

Bible Backgrounds:
A Supplement for Daily Bible Reading

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

January <i>Genesis thru Exodus</i>	February <i>Leviticus thru Deuteronomy</i>	March <i>Joshua thru Samuel</i>	April <i>1 Kings thru 2 Chronicles</i>	May <i>Ezra thru Job</i>	June <i>Psalms</i>
1 – Genesis 1-2 2 – Genesis 3-5 3 – Genesis 6-9 4 – Genesis 10-11 5 – Genesis 12-14 6 – Genesis 15-17 7 – Genesis 18-20 8 – Genesis 21-24 9 – Genesis 25-26 10 – Genesis 27-30 11 – Genesis 31-33 12 – Genesis 34-36 13 – Genesis 37-38 14 – Genesis 39-41 15 – Genesis 42-43 16 – Genesis 44-45 17 – Genesis 46-47 18 – Genesis 48-50 19 – Exodus 1-2 20 – Exodus 3-6 21 – Exodus 7-10 22 – Exodus 11-12 23 – Exodus 13-15 24 – Exodus 16-18 25 – Exodus 19-20 26 – Exodus 21-24 27 – Exodus 25-27 28 – Exodus 28-29 29 – Exodus 30-31 30 – Exodus 32-34 31 – Exodus 35-40	1 – Leviticus 1-3 2 – Leviticus 4-7 3 – Leviticus 8-10 4 – Leviticus 11-13 5 – Leviticus 14-15 6 – Leviticus 16-17 7 – Leviticus 18-20 8 – Leviticus 21-23 9 – Leviticus 24-27 10 – Numbers 1-2 11 – Numbers 3-4 12 – Numbers 5-8 13 – Numbers 9-12 14 – Numbers 13-16 15 – Numbers 17-20 16 – Numbers 21-25 17 – Numbers 26-27 18 – Numbers 28-30 19 – Numbers 31-33 20 – Numbers 34-36 21 – Deuter. 1-4 22 – Deuter. 5-7 23 – Deuter. 8-11 24 – Deuter. 12-16 25 – Deuter. 17-20 26 – Deuter. 21-26 27 – Deuter. 27-30 28 – Deuter. 31-34	1 – Joshua 1-5 2 – Joshua 6-8 3 – Joshua 9-12 4 – Joshua 13-17 5 – Joshua 18-21 6 – Joshua 22-24 7 – Judges 1-2 8 – Judges 3-5 9 – Judges 6-8 10 – Judges 9-12 11 – Judges 13-16 12 – Judges 17-19 13 – Judges 20-21 14 – Ruth 15 – 1 Samuel 1-3 16 – 1 Samuel 4-8 17 – 1 Samuel 9-12 18 – 1 Samuel 13-15 19 – 1 Samuel 16-17 20 – 1 Samuel 18-19 21 – 1 Samuel 20-23 22 – 1 Samuel 24-26 23 – 1 Samuel 27-31 24 – 2 Samuel 1-4 25 – 2 Samuel 5-7 26 – 2 Samuel 8-10 27 – 2 Samuel 11-12 28 – 2 Samuel 13-14 29 – 2 Samuel 15-18 30 – 2 Samuel 19-20 31 – 2 Samuel 21-24	1 – 1 Kings 1-4 2 – 1 Kings 5-6 3 – 1 Kings 7-8 4 – 1 Kings 9-11 5 – 1 Kings 12-14 6 – 1 Kings 15-16 7 – 1 Kings 17-19 8 – 1 Kings 20-22 9 – 2 Kings 1-3 10 – 2 Kings 4-8 11 – 2 Kings 9-12 12 – 2 Kings 13-17 13 – 2 Kings 18-21 14 – 2 Kings 22-25 15 – 1 Chron. 1-4 16 – 1 Chron. 5-9 17 – 1 Chron. 10-13 18 – 1 Chron. 14-16 19 – 1 Chron. 17-21 20 – 1 Chron. 22-27 21 – 1 Chron. 28-29 22 – 2 Chron. 1-5 23 – 2 Chron. 6-9 24 – 2 Chron. 10-12 25 – 2 Chron. 13-16 26 – 2 Chron. 17-20 27 – 2 Chron. 21-25 28 – 2 Chron. 26-28 29 – 2 Chron. 29-32 30 – 2 Chron. 33-36	1 – Ezra 1-2 2 – Ezra 3-4 3 – Ezra 5-6 4 – Ezra 7-8 5 – Ezra 9-10 6 – Neh. 1-2 7 – Neh. 3-4 8 – Neh. 5-6 9 – Neh. 7 10 – Neh. 8 11 – Neh. 9-10 12 – Neh. 11-12 13 – Neh. 13 14 – Esther 1-2 15 – Esther 3-4 16 – Esther 5-7 17 – Esther 8-10 18 – Job 1-3 19 – Job 4-7 20 – Job 8-10 21 – Job 11-14 22 – Job 15-17 23 – Job 18-19 24 – Job 20-21 25 – Job 22-24 26 – Job 25-28 27 – Job 29-31 28 – Job 32-34 29 – Job 35-37 30 – Job 38-39 31 – Job 40-42	1 – Psa. 1-6 2 – Psa. 7-12 3 – Psa. 13-18 4 – Psa. 19-24 5 – Psa. 25-30 6 – Psa. 31-33 7 – Psa. 34-36 8 – Psa. 37-41 9 – Psa. 42-45 10 – Psa. 46-49 11 – Psa. 50-54 12 – Psa. 55-59 13 – Psa. 60-66 14 – Psa. 67-69 15 – Psa. 70-72 16 – Psa. 73-77 17 – Psa. 78-79 18 – Psa. 80-83 19 – Psa. 84-89 20 – Psa. 90-97 21 – Psa. 98-103 22 – Psa. 104-106 23 – Psa. 107-110 24 – Psa. 111-118 25 – Psa. 119 26 – Psa. 120-127 27 – Psa. 128-134 28 – Psa. 135-139 29 – Psa. 140-145 30 – Psa. 146-150
July <i>Proverbs thru Isaiah</i>	August <i>Jeremiah thru Daniel</i>	September <i>Hosea thru Malachi</i>	October <i>Matthew thru John</i>	November <i>Acts thru Colossians</i>	December <i>1 Thessalonians thru Revelation</i>
1 – Proverbs 1-4 2 – Proverbs 5-9 3 – Proverbs 10-13 4 – Proverbs 14-17 5 – Proverbs 18-21 6 – Proverbs 22-24 7 – Proverbs 25-27 8 – Proverbs 28-29 9 – Proverbs 30-31 10 – Eccles. 1-6 11 – Eccles. 7-12 12 – Song Sol. 1-4 13 – Song Sol. 5-8 14 – Isaiah 1-4 15 – Isaiah 5-8 16 – Isaiah 9-12 17 – Isaiah 13-16 18 – Isaiah 17-20 19 – Isaiah 21-23 20 – Isaiah 24-27 21 – Isaiah 28-30 22 – Isaiah 31-35 23 – Isaiah 36-39 24 – Isaiah 40-41 25 – Isaiah 42-43 26 – Isaiah 44-45 27 – Isaiah 46-48 28 – Isaiah 49-51 29 – Isaiah 52-57 30 – Isaiah 58-62 31 – Isaiah 63-66	1 – Jeremiah 1-3 2 – Jeremiah 4-6 3 – Jeremiah 7-10 4 – Jeremiah 11-15 5 – Jeremiah 16-20 6 – Jeremiah 21-25 7 – Jeremiah 26-29 8 – Jeremiah 30-31 9 – Jeremiah 32-33 10 – Jeremiah 34-36 11 – Jeremiah 37-39 12 – Jeremiah 40-45 13 – Jeremiah 46-49 14 – Jeremiah 50-52 15 – Lamentations 16 – Ezekiel 1-6 17 – Ezekiel 7-11 18 – Ezekiel 12-15 19 – Ezekiel 16-19 20 – Ezekiel 20-21 21 – Ezekiel 22-23 22 – Ezekiel 24-28 23 – Ezekiel 29-32 24 – Ezekiel 33-36 25 – Ezekiel 37-39 26 – Ezekiel 40-43 27 – Ezekiel 44-48 28 – Daniel 1-3 29 – Daniel 4-6 30 – Daniel 7-9 31 – Daniel 10-12	1 – Hosea 1-3 2 – Hosea 4-6 3 – Hosea 7-8 4 – Hosea 9-11 5 – Hosea 12-14 6 – Joel 1 7 – Joel 2-3 8 – Amos 1-2 9 – Amos 3-5 10 – Amos 6-7 11 – Amos 8-9 12 – Obadiah 13 – Jonah 1-2 14 – Jonah 3-4 15 – Micah 1-2 16 – Micah 3-5 17 – Micah 6-7 18 – Nahum 19 – Habakkuk 20 – Zephaniah 1-2 21 – Zephaniah 3 22 – Haggai 23 – Zech. 1-2 24 – Zech. 3-4 25 – Zech. 5-6 26 – Zech. 7-8 27 – Zech. 9-11 28 – Zech. 12-14 29 – Malachi 1-2 30 – Malachi 3-4	1 – Matthew 1-4 2 – Matthew 5-7 3 – Matthew 8-11 4 – Matthew 12-13 5 – Matthew 14-15 6 – Matthew 16-19 7 – Matthew 20-23 8 – Matthew 24-25 9 – Matthew 26-28 10 – Mark 1-3 11 – Mark 4-5 12 – Mark 6-7 13 – Mark 8-10 14 – Mark 11-13 15 – Mark 14-16 16 – Luke 1-2 17 – Luke 3-4 18 – Luke 5-6 19 – Luke 7-9 20 – Luke 10-12 21 – Luke 13-15 22 – Luke 16-18 23 – Luke 19-21 24 – Luke 22-24 25 – John 1-2 26 – John 3-5 27 – John 6-8 28 – John 9-12 29 – John 13-14 30 – John 15-17 31 – John 18-21	1 – Acts 1-2 2 – Acts 3-4 3 – Acts 5-7 4 – Acts 8-9 5 – Acts 10-12 6 – Acts 13-15 7 – Acts 16-18 8 – Acts 19-20 9 – Acts 21-23 10 – Acts 24-26 11 – Acts 27-28 12 – Romans 1-3 13 – Romans 4-5 14 – Romans 6-8 15 – Romans 9-11 16 – Romans 12-16 17 – 1 Cor. 1-3 18 – 1 Cor. 4-6 19 – 1 Cor. 7-10 20 – 1 Cor. 11-14 21 – 1 Cor. 15-16 22 – 2 Cor. 1-5 23 – 2 Cor. 6-9 24 – 2 Cor. 10-13 25 – Galatians 1-2 26 – Galatians 3-6 27 – Ephesians 1-3 28 – Ephesians 4-6 29 – Philippians 30 – Colossians	1 – 1 Thess. 1-3 2 – 1 Thess. 4-5 3 – 2 Thessalonians 4 – 1 Timothy 1-3 5 – 1 Timothy 4-6 6 – 2 Timothy 1-2 7 – 2 Timothy 3-4 8 – Titus 9 – Philemon 10 – Hebrews 1-2 11 – Hebrews 3-4 12 – Hebrews 5-7 13 – Hebrews 8-10 14 – Hebrews 11-13 15 – James 1-2 16 – James 3-5 17 – 1 Peter 1-2 18 – 1 Peter 3-5 19 – 2 Peter 20 – 1 John 1-2 21 – 1 John 3-5 22 – 2 John 23 – 3 John 24 – Jude 25 – Rev. 1-3 26 – Rev. 4-6 27 – Rev. 7-9 28 – Rev. 10-13 29 – Rev. 14-16 30 – Rev. 17-19 31 – Rev. 20-22

Bible Backgrounds

Five Part Outline of the Story of the Bible

- I. Creation (God's Original Intent)**
- II. Community (Israel)**
- III. Christ (Central Element of Scripture)**
- IV. Community (The Church)**
- V. Consummation (Goal of Creation)**

Periods of Bible History

The Old Testament

Period of Beginnings
Hebrew Family of Promise
Egyptian Bondage
Wilderness Wanderings
Conquest and Settlement of Canaan
United Kingdom
Divided Kingdom
Judah Alone
Captivity
Post-Exilic Period

Between the Testaments

The New Testament

The Life and Death of Christ
Establishment and Spread of Church
The Consummation of the Ages

Bible Backgrounds

Resources for Further Study

How to Read the Bible Book by Book

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart; Zondervan (2002).

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, 3rd edition

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart; Zondervan (2003).

Talk thru the Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More
Out of the Bible

Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa; Thomas Nelson (2002).

Bible Backgrounds

January

Genesis thru Exodus

The Text

Genesis

- Provides an account of beginnings and origins.
- The book naturally divides itself with the statement, “These are the generations of....”
- Basic outline: Creation and the Spread of Sin (chapters 1-11); Abraham and the Patriarchs (chapters 12-50)
- Key Word: Beginnings Key Verses: Gen. 3:15; 12:3

Old Testament

- **Law**
- History
- Wisdom
- Prophecy

Type of Literature

- *Narrative* – story.
- *Law* – provided within the narrative of the Bible; it is part of God’s covenant with Israel.

Exodus

- Further develops the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham. The nation of Israel is established by escaping Egyptian rule and making a covenant with God.
- Basic outline: The Exodus (chapters 1-18); The Covenant at Mt. Sinai (chapters 19-40)
- Key Word: Redemption Key Verses: Exodus 6:6-8

The Content of the Text

The Story of the Bible

Initial Plot: God created humans and blessed them, desiring a relationship with them (Gen. 1-2).

Conflict: The first humans sinned against God, breaking their intimate fellowship with Him. Sin continued to spread to all people (Gen. 3-11).

Resolution: God had a plan to draw humanity back to Himself, beginning with His promises to Abraham. God would bring reconciliation, working through Abraham’s descendents to provide blessings to all people.

Notable Events

- The Creation
- Sin and its Spread
- Promises to Abraham
- The Exodus
- Covenant at Mt. Sinai

Lists to Memorize

- Genealogy (Gen. 5)
- Sons of Israel (Gen. 29:31-30:24; 35:16-20)
- The Ten Plagues (Ex. 7-12)
- Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Ur* – Abraham’s homeland
- *Canaan* – the land of Promise
- *Egypt* – the land of Joseph’s slavery and rise to prominence; the land of Israelite slavery
- *Mt. Sinai* – the mountain where the Israelites make a covenant with God

Important Dates

- Pyramids of Giza completed – 2560 BC
- Abraham – ~2000 BC
- The Exodus – 1446 BC

Bible Backgrounds

February

Leviticus thru Deuteronomy

The Text

Leviticus – Provides a portion of the law given at Mt. Sinai.

- Basic Outline: Laws of Acceptable Approach to God (ch. 1-17); Laws of Sanctification (chapters 18-27)
- Key Word: Holiness Key Verses: Lev. 20:7-8

Old Testament

- **Law**
- History
- Wisdom
- Prophecy

Numbers – Tells of two generations in the wilderness.

- Basic outline: Death of 1st Generation (chapters 1-25); Beginning of 2nd Generation (chapters 26-40).
- Key Word: Wanderings Key Verses: Num. 14:22-23

Type of Literature

- *Narrative* – story.
- *Law* – provided within the narrative of the Bible; it is part of God's covenant with Israel.

Deuteronomy – Records 2nd giving of Law to the new generation.

- Outline of 3 Sermons: What God Has Done (1:1-43); What God Expects (4:44-26:19); What God Will Do (27:1-34:12)
- Key Word: Covenant Key Verses: Deut. 30:19-20

The Content of the Text

The Story of the Bible

Abraham's Legacy: God's covenant with Abraham was his answer to man's sinfulness. Through Abraham and his descendents, God would bring reconciliation between humanity and himself. The promises to Abraham will dominate the rest of the Pentateuch.

Nation Promise: The Israelites were becoming a nation through independence from Egyptian oppression, a new king in God and a law to govern themselves.

Land Promise: The Israelites had been traveling to get to Canaan. Faithlessness denied the first generation entry into the land, and the second generation would come to the brink of entering by the end of the Pentateuch.

Notable Events

- The Giving of the Law
- The Report of Spies
- Wilderness Wandering
- Battles with Nations of the Transjordan
- 2nd Giving of the Law
- The Death of Moses

Memorization

- Sacrifices (Lev. 1-7)
- Lev. 19:18b
- Feasts (Lev. 23)
- Three Types of Census (Num. 1-4, 26)
- The Shema (Dt. 6:4-9)

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Mt. Sinai* – where Israelites made a covenant with God.
- *Kadesh Barnea* – the spies were sent from this city.
- *The Wilderness of Zin* – the wilderness where the Israelites wandered for forty years.
- *Canaan* – the land of Promise.

Important Dates

- Exodus – 1446 BC
- Wilderness Wandering – 1446-1406 BC

Bible Backgrounds

March

Joshua thru Samuel

The Text

- Joshua* – Tells about Israelites' reception of Promised Land.
- Basic outline: Conquest of the land (chapters 1-12) and Division of the Land (chapters 13-24)
 - Key Word: Conquest Key Verse: Josh. 11:23
- Judges* – Records the period of Israelite history when they were ruled by the judges.
- The following cycle is repeated in this book: Sin, Servitude, Supplication, Salvation and Silence.
 - Key Word: Cycles Key Verse: Judges 1:20-22
- Ruth* – Details tragedy turned to blessing and David's genealogy.
- Basic outline: A godly family emptied (Ruth 1-2); A godly family filled (Ruth 3-4)
 - Key Word: Kinsman-Redeemer Key Verse: Rth. 1:16
- 1 and 2 Samuel* – Details fall of judges and rise of monarchy.
- Outline: Samuel's rise (1 Sam. 1-7); Saul's rise (1 Sam. 8-15); David's rise (1 Sam. 16 – 2 Sam. 8); and David's decline (2 Sam. 9-24).
 - Key Words: 1 Sam. – Transition; 2 Sam. – David
 - Key Verses: 1 Sam. 13:14; 2 Sam. 7:12-13

Old Testament

Law

➤ **History**

Wisdom

Prophecy

Type of Literature

- *Narrative* – story.

The stories in the Hebrew Scriptures display parallelism. For example, the first part of the book of Ruth speaks of a family emptied, and it concludes with the filling of a family. The characters of Saul and David are also shown in sharp contrast.

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel

God's Chosen People: The Israelites are the descendents of Abraham and the people of promise. God chose them to bring them into relationship and display his goodness before all people. Ultimately, the Savior would descend from the Israelites.

Periods of Israelite History: The Bible records several periods of Israelite history.

- Conquest
- Period of the Judges
- United Kingdom

Notable Events

- Acquiring land of Canaan
- The Development of the monarchy
- The Davidic Covenant

Memorization

- Josh. 24:15
- The Judges
- First Kings of Israel

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jordan River* – eastern boundary of Canaan
- *Jericho* – First city taken in Canaan
- *Shiloh* – temporary location of tabernacle
- *Jerusalem* – city of David; location of temple

Important Dates

- Conquest (1406 BC)
- Judges (1350 – 1050 BC)
- Reign of Saul (1050 – 1010 BC)
- Reign of David (1010 – 970 BC)

Bible Backgrounds

April

1 Kings thru 2 Chronicles

The Text

1 and 2 Kings – Tells about the division of the Israelite kingdom and their ultimate captivity.

- Outline: David's Final Days (1 Kgs 1-2); Reign of Solomon (1 Kgs 3-11); Divided Kingdom (1 Kgs 12-2 Kgs 17); Kingdom of Judah (2 Kgs 18-25)
- Key Words: 1 Kings – Division; 2 Kings – Captivity
- Key Verses: 1 Kgs 9:4-5; 11:11; 2 Kgs 17:22-23; 23:27

Old Testament

Law

➤ **History**

Wisdom

Prophecy

Type of Literature

- *Narrative* – story.

1 and 2 Chronicles – Traces the Judean kings from David to the period of captivity and the decree of Cyrus. Emphasis is placed on the temple and worship.

- Outline: Genealogy of David & Israel (1 Chron. 1-9); Reign of David (1 Chron. 10-29); Reign of Solomon (2 Chron. 1-9); Reigns of the Kings of Judah (2 Chron. 10-36)
- Key Words: 1 Chronicles – Davidic Covenant; 2 Chronicles – Priestly View of Judah
- Key Verses: 1 Chron. 17:11-14; 29:11; 2 Chron. 7:14; 16:9

The narratives in Kings & Chronicles are religious reflections interspersed with material taken from the national annals or chronicles of Israel and Judah.

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel

God's Chosen People: David and his son Solomon rule as the last kings of the United Kingdom, establishing a prosperous nation and a strong military power. After that the kingdom is divided. Israel's history is full of moral corruption, resulting in captivity to Assyria. Judah has a little more stability but ultimately suffers the same fate to the Babylonians.

Periods of Israelite History:

- United Kingdom
- Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone (Israel in Captivity)

Notable Events

- Construction of Temple
- Division of Kingdom
- Establishment of Calf Worship by Jeroboam
- Israel led into captivity
- Judah taken into captivity

Memorization

- Kings of Israel
- Kings of Judah
- 1 Kings 8:61

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jerusalem* – city of David; location of temple
- *Samaria* – capital city of Northern Tribes
- *Assyria* – country that takes Israel captive
- *Babylon* – country that takes Judah captive

Important Dates (BC)

- Reign of Solomon (970-931)
- Division of Kingdom (931)
- Israel taken Captive (722/21)
- Judah's Captivity (605, 597, 586)

Bible Backgrounds

May

Ezra thru Job

The Text

Ezra/Nehemiah – Traces the return from exile and reconstruction of Jerusalem

- Outline: Restoration of Temple (Ezra 1-6); Reformation of People (Ezra 7-10); Reconstruction of Wall (Neh. 1-7); Restoration of People (Neh. 8-13)
- Key Words: Ezra – Temple; Nehemiah – Walls
- Key Verses: Ezra 1:3; 7:10; Neh. 6:15-16; 8:8

Esther – Tells about one woman's courage to risk her life to save her people

- Outline: Threat to Jews (ch. 1-4); Triumph of Jews (ch. 5-10)
- Key Word: Providence; Key Verse: Esther 4:14;

Job – Discovers God's Sovereignty in the midst of Suffering

- Outline: Job's Dilemma (ch. 1-2); Job's Debate with His Friends (ch. 3-37); Job's Deliverance (ch. 38-47)
- Key Word: Sovereignty ; Key Verse: Job 13:15; 37:23-24

Old Testament

Law

- **History**
 - **Wisdom**
- Prophecy

Type of Literature

- *Narrative* – story.
- *Dramatic Poetry* – Dialogue in poetic form; the book of Job consists of this type of poetry.

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel

God's Chosen People: The Israelite people are not completely wiped out in captivity. A remnant returns to rebuild the fallen city of Jerusalem. In Persia, Queen Esther saves the Jewish people from potential genocide. God continues to work through and among his people.

Periods of Israelite History:

- Hebrew Family of Promise (Job)
- Captivity
- Post-exilic Period

Notable Events

- Rebuilding the Jerusalem Temple
- Feast of Purim Established
- Rebuilding the Jerusalem Walls

Memorization

- Leaders of the Return from Exile
- Ezra 7:10

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jerusalem* – destination of exiles
- *Persia* – empire that overthrows Babylonians
- *Susa* – capital city of Persia

Important Dates (BC)

- Decree of Cyrus (538)
- Return from Exile (538, 457, 444)
- Events in Esther (483-473)

The Text

Psalms – Collection of poetic songs

- Divisions:
 - 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 Word: Worship
 - Each book ends with a doxology or statement of praise to God (41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48; 150:1-6).
- Key Verses: Psalm 19:14; 145:21
- The Inspiration of the Psalms: Expressions of man to God AND God's word to man

Old Testament

- Law
- History
- **Wisdom**
- Prophecy

Type of Literature

- *Poetry*
- Parallelism: rhyming thoughts rather than words
 - Synonymous – 2nd line presents identical thought as the 1st line
 - Antithetical – 2nd line contrasts the 1st line
 - Synthetic – 2nd line completes or further develops 1st line

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel – Psalms 105-106, 136 summarize the mighty acts of God as he worked in the world and through the people of Israel.

Different Classifications of the Psalms:

- Praise – proclaims the joy of the human experience in God's presence; Common elements include introduction, narrative and conclusion; Example: Ps. 30.
- Lament – a lament proclaims distress and calls on God for help; Common elements include invocation, complaint, petition and conclusion; Example: Ps. 13.
- Royal – psalms relating to the king; Examples: Ps. 2, 132.
- Wisdom – psalms of instruction and joy in God's word; Examples: Ps. 1, 119.

Purpose

- Individual devotion
- Public worship
- During the journey to Jerusalem for worship

Memorization

- Psalm 1
- Psalm 23

The Development of the Text

Process of Collection

- Individual psalms written
- Collected into five different books
- Five books collected into a single volume

Possible Periods of Psalm Collecting

- David and Solomon (1 Chron. 23:1-6; 1 Kings 4:32)
- Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 17:7-9)
- Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29:25-30)
- Ezra (Neh. 12:27-30, 45-47)

Bible Backgrounds

July

Proverbs thru Isaiah

The Text

Proverbs – Practical and wise advice for daily living

- Outline: Commendation of Wisdom (1:1-7); Counsel of Wisdom (1:8-29:27); Comparisons of Wisdom (31:1-31:31)
- Key Word: Wisdom Key Verse: Prov. 1:5-7

Old Testament

Law
History

- **Wisdom**
- **Prophecy**

Ecclesiastes – A search for meaning in life

- Outline: Declaration of Vanity (1:1-11); Demonstration of Vanity (1:12-6:12); Deliverance from Vanity (7:1-12:14)
- Key Word: Vanity Key Verse: Ecc. 12:13-14

Type of Literature

- *Poetry* – includes use of parallelism
- *Proverb* – short, pithy, wise sayings
- *Song* – poetic verse intended to be sung

Song of Solomon – The beauty of love in marriage

- Outline: Courtship (1:1-3:5); Wedding (3:6-5:1); Problem (5:2-7:10); Progress (7:11-8:14)
- Key Word: Love Key Verse: Song 7:10; 8:7

Isaiah – A message of judgment for sin but hope for the future

- Outline: Prophecies of Condemnation (ch. 1-35); Historical Parenthesis (ch. 36-39); Prophecies of Comfort (ch. 40-66)
- Key Word: Salvation Key Verse: Isa. 9:6-7

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel

God's Chosen People: In the Wisdom Literature, God's word is pervasive and touches on every aspect of life. God's people are to be shaped by wisdom, purpose and love in life. In Isaiah, judgment and impending captivity are announced because of sin. Yet, God still loves his people, and he provides hope for the future of his people.

Notable Events

- The Siege of Jerusalem by Sennacherib

Memorization

- Prov. 3:5-7
- Ecc. 12:13-14

Periods of Israelite History:

- Divided Kingdom (Judah Alone)
- Anticipates Captivity of Judah and Return from Exile

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jerusalem* – capital city of Judah
- *Babylon* – empire that will eventually take Judah into captivity

Important Dates (BC)

- Prophecy of Isaiah (740-680)
- Siege of Jerusalem (701)

The Text

Jeremiah – prophecies of impending downfall of Judah

- Outline: The Call of Jeremiah (ch. 1); Prophecies to Judah (ch. 2-45); Prophecies to the Gentiles (ch. 46-51); the Fall of Jerusalem (ch. 52)
- Key Word: Downfall Key Verses: Jer. 7:23-24; 8:11-12

Lamentations – a lament over the destruction of Jerusalem

- Outline: Destruction of Jerusalem (ch. 1); God's Anger (ch. 2); Prayer for Mercy (ch. 3); Siege of Jerusalem (ch. 4); Prayer for Restoration (ch. 5)
- Key Word: Lament Key Verses: Lam. 2:5-6; 3:22-23

Ezekiel – visions detailing reconstruction in Babylon

- Outline: Before the Siege (ch. 1-24); During the Siege (ch. 25-32); After the Siege (ch. 33-48)
- Key Word: Restoration Key Verses: Ezek. 36:24-26, 33-35

Daniel – recounts God's plan to establish his people

- Outline: History of Daniel (ch. 1); Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles (ch. 2-7); Prophetic Plan for Israel (ch. 8-12)
- Key Word: God's Plan Key Verses: Dan. 2:20-22, 44

Old Testament

Law
History
Wisdom

➤ Prophecy

Type of Literature

- Prophecy – the announcement of a message from God
- *Acrostic* – each line begins with a successive letter of Hebrew alphabet
- *Apocalyptic* – literature that foretells supernaturally inspired cataclysmic events

The Content of the Text

The Story of Israel

God's Chosen People: The prophets spoke of impending doom for the southern nation of Judah. They prophesied before and after Judah's exile. In exile, the message of the prophets turned to one of hope and restoration.

Periods of Israelite History:

- Divided Kingdom (Judah Alone)
- Captivity

Notable Events

- Destruction of Jerusalem
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Memorization

- Jer. 32:17
- Lam. 3:22-23
- Ezek. 18:4, 32

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jerusalem* – capital city of Judah
- *Babylon* – capital city of Babylonian empire

Important Dates (BC)

- Prophecy of Jeremiah (627-580)
- Prophecy of Ezekiel (592-570)
- Prophecy of Daniel (605-530)
- Destruction of Jerusalem (586)

The Text

Hosea – Hosea’s marriage to a harlot resembles Israel’s relationship with God.

- Prophesied to Israel from 755-715 during Assyrian captivity
- Key Word: Faithfulness Key Verses: Hosea 4:6; 11:7-9

Joel – Judgment is announced as coming on the Day of the Lord

- Prophesied to Judah around 835 before the Assyrian exile
- Key Word: Day of the Lord Key Verses: Joel 2:11

Amos – Judgment awaits because of God’s holiness and Israel’s sin

- Prophesied to Israel from 760-753 before the Assyrian exile
- Key Word: Judgment of Israel Key Verses: Amos 3:1-2

Obadiah – God will bring total destruction upon Edom

- Prophesied about Edom from 848-841 before Assyrian exile
- Key Word: Judgment of Edom Key Verses: Obad. 1:10, 21

Jonah – A prophet is reluctant to preach to a foreign people

- Prophesied to Assyria from 782-753 before the Assyrian exile
- Key Word: Revival in Nineveh Key Verses: Jonah 2:8-9

Micah – Present injustice will lead to judgment, but hope also awaits

- Prophesied to Judah from 735-700 during the Assyrian exile
- Key Word: Restoration of Judah Key Verse: Micah 6:8

Nahum – Destruction of Nineveh is decreed, described and deserved

- Prophesied about Nineveh from 664-654
- Key Word: Judgment of Nineveh Key Verses: Nahum 1:7-8

Habakkuk – A prophet’s dialogue with God turns to praise

- Prophesied to Judah from 609-605 before Babylonian captivity
- Key Word: Faith Key Verses: Hab. 2:4

Zephaniah – Judgment will be followed by restoration of a remnant

- Prophesied to Judah from 632-628 during Assyrian dominance
- Key Word: Judgment & Restoration Key Verses: Zeph. 1:14-15; 2:3

Haggai – Completion of the temple had been put off for indifference

- Prophesied to Jews in Jerusalem around 520 after their return from exile during the Medo-Persian reign
- Key Word: Temple Reconstruction Key Verses: Hag. 1:7-8

Zechariah – A future Messiah will come to bring salvation

- Prophesied to Jews in Jerusalem from 520-480 after their return from exile during the Medo-Persian reign
- Key Word: Coming Messiah Key Verses: Zech. 8:3

Malachi – God’s Final Word in the OT to a backsliding people

- Prophesied to Jews in Jerusalem from 432-424 after their return from exile during the Medo-Persian reign
- Key Word: Backsliders Key Verses: Mal. 2:17-3:1

Old Testament

Law
History
Wisdom

➤ **Prophecy****Type of Literature**

- Prophecy – God’s message to the people

Memorization

- 12 Minor Prophets
- Micah 6:8
- Hab. 2:4

Periods of Minor Prophets

- 9th century (early Assyrian)
- 8th century (Assyrian)
- 7th century (Chaldean)
- 6th and 5th century (Post Exilic)

World Powers in Prophets

- Assyria
- Babylonia
- Medo-Persia

The Text

Matthew – Gospel originally addressed to the Jewish Mind

- Outline: Introduction to Jesus' Ministry (1:1-4:16); The Development of Jesus' Ministry (4:17-16:20); The Climax of Jesus' Ministry (16:21-28:20)
- Key Word: Jesus the King Key Verses: Matt. 16:16-19

Mark – Gospel originally addressed to the Roman Mind

- Outline: The Beginning of the Gospel (1:1-13); The Ministry of Christ (1:14-8:30); The Passion of Christ (8:31-16:20)
- Key Word: Jesus the Servant Key Verses: Mark 10:43-45

Luke – Gospel originally addressed to the Greek Mind

- Outline: Introduction to Jesus' Ministry (1:1-4:13); Ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); Jesus' Teaching "En Route" to Jerusalem (9:51-18:34); Jesus' Ministry in Judea (18:35-21:38); Climax of Jesus' Life (22:1-24:53)
- Key Word: Jesus the Son of Man Key Verses: Lk. 19:10

John – Gospel with Universal Scope

- Outline: Introductory Testimony (1:1-51); The Testimony of Signs and Discourses (2:1-11:57); The Testimony of Death and Resurrection (12:1-20:31); Concluding Testimony (21:1-25)
- Key Word: Jesus the Son of God; Key Verses: Jn. 20:30-31

New Testament

- **Gospels**
 - History
 - Epistles
 - Prophecy

Type of Literature

- Narrative – story
- *Discourse* – sermons and teachings
- *Parables* – a brief metaphorical story

The Content of the Text

The Story of the Bible

The Gospels provide the central element of the Bible. The Old Testament looks forward to the reconciliation found in Christ. The Gospels tell of God's Son, who was sent to earth to live as a man and die for the sins of the people. The rest of the New Testament looks back to the cross as its foundational event.

Periods of Biblical History:

- The Life and Death of Jesus

Jesus' Ministry

- Preparation
- Galilean
- Withdrawal
- Journey to Jer.
- Last Week

Memorization

- Beatitudes
- The Apostles

The World of the Text

Geography

- *Jerusalem* – capital city of Judah
- *Galilee* – northern region of Israel
- *Samaria* – central region of Israel
- *Judea* – southern region of Israel

Important Dates

- Life of Herod the Great (37 – 4 BC)
- Life of Jesus (4 BC – 30 AD)

The Text

Acts – History of early church and spread of gospel

- Outline: Gospel spread to the Jews (1:1-8:4), the Samaritans (8:5-12:25), and the Gentiles (13:1-28:31)
- Key Word: Growth of Church Key Verses: Acts 1:8; 2:42-47

Romans – The story of the gospel from condemnation to justification

- Outline: Revelation (ch. 1-8), Vindication (ch. 9-11) and Application (ch. 12-16) of Righteousness
- Key Word: Righteousness Key Verses: Rom. 1:16-17

Corinthians – Paul's correctives and defense of apostleship

- Outline: Divisions (ch. 1-4), Disorder (ch. 5-6) and Difficulties (ch. 7-16) in the Church; Explanation of Ministry (ch. 1-7), Collection for the Saints (ch. 8-9), Defense of Apostleship (ch. 10-13)
- Key Words: 1 Cor. – Unity 2 Cor. – Paul's Authority
- Key Verses: 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 4:5-6

Galatians – Paul's defense of the gospel of grace & liberty in Christ

- Outline: Gospel of Grace Defended (1-2), Explained (3-4) and Applied (5-6)
- Key Word: Freedom Key Verses: Gal. 2:20-21; 5:1

Ephesians – Paul's words of edification for the body of Christ

- Outline: Blessings (ch. 1-3) and Responsibilities (ch. 4-6)
- Key Word: Christ and Church Key Verses: Eph. 2:8-10

Philippians – Finding joy in difficult circumstances

- Outline: Suffering (ch. 1), Submission (ch. 2), Salvation (ch. 3) and Sanctification (ch. 4)
- Key Word: Joy in Christ Key Verses: Phil. 1:21; 2:5

Colossians – Sufficiency and Superiority in Christ

- Outline: Supremacy of Christ (ch 1-2); Submission to Christ (ch 3-4)
- Key Word: Preeminence of Christ Key Verses: Col. 2:8-10

New Testament

Gospels

➤ **History**➤ **Epistles**

Prophecy

Type of Literature

- Narrative – story
- Epistle – Letter

Story of Bible

Founded upon Jesus' death and resurrection, the church is established in Jerusalem and spreads to rest of the world.

Periods of Bible History:

- Establishment and Spread of the Church

Memorization

- Cases of Conversion
- Fruits of Spirit
- Rom. 1:16-17

The World of the Text**Geography**

- *Jerusalem* – city where church established
- *Antioch* – home base for missionary journeys
- Paul visited the following regions on his missionary journeys:
 - *Syria, Judea, Cyprus, Pamphylia, Cilicia, Galatia, Asia, Lycia, Macedonia, Achaia*

Important Dates

- Conversion of Paul (33)
- 1st Missionary Journey (47-48)
- 2nd Missionary Journey (49-52)
- 3rd Missionary Journey (52-57)
- Trials/Imprisonments of Paul (57-60)
- Roman Imprisonment (60-62)
- Death of Paul (66)

The Text

Thessalonians – Instructions and corrections for the church

- Outline: Personal Experience (1 Th. 1-3), Practical Exhortation (1 Th. 4-5); Thanksgiving (2 Th. 1), Instruction (2 Th. 2), Correction (2 Th. 3)
- Key Words: 1 Th. – Sanctification; 2 Th. – Christ’s Coming
- Key Verses: 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:13-15

Timothy/Titus – Paul’s instruction to young evangelists

- Outline: Church Issues (1 Tim. 1-5), Motivation in Ministry (1 Tim. 6); Persevere in the Gospel (2 Tim. 1-2), Endure Future Tests (2 Tim. 3-4); Ordain Elders (Titus 1), Speak Sound Doctrine (Titus 2), Maintain Good Works (Titus 3)
- Key Words: 1 Tim. – Leadership; 2 Tim. – Endurance in Ministry; Titus – Conduct
- Key Verses: 1 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Titus 2:11-14

Philemon – Personal letter to the master of a runaway slave

- Summary: Paul petitions Philemon to receive Onesimus, a runaway slave, as a new brother in Christ
- Key Word: Forgiveness Key Verses: Phi. 1:16-17

Hebrews – Exposition on the Superiority of Christ

- Outline: Majesty of Christ (1:1-4:13); Ministry of Christ (4:14-10:18); Ministers for Christ (10:19-13:25)
- Key Word: Better Key Verses: Heb. 4:14-16

James – Practical lessons on possessing a living faith

- Outline: Faith’s Response (1:1-18), Reality (1:19-5:6) and Power (5:7-20)
- Key Words: Working Faith Key Verses: James 1:22

Peter/Jude – Admonition to contend for faith & avoid false teachers

- Outline: 1 Pet. – Salvation (1:1-2:12), Submission (2:13-3:12) and Suffering of the Believer (3:13-5:14); 2 Pet. – True Prophecy (ch. 1), False Prophecy (ch. 2), Day of Lord (ch. 3); Description of/defense against false teachers (Jude)
- Key Word: 1 Pet. – Suffering; 2 Pet./Jude – False Teachers
- Key Verses: 1 Pet. 4:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:9-11; Jude 3

Epistles of John – John’s letters to walk in God’s love and truth

- Outline: Basis of Fellowship (1 Jn. 1:1-2:27), Behavior of Fellowship (1 Jn. 2:28-5:21); Walk in Truth, not Error (2 Jn.); Contrast of Servanthood and Selfishness (3 Jn.)
- Key Word: Fellowship; Verses: 1 Jn. 1:6-7; 2 Jn. 9; 3 Jn. 11

Revelation – John’s Visions of Ultimate Victory in Christ

- Outline: Vision of Christ (ch. 1-3) & Consummation (ch. 4-22)
- Key Word: Victory Key Verses: Rev. 21:1-4

New Testament

Gospels
History

- **Epistles**
- **Prophecy**

Type of Literature

- Epistle – letter
- Sermon

Story of Bible

Epistles illustrate the continued spread of church, and visions of John depict the consummation of the ages.

Periods of Bible History:

- Establishment and Spread of the Church
- Consummation of the Ages

Memorization

- 7 churches of Asia
- 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Important Dates

- Date of Revelation (96)

Geography

- Patmos
- Asia Minor