



## Part 1: Bible Basics

### *Class 3: Overview of the Bible*

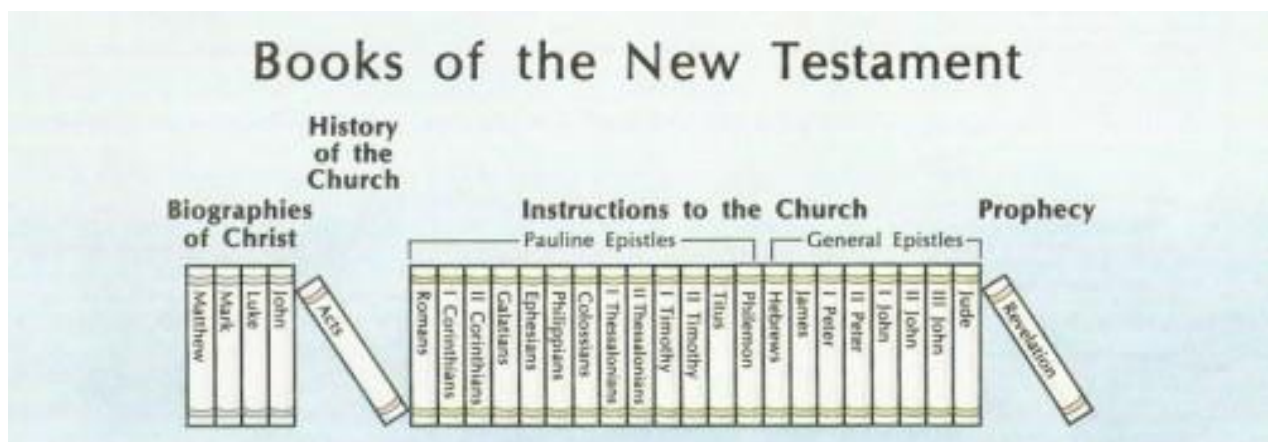
**Objective:** To attain a basic understanding of how all the parts of the Bible fit together.

“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’” (Luke 24:44 ESV)

#### Question 1: How is the Bible typically divided, and why?

Pentateuch	Historical Books	Poetic & Wisdom Literature	Prophetical Books	
			Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

[scripturesource \(2019\)](#)

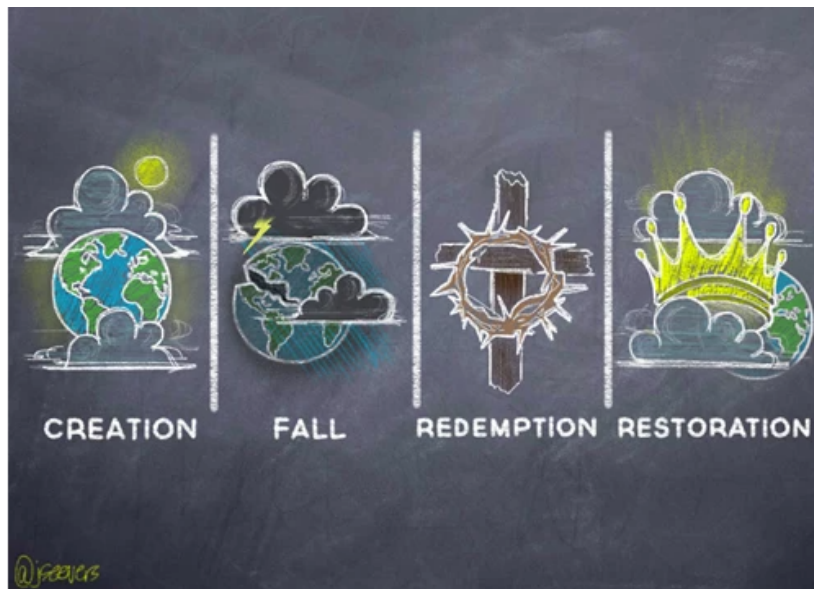


➤ The Bible consists of two main divisions: the Old and New \_\_\_\_\_.

- The 39 books of the Old Testament begin with the Pentateuch (“5 books”), also called the \_\_\_\_\_ or Law of Moses.
- The 12 Historical Books recount the history of \_\_\_\_\_, God’s chosen nation.
- The 5 Books of \_\_\_\_\_ contain the ancient wisdom of Israel, given by God.
- The \_\_\_\_\_, divided by book size into 5 major and 12 minor, record the oracles that God gave to Israel by his chosen mouthpieces.
- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *The Old Testament prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah by revealing to us a God who is eternally holy and a people who cannot consistently obey him.*
- The 27 books of the New Testament begin with the 4 \_\_\_\_\_, which are biographies of Jesus Christ.
- The church continues to grow by the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ as recorded in the historical Book of Acts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ are letters with Apostolic authority written to the churches for instruction in doctrine and practice. Paul wrote most of them; other authors include James, Peter, John, and Jude.
- The Bible’s last book, \_\_\_\_\_, is known for its apocalyptic nature and discusses events at the end of the age.
- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *The New Testament records the fulfillment of Old Testament types and prophecies in the Lord Jesus Christ, highlighting his life, death, resurrection, and ascension.*

**Question 2: What is the Bible’s overall story?**

- The Bible’s \_\_\_\_\_ is the overarching, unifying theme of all scripture.



- The Bible's \_\_\_\_\_ is the overarching, unifying theme of all scripture.
- God orchestrated all of history and recorded it in the Bible for his \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 1:10-12)

The Bible in one sentence: "God glorifies himself in the redemption of sinners." - John Frame

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *The Bible is united in all its parts by one grand story of redemption.*

### Question 3: What are the most notable people and events in the Bible?

- **Notable People in alphabetical order:** **Abraham** (Genesis 12.1—19.29; 20.1—23.20); **Adam** (Genesis 3.1-24); **Daniel** (Daniel 1.1—6.28); **David** (1 Samuel 16.1—27.12; 29.1—30.31; 2 Samuel 1—24.27; 1 Kings 1.1—2.11); **Deborah** (Judges 4.1—5.31) **Elijah** (1 Kings 17.1—19.21; 21.1-29; 2 Kings 1.1—2.15); **Elisha** (2 Kings 2.1—2.25; 4.1—7.2; 8.1-6; 13.14-21); **Esther** (Esther 1.1—10.3); **Eve** (Genesis 3.1-24); **Ezekiel** (Ezekiel 1.1—3.15; Ezekiel 37.1-14); **Isaac** (Genesis 18.1-15; 21.1-21; 22.1-19; 24.1-67; 25.19-34; 26.1—28.9; 35.27-29); **Isaiah** (Isaiah 6.1-13; Isaiah 37.1—39.8; Isaiah 40.1-31; Isaiah 65.17-25); **Jacob (Israel)** (Genesis 25.19-34; 27.1—35.29; 37.1-36; 42.1—50.14); **Jeremiah** (Jeremiah 1.1-19; Jeremiah 31.31-34; Jeremiah 34.1—38.28); **John the Baptist** (Luke 1.5-25, 57-80; Matthew 3.3-17; 14.1-12); **Jonah** (Jonah 1.1—4.11); **Joseph** (Genesis 37.1—50.26); **Joshua** (Deuteronomy 31.1-8; 34.9-9; Joshua 1.1—11.23; 18.1-10; 23.1—24.31); **Mary (mother of Jesus)** (Luke 1.26—2.52; John 2.1-12; 19.16-27; Acts 1.12-14); **Mary Magdalene** (Luke 8.1-3; Mark 15.33-41; Mark 16.1-8; John 20.11-18); **Miriam** (Exodus 2.1-10; Exodus 15.19-21; Numbers 12.1-16; 20.1); **Moses** (Exodus 1.1—20.26; 24.1—25.22; 32.1—34.35; Deuteronomy 31.1—34.12); **Nehemiah** (Nehemiah 1.1—2.20; 4.1—6.16); **Paul** (Acts 8.1,2; 9.1-31; 13.1—28.31; Galatians 1.11—2.10); **Peter** (Matthew 4.18-22; 10.1-4; 14.22-33; 16.13—17.13, 24-27; 26.31—26.75; John 18.1-27; 20.1-10; 21.1-25; Acts 2.1—5.16; 9.32—11.18; 12.1-19); **Rahab** (Joshua 2.1-24); **Rebekah** (Genesis 24.1-67); **Ruth** (Ruth 1.1—4.22); **Samson** (Judges 13.1—16.31); **Samuel** (1 Samuel 1.19—3.21; 7.3—12.25; 15.1—16.13; 19.18-24; 25.1); **Sarah** (Genesis 12.1-20; 16.1—18.15; 20.1—21.21; 22.1-19; 23.1-20); **Saul** (1 Samuel 8.1—11.15; 13.1—28.25; 31.1-13; 2 Samuel 1.1-27); **Solomon** (2 Samuel 12.24,25; 1 Kings 1.28—11.43); **Stephen** (Acts 6.1—7.60)
- **Notable Events in chronological order:**
  - Creation** (Genesis 1.1—2.25)
  - Human Rebellion** (Genesis 3.1-24)
  - Noah and the Flood** (Genesis 6.1—9.17)
  - Tower of Babel** (Genesis 11.1-9)
  - The Exodus from Egypt** (Exodus 3.1—15.21)
  - Wilderness Wanderings** (Exodus 15.22—20.26; 31.18—34.35; Numbers 1.1—2.34; 10.11—14.45; 16.1—17.12; 20.1—27.23; 31.1—34.15)
  - The People Settle in the Promised Land** (Joshua 1.1—24.33)
  - Israel Gets a King** (1 Samuel 8.1—10.27)

**Israel Builds a Temple** (1 Kings 5.1—8.66)  
**The Kingdom Splits in Two** (1 Kings 11.26—12.33)  
**The Exile in Babylonia** (2 Kings 23.36—25.30)  
**Returning from the Exile** (Ezra 1.1-11)  
**Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem** (Nehemiah 1.1—7.4)  
*The Life and Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth (see below)*  
**The Holy Spirit Comes on Pentecost** (Acts 2.1-47)  
**Christian Leaders Meet in Jerusalem** (Acts 21.17-26)

➤ **Jesus of Nazareth: His Life, Death, and Resurrection**

**Jesus Is Born** (Matthew 1.18-2.15; Luke 2.1-20)  
**Jesus Presented in the Temple** (Luke 2.21-40)  
**The Young Jesus** (Luke 2.41-52)  
**Jesus Is Baptized** (Matthew 3)  
**The Temptation of Jesus** (Luke 4.1-13)  
**Jesus Calls His First Disciples** (Mark 1.16-20)  
**Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles** (Mark 3.13-19)  
**The Transfiguration of Jesus** (Matthew 17.1-13)  
**Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem** (Luke 19.29-44)  
**The Last Supper of Jesus** (Mark 14.12-26)  
**Jesus Prays in Gethsemane** (Luke 22.39-46)  
**Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion** (Matthew 26.47—27.66; John 18.1—19.37)  
**The Resurrection of Jesus** (Luke 24.1-49; John 20.1-29)  
**The Great Commission** (Matthew 28.16-20)  
**Jesus Ascends to Heaven** (Luke 24.50-53; Acts 1.1-12)

- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *Each story in the Bible and each figure in the Bible is an integral part of the one, unifying story that culminates in the redemptive plan of God in Christ!*

**Question 4: How does the Bible's overall narrative reveal God's interactions with his people?**

- Throughout the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, God interacted with his people through \_\_\_\_\_, or agreements:
- God makes a covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ to crush Satan through the seed of woman.
  - He then makes a covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ not to destroy the earth before that redemption is accomplished (Genesis 6–9).
  - Next, he makes a covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ to bring the Messiah through his line and to make Abram a great nation (Israel) (Genesis 12; 15; 17; and 22).
  - After the Exodus, he makes a covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the land and the law (Exodus 19–23).
  - During \_\_\_\_\_ reign, God promises him that his son will sit on his throne forever and that he will build God's house (2 Samuel 7).
  - And through the prophets God promises that, in the \_\_\_\_\_, Israel, exiled and scattered, will one day be

restored and receive God’s Spirit so that they can follow God’s instruction and live under his reign, forever (Jeremiah 31–33).



- ◆ **Key takeaway:** God’s covenants with his people progressively reveal his ultimate plan of salvation!

### Bibliography

“Books of the Holy Bible”, scripturesource  
 “Overview of the Bible: A Survey of the History of Salvation” *ESV Study Bible*  
 Books of the New Testament graphic by Alani Stephens  
 “The Big Story of Scripture” by Ed Stetzer in *Christianity Today*  
 “What’s the Message of the Bible In One Sentence?” by Dane Ortlund  
 “A Guide to Key Events, Characters, and Themes of the Bible” American Bible Society  
*Why We Believe the Bible* by John Piper  
 “The Bible’s Theological Unity” by Matthew Emerson  
 Covenant of Grace chart from Great Commission Publications