanctification	Sovereignty	Service
<u>Doctrinal</u>				<u>Practical</u>

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John give the facts about Christ's sojourn on earth, but Paul gives the meaning of it all.

Romans shows us that all have sinned, that the wages of sin is death, salvation is a gift, and the power of God is the source of all Christian living.

1 Corinthians

The Church at Corinth was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey around 50 A.D. After planting this church Paul had placed Apollos over the church as the pastor. He wrote this letter on his third missionary journey, around 55 A.D., because he learned of certain divisions and difficulties that had arisen in the church. Corinth was a

metropolitan city on a neck of land connecting Macedonia with Achaia. Being a port city, it was notorious for its immorality and carnality. The character of the city reflected itself in the problems that arose in the church.

Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to identify the fundamental problems that resulted in the divisions and infighting they were experiencing, to offer biblical and doctrinal solutions, and to exhort the believers to mature in their walks. The 1st epistle to the Corinthians deals with church life, and all that it entails. It details how the Christian should behave in the house of the Lord.

Chapter 1 - 4	Chapter 5 - 6	Chapter 7 - 14	Chapter 15 - 16
Divisions In the Church	Discipline in the Church	Difficulty in the Church	Disbelief in the Church

2 Corinthians

The 2nd epistle to the Corinthians was written about 1 year after the first epistle. The church had been injured by the divisions and problems that had existed. They had also been plagued by a group that were trying to undermine Paul's work at the church, and corrupting the teaching of the word of God within the church.

Chapter 1 - 5	Chapter 6 -9	Chapter 10 - 13
Paul & his commission	Paul & his converts	Paul & his critics

Paul's 2nd epistle to the Corinthians stands in contrast to his 1st letter.

1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians
Insight into the church	Insight into Paul
Practical	Personal

Galatians

Paul's epistle to the Galatians was written in 49 A.D., to a group of churches that were linked together in the area that is now modern Turkey. Paul planted the Galatian churches of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe among others on his first missionary journey. These churches were being led astray by a group of men called the Judaizers, who promoted the keeping of the Law to maintain "Real spirituality."

Paul wrote this letter to defend the liberty that Christians have in Jesus Christ. He explains the doctrine of Justification, and gives a practical exhortation to maintain that liberty.

Chapter 1 - 2	Chapter 3 - 4	Chapter 5 - 6
An explanation	An exposition	An exhortation

The book of Galatians is the Gospel of the reformation. It battles against Legalism in a relationship to God

Ephesians

The letter to the Ephesians is to the church in Asia Minor that Paul had ministered at for 3 years. Some time after Paul had established the Church in Ephesus, he sent Timothy to pastor there. Ephesus was the capitol city of the Roman province of Asia Minor. Paul wrote this letter while in prison in 60 – 61 A.D.

The theme of this letter is the Church, and its leadership under Christ. The letter is primarily about relationships within the church and between believers.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2 - 3	Chapter 4 – 6:9	Chapter 6:10 - 24
The position of the believer		The practice of a believer	
The believer's wealth	The believer's walk		The believer's warfare

In Chapter three Paul talks about the fact that we live in a 4-dimensional universe – something that was discovered in the 1950's with the research of Albert Einstein, and his theory of relativity.

Philippians

Paul's letter to the Philippian church was sent to the first church he planted in Europe. The city of Philippi was a Roman military colony in Macedonia. The church in Philippi does not have any serious problems that are revealed in this letter. The church started with a few women, a jailer, and his family. The letter hints that there was quite a good response

to the gospel occurring there within the Roman military. Like Ephesians, Philippians was also written while Paul was in prison in 62 A.D.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3 - 4
Triumphant experiences	Tremendous examples	Typical exhortation
Paul's account	Paul's appeals	
Joy in suffering	Example of Joy	Source of Joy

Colossians

Colossians was written to combat error in 60 - 61 A.D. The error against which Paul was warning came to be known as Gnosticism. The problem in Colosse was an attempt to merge their philosophical views at that time with Christianity, to try to obtain favor with the intellectual world and community in order to produce a superior Christianity. Their idea for a superior Christianity was one in which knowledge was the ultimate, and redemption was not from sin but from ignorance. Colossians presents the preeminence of Christ. Paul confronts the identity and destiny of Jesus Christ. Like Philippians and Ephesians, Colossians was written while Paul was in prison.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3 - 4
The truth about the Christ	The truth about the cults	The truth about the Christian
Preeminence of Christ	Freedom in Christ	

1 Thessalonians

The Church at Thessalonica was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. This letter was written soon afterwards,, in 50 A.D. After forming a church there in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were suddenly required to leave the city. Therefore Paul felt it necessary to confirm and extend his teaching.

1 Thessalonians is divided perfectly by its chapters.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
The Lord's coming				
Saving truth	Stimulating	Stabilizing	Strengthening	Sanctifying

	truth	truth	truth	truth
Personal reflections			Practical exhortations	

1 Thessalonians is written to a church that Paul planted and established in three weeks. The theme of 1 Thessalonians is the rapture of the church. In 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Paul reminds the churches of issues he had already taught them. In 3 weeks Paul had taught the church all about the return & rapture of Christ, some forgeries and false teachings began to creep in and Paul responds to them by these two letters. Both of these letters were written consecutively around 50 – 51 A.D.

The Rapture of the Church

Rapture is a translation of the Latin word *Raptus*, which in turn is a translation of the Greek word *Harpazo*, meaning to be caught up, or to be snatched away. It refers to an event where Jesus Christ returns to snatch up the church before the wrath of God is poured out on the world, followed by his subsequent return.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 reads, "*The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*" In the Bible, there are many trumpets, but God only blows 2 trumpets; the first when he gathered the Jews to give the Law, and the second here where he gathers the church. We read that we will be taken up to be with the Lord. This takes place before the Day of the Lord or the Great Tribulation – when God pours out his wrath on a Christ-rejecting world, because we are not appointed to wrath but to salvation, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

The rapture is pictured in the Old Testament by many examples, such as 'Enoch being taken up before God judged the world with the Flood,' 'Lot being rescued from Sodom before the Lord judged the city,' and 'Daniel taken off the scene while his Jewish brethren go through the fire' among many other examples.

2 Thessalonians

The book of 2 Thessalonians deals with the tribulation, the Anti-Christ, The second coming.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
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Word of Admiration	Word of Admonition	
Encouragement	Explanation	Exhortation

Paul wrote this letter after there had been some confusion aroused concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ. Apparently some had thought that the tribulation period before Jesus' second coming, had already begun. Paul instructs them concerning two things that must transpire before the Day of the Lord or the tribulation begins: There must be a falling away from the faith – an apostasy, and the man of Sin or the Anti-Christ must appear on the earth.

Paul now begins a sector within the theological section. 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are known collectively as the Pastoral Epistles. 1 and 2 Timothy are instruction to a young pastor, Titus is instruction to a lonely pastor, and Philemon is instruction to a betrayed pastor (Philemon hosted a bible study in his home). Unlike the letters preceding this section which Paul wrote to churches, these letters are to individuals.

1 Timothy

The first Epistle that Paul wrote to Timothy was penned in 62 – 63 A.D., after Paul's release from prison. Timothy was Paul's disciple, and a young Pastor at the church in Ephesus. Timothy was half Jew and half Gentile. The letters to Timothy are letters from a pastor writing to the next generation of pastors – thus it is generational and everything in it is true for every generation.

1 Timothy contains a great deal of practical instruction for a young Christian worker faced with problems in the church, while conscious of personal limitations. The main thrust of the letter is to promote good doctrine within the church, pray, understand church roles, and keep good standards.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6
Church Doctrine	Public Worship		False Teachers	Church Discipline	Pastor's Motives
Challenge mainly to the Church		Challenge mainly to the Christian			
Faith of	Order of	Officers of	Apostasy	Duties of officers in the	

the Church	the Church	the Church	that was coming	Church
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2 Timothy

The second letter to Timothy was written by Paul on death row; in a dungeon awaiting execution. 2 Timothy constitutes Paul's final account. Written about 67 A.D., Paul wrote to encourage Timothy and all those to follow in the faith to stand firm in the faith and in the integrity of the word of God. The Roman Emperor Nero was on a killing spree, persecuting and torturing Christians. The subject of his letter was how to keep strong in the midst of a collapsing civilization.

2 Timothy divides neatly in half and by Chapter.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 3
Perseverance in Present Testings		Endurance in Predicted Testings	
Affliction	Activity	Apostasy	Allegiance

Titus

Titus was another of Paul's close disciples. Titus was a gentile, sent by Paul to pastor a church on the Island of Crete. Cretians were notoriously hard people to deal with, they professed to know God, but they denied him by their deeds. Now the basic need of these people was to have "sound doctrine, and begin doing good works. The letter to Titus was written around 64 A.D. Paul instructs Titus on appointing elders in the churches, and deals with the conduct and conviction expected in believers.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
Order of the Church	Doctrine of the Church	Work of the Church
Nature of Error	Need for Exercise	
Appoint Elders	Set things in order	

Philemon

Philemon is the last of Paul's prison epistles, written around 60 – 61 A.D. This letter to Philemon is a marvelous example of the strongest force in the universe to affect control over someone -- grace. This brief letter is written to a man named Philemon, who held a bible study in his house, about his runaway slave named Onesimus. The book has value on 7 levels.

Personal value	Shows Paul's character
Practical value	Shows highest principles to live by
Evangelical value	Shows outreach to the lowliest people
Ethical value	Shows a balanced sensitivity to what is right
Providential value	Shows that God is behind everything
Social value	Shows Christian views on slavery and brotherhood
Mystical value	Shows Christ as our intercessor

General Section

The next nine books constitute the general section. Hebrews, James, the letters of Peter, The letters of John, Jude, and the book of Revelation make up a very small but important part of the Scriptures. Letters written to people, they are very practical instruction for Christian living.

Hebrews

There is quite a variety of speculation as to who wrote the book of Hebrews. Written to the Hebrew Christians in about 64 – 68 A.D. The book is very Jewish, and many have ascribed it to Paul’s hand. Most early church fathers ascribed this book to the apostle Paul. The book of Hebrews helps us to focus on the One who has victoriously won the battle against sin.

Hebrews is the completion of a trilogy based of the Old Testament verse, the just shall live by faith. The book of Romans speaks of the just, the book of Galatians deals with the living, and the book of Hebrews shows us faith. Hebrews is a key book in the New Testament.

The book of Hebrews divides clearly into three sections

Chapter 1 - 7		Chapter 8 - 10	Chapter 11 - 13
Superior person of Christ		Superior provision of Calvary	Superior principles of Conduct
Superior to Angels	Superior to Moses & Joshua	Superior to the Priesthood	Practical Application

The book of Hebrews was written to recent converts from Judaism to Christianity, upon whom the customs and practices still exerted a powerful force. At this time the Jewish temple was still standing, with all its gorgeous rituals. Jewish traditions are ingrained into Jews. So this book shows how all of the Old Testament pointed to Jesus.

James

James is one of two books in the New Testament which was written by Jesus’ half-brother. The book was written from Jerusalem around 47 A.D.

The authors name in Hebrew is Jacob. This book is from a Jew writing to the Jewish Christians of the dispersion.

In this letter, then, the Apostle James is telling us several things about faith. In chapter 1 you have the answer to the question, "What makes faith grow?" In chapters 2 & 3, James answers the question, "How can faith be recognized?" Then in chapter 4 & 5, James answers the question, "What happens when faith fails?"

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
Battle axe of the Christian	Brethren & beliefs of the Christian	Behavior of the Christian	Boasting of the Christian	Burdens of the Christian
Test of Faith	Traits of Faith			Triumph of Faith

1 Peter

The first letter of Peter is to the suffering church. The book is mainly about salvation and suffering. The book follows a pattern of answering questions.

Chapter 1	The Question of Salvation	Salvation and Sanctification of Believers
	The Question of Scripture	
	The Question of Sanctification	
Chapter 2	The Question of Separation	Submission of Believers
	The Question of Submission	
Chapter 3 - 4	The Question of Suffering	Suffering of Believers
Chapter 5	The Question of Shepherding	
	The Question of Satan	

The two Epistles of Simon Peter, like the book of Hebrews, and the book of James was written to Jewish Christians – those of the dispersion. Persecution of the Church was at a frenzy when Peter wrote this letter in 63 – 64 A.D. Emperor Nero had burnt down the city of Jerusalem in order to build the Circus Maximus, and he blamed the fire on the Christian. The dominating theme is that of the willingness of believers to face persecution and suffering for Christ's sake.

2 Peter

Peter's second letter is warning against false teachers that had crept into the church. The theme of this second letter is that of faithful truth in the

face of falsehood; how to detect error, how to live in the midst of deceit, how to distinguish between right and wrong, when wrong is subtly alluring and deceptive. Written in 64 – 66 A.D., Peter was aware that he was soon to die. He speaks of finishing well in the Christian faith, he exposes the heresy that made its way into the church, and he reminds the church of the soon coming of the Lord.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
The Convictions of the Faith	The Contention for the Faith	The Consummation of the Faith
Word of Exhortation	Word of Warning	Word of Certainty
Cultivation of Christian Character	Condemnation of False Teachers	Confidence of Christ's Return

Peter's remarkable prophecies concerning the last days are well worthy of note because they describe the propagation of evolutionary biology and the promotion of thermo-nuclear war.

1 John

Written in 90 A.D. by the apostle John from Ephesus, this first epistle was written to refute those Christians who were seeking to accommodate heretical teachings in their lives. The first 2 chapters expose the light of God, contrasting the dazzling purity of His nature with the dreadful pollution of our nature. Chapters 2 & 3 dwell on God's love. Chapter 5 deals with the life that the Christian receives through the miracle of the new birth.

Chapter 1 - 2	Chapter 3 - 4	Chapter 5 - 6
Experiencing the Light of God	Experiencing the Love of God	Experiencing the Life of God
Conditions of Fellowship	Conduct of Fellowship	Characteristics of Fellowship

In John's Gospel he introduces us to the concept of being born-again, and the first epistle of John deals with five tests whereby we can know that the new birth has taken place.

The test of Spiritual desire	1 John 3:9
The test of Spiritual disposition	1 John 4:7
The test of Spiritual discernment	1 John 5:1
The test of Spiritual dynamic	1 John 5:4

1 John shows us how we can live lives on earth with heaven in our hearts, and experience a bit of the eternal in the here and now.

2 John

The second epistle of John is written to the Elect lady and her children. Some scholars have concluded John is referring to the local and universal church – the church is often referred to as the bride. Other Scholars believe John was writing to Mary the mother of Jesus – written by the very man that Jesus entrusted her to from the cross

In the first 4 verses John commends the Lady, in verses 5 and 6 – he commands the Lady, and in the last 7 verses he cautions the Lady. The theme of the book is to abide in God’s commandments and not with false teachers.

Written around 90 A.D. from Ephesus, John’s main theme is the practice and protection of the truth. He was in his old age when he wrote this and was able to foresee a real beating that the truth of the word of God would take.

3 John

Written by the Apostle John from Ephesus around 90 A.D., this last epistle is addressed to a man by the name of Gaius. The book has three small sections within it: the first 8 verses deal with the prosperity of Gaius, verses 9 – 11 deal with the pride of another man named Diotrephes, and the last few verses praise a man named Demetrius.

The main theme of the epistle is the motivations for practical Christian ministry. 3 John shows us the importance of having a good witness in the church. We see three examples of believers: a beloved believer, a proud believer, and an exemplary believer.

Jude

Jude is the second of only two books in the Bible written by brothers of Jesus Christ. James, who wrote the book of James and Jude here were sons of Mary and Joseph.

The epistle is said to be written somewhere between 66 – 80 A.D. Written to a local church where he had served, apostasy and false teaching had crept into the church and was in full force. The strong Jewish character of the book implies it was written to Hebrew Christians.

Jude had set out to write concerning salvation, and felt urged to write about the identifying characteristics of those that seem to be Christians but are actually apostates. This is one of the most important books of the Bible.

Verses 1 - 4	Verses 5 - 16	Verses 17 - 25
His explanation	His Exposition	His Exhortation
Alarm	Argument	Admonition

The Revelation

The book of Revelation stands alone as unique because of its tremendous prophetic impact, and completely practical aspect. Revelation was written by John on the Island of Patmos, after having been banished there by the Roman emperor. Written between 95 – 96 A.D., Revelation is probably the most important book in the Bible yet the most unread, and thus misunderstood.

The book of Revelation is **very** Jewish. It consists of 404 verses, and those verses contain 800 references from the Old Testament. To understand Revelation, it will take an understanding of every other book of the Bible. Revelation cannot be understood without understanding the books of Genesis, Joshua, Ruth, and 1 Thessalonians among others. No other book claims to be special above all other books in the Scripture beside revelation – it comes with a blessing to all who read it.

The book of Revelation comes with its own divine outline. Verse 19 of Chapter 1 lays the book of Revelation out into three sections – “the things which you have seen,” “the things which are,” “and the things that will be hereafter.” The first chapter deals with the revelation John had of Jesus, 2 & 3 (the seven letters to seven churches) deal with Church history, 4 & 5 cover the rapture of the church into heaven, Chapters 6 through 19 detail

the Tribulation, 20 deals with the millennium, 21 – the new kingdom, and 22 – the new Heaven and earth.

Chapter 1	Chapter 2-3	Chapter 4 - 22		
Visions of Grace	Visions of Government	Visions of Glory		
Church age		Judgment age	Kingdom age	Eternal age
Things you have seen	Things which are	Things which will be hereafter		
Introduction	7 Letters	Church in Heaven during the Great Tribulation	Millennium - 1000 year reign	New Kingdom & new Heaven and earth

There are more occurrences of “seven” in the book of Revelation, than in the entire New Testament, and more occurrences of “seven” than in any book of the Old Testament.

Each of the seven letters to the seven churches are in a specific order and as we look at that order we discover that it lays out perfectly the record of Church history, from the early church to the present day. Each letter has the phrase, “He that has an ear, let him hear.” This Phrase occurs seven times in the book of Revelation and seven times elsewhere in the New Testament. For example, Matthew thirteen contains the seven kingdom parables that parallel the seven letters of revelation exactly – starting off with the phrase, “He that has an ear, let him hear.” Paul wrote 13 epistles that he signed; three of those are doubles which makes ten addressees; three of which were pastors, which makes seven churches. The seven churches that Paul addressed, parallel exactly the seven churches that Jesus wrote to in Revelation.

Chapter 4 begins with the phrase ‘After these things.’ In the Greek, the word is Metatauta, and the things which are being referred to are the things covered in chapters 2 and 3. The 4th and 5th chapters constitute a body of text describing the church in Heaven. These Chapters tell of the heavenly scene while simultaneously chapter 6 through 19 is taking place.

Chapter 6 – 19 deals with the Great Tribulation, a 7-year period of time in which God pours out his wrath upon a Christ-rejecting world. This period of time is known throughout the Bible as the Day of the Lord, or the time of Jacob’s trouble. Chapter 19 deals with the second coming of Christ, wherein the Church follows His lead from Heaven to earth.

Chapter 20 deals with the Millennium, that 1000 year period of time where we rule and reign with Christ and where Satan will be bound for the duration. The Millennium is the most spoken of period of time in the entire Bible. At the end of the thousand years Satan is loosed for a final deception to lead a final rebellion before God wipes out the entire thing.

Chapter 21 and 22 describe the new Heaven and earth – a brand new world with a brand new city.



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Conclusion

The Bible is the word of God from beginning to end. It communicates God's love to us, and how He demonstrated that love for us on a wooden cross 2000 years ago. The Bible teaches us that God has a plan for every one of us, and that plan centers around His Son Jesus Christ.

So how do we respond?

1. Admit our sin. (*Romans 3:23*)

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

2. Realize that Jesus died on the cross for us.

While we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)

3. Repent of our sins. (*Acts 17:30*)

(God) commands all people everywhere to repent

4. Receive Jesus Christ into our lives (*John 1:12*)

to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

If you're reading this today and you've never committed your life to Jesus Christ. You don't know his forgiveness. You don't know if you would go to heaven if you died right now. Why don't you ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you? Take a moment right now and say a prayer like this one:

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sin. I repent of it and I turn to you by faith right now. I thank You for dying on the cross for me and paying the price for all of my sins. I ask you to come into my life and be my savior, my Lord, and my friend. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to be your disciple from this moment forward. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

***Then read your Bible daily and obey
what you read!!***