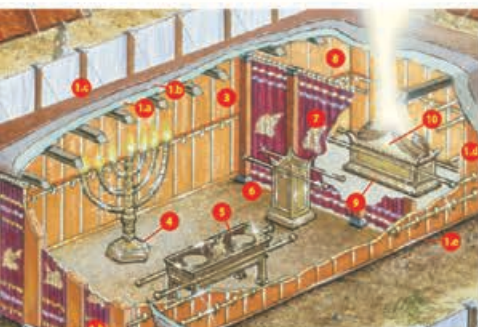




ROSE HANDBOOK OF BIBLE CHARTS, MAPS, AND TIMELINES



ROSE HANDBOOK OF
BIBLE
CHARTS, MAPS,
AND TIMELINES

Rose Handbook of Bible Charts, Maps, and Timelines

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CONTENTS

Bible Overview

Bible Overview	6
Bible Timeline.....	18
100 Key People in the Bible	22
100 Prayers in the Bible	25
Weights, Measures, and Money.....	28
How We Got the Bible.....	30
The Dead Sea Scrolls	36
Bible Translations Comparison.....	43
Names of God	52
Names of Jesus	54
Names of the Holy Spirit	62

Old Testament

Noah's Ark	70
Twelve Tribes of Israel	72
The Exodus	80
Tabernacle.....	82
Ark of the Covenant.....	90
The Judges	91
Feasts of the Bible	92
Christ in the Passover	97
Kings and Prophets	105
Solomon's Temple.....	110
Statue in the Book of Daniel.....	114
Women of the Bible: Old Testament	121
Heroes of the Old Testament	129
The Ten Commandments.....	135
Christ in the Old Testament	142
Joseph.....	154
Moses	162
David.....	171
Esther	179
Ruth.....	187
Psalms.....	194
Psalm 23.....	202
Proverbs.....	204

New Testament

The Gospels Side by Side.....	212
Genealogy of Jesus	220
The Twelve Disciples	221
Parables of Jesus.....	227
Herod's Temple	237
Palm Sunday to Easter	240
Jesus' Hours on the Cross.....	242
100 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus	243
Evidence for the Resurrection	249
Women of the Bible: New Testament	251
The Life of the Apostle Paul	262
Armor of God.....	268
The Love Chapter: 1 Corinthians 13.....	269
Fruit of the Spirit.....	270
The Seven Churches of Revelation.....	272
Book of Revelation.....	274

Bible Maps

Middle East: Then and Now	286
Holy Land: Then and Now	288
Holy Land: United Kingdom.....	290
Holy Land: Divided Kingdom.....	291
Assyrian Empire.....	292
Babylonian and Persian Empires.....	294
Middle East: Fascinating Facts and Figures	295
Where Jesus Walked: Then and Now	296
World of the First Christians: Then and Now	298
Expansion of Christianity.....	300

Christian Living

Following Jesus	302
Who I Am in Christ	308
What the Bible Says about Forgiveness	314
What the Bible Says about Money	322
What the Bible Says about Prayer	331
Heaven	339
The Lord's Prayer	346
The Beatitudes	354
Bible Promises for Hope and Courage	361
24 Ways to Explain the Gospel	367
Spiritual Gifts	375
Spiritual Disciplines	383

Christian History and Doctrines

Essential Doctrines	395
Attributes of God	400
Creeds and Heresies	408
The Trinity	419
Baptism	424
The Lord's Supper	431
Four Views of the End Times	439
Christian History Time Line	442
Reformation Time Line	455
The Gospels: "Lost" & Found	463

Christianity, Cults, and Religions

Christianity, Cults, and Religions	473
Denominations Comparison	481
Islam and Christianity	488
Worldviews Comparison	494

Index	502
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BIBLE OVERVIEW

OLD TESTAMENT - 39 BOOKS

PENTATEUCH - 5	HISTORICAL BOOKS - 12	POETRY & WISDOM - 5	MINOR PROPHETS - 12
GENESIS	JOSHUA	JOB	HOSEA
EXODUS	JUDGES	PSALMS	JOEL
LEVITICUS	RUTH	PROVERBS	AMOS
NUMBERS	1 SAMUEL	ECCLESIASTES	OBADIAH
DEUTERONOMY	2 SAMUEL	SONG OF SONGS	JONAH
	1 KINGS	MAJOR PROPHETS - 5	MICAH
	2 KINGS		NAHUM
	1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK
	2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH
	EZRA		HAGGAI
	NEHEMIAH	EZEKIEL	ZECHARIAH
	ESTHER	DANIEL	MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT - 27 BOOKS

GOSPELS & ACTS - 5	PAUL'S EPISTLES (LETTERS) - 13		GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION - 9
MATTHEW	ROMANS	1 THESSALONIANS	HEBREWS
MARK	1 CORINTHIANS	2 THESSALONIANS	JAMES
LUKE	2 CORINTHIANS	1 TIMOTHY	1 PETER
JOHN	GALATIANS	2 TIMOTHY	2 PETER
ACTS	EPHESIANS	TITUS	1 JOHN
	PHILIPPIANS	PHILEMON	2 JOHN
	COLOSSIANS		3 JOHN
			JUDE
			REVELATION

OLD TESTAMENT

PENTATEUCH

The Pentateuch contains stories about the creation of the world, the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the children of Israel in Egypt, the exodus, and the time the children of Israel spent in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. The books also record the law God gave to the people on Mt. Sinai which laid down the regulations for sacrifice, worship, and daily living. The Pentateuch is also called the Torah.

GENESIS

Who: Moses
What: The Beginnings
Where: Egypt and Canaan
When: c. 1446 BC–1406 BC
Why: To demonstrate that God is sovereign and loves his creation.

Outline (Chapter)

- Creation, Fall, and Flood (1–11)
- Abraham (12–25)
- Isaac and Jacob (26–36)
- Joseph (37–50)

Key Verse: I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Genesis 17:7)

EXODUS

Who: Moses
What: Deliverance from Slavery
Where: Egypt and Canaan
When: c. 1446 BC–1406 BC
Why: To show God's faithfulness to the covenant and provide Israel with guidelines for holy living.

Outline (Chapter)

- Moses (1–7)
- The Plagues (8–13)
- The Exodus (14–18)
- The Law (19–24)
- Tabernacle and Worship (25–40)

Key Verse: God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14)

LEVITICUS

Who: Moses
What: Law and Sacrifice
Where: Sinai and Canaan
When: c. 1446 BC–1406 BC
Why: To instruct Israel on how to be holy and to be a blessing to others.

Outline (Chapter)

- Sacrifice (1–7)
- Priesthood (8–10)
- Clean and Unclean (11–15)
- Day of Atonement (16)
- Laws for Daily Life (17–27)

Key Verse: Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:7–8)

NUMBERS

Who: Moses
What: Census and History
Where: Borders of Canaan
When: c. 1446 BC–1406 BC
Why: A reminder of what happens when people rebel against God.

Outline (Chapter)

- Census (1–9)
- Sinai to Canaan (10–12)
- Spies and Rebellion (13–19)
- Moab (20–36)

Key Verse: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

DEUTERONOMY

Who: Moses
What: Sermons by Moses
Where: Plains of Moab
When: c. 1446 BC–1406 BC
Why: To remind the people what God expects from them.

Outline (Chapter)

- Sermon 1: Journey Review (1–4)
- Sermon 2: Laws (5–28)
- Sermon 3: Covenant (29–30)
- Final Farewells (31–34)

Key Verse: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4–5)

HISTORICAL BOOKS

The 12 Historical Books continue with the story of the people of Israel and the conquest of the Promised Land in the book of Joshua, the continuous cycle of disobedience in the book of Judges, the first kings and the United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, the Assyrian invasion, Babylonian invasion, the years in exile, and the return from exile during the Persian rule.

JOSHUA

Who: Unknown (Joshua or Samuel)

What: History of Conquest

Where: Canaan

When: c. 1300s BC

Why: To assure the people that obedience to God is rewarded.

Outline (Chapter)

- The Conquest (1–12)
- Dividing the Land (13–22)
- Joshua's Farewell (23–24)

Key Verse: Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)

JUDGES

Who: Unknown (Samuel)

What: History before Kings

Where: Canaan

When: c. 1400 BC–1000 BC

Why: To stress the importance of remaining loyal to God.

Outline (Chapter)

- Reasons for Failure (1)
- The Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson (2–16)
- Days of Lawlessness (17–21)

Key Verse: In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (Judges 21:25)

RUTH

Who: Unknown (Samuel)

What: Story of a Faithful Foreigner

Where: Canaan

When: c. 1350 BC–1000 BC

Why: To demonstrate the kind of faithfulness, godliness, loyalty, and love that God desires for us.

Outline (Chapter)

- Naomi and Ruth (1)
- Ruth meets Boaz (2)
- The Threshing Floor (3)
- The Marriage (4)

Key Verse: But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

1 SAMUEL

Who: Unknown

What: History of Events

Where: Israel and Judah

When: c. 1100 BC–931 BC

Why: To record how Israel got a king.

Outline (Chapter)

- Samuel (1–7)
- Saul (8–15)
- Saul and David (16–31)

Key Verse: But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)

2 SAMUEL

Who: Unknown

What: History of Events

Where: Israel and Judah

When: c. 1100 BC–931 BC

Why: To demonstrate the prominence of David's line.

Outline (Chapter)

- David's Reign in Judah (1–4)
- David Unites Israel (5–10)
- David and Bathsheba (11–12)
- Family Problems (13–20)
- Conclusions (21–24)

Key Verse: I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. (2 Samuel 7:9)

1 KINGS

Who: Unknown

What: Evaluation of the Kings

Where: In Exile in Babylon

When: 561 BC–539 BC

Why: To demonstrate the value of obeying and the danger of disobeying God.

Outline (Chapter)

- King Solomon's Reign (1–4)
- Temple Construction (5–8)
- Queen of Sheba (9–10)
- Kingdom Splits (11–16)
- Prophet Elijah (17–22)

Key Verse: So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. (1 Kings 3:9a)

2 KINGS

Who: Unknown

What: Evaluation of the Kings

Where: In Exile in Babylon

When: 561 BC–539 BC

Why: To demonstrate the value of obeying God.

Outline (Chapter)

- The Prophet Elisha (1–8)
- Kings of Judah and Israel (9–16)
- Fall of Israel (17–21)
- King Josiah (22–23)
- Fall of Judah; Exile (24–25)

Key Verse: And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth." (2 Kings 19:15)

1 CHRONICLES

Who: Unknown (Ezra)

What: Review of David's Reign

Where: Judah

When: c. 450 BC–400 BC

Why: To encourage the remnant.

Key Verse: "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." (1 Chronicles 4:10)

2 CHRONICLES

Who: Unknown (Ezra)

What: Highlights Kings of Judah

Where: Judah

When: c. 450 BC–400 BC

Why: To show the benefits that come from obedience.

Key Verse: As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. (2 Chronicles 13:10a)

EZRA

Who: Ezra

What: History of Reconstruction

Where: Judah

When: c. 400s BC

Why: Provide a detailed account of the exiles' return and the rebuilding of the temple.

Outline (Chapter)

- The Exiles Return (1–2)
- Rebuilding the Temple (3–6)
- The Work of Ezra (7–10)

Key Verse: With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever. And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid." (Ezra 3:11)

NEHEMIAH

Who: Ezra

What: History of Reconstruction

Where: Judah

When: c. 400s BC

Why: Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Outline (Chapter)

- Nehemiah Returns (1–2)
- Rebuilding of the Walls (3)
- Threats and Persecution (4–7)
- Renewal of Covenant (8–10)
- Dedication and Laws (11–13)

Key Verse: Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

ESTHER

Who: Unknown

What: Story of Redemption

Where: Persia

When: c. 400s BC

Why: To demonstrate that, in all circumstances, God is in control.

Outline (Chapter)

- Search for a New Queen (1–2)
- Haman's Plot (3)
- Esther's Plan (4–6)
- Haman's Downfall (7)
- Esther Saves the Jews (8–10)

Key Verse: For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)

POETRY & WISDOM

The five Poetry and Wisdom books include hymns, proverbs, poems, and dramas. They illustrate the creative ways the people of Israel expressed themselves to God and to each other.

JOB

Who: Unknown
What: Story of Perseverance
Where: Mesopotamia (Uz)
When: Unknown
Why: To show the sovereignty of God and to illustrate faithfulness in the midst of suffering.

Outline (Chapter)

- Job Tested (1–3)
- Job's Friends (4–31)
- Elihu's Speech (32–37)
- God's Answer (38–42)

Key Verse: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. (Job 19:25–26)

PSALMS

Who: David, Moses, Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, Sons of Korah
What: Poetry and Song
Where: Ancient Israel
When: c. 1000 BC–450 BC
Why: To communicate with God and worship him.

Outline (Chapter)

- Book I: Psalms 1–41
- Book II: Psalms 42–72
- Book III: Psalms 73–89
- Book IV: Psalms 90–106
- Book V: Psalms 107–150

Key Verse: My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. (Psalm 145:21)

PROVERBS

Who: Solomon and others
What: Wisdom
Where: Israel
When: c. 900s BC–700s BC
Why: To provide wisdom and guidance for God's children.

Outline (Chapter)

- Lessons in Wisdom (1–9)
- Proverbs of Solomon (10–22)
- Other Wise Sayings (23–24)
- Solomon's Sayings (25–29)
- Other Proverbs (30–31)

Key Verse: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

ECCLESIASTES

Who: Unknown (Solomon)
What: Wisdom
Where: Jerusalem
When: c. 900s BC or 500s BC
Why: A search to discover truth.

Outline (Chapter)

- The Meaning of Life (1–2)
- Life is Not Always Fair (3–6)
- Wisdom (7–8)
- No One Knows the Future (9–10)
- Obedience to God (11–12)

Key Verse: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)

SONG OF SONGS

Who: Solomon and others
What: Love Poem
Where: Jerusalem
When: c. 900s BC or 500s BC
Why: To illustrate the joy of authentic love found in marriage.

Outline (Chapter)

- The Courtship (1–2)
- The Wedding (3–4)
- The Lasting Relationship (5–8)

Key Verse: Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. (Song of Songs 8:7)

MAJOR PROPHETS

The five Major Prophets are not called “major” because of their message or quality, but rather because of the length of the books. The prophets brought God’s word which included warning of judgment, warnings and hope for the immediate future (as well as warnings and hope for the distant future), and hope in the coming Messiah.

ISAIAH

Who: Isaiah
What: Prophecy and Judgement
Where: Judah
When: c. 701 BC–681 BC
Why: To convince the people that salvation was possible through repentance and hope in the coming Messiah.

Outline (Chapter)

- Condemnation (1–39)
- Comfort in Exile (40–55)
- Future Hope (56–66)

Key Verse: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

JEREMIAH

Who: Jeremiah
What: Prophecy and Judgement
Where: Judah
When: c. 626 BC–582 BC
Why: To warn Judah of their destruction, to remind them of their sin, and convince them to submit to the Babylonian invaders.

Outline (Chapter)

- Jeremiah (1–10)
- Prophetic Warnings (11–28)
- New Covenant (29–39)
- The Fall of Jerusalem (40–52)

Key Verse: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

LAMENTATIONS

Who: Unknown (Jeremiah)
What: Dirge Poem (Lament)
Where: Babylon
When: c. 586 BC
Why: To express the despair of the people of Judah over the loss of their land, city, and temple.

Outline (Chapter)

- Sorrows of Captives (1)
- Anger with Jerusalem (2)
- Hope and Mercy (3)
- Punishment (4)
- Restoration (5)

Key Verse: Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22–23)

EZEKIEL

Who: Ezekiel
What: Prophecy and Warning
Where: Babylon
When: c. 593 BC–571 BC
Why: To confront people about their sin, give them one last chance to repent, and offer hope.

Outline (Chapter)

- Ezekiel (1–3)
- Judgment of Judah (4–24)
- Judgment on the Nations (25–32)
- The End of the Age (33–39)
- Restoration of Temple (40–48)

Key Verse: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

DANIEL

Who: Daniel
What: Prophecy and Apocalyptic
Where: Babylon
When: c. 605 BC–535 BC
Why: To convince the Jewish exiles that God is sovereign and to provide them with a vision of their future redemption.

Outline (Chapter)

- Daniel and His Friends (1–6)
- Apocalyptic Visions (7–12)

Key Verse: In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)

MINOR PROPHETS

The 12 Minor Prophets, called “The Book of the Twelve” in the Hebrew Bible, are just as important as the Major Prophets. They are called “minor” because of the shorter length of the books.

HOSEA

Who: Hosea
What: Prophecy and Warning
Where: Israel
When: c. 752 BC–722 BC
Why: To illustrate Israel's spiritual adultery and warn of destruction.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Unfaithful Wife (1–3)
 • Unfaithful Nation (4–14)
Key Verse: Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests. (Hosea 4:6)

JOEL

Who: Joel
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Judah
When: Unknown
Why: To call Judah to repentance in order to avoid judgment.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Locusts (1)
 • Blessings and Curses (2–3)
Key Verse: I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. (Joel 2:28)

AMOS

Who: Amos
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Israel
When: c. 760 BC–753 BC
Why: To accuse and judge Israel for injustice and lack of mercy.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Neighbors Punished (1)
 • Israel's Destruction (2–8)
 • Future Hope (9)
Key Verse: Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you. (Amos 5:14)

OBADIAH

Who: Obadiah
What: Prophecy
Where: Judah
When: c. 586 BC
Why: To prophesy against Edom.
Outline: (Verses)
 • Judgment on Edom (1–9)
 • Edom's Violations (10–14)
 • Israel's Victory (15–21)
Key Verse: Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever. (Obadiah 10)

JONAH

Who: Jonah
What: Story of God's Mercy
Where: Nineveh
When: c. 783 BC–753 BC
Why: To show that God loves all.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Jonah Flees (1)
 • Jonah Prays (2)
 • Jonah's Anger with God's Mercy (3–4)
Key Verse: I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love. (Jonah 4:2)

MICAH

Who: Micah
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Israel and Judah
When: c. 738 BC–698 BC
Why: To warn people of judgment and to offer hope.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Judgment and Deliverance (1–5)
 • Confession and Restoration (6–7)
Key Verse: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

NAHUM

Who: Nahum
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Judah and Nineveh
When: c. 663 BC–612 BC
Why: To pronounce judgment on Nineveh and the Assyrian empire.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Judgment and Mercy (1)
 • Nineveh's Destruction (2–3)
Key Verse: The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. (Nahum 1:7)

HABAKKUK

Who: Habakkuk
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Judah
When: c. 609 BC–598 BC
Why: To affirm that the wicked will not prevail and to remind Judah that God is in control.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Tough Questions (1–2)
 • Praise to the Lord (3)
Key Verse: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3:18)

ZEPHANIAH

Who: Zephaniah
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Judah
When: c. 641 BC–628 BC
Why: To motivate repentance.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Judgment on Judah (1)
 • Judgment on the Nations (2)
 • Promise of Restoration (3)
Key Verse: The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. (Zephaniah 1:14)

HAGGAI

Who: Haggai
What: Prophecy and Hope
Where: Judah
When: c. 520 BC
Why: To urge the people to complete rebuilding the temple.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Rebuild the Temple (1)
 • Blessings and David's Throne (2)
Key Verse: My Spirit remains among you. Do not fear. (Haggai 2:5)

ZECHARIAH

Who: Zechariah
What: Prophecy and Hope
Where: Judah
When: c. 520 BC–518 BC
Why: To give hope to the remnant.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Zechariah's Visions (1–8)
 • Oracles against the Nations (9–14)
Key Verse: See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

MALACHI

Who: Malachi
What: Prophecy and Judgment
Where: Judah
When: c. 400s BC
Why: To examine Judah's actions and make sure God has priority.
Outline (Chapter)
 • Six Prophetic Speeches (1–3)
 • Day of the Lord (4)
Key Verse: The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. (Malachi 4:2)

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS & ACTS

The Gospels, which are the first four books of the New Testament, record the good news of God's plan for a Savior through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each writer has a particular method or style to communicate the life and message of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW

Who: Matthew (also called Levi)
What: Gospel
Where: Judea
When: c. AD 60
Why: To show Jesus as the Son of David, the Kingly Messiah who fulfills prophecy.

Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1–4)
- Ministry of Christ (5–20)
- Death and Resurrection (21–28)

Key Verse: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
 (Matthew 28:18–19)

MARK

Who: John Mark
What: Gospel
Where: Rome
When: c. AD 50s
Why: To show Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man sent to serve and not be served.

Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2–10)
- Death and Resurrection (11–16)

Key Verse: Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
 (Mark 10:43–45)

Acts is the record of the radically changed "acts" or "actions" of the followers of Jesus Christ after the resurrection. Acts opens with the out-flowing of the Holy Spirit and describes the missionary efforts of the early followers of Jesus as they spread the message of the gospel to Judea and Samaria. Acts also records the actions of the apostle Paul as he and other courageous believers continued to spread the good news of Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles of the Roman Empire.

LUKE

Who: Luke (The Physician)
What: Gospel
Where: Caesarea
When: c. AD 60–AD 62
Why: To show Jesus as the Savior of the World who has compassion for all human beings.

Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1–4)
- Ministry of Christ (5–19)
- Death and Resurrection (20–24)

Key Verse: Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23–24)

JOHN

Who: John (The Beloved Disciple)
What: Gospel
Where: Asia Minor
When: c. AD 85–AD 95
Why: To show Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, who provides eternal life for all who believe in him.

Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2–12)
- Private Ministry (13–17)
- Death and Resurrection (18–21)

Key Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

ACTS

Who: Luke (The Physician)
What: History of Early Church
Where: Caesarea and Rome
When: c. AD 60–AD 62
Why: To record how the Holy Spirit acted through believers to spread the Word of God.

Outline (Chapter)

- Jerusalem (1–7)
- Judea and Samaria (8–11)
- Paul's Journeys (12–20)
- Paul Taken to Rome (21–28)

Key Verse: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

PAUL'S EPISTLES (LETTERS)

The apostle Paul wrote 13 letters to young churches, pastors, and friends in order to guide, encourage, and correct them. Most of these letters served a specific purpose or addressed a specific question or problem.

ROMANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Roman Christians
Where: Corinth
When: c. AD 57
Why: To illustrate law, faith, salvation, and righteous living.

Outline (Chapter)

- Christian Gospel (1–8)
- Israel (9–11)
- Christian Life (12–16)

Key Verse: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:1–2a)

1 CORINTHIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Church in Corinth
Where: Ephesus
When: c. AD 55–AD 56
Why: To address division and immorality and to encourage them to love each other.

Outline (Chapter)

- Divisions (1–4)
- Morality (5–11)
- Spiritual Gifts (12–14)
- The Resurrection (15–16)

Key Verse: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:4–5)

2 CORINTHIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Church in Corinth
Where: Philippi
When: c. AD 56
Why: To defend Paul's call as an apostle, to address deceivers.

Outline (Chapter)

- Apostolic Characteristics (1–7)
- Giving (8–9)
- Paul's Defense (10–13)

Key Verse: But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

GALATIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Churches in Galatia
Where: Asia Minor
When: c. AD 48–49 or AD 54–55
Why: To warn against legalism and defend justification by faith as well as Paul's apostolic authority.

Outline (Chapter)

- Paul's Defense (1–2)
- Justification by Faith (3–4)
- The Christian Life (5–6)

Key Verse: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22–23)

EPHESIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Church in Ephesus
Where: Prison in Rome
When: c. AD 60–AD 62
Why: To show believers what it means to be a follower of Christ and encourage them in their spiritual walk.

Outline (Chapter)

- Spiritual Blessings (1–3)
- The Christian Life (4–6)

Key Verse: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

PHILIPPIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Church in Philippi
Where: Prison in Rome
When: c. AD 60–AD 62
Why: To express Paul's love and affection for the Philippians.

Outline (Chapter)

- Joy of Life (1)
- Humility of Christ (2)
- Finish the Race (3)
- Thanks and Greetings (4)

Key Verse: Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. (Philippians 2:14–15)

COLOSSIANS

Who: Paul
What: Letter to Church in Colossae
Where: Prison in Rome
When: c. AD 60–AD 62
Why: To counteract heretical teachings and exhort believers.

Outline (Chapter)

- Thanksgiving (1)
- Work of Christ (1–2)
- Finish the Race (3–4)
- Final Greetings (4)

Key Verse: For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:9–10)

1 THESSALONIANS

Who: Paul

What: Letter to the Church in Thessalonica

Where: Corinth

When: c. AD 50–AD 52

Why: To emphasize Christ's return and to stress commitment.

Outline (Chapter)

- Faith and Example (1–3)
- Living for God (4)
- Christ's Return (4–5)

Key Verse: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–22)

2 THESSALONIANS

Who: Paul

What: Letter to the Church in Thessalonica

Where: Corinth

When: c. AD 50–AD 52

Why: To emphasize Christ's return and to encourage believers.

Outline (Chapter)

- Praise and Encouragement (1)
- Christ's Return (2)
- Pray and Work (3)

Key Verse: We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. (2 Thessalonians 3:4–6)

1 TIMOTHY

Who: Paul

What: Letter to Timothy

Where: Rome

When: c. AD 62–AD 66

Why: To remove false doctrine and suggest proper leadership for the church in Ephesus.

Outline (Chapter)

- Trouble in Ephesus (1)
- Church Leadership (2–3)
- False Teachers (4)
- Discipline (5)
- Paul's Advice to Timothy (6)

Key Verse: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:12–13)

2 TIMOTHY

Who: Paul

What: Letter to Timothy

Where: Prison in Rome

When: c. AD 66–AD 67

Why: To encourage Timothy to remain faithful in ministry even in the midst of suffering.

Outline (Chapter)

- Thanksgiving (1)
- Call to Remain Faithful (2)
- Authority of God's Word (3)
- Lead a Godly Life (3–4)

Key Verse: From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15–17)

TITUS

Who: Paul

What: Letter to Titus

Where: Rome

When: c. AD 64–AD 66

Why: To encourage the church in Crete to do good works.

Outline (Chapter)

- Instruction for Titus (1)
- Living the Faith (2–3)
- Final Instructions (3)

Key Verse: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4–7)

PHILEMON

Who: Paul

What: Letter to Philemon

Where: Prison in Rome

When: c. AD 60–AD 62

Why: To appeal to Philemon to forgive and receive Onesimus, a runaway slave.

Outline (Verses)

- Salutations (1–3)
- Philemon's Love and Faith (4–7)
- Paul's Appeal (8–22)
- Final Greetings (23–25)

Key Verse: So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. (Philemon 17–19)

GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION

The eight General Epistles were written by other apostles and leaders including Simon Peter, James, John, and Jude. The General Epistles were addressed to the early Christians to provide guidance, encouragement through persecution, and warnings of false teachings.

HEBREWS

Who: Unknown
What: Letter to Hebrew Believers
Where: Unknown
When: c. AD 60–AD 69
Why: To emphasize the superiority of Christ over the Old Covenant.

Outline (Chapter)

- Supremacy of Christ (1–4)
- The New Covenant (5–10)
- The Life of Faith (11–13)

Key Verse: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

JAMES

Who: James
What: Letter to Jewish Believers
Where: Jerusalem
When: c. AD 49
Why: Encouragement to live out one's faith within the Christian community.

Outline (Chapter)

- Living a Life of Faith (1–2)
- Faith without Works (2–3)
- Speech and Wisdom (3–4)
- Wealth and Prayer (5)

Key Verse: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (James 1:19–20)

1 PETER

Who: Peter
What: Letter to All Christians
Where: Rome
When: c. AD 64–AD 65
Why: To call Christians to holiness.

Outline (Chapter)

- Holiness and Submission (1–2)
- Suffering (3–4)
- Advice for Old and Young (5)

Key Verse: The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. (1 Peter 4:7)

2 PETER

Who: Peter
What: Letter to All Christians
Where: Rome
When: c. AD 64–AD 65
Why: To warn against false teachers.

Outline (Chapter)

- Living Like Christ; False Teachers (1–2)
- The Return of Christ (3)

Key Verse: For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

1 JOHN

Who: John
What: Letter to All Christians
Where: Ephesus
When: c. AD 85–AD 95
Why: To emphasize love in Christ.

Outline (Chapter)

- Living in the Light (1–2)
- Living in Love (3–4)
- Living by Faith (5)

Key Verse: Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

2 JOHN

Who: John
What: Letter to the Elect Lady
Where: Ephesus
When: c. AD 85–AD 95
Why: To warn against heresy and false teachers.

Key Verse: Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. (2 John 8)

3 JOHN

Who: John
What: Letter to Gaius
Where: Ephesus
When: c. AD 85–AD 95
Why: To praise Gaius for his loyalty to the truth and criticize Diotrephes for his pride.

Key Verse: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 4)

JUDE

Who: Jude
What: Letter to all Christians
Where: Unknown
When: c. AD 60s–AD 80s
Why: To warn against heresy.

Key Verse: To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. (Jude 24)

The book of Revelation addresses seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey today). It encourages believers who are experiencing persecution. Revelation illustrates that God is in control and that all people were created to love and worship God.

REVELATION

Who: John
What: Letter to Seven Churches
Where: Island of Patmos
When: c. AD 90–AD 96
Why: To give hope to persecuted Christians and provide a vision of Christ's return.

Key Verse: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (Revelation 21:1)

Outline (Chapter)

- The Seven Churches (1–4)
- Visions (5–16)
- God's Triumph (17–20)
- The New Creation (21–22)

Bible Bookcase

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

LAW

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Song of Solomon

Ecclesiastes

Proverbs

Psalms

Job

POETRY

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

MAJOR PROPHETS

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

GOSPELS

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

EPISTLES TO FRIENDS

EPISTLES TO CHURCHES

HISTORY

GENERAL EPISTLES

JUDGES, RUTH

1 SAMUEL THROUGH 2 CHRONICLES

EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER

Era of Judges

📖 Judges written. c. 1350-1000

📖 Ruth (dates unknown)

Eli, priest in Shiloh c. 1100-1060

📖 1 and 2 Samuel written. c. 1100-931

Samuel, judge and prophet in Israel c. 1060-1020

King Saul, Israel's first king c. 1051-1011

King David c. 1011-971

📖 Psalms written. c. 1000-450

📖 Davidic Covenant

Prophet Nathan c. 990-971

King Solomon c. 971-931

📖 Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs written. c. 971-931

• First temple in Jerusalem built. 960

• Kingdom divides into Israel (north) and Judah (south). 931

Northern Kingdom of Israel 931-722

Southern Kingdom of Judah 931-586

• Gedaliah, governor of Judah 586

• Judah falls to Babylon; temple destroyed; people exiled. 586

Elijah c. 870-845

Elisha c. 845-800

Jonah c. 783-753

📖 Amos c. 760-753

📖 Hosea c. 752-722

📖 Isaiah c. 740-681

📖 Micah c. 738-698

📖 Nahum c. 663-612

📖 Zephaniah c. 641-628

📖 Jeremiah c. 626-582

📖 Habakkuk c. 609-598

📖 Queen Esther c. 478

• Ezra goes to Judah. 457

1 and 2 Chronicles written. c. 450-400

Nehemiah governs Judah. 444-432

Ezra and Nehemiah written. c. 400s

Kings are listed by dates of reign. Prophets are listed by the dates they prophesied.

1200 BC	1100 BC	1000 BC	900 BC	800 BC	700 BC	600 BC	500 BC	400 BC
Pharaoh Merneptah 1237-1227 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merneptah Stele c. 1220 • Hittite Empire collapses. c. 1200 • Iron Age begins. c. 1200 • Olmec culture in Mexico marked by massive basalt sculptures. c. 1200 • Trojan War begins in Asia Minor. c. 1190 • Egypt's power begins to decline. c. 1164 • Zhou (Chou) Dynasty begins in China. c. 1150 	Ramses II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiglath-Pileser I rules Assyria. 1114-1076 	Mayan dynasties founded in Central America. c. 1000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiram, king of Tyre c. 978-944 Pharaoh Shishak I 945-924 • Assyrian expansion begins. 912 	King Mesha drives the Israelites out of Moab. c. 850 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assyria forces Israel to pay tribute. 841 	King Mesha drives the Israelites out of Moab. c. 850 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assyria forces Israel to pay tribute. 841 	Greek poet Homer c. 800-701 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First recorded Olympic games in Greece. 776 • Founding of Rome. 753 	Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria 745-727 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sennacherib of Assyria 705-681 • Nineveh (Assyria) falls to Babylonians and Media. 612 	Gautama Buddha of India c. 563-483 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesop's Fables c. 560 	Cyrus the Great, King of Persia 559-530 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosopher Confucius of China 551-479 • Babylon falls to Persia and Media. 539 • Darius the Mede rules Babylon. 539 • Roman Republic established. 509 Athenian leader Pericles of Greece c. 500-429 King Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) of Persia 485-465 King Artaxerxes of Persia 464-424 Peloponnesian War begins. 431

THE GOSPELS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN

BIBLE HISTORY

 = Book of the Bible written. Dates indicate the time frame in which it is believed to have been written and/or compiled.

 = Covenant
c. = Approximate date

The 66 books of the Bible do not cover this 400-year period.

WORLD HISTORY

- Alexander the Great conquers Egypt and Judea, Hellenization begins. 332
- Persia falls to Alexander. 330
- Alexander dies and his empire is divided.

Ptolemaic Empire in Judea 323–198

- Hinduism codified in India. c. 274

First Punic War; Romans control Italy. 264-241

- Septuagint (translation of Hebrew Scriptures into Greek) written. c. 255

Second Punic War; Hannibal in Italy 219-201

- Great wall of China built to keep out invaders. c. 221 BCE
- Earliest of the Dead Sea Scrolls (copies of the Hebrew Scriptures) written. c. 200 BCE
- Seleucid Empire begins to rule Judea. 198 BCE
- Rosetta Stone 196 BCE

Seleucid ruler Antiochus IV desecrates the temple in Jerusalem and tries to force Jews to abandon their law. 175-164

- **Maccabean Revolt:** Judas Maccabeus leads a Jewish revolt against the Seleucids. 167

- Temple in Jerusalem is rededicated (Hanukkah). c. 164

Hasmonean dynasty 164-63

Third Punic War; Romans control Greece. 149-146

- Ships from China reach India for the first time. 100

Spartacus leads a slave revolt. 73-71

- Pompey conquers Jerusalem for Rome. 63

- Julius Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey form the First Triumvirate. 60

Cleopatra VII rules Egypt. 51-31 BC

- Herod the Great rules Judea. 37-4 BC

Caesar Augustus rules the Roman Empire. 27 BC-AD 14

- Herod begins a massive expansion of the temple complex in Jerusalem. 20 BC

Herod Antipas rules Galilee. 4 BC-AD 39

Emperor Tiberius of Rome 14-37

- Kuang Wu Ti founds the Later Han (Eastern Han) dynasty in China. 25

- Birth of John the Baptist. c. 5 BC
- Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. c. 4 BC

- Jesus (age 12) amazes teachers at the temple in Jerusalem. c. AD 8

Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. c. 26

- Jesus begins his public ministry. c. 26 •

- John the Baptist is arrested and killed by Herod Antipas. c. 29

ACTS

CHRISTIAN HISTORY AFTER THE BOOK OF ACTS

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100 Key People in the Bible

Old Testament

- 1. AARON** The older brother of Moses and Israel's first high priest (Num. 26:59; Ex. 28:1)
- 2. ABEL** Adam and Eve's second son, killed by his brother Cain (Gen. 4:2, 8)
- 3. ABRAHAM** Father of the Hebrew nation and the ultimate role model for faith (Gen. 12:1–3; 1 Chron. 1:34; 2:1; Heb. 11:8–10)
- 4. ADAM** The first human being God created (Gen. 1:27; 2:7)
- 5. BALAAM** A false prophet who attempted to curse Israel and prevent them from entering the Promised Land (Num. 22–24)
- 6. BATHSHEBA** The wife of King David and mother of Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24)
- 7. BELSHAZZAR** A Babylonian king condemned by God for his blasphemy through a written message on a wall during a drunken banquet. The message was interpreted by Daniel the prophet. (Daniel 5)
- 8. BOAZ** The husband of Ruth, great-grandfather of King David and ancestor in the line leading to Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:13, 21–22; Matt. 1:5–16)
- 9. CAIN** The first baby to be born on the earth and later murdered his younger brother Abel (Gen. 4:1, 8)
- 10. CALEB** Joshua's faithful partner who urged Israel to enter the Promised Land at Kadesh-barnea as opposed to the 10 cowardly spies (Num. 14:6–9)
- 11. CYRUS** The Persian king who issued the return decree allowing the Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36:22–23)
- 12. DANIEL** Prime minister in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar and King Darius. Interpreted the handwriting on the wall to King Belshazzar (Dan. 2:48; 6:1–3; 5:25–28)
- 13. DAVID** Israel's greatest king, the father of Solomon. Author of more than one half of the Psalms (Ps. 78:70–72; 2 Sam. 12:24; 23:1–2)
- 14. DEBORAH** Israelite prophetess and judge who helped Barak to defeat the Canaanites (Judg. 4:4–9)
- 15. ELI** Israel's high priest who helped raise Samuel in the Tabernacle and died in great sorrow upon hearing that the Ark of the Covenant had been captured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 1:17–20; 4:12–18)
- 16. ELIJAH** A fearless and rugged Israelite prophet who defeated his enemies on Mt. Carmel and was later caught up into heaven without dying (1 Kings 18:16–40; 2 Kings 2:1–18)
- 17. ELISHA** Elijah's successor who parted the Jordan River, raised the Shunammite's son from the dead, and healed Naaman of his leprosy (2 Kings 2:9–14; 5:10–14)
- 18. ENOCH** The first of two people taken from the earth without dying (Gen. 5:23–24; Heb. 11:5)
- 19. ESAU** Jacob's brother and the father of the Edomites (Genesis 25:26; 36:43)
- 20. ESTHER** The Jewish Persian Queen who saved her people from destruction (Est. 7:3–6; 8:3–8)
- 21. EVE** Adam's wife and the world's first woman. She was successfully tempted by Satan (Gen. 2:22; 3:1–6; 4:1–2; 1 Tim. 2:14)
- 22. EZEKIEL** Prophet and priest who became the key religious leader to the Jewish people in Babylon during the Babylonian captivity (Ezek. 1:3; 2:3–4)
- 23. EZRA** A learned Jewish scribe and priest who led the second of three Jewish returns from the Babylonian captivity back to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:1–10)
- 24. GIDEON** Israel's sixth military leader during the days of the Judges who defeated a vastly superior enemy army with just 300 chosen men (Judg. 6:12–14; 7:22; 8:10–12)
- 25. HAGAR** Abraham's second wife and mother of Ishmael (Gen. 16:1–3, 15)
- 26. HANNAH** The godly woman who cried out to God to give her a child. She gave birth to Samuel. (1 Sam. 1:20)
- 27. HEZEKIAH** The thirteenth king of Judah and he was on the throne when God saved the city of Jerusalem from the Assyrian army by the death angel (2 Kings 19)
- 28. HOSEA** Israelite prophet whom God commanded to marry a harlot named Gomer to illustrate Israel's spiritual adultery (Hos. 1:2)
- 29. ISAAC** Abraham's promised son and father of Jacob (Gen. 17:19; 25:21–26)
- 30. ISAIAH** Prophet who predicted the virgin birth of Jesus, his spirit-filled mission, his dual nature (Isa. 9:6), his death, and his millennial reign (Isa. 7:14; 11:13; 53:1–12; 2:2–4; 65:25)
- 31. ISHMAEL** Abraham's first son (Gen. 16:15)
- 32. JACOB** Isaac's son and the father of 12 sons from whom Israel's 12 tribes would come (1 Chron. 2:1–2)
- 33. JEREMIAH** Known as Judah's weeping prophet and author of the book of Jeremiah. He later wrote a funeral song mourning the destruction of Jerusalem. (Book of Lamentations)
- 34. JOB** God permitted this wealthy, righteous believer to be tormented by Satan to demonstrate God's presence and authority even in the midst of suffering. (Job 1–2, 40–42)

- 35. JONAH** A prophet who was punished by God for refusing to go preach in Nineveh. He was swallowed by a fish and later preached in Nineveh which resulted in a city-wide revival. (Jonah 1–3)
- 36. JONATHAN** King Saul's son and David's closest friend (1 Sam. 14:1; 18:1)
- 37. JOSEPH** Jacob's favorite son, sold into slavery by his own brothers, who would later use his position in Egypt to save his brothers and father from famine (Gen. 37:3, 28; 45:7–11)
- 38. JOSHUA** Moses' successor who led Israel into the Promised Land (Josh. 1:1–3; 3:1–17)
- 39. JOSIAH** This sixteenth king of Judah who used the discovery of the only remaining copy of the Law of Moses to lead his people in a great revival (2 Chron. 34:1, 14–33)
- 40. LEAH** Jacob's first wife who bore him six sons (including Judah and Levi) and one daughter Dinah (Gen. 30:21; 35:23)
- 41. MELCHIZEDEK** The king/high priest of Salem to whom Abraham paid tithes. His priestly work later being associated with the high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. (Gen. 14:18–20; Ps. 110:4)
- 42. METHUSELAH** Died at the age of 969, the longest life span recorded (Gen. 5:27)
- 43. MIRIAM** The elder sister of Moses who helped lead the Israelites through the wilderness (Ex. 15:20)
- 44. MORDECAI** Queen Esther's cousin who helped her save the Jewish people from slaughter. He later became prime minister of Persia. (Est. 2:7; 4:14; 10:3)
- 45. MOSES** Israel's deliverer and law giver who led his people from Egypt to the border of the Promised Land. The author of Scripture's first five books. (Ex. 14; 20; Deut. 31:9; 34:4)
- 46. NAAMAN** Syrian military leader who was healed of leprosy by the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5:14; Luke 4:27)
- 47. NAOMI** Ruth's mother-in-law and the great-great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 1:3–6; 4:18–21)
- 48. NEBUCHADNEZZAR** Founder and king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire who had the three godly Hebrew men thrown into a fiery furnace. Later, he promoted both them and Daniel. (Dan. 3–4)
- 49. NEHEMIAH** Led the final of three return trips from Persia to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. He rebuilt the walls around the city. (Neh. 7:1)
- 50. NOAH** Constructed a ship at God's command and survived the great flood along with his wife, three sons, and their three wives (Gen. 6:9; 8:19)
- 51. RACHEL** The beloved wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph and Benjamin (Gen. 29;18; 30:23–24; 35:16–20)
- 52. RAHAB** The former harlot who saved the lives of two Israelite spies in Jericho and later was included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Josh. 2:6; Matt. 1:5)
- 53. REBEKAH** She was the wife of Isaac and mother of Esau and Jacob (Gen. 24:67; 25:24–26)
- 54. RUTH** Naomi's daughter-in-law, Boaz's wife, and King David's great-grandmother (Ruth 1:14–17; 4:21–22; Matt. 1:5, 16)
- 55. SAMSON** Israel's thirteenth military leader during the time of the Judges and the strongest man who ever lived (Judg. 14:6, 19; 15:14)
- 56. SAMUEL** A prophet who was raised as a Nazarite in the tabernacle and later anointed Saul and David as kings over Israel (1 Sam. 1:11, 20, 24; 9:27–10:1; 16:13)
- 57. SARAH** Abraham's wife and Isaac's mother (Gen. 11:29; 21:1–7)
- 58. SAUL** Israel's first king who turned away from God (1 Sam. 10:17–27; 13:13–14; 1 Chron. 10:13)
- 59. SOLOMON** King David's son and the wisest man who ever lived. He was the author of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. (2 Sam. 12:24; 1 Kings 3:11–12)
- 60. ZERUBBABEL** A political leader who organized and led the first of three return trips from Babylon and Persia following the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 2:2)

New Testament

- 61. ANANIAS** A devout and well respected believer living in Damascus who ministered to the blinded Saul of Tarsus following his conversion (Acts 9:10–18; 22:12–16)
- 62. ANDREW** A former fisherman and one of the twelve apostles who brought his brother Peter to Christ (Mark 1:16; Matt. 10:2; John 1:40–42)
- 63. APOLLOS** A gifted teacher and preacher from Alexandria who ministered in Ephesus, Greece, and Corinth (Acts 18:24–28; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:6)
- 64. BARNABAS** A godly teacher, the cousin of John Mark, who initially ministered in Antioch and later joined up with Paul during his first missionary journey (Acts 4:36; 11:22–26; 13:1–3)
- 65. CAIAPHAS** The wicked high priest who plotted the death of Jesus and who later persecuted the leaders of the early church (Matt. 26:3–5, 62–65; Acts 4:6–7)
- 66. CORNELIUS** A God-seeking military commander living in Caesarea who was eventually led to Christ by Simon Peter (Acts 10)
- 67. ELIZABETH** The wife of Zechariah (a Jewish priest) who supernaturally gave birth to John the Baptist in her old age (Luke 1:5–7, 57–60)
- 68. HEROD ANTIPAS** The ruling son of Herod the Great who beheaded John the Baptist and later ridiculed Jesus during one of the Savior's unfair trials (Matt. 14:10–11; Luke 23:10–11)

69. HEROD THE GREAT King of Judea and a great builder who remodeled the second Jewish temple and later attempted to kill the infant Jesus in Bethlehem (Matt. 2)

70. JAMES THE APOSTLE Former fisherman, the brother of John, and the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred for Christ (Matt. 4:21; 10:2; Acts 12:1–2)

71. JAMES THE BROTHER OF JESUS An unbeliever prior to Jesus' resurrection, pastored the Jerusalem church, and authored the book of James (John 7:3–5; 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 15:13; 21:17–18; James 1:1)

72. JOHN THE APOSTLE Former fisherman, the brother of James, the beloved disciple of Jesus, and author of the gospel of John, First, Second, and Third John, and the book of Revelation (Matt. 4:18–22; Rev. 1:1)

73. JOHN THE BAPTIST The miracle child of elderly Elizabeth. The Nazarite evangelist who introduced Jesus, baptized him, and was martyred for his preaching (Luke 1:5–17; John 1:29; Matt. 3:13–17; 14:1–11)

74. JOSEPH The husband of Mary, and the godly, legal (but not physical) father of Jesus (Matt. 1:18–35)

75. JUDAS ISCARIOT The dishonest and demon-possessed apostle of Jesus who betrayed his master for 30 pieces of silver and then committed suicide (John 12:4–5; 6:70–71; Matt. 26:14–15; 27:5)

76. LAZARUS The brother of Mary and Martha whom Christ raised from the dead at Bethany (John 11)

77. LUKE A Gentile physician who travelled with Paul and the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts (Acts 1:1; 16:8–10; Luke 1:1–4)

78. LYDIA A business woman and Paul's first female convert in Greece (Acts 16:14–15)

79. MARK The cousin of Barnabas who initially failed in the ministry. He was later restored and wrote the gospel of Mark (Acts 13:13; 2 Tim. 4:11)

80. MARTHA The sister of Mary who reaffirmed her faith in Jesus during the funeral of her brother Lazarus and then witnessed him being raised from the dead by the Savior (John 11)

81. MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS The virgin wife of Joseph who was chosen to give birth to the Savior of the world (Luke 1:26–38; 2:7)

82. MARY MAGDALENE A demon-possessed woman who was delivered by Jesus and later became the first person to see the resurrected Christ (Luke 8:2; John 20:16)

83. MARY, SISTER OF MARTHA She worshiped at the feet of Jesus, witnessed him raising her dead brother Lazarus, and would later anoint the body of the Savior (Luke 10:39; John 11:43; 12:1–3)

84. MATTHEW Former tax collector, called by Jesus to become an apostle. He would later author the book of Matthew. (Matt. 9:9; 10:3)

85. NATHANAEL Also known as Bartholomew. He was introduced to Christ and later was called to become one of the twelve apostles. (John 1:45–51; Mt. 10:3)

86. NICODEMUS A well known Pharisee and teacher. He was introduced to Christ during a midnight visit and would later help prepare Jesus' crucified body for burial. (John 3:1–15; 19:39)

87. PAUL A missionary, church planter, soul-winner, and theologian. He authored at least 13 of the 27 New Testament books before being martyred in Rome (Acts 13:2–3; 20:17–21; 2 Tim. 4:6–8)

88. PETER A fisherman who became a disciple of Jesus, denied Jesus three times, and became the spokesman at Pentecost. He authored 1 and 2 Peter. (Matt. 4:18; Luke 22:54–62; Acts 2:14–40)

89. PHILEMON He received a letter from the apostle Paul, urging him to forgive and restore his escaped slave Onesimus, a new convert who was returning home. (Book of Philemon)

90. PHILIP THE APOSTLE He led his friend Nathanael to Christ shortly after his own conversion and later was called to serve as one of the twelve apostles. (John 1:43; Matt. 10:3)

91. PHILIP THE EVANGELIST One of the original seven deacons in the Jerusalem church who later became a powerful evangelist (Acts 6:3–5; 8:6–8, 27–39)

92. PILATE The Roman governor who was pressured by the Jewish leaders to release the guilty Barabbas and to scourge and crucify the innocent Jesus (Matt. 27:2, 15–26)

93. PRISCILLA She and her husband, tent-makers by trade, instructed Apollos in the Scriptures and assisted the apostle Paul in his ministry (Acts 18:1–3, 24–26; Rom. 16:3–4)

94. SILAS Paul's faithful companion during the second missionary journey (Acts 15:40)

95. STEPHEN One of the original seven deacons. He ministered as an evangelist, was arrested, condemned, and stoned to death. He was the church's first martyr. (Acts 6–7)

96. THOMAS Known as the doubting apostle. He initially did not believe in Christ's resurrection until Jesus personally appeared to him. He had an unnamed twin brother. (John 20:19–29)

97. TIMOTHY One of Paul's most faithful associates. Paul addressed 1 and 2 Timothy to this godly undershepherd. (1 Tim. 1:2; 6:11; 2 Tim. 1:5)

98. TITUS A Greek Gentile, pastoring on the Isle of Crete. One of Paul's most trusted associates who later received a letter from Paul. (Book of Titus)

99. ZACCHAEUS This dishonest tax collector met Jesus while in a sycamore tree and immediately accepted Jesus as Savior. (Luke 19:1–10)

100. ZECHARIAH A priest who was visited by the angel Gabriel. The angel Gabriel predicted his wife would present him with a son, John the Baptist. (Luke 1:5–25, 57–80)

100 Prayers in the Bible

Genesis	1. Abraham's prayer for Lot (18:23-33)
	2. Abraham's servant's prayer regarding the solution of a bride for Isaac (24:12-14)
	3. Jacob's prayer before he wrestled with God at the brook of Jabbok (32:9-12)
	4. Jacob's prayer in Egypt for his two favorite grandsons (48:15-16)
Exodus	5. Moses' prayer beside the burning bush as God instructs him to return to Egypt (3-4)
	6. Moses' prayer at Rephidim regarding water for his people to drink (17:4-5)
	7. Moses' prayer at Rephidim that God would give Joshua victory over the Amalekites (17:16)
	8. Moses' prayer that God would forgive Israel for worshiping the Golden Calf (32:11-14, 31)
	9. Moses' prayer to view God's glory (33:18)
Numbers	10. Moses' prayer that God's glory would continue to guide and protect Israel (10:35-36)
	11. Moses' prayer for strength and help in governing Israel (11:10-15)
	12. Moses' prayer that God would heal Miriam of leprosy (12:13)
	13. Moses' three-fold prayer for Israel, pleading with God that he not destroy the people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Following their refusal to enter the Promised Land (14) •Following Korah's rebellion (16) •Following their complaint regarding lack of bread and water (21:6-7)
	14. Moses' prayer that God would bless his successor, Joshua (27:15-17)
Deuteronomy	15. Moses' unsuccessful prayer to enter the Promised Land (3:23)
	16. Moses' prayer for Israel and Aaron following the Golden Calf episode (9:18-21)
Joshua	17. Joshua's prayers as he met the captain of the Lord's hosts (5:13-15)
	18. Joshua's prayer following Israel's defeat at Ai (7:6-9)
	19. Joshua's prayer for additional sunlight at Aijalon (10:12-15)
Judges	20. Gideon's prayer for a sign (6:17-18)
	21. Manoah's prayer for his unborn son Samson (13:8)
	22. Samson's prayer for supernatural strength that he might destroy his enemies (16:28)
1 Samuel	23. Hannah's prayer of petition; asking God to give her a son (1:10-11)
	24. Hannah's prayer of praise; thanking God for giving her a son (2:1-10)
2 Samuel	25. David's prayer thanking God for the permanent establishment of his kingdom (7:25)
	26. David's prayer asking God to permit his infant son to live (12:16)
1 Kings	27. Solomon's prayer asking God for wisdom (3:9)
	28. Solomon's prayer of dedication at the completion of the temple (8:23-24)
	29. Elijah's three-fold prayer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •That God would raise up a dead child (17:20-21) •That God would send fire to consume a sacrifice (18:36-38) •That God would take away his life (19:3-4)
2 Kings	30. Elisha's prayer that God would raise up a dead child (4:33)
	31. Elisha's prayer that his servant see the angelic army that was protecting them (6:17)
	32. Hezekiah's prayer that God would save Jerusalem from the Assyrian army (19:14-19)

1 Chronicles	33. Jabez's prayer that God would change his border (4:10)
	34. David's prayer that Jerusalem not be destroyed by a plague (21:17)
	35. David's prayer at the dedication of the building materials for the new temple (21:26)
2 Chronicles	36. Asa's prayer that God would deliver Jerusalem from the Ethiopian army (14:11)
	37. Manasseh's prayer for forgiveness regarding his many wicked acts (33)
Ezra	38. Ezra's prayer, confessing the sins of the Jewish remnant following the exile (8:21–23)
Nehemiah	39. Nehemiah's two-fold prayer (1:5–11): • In Persia: that God would forgive the returning Jews already in Jerusalem • To give him favor in the sight of King Artaxerxes
	40. The prayer of praise and confession by the Levites after rebuilding Jerusalem's wall (9)
Job	41. Job's two-fold prayer after hearing and seeing God (42:1–6): • Job's worthlessness • God's sovereignty
	42. The psalmist thanks God who cared for him as an earthly father and mother would (27)
Psalms	43. The psalmist thanks God for encouragement in a time of great discouragement (28)
	44. The psalmist thanks God for the permanence of the divine king and kingdom (45)
	45. David confesses his sins of adultery and murder and prays for cleansing (51)
	46. The psalmist asks God to judge all enemies of righteousness and truth (69)
	47. The psalmist contrasts the morality of man with the eternity of God (90)
	48. The psalmist offers up a prayer of praise (103)
	49. The psalmist thanks God for God's word (119:11)
	50. The psalmist thanks God for his omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence (139)
Isaiah	51. Isaiah's prayer that God would use him (6:8)
	52. Israel's prayer of praise during the millennium (12)
Jeremiah	53. Jeremiah's prayer of protest regarding his call to preach (1:6)
	54. Jeremiah's questions regarding God's dealing with Israel (12:1–6)
	55. Jeremiah's prayer regarding Israel's sin (14:1–10)
	56. Jeremiah's questions regarding his own ministry (15:5–21)
	57. Jeremiah's bitter complaint to God (20:7–8)
Lamentations	58. Jeremiah's prayer of total despair (3)
Daniel	59. Daniel's confessional prayer for both himself and his people (9)
Jonah	60. The prayer by some frightened pagan sailors (1:14)
	61. Jonah's prayer of rededication from the belly of a fish (2:2–9)
Micah	62. Micah's prayer of praise for God's forgiveness of his people (7)
Habakkuk	63. Habakkuk's prayer thanking God for his mercy, power, and salvation (3)
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	Prayers prayed by Jesus:
	64. Before choosing his twelve disciples, for wisdom in their selection (Luke 6:12–13)
	65. Thanking the Father for revealing great truths to the 70 disciples (Matt. 11:25–30)
	66. Asking that Lazarus be raised to prove the Father had sent the Son (John 11:41–42)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	67. Asking the father to comfort his troubled soul and glorify the Father's name (John 12:27–28)
	68. He prays for himself, his disciples, and all believers (John 17)
	69. Asking that his Father's will be done three times in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:35–41)
	70. His three-fold prayer on the cross: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First prayer: "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:24) • Second prayer: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34) • Third prayer: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46)
Luke	71. Zechariah's prayer for a son (1:11–20)
	72. Simeon's prayers at the dedication of the infant Jesus (2:29–30)
	73. The publican's prayer for forgiveness (18:13)
Acts	74. The prayer session of the 120 in the Upper Room just prior to Pentecost (1:14)
	75. The apostles' prayer of thanking God for the privilege of suffering for him (4:23–30)
	76. The apostles' prayer for the newly selected deacons (6:6)
	77. The prayer of the dying Stephen asking God to forgive those who were stoning him (7:59–60)
	78. The prayer of Peter and John that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit (8:15)
	79. Paul's prayer of submission upon seeing the resurrected Christ en route to Damascus (9:5)
	80. Peter's prayer that God would raise up Dorcas from the dead (9:40)
	81. Cornelius's prayer that he might be saved (10:2)
	82. The prayer of the Jerusalem church that Peter might be released from prison (12:5)
	83. The prayer of the Antioch church for the missionary efforts of Paul and Barnabas (13:1–3)
	84. The midnight prayer of the imprisoned Paul and Silas at Philippi (16:25)
	85. Paul's prayer for the Ephesian elders who had met him in Miletus (20:32)
	86. Paul's prayer for some disciples at Tyre (21:5)
	87. Paul's prayer for the healing of Publius's sick father on the Isle of Malta (28:8)
Romans	88. Paul's prayer for Israel's salvation (10:1)
2 Corinthians	89. Paul's prayer that God would remove his thorn in the flesh (12:8)
Ephesians	90. Paul's first prayer for the Ephesian church (1:17–23)
	91. Paul's second prayer for the Ephesian church (3:14–19)
Colossians	92. Paul's prayer for the church at Colosse (1:9–14)
Philemon	93. Paul's prayer for Philemon (4–7)
Hebrews	94. The author of Hebrews' prayer for believers (13:20–21)
Revelation	95. Heaven's two-fold prayer of praise to God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanking him for his great work in creation (4:11) • Thanking him for his great work in redemption (5:9–14)
	96. The prayer of the martyred souls in heaven (6:10)
	97. The prayer of the saved multitude during the great tribulation (7:10–12)
	98. The prayer of the heavenly saints thanking God for Christ's millennial reign (11:15)
	99. The heavenly saints thanking God for the marriage of Christ and his bride the church (19:6–8)
	100. The prayer of John that Christ would soon appear (22:20)

TABLE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

WEIGHT

BIBLE	US/IMPERIAL	METRIC
Old Testament		
talent (60 minas)	75 pounds	34 kilograms
mina (50 shekels)	1.25 pounds	0.6 kilogram
shekel (2 bekas)	0.4 ounce	11.3 grams
pim (0.66 shekel)	0.33 ounce	9.4 grams
beka (10 gerahs)	0.2 ounce	5.7 grams
gerah	0.02 ounce	0.6 gram
New Testament		
pound (Roman litra)	12 ounces	340.2 grams

LENGTH

BIBLE	US/IMPERIAL	METRIC
Old Testament		
cubit (2 spans)	18 inches	46 centimeters
span (3 handbreadths)	9 inches	23 centimeters
handbreadth (4 fingers)	3 inches	7.6 centimeters
finger	0.75 inch	1.9 centimeters
New Testament		
mile (8 stadions)	4858 feet	1.5 kilometers
stadion (100 fathoms)	200 yards	183 meters
reed (3 paces)	9 feet	2.7 meters
fathom (2 paces)	6 feet	1.8 meters
pace	3 feet	0.91 meters

LIQUID MEASURES

BIBLE	US/IMPERIAL	METRIC
Old Testament		
cor or homer (10 baths)	58 gallons	220 liters
bath (6 hins)	5.8 gallon	22 liters
hin (12 logs)	1 gallon	3.8 liters
kab or cab	1.3 quarts	1.23 liters
log	0.7 pint	0.3 liter
New Testament		
firkin	10 gallons	39.9 liters

TABLE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

DRY MEASURE

BIBLE	US/IMPERIAL	METRIC
Old Testament		
cor or homer (10 ephahs)	6 bushels	218 liters
letheh (5 ephahs)	3 bushels	109 liters
ephah (10 omers)	23 quarts	18.9 liters
seah	7.7 quarts	7.3 liters
omer	2.3 quarts	2.2 liters
kab or cab	1.3 quarts	1.2 liters
New Testament		
bushel	7.7 quarts	7.3 liters
measure	1.2 quarts	1.1 liters
pots	1.2 pints	0.6 liter

MONEY IN THE BIBLE

MONETARY VALUES

NAME (EQUIVALENT)	VALUE
Old Testament	
shekel	\$0.32 – \$9.60*
mina (50 shekels)	\$16.00 – \$480.00
talent (60 minas)	\$960.00 – \$28,000.00
New Testament	
mite or lepton	\$0.0012
farthing or quadran (2 mites)	\$0.0024
penny (1 Roman denarius)	\$0.16 (daily wage of a laborer)
mina or pound (100 Roman denarii)	\$16.00
talent (240 Roman aurei)	\$960.00

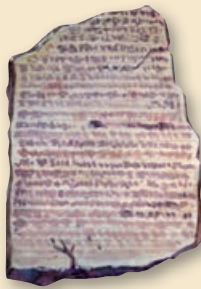
*value depends on weight of currency (light or heavy) and type of currency (silver or gold)

How We Got the Bible

TEN KEY POINTS

- 1 The Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- 2 The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written over 1,600 years (from approximately 1500 BC to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus. The Old Testament has 39 books (written approximately 1500-400 BC). The New Testament has 27 books (written approximately AD 45-100). The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible's Old Testament, but divides and arranges it differently.
- 3 The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
- 4 The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.
- 5 Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to ensure that no errors had been made.
- 6 The Bible was the first book ever printed on the printing press with moveable type (Gutenberg Press, 1455, Latin Bible).
- 7 There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before 1500, nearly 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Plato or Aristotle.
- 8 The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing reliability of some of the copies of the Old Testament made over the years. Although some spelling variations exist, no variation affects basic Bible doctrines.
- 9 As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the common language of the people by scholars who wanted others to know God's Word. Today there are still 2,000 groups with no Bible in their own language.
- 10 By AD 200, the Bible was translated into seven languages; by 500, 13 languages; by 900, 17 languages; by 1400, 28 languages; by 1800, 57 languages; by 1900, 537 languages; by 1980, 1,100 languages; by 2014, 2,883 languages had some portions of Scripture.
(Source: The Wycliffe Global Alliance)

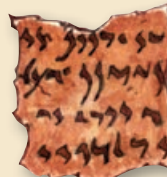
Old Testament Written (approx. 1500-400 BC)



stone

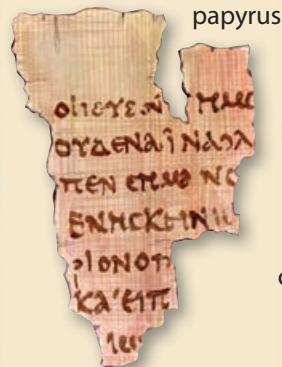


clay



leather

New Testament Written (approx. AD 45-100)



The oldest New Testament fragment (from John 18) that we have today was copied in Greek on a papyrus codex around AD 110-130.

Bible Copied on Papyrus

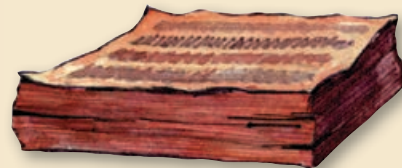


Scrolls of leather, and later of papyrus, were used to make copies of the Scriptures.

A papyrus codex is a bound volume made from sheets folded and sewn together, sometimes with a cover. They were used more than scrolls after AD 1-100.



Bible Copied on Fine Animal Skins



Fine quality animal skins from calves or antelope (vellum) and sheep or goats (parchment) were used for over 1,000 years to make copies of the Bible approximately AD 300-1400.

Two of the oldest vellum copies (AD 325-350) that exist today are the Vatican Codex and the Sinaitic Codex.

Bible Printed by Printing Press after 1455

Wycliffe Bibles were inscribed by hand on vellum in the 1300s-1400s. Some copies took ten months to two years to produce and cost a year's wage.



The Bible was the first book to be printed with Gutenberg's printing press in 1455.

The Bible, God's Word to the World



The Bible is now printed on paper in many languages. It is also available in many digital formats.

2000 BC

Old Testament events are written down in Hebrew (portions in Aramaic) over centuries. In Exodus, the Lord tells Moses to write in a book. Other Old Testament writers, inspired by God, include leaders, kings and prophets. Together, these writings on leather scrolls and other materials are called the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament.



500 BC

Ezra, a priest and scribe, collects and arranges some of the books of the Hebrew Bible—the Old Testament—about 450 BC, according to Jewish tradition.

The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). It is translated in 250-100 BC by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. (The word *Septuagint* means seventy, referring to the tradition that 70 or 72 men translated it. It is often abbreviated LXX, the Roman numeral for seventy.)

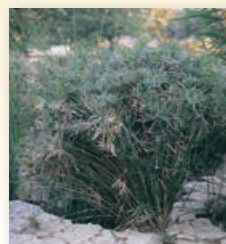
200 BC

The books are arranged by subject: historical, poetic, and prophetic. It includes the Apocrypha (meaning “hidden”), referring to seven books that were included in the Hebrew Bible until AD 90 when they were removed by Jewish elders.



A Scribe

Papyrus, a plant, is cut into strips and pressed into sheets of writing material and can be made into a scroll or a codex. The New Testament books were probably first written on papyrus scrolls. Later Christians begin to copy them on sheets of papyrus which are bound and placed between two pieces of wood for covers. This form of early book is known as a codex.



Papyrus

AD 1

Time of Jesus
4 BC-AD 33?

Jesus quotes the Old Testament (Scriptures) often. He says that he did not come to destroy the Scriptures, but to fulfill them. He says to his disciples, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45)

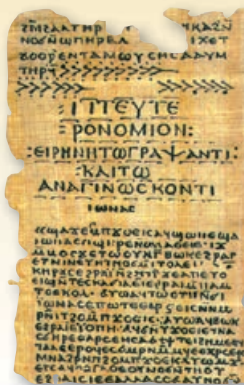
AD 100

Followers of Jesus

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude write the Gospels, history, letters to other Christians, and the Revelation between AD 45 and 100. The writers quote from all but eight of the Old Testament books. These writings in Greek are copied and circulated so that by about 150 there is wide enough use of them to speak of the “New Testament” (“New Covenant”). The new covenant God made with people was promised in Jer. 31:31-34 and referred to by Jesus (Lk. 22:20) and Paul (1 Cor. 11:25) and in the letter to the Hebrews.

AD 200

Early Coptic Translation



Old Testament Apocrypha

Evidence derived from first century AD writers Philo and Josephus indicates that the Hebrew canon did not include the Apocrypha.

Earliest Translations

200-300 Latin, Coptic (Egypt), and Syriac (Syria).

Church Fathers accept the writings of the Gospels and Paul's letters as *canonical* (from a Greek word referring to the *rule* of faith and truth). Origen lists 21 approved New Testament books. Eusebius lists 22 accepted books.

AD 300

The **New Testament** books are collected and circulated throughout the Mediterranean about the time of Constantine, the Roman emperor who legalizes Christianity in 313. By 400 the standard of 27 New Testament books is accepted in the East and West as confirmed by Athanasius, Jerome, Augustine and three church councils. The 27 books of the New Testament were formally confirmed as canonical by the Synod of Carthage in 397, thus recognizing three centuries of use by followers of Christ.



Saint Matthew
Lindisfarne Gospels
Approximately 900

Jerome starts translating the Scriptures into Latin in 382 and finishes 23 years later. This translation, called the Latin Vulgate, remains the basic Bible for many centuries.



Jerome

AD 500

Roman Empire declines. Germanic migrations (378-600) cause new languages to emerge.

The Masoretes are special Jewish scribes entrusted with the sacred task of making copies of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) approximately 500-900. They develop a meticulous system of counting the number of words in each book of the Bible to make sure they have copied it accurately. Any scroll found to have an error is buried according to Jewish law.

AD 600

Christianity reaches Britain before 300, but Anglo-Saxon pagans drive Christian Britons into Wales (450-600). In 596, Augustine of Canterbury begins evangelization again.

Caedmon, an illiterate monk, retells portions of Scripture in Anglo-Saxon (Old English) poetry and song (676).

Aldhelm of Sherborne, 709, is said to have translated the Psalms.



Bede

Bede, a monk and scholar, makes an Old English (Anglo-Saxon) translation of portions of Scripture. On his deathbed in 735, he finishes translating the Book of John.

Alfred The Great, King of Wessex (871-901) translates portions of Exodus, Psalms, and Acts.

Aldred, Bishop of Durham, inserts a translation in the Northumbrian dialect between the lines of the Lindisfarne Gospels (950).

Aelfric (955-1020) translates portions of the Old Testament.

AD 1300

Normans conquer England (1066) and make French the official language. No English translation work produced until the 1300s.

Middle English emerges, popularized by works such as the *Canterbury Tales* and Richard Rolle's *Psalter* (1340).



John Wycliffe

First English Bible is translated from Latin in 1382 and is called the Wycliffe Bible in honor of priest and Oxford scholar John Wycliffe. During his lifetime, Wycliffe had wanted common people to have the Bible. He also criticized a number of church practices and policies. His followers, derisively called Lollards (meaning "mumblers"), included his criticisms in the preface to the Wycliffe Bible. This Bible is banned and burned. Forty years after Wycliffe's death, his bones are exhumed and burned for heresy.

In 1408, in England, it becomes illegal to translate or read the Bible in common English without permission of a bishop.

World's first printing press with moveable metal type is invented in 1455 in Germany by Johann Gutenberg. This invention is perhaps the single most important event to influence the spread of the Bible.

The Gutenberg Bible is the first book ever printed. This Latin Vulgate version is often illuminated by artists who hand paint letters and ornaments on each page.



Gutenberg Bible Page

AD 1500

Erasmus, a priest and Greek scholar, publishes a new Greek edition and a more accurate Latin translation of the New Testament in 1516. His goal is that everyone be able to read the Bible, from the farmer in the field to the weaver at the loom. Erasmus' Greek text forms the basis of the "*textus receptus*" and is used later by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James translators.



Erasmus

Martin Luther translates the New Testament into German in 1522.

William Tyndale, priest and Oxford scholar, translates the New Testament from Greek (1525), but cannot get approval to publish it in England. He moves to Germany and prints Bibles, smuggling them into England in sacks of corn and flour. In 1535 he publishes part of the Old Testament translated from Hebrew. In 1536, Tyndale is strangled and burned at the stake. His final words are "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

Tyndale is called the "Father of the English Bible" because his translation forms the basis of the King James Version. Much of the style and vocabulary we know as "biblical English" is traceable to his work.



William Tyndale

AD 1500

The Coverdale Bible is translated by Miles Coverdale (1535) and dedicated to Anne Boleyn, one of King Henry VIII's wives. This is the first complete Bible to be printed in English.



*Tyndale's Initials
printed in the
Matthew's Bible*

The Matthew's Bible, translated by John Rogers under the pen name "Thomas Matthew," is the first Bible published with the king's permission (1537). Printed just one year after Tyndale's death, its New Testament relies heavily on Tyndale's version, and even has a tribute to him on the last page of the Old Testament. Tyndale's initials are printed in 2 1/2-inch block letters. Later Thomas Cromwell, advisor to King Henry VIII, entrusts Coverdale to revise Matthew's Bible to make the Great Bible.

The Great Bible (1539) is placed in every church by order of Thomas Cranmer, archbishop under King Henry VIII. This Bible is chained to the church pillars to discourage theft.



The "Chained Bible"

AD 1555

England's Queen Mary bans Protestant translations of the English Bible. John Rogers and Thomas Cranmer are burned at the stake. Later some 300 men, women and children are also burned.

The Geneva Bible Exiles from England flee to Geneva, Switzerland, and in 1560 print the Geneva Bible, a complete revision of the Great Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew. The Geneva Bible contains theological notes from Protestant scholars John Calvin, Beza, Knox, and Whittingham. It is the first Bible to use Roman type instead of black letter. This is the Bible of Shakespeare and the one carried to America by the Pilgrims in 1620. The 1640 edition is the first English Bible to omit the Apocrypha.

AD 1600

Bishops Bible

A new translation begins under Queen Elizabeth in 1568. It is translated by several bishops of the Church of England in answer to the Geneva Bible.

Rheims-Douai Bible

was translated into English from the Latin Vulgate by Catholic scholar Gregory Martin, while in exile in France (New Testament in 1582/Old Testament in 1609). It becomes the standard translation for the Catholic church.



*King James Bible
Page from 1611 version*

King James Version or Authorized Version

King James I of England commissions 54 scholars to undertake a new Bible translation. Over the next six years, six teams of scholars using the Bishops Bible and Tyndale's Bible, as well as available Greek and Hebrew manuscripts, complete the new version in 1611. The King James Version (also called the "Authorized Version," even though King James never gave the finished version his royal approval) is revised several times. The edition used today was revised in 1769.

The King James Version remained the most popular Bible for more than 300 years.



King James

AD 1800

Older Manuscripts Discovered!

Between 1629 and 1947, several of the earliest known copies of the Bible are found.

Codex Alexandrinus,

a copy of the New Testament from approximately 400, perhaps the best copy of the book of Revelation, is made available to western scholars in 1629.

Codex Sinaiticus

(earliest complete copy of the New Testament, copied in approximately 350) is found in St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai.

The Revised Version (1885)

In 1870, scholars in England decide to revise the King James Version to reflect the findings from the manuscripts discovered during the two previous centuries. Their goal is to use better Hebrew and Greek texts and to retranslate words based on new linguistic information about ancient Hebrew.



The Revised Version

Codex Vaticanus

(earliest and probably best copy known of the New Testament from approximately 350) is released to scholars in 1889 by the Vatican Library.

AD 1900

The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in a cave in 1947 by a shepherd, contain the oldest known copies of portions of the Old Testament. These copies were made between 100 BC and AD 100.

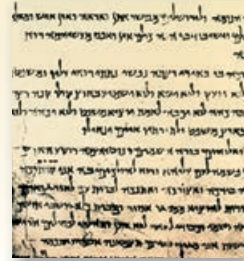


A Qumran Cave near the Dead Sea

A Scroll of Isaiah that is part of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the oldest complete manuscript of any book of the Bible (copied around 100). The copies of Isaiah discovered in the Qumran caves prove to be remarkably close to the standard Hebrew Bible, varying slightly in the spelling of some names. They give overwhelming confirmation of the reliability of the Masoretic copies.

During the 1900s more than a hundred New Testament manuscripts are found in Egypt.

A Ugaritic Grammar is published in the 1960s. Ugaritic is an ancient language similar to Hebrew and helps scholars understand Hebrew vocabulary and poetry.



Scroll of Isaiah

AD 1900

Modern Translations

The knowledge from newly discovered manuscripts has led to hundreds of new translations.

1885 The English Revised Version

A British revision of the King James Version.

1901 American Standard Version (ASV)

Revision of the King James Version in American English.

1926 Moffatt Bible

A very popular modern-language version.

1931 Smith-Goodspeed, An American Translation

Modern American English.

1952 The Revised Standard Version (RSV)

A revision of the ASV. New Testament revised 1971.

1958 J.B. Phillips' New Testament in Modern English

A paraphrase, originally made for youth.

1965 The Amplified Bible

Uses word-for-word ASV with added words to communicate insights on original texts.

1966 Jerusalem Bible

Translation by Catholic scholars in Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem Bible, 1985.

1970 New English Bible

"Timeless" modern English. Revised in 1989.

1970 New American Bible (NAB)

Official version of the Catholic Church. Revised New Testament in 1986.

1971 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Literal word-for-word translation. Updated in 1995.

1971 The Living Bible

Popular paraphrase.

1976 The Good News Bible (Today's English Version) (TEV)

Vernacular English translation.

1978 New International Version (NIV)

Dignified, readable.

1982 New King James Version (NKJV)

Modernization of the King James Version using the same manuscripts.

AD 2000

1987 New Century Version (NCV)

Puts biblical concepts into natural terms.

1989 Jewish New Testament

English translation using traditional Jewish expressions.

1989 New Revised Standard Version

"Gender neutral" revision of the RSV.

1991 Contemporary English Version

"Natural, uncomplicated" English.

1995 God's Word

Contemporary English.

1996 New Living Translation (NLT)

A revision of The Living Bible to make it a translation.

1996 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

A simplified version of the NIV with a 3rd- or 4th-grade reading level.

2001 English Standard Version (ESV)

Literal update of the RSV.

2002 The Message (MSG)

A paraphrase from the original languages.

2004 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought.

2005 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

Modernization of the New International Version.

2005 New English Translation (NET)

Available only on the Internet, with extensive translator's notes.