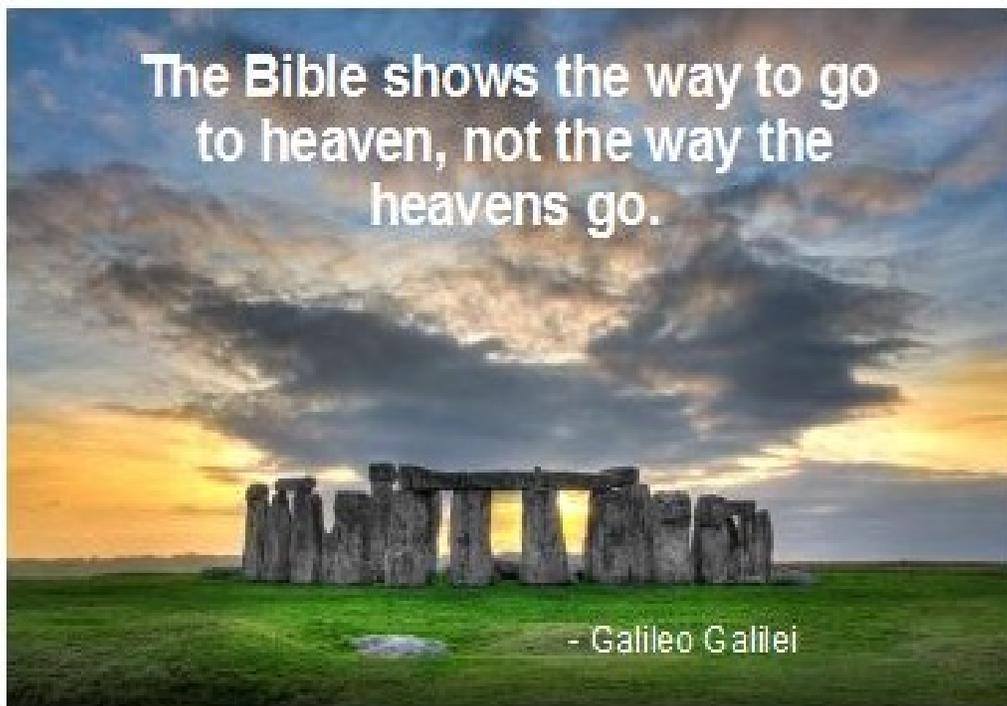


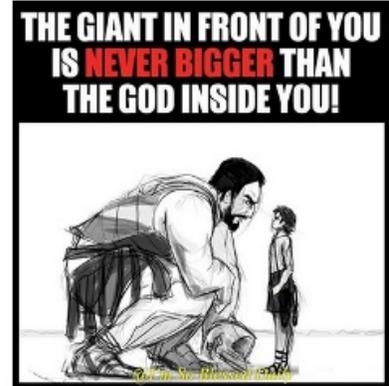
# The Bible



**#TheBibleReadOn**

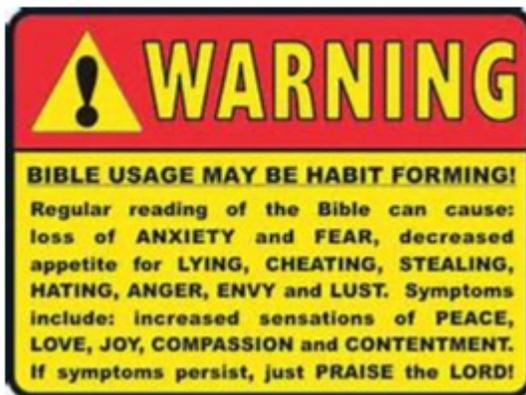
## Introduction.

There is a good chance that all of us have various questions . . . from the struggles that unfold in our everyday lives, about the past and even about the future. Unfortunately, too many people don't realize the resource that we have available - that being our Christian Bible.



For example, wouldn't it be great if you had questions like the following and had some insights to then help you in determining how best to deal with them as you pursue your days ahead? Here are some questions that you may have at some point in your life (the Bible verses with them give you awareness as to how you can view what God wants you to know and do).

**How can I be victorious over temptation?** See **Genesis 39:7-10**, **1 Corinthians 10:12-13** and **James 1:12**. **What does God want me to do?** See **Isaiah 1:17**, **Proverbs 3:7** and **Ephesians 4:32**. **How can I have courage?** See **Joshua 1:7-9**, **Proverbs 14:26** and **Philippians 4:13**.



**Who can I turn to for comfort?** See **Romans 8:28**, **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** and **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**. **How can I fight discouragement?** See **Psalms 27:14**, **Matthew 11:28-30** and **John 16:33**.

**What is the importance of faith?** See **Ephesians 2:8-9**, **Hebrews 11:6** and **James 1:3**. **What will give me peace of mind?** See **Isaiah 26:3**, **John 14:27** and **Philippians 4:7**. And yes, by these

examples I hope you can see that the Bible has great insights as to how God wants us to view this world and the life He wants for us. But you are now thinking - okay, but how do I best understand where to begin, what all these books of the Bible are and how best to make sense of it all? Well, here you go - a beginners introduction to the Bible to help you get started.

# The Alpha

In the beginning, we learn from the Bible that God created everything. The reason we have our Christian Bible is that most say it is 'inspired by God' and it can be better understood by this framework:

## The Old Testament (39 Books)

### The Law:

Contains **Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**

### History:

Contains **Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther**

### Wisdom & Poetry:

Contains **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon**

### Major Prophets:

Contains **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel**

### Minor Prophets:

Contains **Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi**

## The New Testament (27 Books)

### The Gospels:

Contains **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**

### Acts:

Contains the events that started the early Church (aka **Acts**)

### Paul's Letters:

Contains **Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon**

### General Epistles:

Contains **Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude**

### Revelation:

Contains the revelation of Jesus Christ at the end times (aka **Revelation**).

To understand each of these books further, start with the following:

## The Old Testament

**What is the Old Testament about and why should we read it if we are Christians?** All things have a beginning and we need to understand how our faith came into being. First, ponder this: If you were going to explain something that is very difficult, to someone who may not be able to understand it well - how would you explain it?

That I believe was the big challenge. Faith subjects such as Creation, Belief, Trust, Punishment, Forgiveness, Love, etc. are not easy topics. So, to answer my question from above, I would explain things in a more simple way and then add to it over time, to provide more information over time so that who you are sharing with, can grasp what you sharing and can grow in their understanding. The **Old Testament** is God's way of sharing His information with us in ways that we all can begin to understand. It is our Christian history - all of the good, the bad and the ugly that brings us up to the Good News - The Gospel of Christ.

When we read the **Old Testament** we gain a greater insight as to the struggles and failures of all of our pre-Christian ancestors - which all help to shed insights into dealing with the struggles we have today. Were there some successes? Yes but despite the good intentions and achievements of some, we (human kind) are flawed and continue to struggle in grasping what God wants for us.

So ponder all of the following as considerations to the **What** and the **Why** that the Bible gives us insights to. The **How** and the **When** that you apply lessons learned to yourself and your loved ones is up to you. I just wished I had learned all of this earlier in my life and what you will see via the following is as I mentioned above, information that I have gathered over the years and now have put down via the following.

## The Law

### **Genesis (Book 1)**

Written by Moses c. 1420 - 1400 BC as the first book of the Hebrew Bible that is also the first book of our Christian Bible. It tells the beginnings of all Creation and covers the stories of Adam and Eve,

of Cain and Abel, of Noah and the Flood, of Abram and the start of the Jewish nation, and it ends with the story of Joseph. *From it we learn that God is sovereign, He loves us but our sins must be resolved.*



### **Exodus (Book 2)**

Written by Moses c. 1410 - 1400 BC and it tells of the exodus of the Jews from Egypt and it covers the stories of Moses' birth and return to Egypt, of the signs from God, their (the Jews) departure from Egypt and crossing of the Red Sea, of the Ten Commandments and the Tabernacle being made, of the rebellion of some as their 40 years of wandering unfolds. *And we learn that God shows His faithfulness and He provides guidelines for healthy living. "The LORD is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him."* (Exodus 15:2)

### **Leviticus (Book 3)**

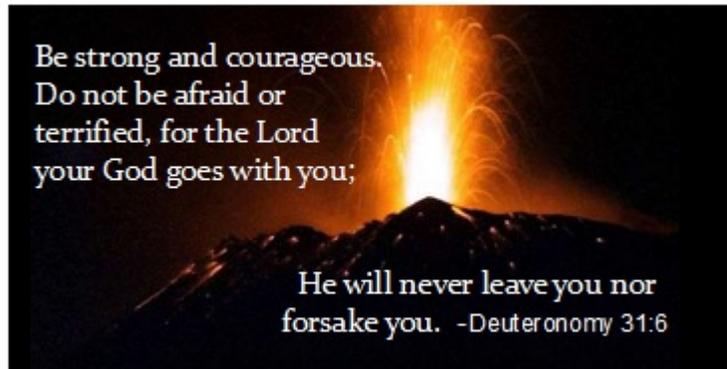
Written by Moses c. 1410 - 1400 BC and it tells of 'The Law' that was given to the Jews and how 'sacrifice' was required to atone for the sins they committed. Basically it gave instructions for their daily life (for 40 years or wandering). *From it we learn how the nation of Israel is to be Holy and a blessing to other nations. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."* (Leviticus 19:18)

### Numbers (Book 4)

Written by Moses c. 1410 - 1400 BC and it tells of census actions taken and early history of the Jews. *And we learn of the punishment of the Jews for their sins (their rebellion against God).* “[may] the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; [may] the Lord turn His face toward you and give you His peace” (Numbers 6:25-26)

### Deuteronomy (Book 5)

Written by Moses c. 1400 BC and it is a sermon by Moses on the plains of Moab to remind the Jews of what God expects of them - it is his review of their journey, of the Laws they have been given, of the Covenant they have with God and his (Moses') final farewell (he has reached the end of his days - 120 years). *From it we learn what God expects of us.*



**These five books complete what is known as 'The Law' for the Jews.** For us as Christians, it is for us to learn about our origins that start with the Jewish faith but becomes our Christian faith (as we commit to Christ).

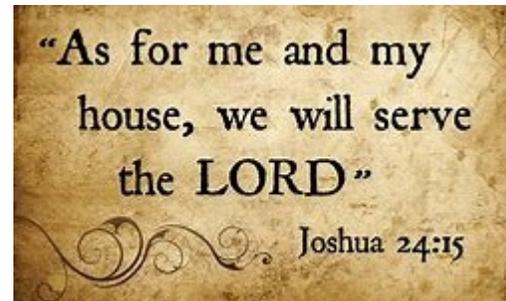
## History

**These next twelve books are referred to the 'History' for the Jews.** For us Christians, it is for us to learn how the Jews entered the Promised Land, how after Joshua, the Jews as a nation were starting to struggle and leaders arose to help get them out of trouble. And starting in the book of Ruth, we see the origins of David's story as the Jewish nation positions itself for the Kings who will lead them. We then learn of the good and bad Kings, of the fall of the Jewish nation and of their entry into captivity.

### Joshua (Book 6)

Believed to be written by Joshua c. 1400 - 1383 BC.

It starts with Joshua taking over from Moses and his leadership during their conquest of the area of Canaan (entering the Promised Land). *From it we can learn that we must decide if we will trust God and to follow his ways.*



### Judges (Book 7)

Believed to be written by Samuel c. 1086 - 1004 BC and it tells of the Israelite history before their Kings. It tells of their failures, of the 12 Judges (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthat, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon and Samson), how they arose and lead their people in times of great difficulty. *From it we learn of the importance in remaining loyal to God. "In those days Israel had no King; everyone did as they saw fit."* (Judges 21:25)

### Ruth (Book 8)

Believed to be written by Samuel c. 1046 - 1035 BC and it tells of the Faithful Foreigner (Ruth). How she starts out with Naomi, how she meets and then weds Boaz. *From it we learn to demonstrate the kind of faithfulness, godliness, loyalty and love that God desires for us. "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."* (Ruth 1:16)

### 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel (Books 9 and 10)

It is unknown who wrote these books c. 1050 - 750 BC and it covers the history between Israel and Judah at that time; the life of Samuel, of Saul and David, of David's rise to power - and his sins. *From these two books we learn how Israel got a King and then how prominent that David and his line was. "I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you . . ."* (2 Sam. 7:9)

### 1 Kings and 2 Kings (Books 11 and 12)

It is unknown who wrote these two books c. 590 - 550 BC. These were written as an evaluation of the Kings (good and bad) while they were in Exile in Babylon. Covering King Solomon's reign, the Temple's construction, of the Kingdom splitting, of the Prophets Elijah & Elisha, of the Kings of Judah & Israel, and the fall of Israel. *From these we learn the value of obeying and the danger of disobeying God. "[God] give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish from right and wrong."* (1 Kings 3:9)

### 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles (Books 13 and 14)

Believed to be written by Ezra c. 450 - 425 BC. In 1 Chronicles, it covers similar information that 1 Samuel and 1 Kings covered but the perspective is on what God wants to focus on - that being David's life (focusing on his dealing with his men, with the Ark, his wars, his



sins and the preparation for building the Temple).

In 2 Chronicles, we learn the highlights of the Kings of Judah as some were good and some were bad. *And from these two books we learn of the benefits that come from obedience to God.*

### Ezra (Book 15)

Believed to be written by Ezra c. 457 - 444 BC. and it covers the return of the Israelites from Babylon that was lead by Zerubbabel (who was a politician); and it closes with the follow up return that was lead by Ezra (the priest). *From it we learn of the remnant's return, their challenges and of their efforts in rebuilding of the temple.*

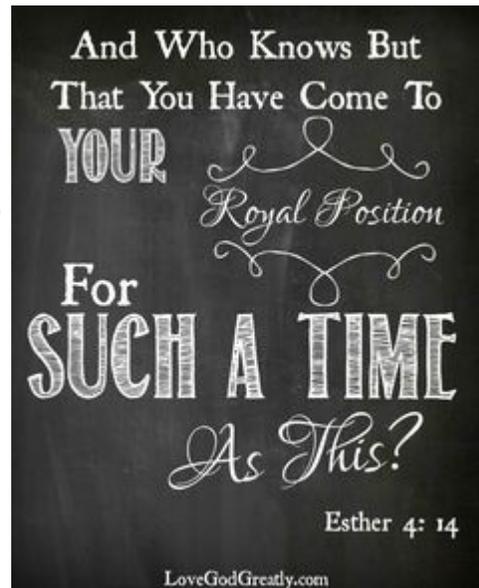
*"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord . . ."* (Ezra 3:11)

### **Nehemiah (Book 16)**

Written most likely by Ezra c. 445 - 430 BC as if writing from the journals of Nehemiah, who represented the people who were rebuilding Jerusalem's walls and gates. It also covers the ongoing revival and reformation that the Israelite's were pursuing. Nehemiah was as committed to God, as Ezra was. *From it we learn of the blessings for those that pursue God's Will. "... This day is sacred to the Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10)

### **Esther (Book 17)**

It is unknown who wrote this book c. 464 - 435 BC and in it we see a story of redemption. I like J. Vernon McGee's summary of this book. It is of a time when the Israelites were out of God's Will (they were not listening to Him), in fact God and prayer are not even mentioned yet God's providence is shown. He [God] is directing things then, as well as today, to still happen that works towards a positive purpose. *From it we learn that we and others may not be pursuing God but He is still working things to ultimately achieve His plans.*



This concludes the 'History' portion from the Bible.

## **Wisdom & Poetry**

These next five books include wisdom, hymns, proverbs, poems and dramas. They illustrate the challenges that can unfold in all lives and how the creative ways the people of Israel expressed themselves to God and to each other. These are great insights for us as well.

### Job (Book 18)

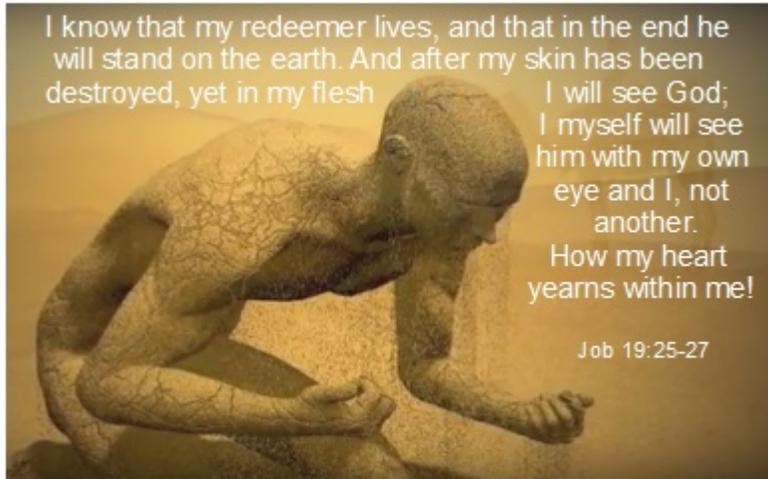
It is unknown who wrote this book and when it was written. Some believe this is one of the oldest stories from the Bible. I will admit, reading the 'Book of Job' is as challenging as it is interesting because it really brings up the question - why do bad things happen to good

people? I really like his (Dr. J. Vernon McGee's) commentary on this.

From it we learn that everyone requires repentance, humility and patience - even a man like Job who loved and feared God.

From it, we see that Job

struggled with what I believe that God wants us all to understand. That God created all things and in His timing, he will make all things right. ***We learn that - at times, can we struggle or even suffer? Yes but we trust God in all things and He will bless us how and when as he knows best. That means we take the bad with the good - for in our blessings and trials, we may be God's example for others.***



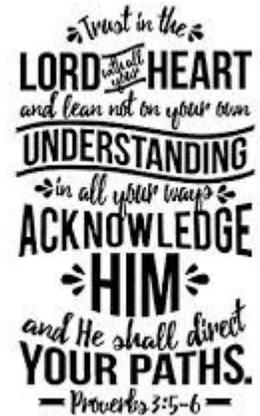
### Psalms (Book 19)

Written by various authors: David, Moses, Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, and the Sons of Korah c. 1410 - 430 BC. This book was originally for me, an interesting mix of insights and praises. But it was when I was reading Dr. J. Vernon McGee's added insights that lead me to an even greater appreciation for them. He recommends that we keep in mind that the Psalms follow the outline of the first 5 books of the Bible ('the Law' aka 'the Torah') - as a reinforcement of the lessons to be learned by the Israelites (and as what God wants us to know).

For example: Psalms 1-41 represent the **Genesis** section (= the **Man in View**, his blessedness, fall and recovery), Psalms 42-72 represent the **Exodus** section (= the **Israel in View**, ruin and redemption), Psalms 73-89 represent the **Leviticus** section (= the **Sanctuary in View**, darkness and dawn), Psalms 90-106 represents the **Numbers** section (= the **Earth in View**, peril and protection) and Psalms 107-150 represents the **Deuteronomy** section (= the **Word of God**, perfection and praise).  
"My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise His Holy Name for ever and ever." (Psalm 145:21)

### Proverbs (Book 20)

Written by Solomon and others c. 950 - 700 BC. This book like the Book of Job is focused on the guidance they share. *From it we learn to pursue wisdom as a way of strengthening our faith.* And FYI - it is one of the 7 books of the Bible that I believe are critical to read at a minimum.



### Ecclesiastes (Book 21)

Written by Solomon c. 935 BC to share the insights that he had learned: the meaning of life, that life is not always fair, of wisdom, that no one knows the future and obedience to God. *From it we learn that it is good to discover the truth.* "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is our whole duty. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing." (Ecc. 12:13-14)

### Song of Solomon (Book 22)

Written by Solomon c. 965 BC as a love poem. *From it we learn of the joy of authentic love found in marriage.* "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 Solomon 8:7)

## Major Prophets

These next five books are called the 'Major Prophets' because of the lengths of their books. They contain God's warning of judgment, and of hope for the near and distant future (for the coming Messiah).

### **Isaiah (Book 23)**

Written by Isaiah c. 740 - 680 BC to describe the condemnation the Israelites lived in, to give them comfort while in exile and to share with them a hopeful future. *From it we learn that God wants us to know that salvation is possible through repentance and hope in the coming Messiah.*



Learn to do good;  
seek justice, defend  
the oppressed.  
Take up the cause  
of the fatherless,  
and plead for  
the widow.

-Isaiah 1:17

### **Jeremiah (Book 24)**

Written by Jeremiah c. 626 - 580 BC to provide prophecy and judgment for the people of Judah. *From it we learn to understand our sins and to repent. "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 (Book 25)**

Written by Jeremiah c. 586 - 584 BC to describe the sorrows of those in captivity, their hope and desire for mercy, their punishment and restoration. *From it we learn that those then - like we can now, can be in despair over hard times but we can trust in God's love.*

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for His compassion never fails." (Lamentations 3:22)*

### **Ezekiel (Book 26)**

Written by Ezekiel c. 587 - 565 BC to provide prophecy and a warning to those in captivity. *From it we learn to confront our sins, to ask for forgiveness and to stay in hope.* "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and I will give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

### **Daniel (Book 27)**

Written by Daniel c. 605 - 530 BC to provide prophecy and Apocalyptic insights. *From it we learn to stay strong in our faith, that God is sovereign and to remember that God's plans will unfold as He wishes.*



## **Minor Prophets**

These next twelve books are referred to as 'The Book of Twelve' in the Hebrew Bible. They are referred here as 'Minor' because of their shorter length. Each of these prophets wrote their own books and they brought God's word to the people regarding judgment and hope.

### **Hosea (Book 28)**

Written c. 755 - 710 BC to illustrate Israel's spiritual adultery and because of their unfaithfulness, to warn of their nation's destruction.

### **Joel (Book 29)**

It is not known when this was written but was done to call Judah to repentance in order to avoid judgment.

### **Amos (Book 30)**

Written c. 760 - 750 BC to accuse and judge Israel for its injustice and lack of mercy, yet future hope.

**Obadiah (Book 31)**

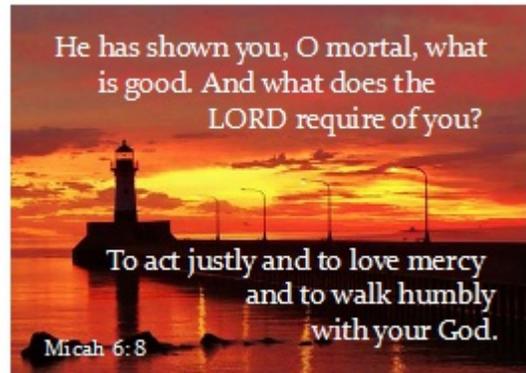
Written c. 586 BC to prophesy against Edom and of Israel's victory.

**Jonah (Book 32)**

Written c. 783 - 753 BC to tell the story of Jonah's calling, his fleeing away, his prayers, his anger with God and with God's mercy.

**Micah (Book 33)**

Written c. 739 - 686 BC to warn the Israelites of the judgment against them, and through their confession, to share with them their deliverance and restoration.



**Nahum (Book 34)**

Written c. 664 - 612 BC to pronounce judgment on Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire, and to give hope for Judah.

**Habakkuk (Book 35)**

Written c. 609 - 597 BC to affirm that the wicked will not prevail and to remind Judah (and us today) that God is in control.

**Zephaniah (Book 36)**

Written c. 640 - 628 BC to motivate repentance for Judah.

**Haggai (Book 37)**

Written c. 520 BC to urge completion in rebuilding the Temple.

**Zechariah (Book 38)**

Written c. 520 - 519 BC to give hope to the Israelite remnant.

**Malachi (Book 39)**

Written c. 430 - 400 BC to remind us all that God has priority.

## The New Testament

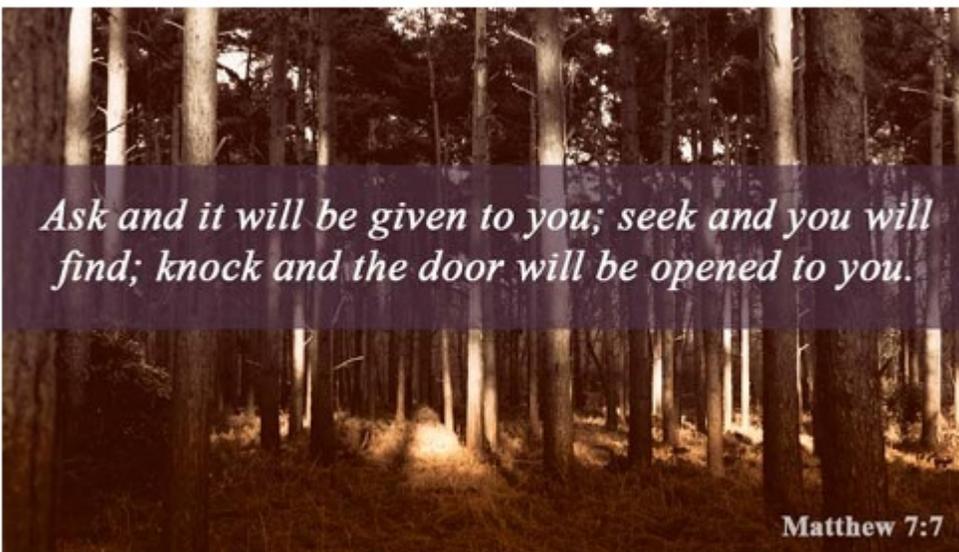
**What is the New Testament about and why should we read it?**  
The **New Testament** is God's way of sharing insights on the birth of His Son, His life, death and resurrection; as well as the events that then unfolded as the new Christian church is formed. The writings are from the Disciples of Jesus - those being: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude. It starts with the good news of Christ (the Gospels) and ends with John's letter to the seven churches in Asia Minor - of the end times (the Revelation of Jesus Christ).

### Gospels & Acts

**These first five books cover the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (the Gospels), and of the start of the Christian church (Acts) – which was the starting outward spread of our faith.**

#### **Matthew (Book 1)**

Written in Judea by Matthew, also called Levi c. 60 AD for the Jews. *From it we learn that Jesus is of the line of David, of His life, death*



*and resurrection; and that He is the Kingly Messiah who fulfills prophecy.*

### Mark (Book 2)

Written in Rome by John Mark c. 58 AD for the believers in Rome. *From it we see the life of Jesus from the perspective that the Son of Man was sent to serve, not to be served.* Mark 12:30 teaches us:

[and Jesus said] "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

### Luke (Book 3)

Written in Caesarea by Luke - the Physician c. 60 - 62 AD for the Greeks who were wanting to learn and to believe in Christ. *From it we learn that Jesus is the Savior of the world who has compassion for all people.* Luke 9:23-24 teaches us:

[and Jesus said] "If anyone would come after me, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."

### John (Book 4)

Written in Asia Minor by John - the Beloved Disciple c. 85 - 95 AD for the early believers of Christ.

*From it we see Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, who provides eternal life for all who believe in Him.* And from John 3:16 we learn of God's great love for all of us.



### Acts (Book 5)

Written in Caesarea and Rome by Luke - the Physician c. 60 - 62 AD for the the Jews and Gentiles of the Roman Empire. *From it we learn how the Holy Spirit acted through believers to spread the Word of God.* Acts 1:8 teaches us:

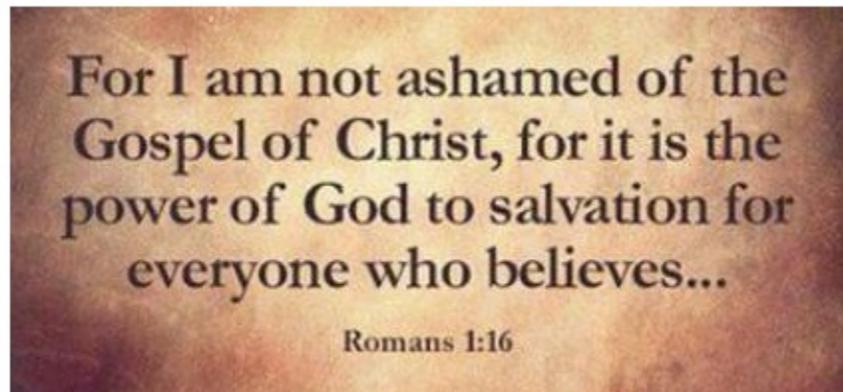
[and Jesus said] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Sumeria, and to the ends of the earth."

## Paul's Letters (Epistles)

These next thirteen books are actual letters the apostle Paul wrote to young churches, pastors and friends in order to guide , encourage and correct them. These letters cover half of the New Testament.

### **Romans (Book 6)**

Written in Corinth  
c. 57 AD as a 'Letter  
to Roman Christians.'  
*From it we learn how  
to understand and to  
pursue our faith, and  
salvation, and  
righteous living.*



### **1 Corinthians (Book 7)**

Written in Ephesus c. 56 AD as a 'Letter to the church in Corinth.'  
*From it we see how Paul addressed division and immorality in their  
church and how he encouraged them (and us today) to love each other.*

"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 (Book 8)**

Written in Philippi c. 56 AD as a follow up 'Letter to the church in Corinth.' *From it we see how Paul clarifies his call as an apostle and to address deceivers (which happened then as well as for today).*

"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 weakness, so that Christ's power may rest in me."  
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

### Galatians (Book 9)

Written in Asia Minor c. 50 - 55 AD as a 'Letter to the churches in Galatia.' *From it we learn Paul's warning against legalism as he defends justification by faith.* "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)

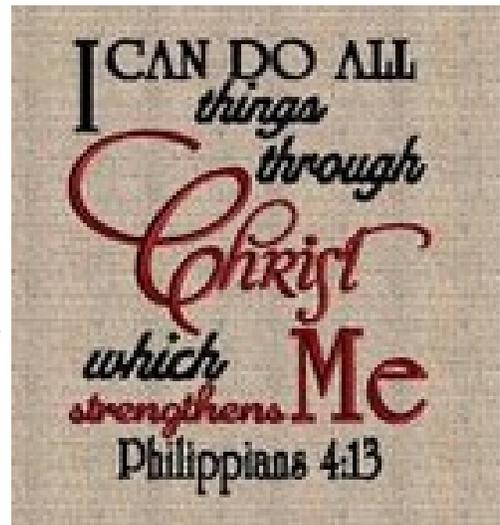
### Ephesians (Book 10)

Written in a prison in Rome c. 60 - 64 AD as a 'Letter to the church in Ephesus.' *From it we learn what it means to be a follower of Christ and we receive Paul's encouragement of our spiritual walk.*

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

### Philippians (Book 11)

Written in a prison in Rome c. 60 - 64 AD as a 'Letter to the church in Philippi.' *From it, we learn how Paul encourages the early believers with the Joy of Life, the Humility of Christ and his challenge to stay committed in faith of Jesus our Savior.* And whenever you are not sure if you have the strength or the abilities to do what you need to do - just remember this →



### Colossians (Book 12)

Written in a prison in Rome c. 60 - 64 AD as a 'Letter to the church in Colossage.' *From it we see how Paul shared insights to counteract heretical teachings and he exhorts the believers [of Christ] to stay in and grow in faith.*

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body and be thankful." (Corinthians 3:15)

### **1 Thessalonians (Book 13) and 2 Thessalonians (Book 14)**

Written in Corinth c. 49 - 54 AD as two 'Letters to the church in Thessalonica.' *From them we see how Paul emphasizes living for God, understanding Christ's return and his encouragement to stay in faith.*

*"Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

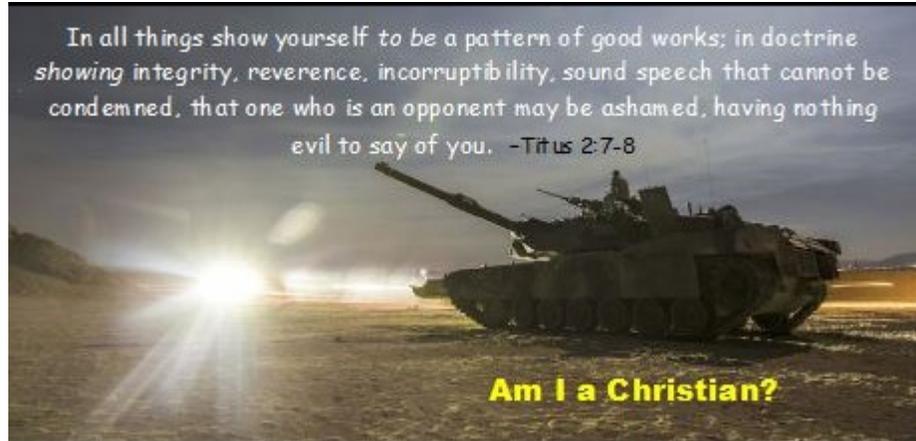
### **1 Timothy (Book 15) and 2 Timothy (Book 16)**

Written in Corinth c. 49 - 54 AD as two 'Letters to Timothy.' *From them we see how Paul encourages Timothy as new pastor (and us now), how to lead in the church, to address false teachers, to be faithful, to embrace the authority of God's word and to live a Godly life.*

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteous, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### **Titus (Book 17)**

Written in Rome c. 64 AD as a 'Letter to Titus.' *From it we learn how Paul encouraged the church in Crete (then and us now) to do what we can to pursue good works.*



### **Philemon (Book 18)**

Written from a prison in Rome c. 60 AD as a 'Letter to Philemon.' *From it we learn how Paul appealed to Philemon to forgive and to receive Onesimus (a runaway slave) as a fellow believer in Christ (and for us, a good lesson on giving forgiveness when someone has wronged us).*

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."*

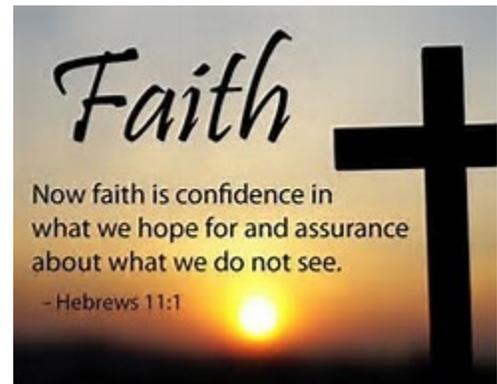
(Philemon 1:25)

## General Epistles & Revelation

These next eight books were written by the apostles to provide the early Christians with guidance and encouragement through the prosecution and challenges they were experiencing. They are followed by the Book of Revelation which reminded the early churches (and us) that God is in control and He will victor over evil.

### **Hebrews (Book 19)**

Although not positively known but it is assumed to have been written by Paul c. 60 - 69 AD as a 'Letter to Hebrew Believers.' *From it we learn the superiority of Jesus Christ over the Old Covenant. It explains the New Covenant and the Life of Faith that we are all called to.*



### **James (Book 20)**

Written by the step-brother of Jesus c. 48 AD as a 'Letter to the Jewish Believers.' *From it we learn to live one's faith within the Christian community (faith without works is dead) and to grow in faith.* "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)

### **1 Peter (Book 21) and 2 Peter (Book 22)**

Written in Rome c. 64 - 70 AD as two 'Letters to all Christians.' *From them we see Peter's call for all Christians to pursue holiness (living Christ-like lives) and to be aware of false teachers.* "For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Peter 3:10-12)

### 1 John (Book 23), 2 John (Book 24) and 3 John (Book 25)

Written in Ephesus c. 85 - 95 AD as three distinctive 'Letters to all Christians.' *From these books we see first of John's emphasis of love in Christ; second of John's warning against false teachings and third of John's praise for those who walk in a growing faith.*

"Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God." (3 John 11)

### Jude (Book 26)

Written by the step-brother of Jesus c. 60 - 95 AD as a 'Letter to to all Christians.' *From it we are warned by Jude against heresy.*

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."  
(Jude 20-21)

### Revelation (Book 27)

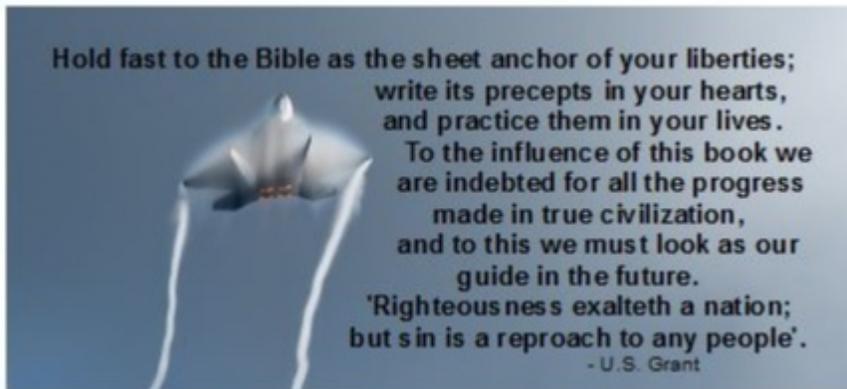
Written by John from the Island of Patmos c. 96 AD as a 'Letter to to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor.' *From it we learn of the vision of the end days that Jesus Christ gave to John so that all would know of the time when He [Christ] returns.*

I also liked these words from David Jeremiah:  
The times are urgent; the days are short; and the battle is fierce. For **the book of Revelation is a shield for the heart**, and as you study it you'll better know how to escape the coming night and anticipate the eternal day.



## [which brings us to] The Omega [the end]

There you go - 20 pages of considerations on each book of the Bible (the 'what, where and when' that you may not have known about).



And as you can see here by the words of U.S. Grant - he recommends the Bible as do I. It is not only a great resource for you I to read, to

ponder, and to pursue - but one for our kids and grandkids as well.

Why? As I shared with my kids, I share with you. We just need to remember that life is basically one of training, of trials and of testing [which all of these together teach us as we move forward]. The Bible helps us to learn what God wants. If we embrace our faith, I believe our struggles, sins and separation from God, surface our doubts, our determination and our desire to be reconciled with God. So as you ponder all of this, I'll close with these last three things (they are a final 'different' look at the Bible (and I thank **Dr. David Jeremiah** for these).

*“Jesus’ birth as a man came from a long line of disparate people. But Jesus, who is one with God, was always there.”*

And second . . .

The phrase  
“do not be afraid”  
is written in the  
bible 365 times.  
That’s a daily  
reminder from  
God to live  
every day being  
fearless.

**1. The Bible is an Inspired Book—Then . . .** Because God wanted to communicate with us in a permanent form we could ponder and pass on to others, He transmitted a message from His omniscient mind into this accessible book through the process of inspiration, a word that is made up of the prefix *in* and the term *spire*, which means “breathe.” The apostle Paul explained, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, God breathed it out, He spoke it, just as we use our lungs to breathe out and form audible syllables. God’s Spirit came upon certain people at certain times and guided them in the words they wrote so that, without suspending their own personalities or intellects, their writings were from God. (See 2 Peter 1:21 and Acts 1:16)

That’s inspiration, the Lord speaking through the mouths of the writers of Scripture; and that’s why the Bible is matchless, incomparable, and different from every other book in the history of religion and literature.

**2. The Bible is an Accurate Book—Now . . .** If the Bible is inspired by an omniscient God, it’s logical to assume it’s accurate in all it says. Every word and syllable is full of truth and authority. That doesn’t mean every copy of the Bible is accurate, of course. But while we don’t have the original inerrant parchments or papyri written by the actual biblical authors, we have a remarkable chain of manuscripts going back to very early days. No book in history has the richness of manuscripts as the Bible and no other book even comes close.

So we persuasively can say the original biblical documents, given by Almighty God—were inerrant, infallible, and wholly accurate. And we can be confident that our existing copies are so reliable that when a faulty one shows up, it stands out like a sore thumb.

**3. The Bible is a Relevant Book—Always . . .** Since the Bible is inspired and accurate, it’s always relevant. It’s more up-to-date than any of today’s self-help books, advice columns, theological tomes, or runaway best sellers. Because it came from the mind of the eternal God, it is timeless in its application. We never know when a verse of Scripture may come to mind and change our lives.

And third - the Bible is HiStory and we see . . .

**(as seen throughout the Bible) Jesus is:**

## About The Bible

### From the Old Testament

Genesis – the Creator and promised Redeemer  
Exodus - the Passover Lamb  
Leviticus – the High Priest  
Numbers – the water in the desert  
Deuteronomy – the curse for us  
Joshua – the Commander of the army of the Lord  
Judges – who delivers us from injustice  
Ruth - our Kinsman-Redeemer  
1 Samuel - all in one, He is the Prophet/Priest/King  
2 Samuel - King of grace & love  
1 Kings - a Ruler greater than Solomon  
2 Kings - the powerful prophet  
1 Chronicles – the Son of David that is coming to rule  
2 Chronicles - the King who reigns eternally  
Ezra - Priest proclaiming freedom  
Nehemiah – He who restores what is broken down  
Esther – the Protector of His people  
Job – the Mediator between God and man  
Psalms - our song in the morning and in the night  
Proverbs - our wisdom  
Ecclesiastes - our meaning for life  
Song of Songs – the Author of faithful love  
Isaiah – the Suffering Servant  
Jeremiah - the weeping Messiah  
Lamentations – He who assumes God’s wrath for us  
Ezekiel – the Son of Man  
Daniel - the stranger in the fire with us  
Hosea – the faithful husband even when we run away  
Joel - He who is sending His Spirit to His people  
Amos – He who delivers justice to the oppressed  
Obadiah – the Judge of those who do evil  
Jonah - the greatest missionary  
Micah - He casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness  
Nahum – He proclaims future peace we cannot imagine  
Habakkuk – the One who crushes injustice

Zephaniah - the Warrior who saves

Haggai – the One who restores our worship

Zechariah - the Messiah pierced for us

Malachi – the Righteousness who brings healing

### From the New Testament

Matthew - the Messiah who is King

Mark - the Messiah who is a Servant

Luke - the Messiah who is a Deliverer

John - the Messiah who is God in the flesh

Acts - the Spirit who dwells in His people

Romans - the righteousness of God

1 Corinthians - the power and love of God

2 Corinthians - the down payment of what’s to come

Galatians – our very life

Ephesians - the unity of our church

Philippians - the joy of our life

Colossians - the supreme position in all things

1 Thessalonians - our comfort in the last days

2 Thessalonians - our returning King

1 Timothy – the Savior of the worst sinners

2 Timothy – the leader of leaders

Titus – the foundation of truth

Philemon - our Mediator

Hebrews - our High Priest

James - our role model in faith

1 Peter - our hope in times of suffering

2 Peter - the One who guards us from false teaching

1 John - the source of all fellowship

2 John - God in the flesh

3 John – the source of all truth

Jude – who protects us from stumbling

Revelation – the King of Kings, the Alpha and Omega,  
the Beginning and the End.

(Coming again, the One who makes all things new)