

BIBLE OVERVIEW

- Creation in 6 days. Rest on the 7th.
- Adam & Eve sin by eating from forbidden tree. Punishment for the serpent, Eve & Adam. (Gen. 3:15 foreshadowing Jesus' victory, planned before the foundation of the world - Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 1:20)
- Man no longer lives in the garden and multiplies. God becomes angry because of the evil found on earth. He destroys all living creatures with the exception of Noah and his family. (Genesis 6)
- Mankind builds a tower to the heavens. God confuses their tongues/languages. They begin to spread out.
- Abraham (*Abram to Abraham meaning father of multitude*) is chosen by God to inherit land for a great family. In his offspring all the nations would be blessed (Genesis 12, 15, 22; Galatians 3:16).
- Abraham fathered Isaac who fathered Jacob (then named Israel). Jacob has 12 sons. Each son became a tribe - the 12 tribes of Israel. This is the Jewish nation.
- Eventually all sons lived in Egypt. The relationship turned sour over time and they suffered by slavery. God remembered His covenant with Abraham. It was time to free His people by the hands of Moses.
- Moses & Aaron traveled to Egypt. Pharaoh and the people were hit with 10 plagues. Israel departed Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and made it to the wilderness.
- Moses was given the Law (Old Law/Testament). It gave instruction in all areas of life. It was for the Israelites and anyone who was permitted to join their people.
- It was time to inherit the promised land, but 12 spies returned with a bad report (except Joshua and Caleb). The people who lived there were too great. They were to wander in the wilderness for 40 years (one year per day the spies were gone). That generation would not enter the land.
- Let's not forget something - we've not left the theme of God's salvation. God would bring about this offspring of Abraham through Israel. The law pointed to Christ (Romans 3:21; Galatians 3:24). Moses himself was a type of the one to come (Deuteronomy 18). Jesus would be a special kind of priest. Jesus would be a sacrificial lamb. Hebrews really draws this out.

- Joshua led God's people into the promised land. They cleared the land of evil people who would have persuaded God's child to do bad.
- At this point there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. They felt the consequences of their disobedience and their enemies plundered them. Then God sent judges to save them from those plundering them. However, Israel struggled listening and a pattern emerged. They served God in peace. They fall into sin and/or idolatry. Their enemies would enslave them. They'd cry out for help. God would send a judge. Israel would be delivered. They serve the Lord . . . then serve themselves again and repeat the cycle.
- They're impressed with the system of other nations and ask for a King. Samuel warns the people, but they don't listen. God gives them their first King: Saul. Starts out good but ends badly.
- David was their second King. He was a great King (though not perfect and without his share of problems). He would serve as the standard for all Kings.
- His son, Solomon, served as Israel's third King. Started off good. Built the Temple for God. Turned away from God at an old age. God states the nation would be divided.
- Rehoboam (Solomon's son) ruled over Judah. Jeroboam ruled over Israel. All the Kings of the Northern Kingdom were bad. Southern Kings over Judah was a mixed bag.
- It's during these years of the Kings that we have the Prophets. These men wanted God's people. If they would not repent, then punishment awaited them. The Northern tribe fell into Assyrian captivity. Then the Southern tribe (Judah) fell into Babylonian captivity around 100 years later.
- There was a remnant that returned in three phases led by: Zerubbabel, Ezra, and then Nehemiah. There were a few more prophets (Minor Prophets such as Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi) that spoke to God's people during this time as well.
- *400 years of silence. It's during this time religious schools are formed and different sects (Pharisees & Sadducees) have a deep influence of God's people.*
- Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels. Meaning they are "seen together." They tell about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. John's account does as well, but it stands out from Matthew, Mark and Luke. It includes one one one accounts that the others don't. It also excludes certain miracles, teachings, parables, that the others do.

- Jesus' mother was a virgin. She gave birth to Jesus. They were a poor family. He grew up in Nazareth. We don't know much about His life as a boy other than a dramatic birth scene and one account at the temple when He was 12 years old.
- Jesus began His ministry when He was about 30 years old. He taught throughout Palestine for three years. He accumulated many disciples and lost many as well. He chose 12 men to serve as apostles/ambassadors of God. They traveled with Him. They heard Him teach and witnessed Him perform many miracles. They were given abilities to perform miracles as well.
- One of the apostles, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus was handed over to the Roman authorities by His own people. They requested the death of Jesus.
- The Roman government, under pressure, succumbed to their request. Jesus was led to a hill outside of Jerusalem and suffered the a Roman crucifixion. Jesus was raised on the third day and many witnessed Him walk the earth before He ascended back to the Father.
- Before Jesus' ascension, He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem where they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. He instructed them to spread the gospel to the whole congregation. They were to teach that whoever repents and is baptized would be saved.
- Acts discusses the "acts of the apostles." Really what's happening is the spreading the gospel, from the first time it was preached in Jerusalem and 3,000 souls were added to the body to the first Gentile convert in Acts. It begins in Jerusalem and then spread throughout the known world. Saul obeys Jesus and spreads the gospel. We typically call them his three missionary trips. He would spread the gospel and many times return to congregations to encourage growth.
 - Think of it this way. Majority of the New Testament was penned by Paul. They were either written to churches or individuals. Some of these were written during the time of "Acts." So, if "Acts" were one book, you could insert letters like Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, etc. between certain pages (as far as chronological order). Acts ends with Paul imprisoned in Rome. It's debated, but Paul may have penned several letters during this last imprisonment (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon).
 - Each letter had a rhyme and reason:

- Romans is written to the saints in Rome. His main focus is on faith in Jesus Christ. God saves a lost people because of their faith in Christ, not works of a law or lineage.
- 1 & 2 Corinthians deals with issues within the church. He also defends his apostleship since it was being challenged by some there.
- Galatians addresses threats from Judaizers (Jewish Christians who were forcing aspects of the Old Law on the church).
- Ephesians & Colossians express the glory of the church of Christ and Christ Himself. They were written to the church in Ephesus and Colossae. He speaks about God's wonderful plan of salvation found in Jesus Christ and His body. All spiritual blessings are found in Him. He discusses every day living (master and slave, marriage, parenting) and our spiritual battle.
- Philippians is written to the church in Philippi. It's known as the epistle of "joy." It's very encouraging. Paul seems to have a great relationship with the church. It really emphasizes the mindset we should have as Christians: the mind of Christ.
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians discusses his love for them and encourages holy living. He also addresses rumors about Jesus' second coming and what would happen to those who had already passed away.
- 1 & 2 Timothy was written to Timothy (a traveling companion of Paul's). Timothy was left in Ephesus to help the church grow spiritually. Timothy had work to do there as an example and their leadership. He was to teach the truth and equip others. He was to not be discouraged and fight the good fight.
- Titus was a letter written by Paul to Titus. He was to appoint elders in every town. He was to teach the truth and rebuke those in Crete if need be. Instruction was given to the young and old, slave and free.
- Philemon was written by Paul. He encouraged Philemon to forgive Onesimus, a runaway slave, who ran into Paul who introduced him to Christ.
- Hebrews was written by, well, we're not sure. It's debated. It was written to Jewish Christians who were drifting away. So, the writer encourages them not to drift away from Christ. Where would they go? Back to their old ways and beliefs? Christ was superior to everything they knew. Everything about

their life and beliefs pointed to Christ. He was superior. There was no life or hope outside of Christ. This really compares the Old Law and the New.

- James was written by the brother of Jesus. He speaks of everyday living. Practical christianity is what we think of when we think of James.
- 1 & 2 Peter were written by, you guessed it, Peter. The first letter has to do with living as a Christian through pain and suffering. The second letter addresses false teachers. While we're at it, that's the focus of Jude: false teachers. Reader beware!
- 1, 2, & 3 John was written by the apostle John. He encouraged his audience to keep the faith and belief that Jesus is the Son of God. They were to love Jesus and love each other through obedience and benevolent hearts. 2 & 3 John put the principles into action: teaching truth and loving your brother.
- Revelation was written by John, but it came from Jesus. This great scene was shown to John about things which must soon take place. Overall, it's an encouraging message to Christians who were being persecuted: God and the Serpent are at war . . . but the serpent is no match for God. There is victory in Jesus. There is peace for those who trust in Him.