

BIBLE OUTLINE

OLD TESTAMENT

PENTATEUCH

Pentateuch is the Greek word for the first five books of the Old Testament, written by Moses.

Genesis means birth or beginning. The first section of Genesis deals with four events: the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. The second section deals with four people: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Genesis--The Book of Beginnings

Key verses--1:1, 1:27, 3:15, 12:3

1--11: Four Events--Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower of Babel

12--50: Four People--Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Exodus means "going out." This book tells about the Egyptian bondage of the Hebrews, their deliverance through Moses, the giving of the Law, and the building of the tabernacle.

Exodus--Redemption and Revelation

Key verses--6:6, 19:5, 6

1: Affliction

2--4: Moses

5--11: Pharaoh and the Plagues

12: Passover and Departure

13--18: Journey to Sinai

19--40: Revelation from God

Leviticus means "pertaining to the Levites." The Levites were the priestly tribe, and this book contains the system of laws they administered.

Leviticus--Laws of Sacrifice and Sanctification

Key verses--17:11, 19:18, 20:7, 8, 20:22

1--17: The Laws of Approaching God: Sacrifice

18--27: The Laws of Walking with God: Sanctification

Numbers records two numberings of the Hebrews. It also contains the story of their wanderings in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

Numbers--The Walk and Service of God's People

Key verses--14:22, 23, 20:12, 23:19

1--10: Preparation of the Old Generation

11--25: Failure of the Old Generation

26--36: Preparation of the New Generation

Deuteronomy means "second law," or the second giving of the law. Since most of the old generation had died, it was necessary to repeat the law for the new generation. The final chapter records the death of Moses. Only the new generation, along with Joshua and Caleb, were allowed to enter the promised land.

Deuteronomy--The Book of Obedience

Key verses--6:4-7, 10:12, 13, 30:19

1--4: History--What God Has Done

5--26: Law--What God Expected

27--34: Prophecy--What God Will Do

HISTORY

The historical books tell about the rise and fall of the nation of Israel.

Joshua means "Jehovah saves." This book is named after Joshua, who became Moses' successor. It is the story of the crossing of the Jordan, the conquest of Canaan, and the division of the land among the tribes. The book closes with an address by Joshua, urging the people to honor God.

Joshua--Conflict and Conquest

Key verses--1:8, 9, 11:23, 24:15

1--5: Preparation of Israel

6--12: Conquest of Canaan

13--24: Settlement in Canaan

Judges carries on the history of Israel from the death of Joshua until the time of Samuel. It records cycles of deterioration and deliverance, in which God raised up leaders--judges--who delivered the people when they repented of their sins.

Judges--Cycles of Deterioration and Deliverance

Key verses--2:20-22, 21:25

1--2: Failure to Complete the Conquest of Canaan

3--16: Deliverance During the Seven Cycles

17--21: Depravity of Israel

Ruth is the story of the faithfulness and love of a woman who lived during the time of the judges. Ruth was David's great-grandmother, and so was in the earthly lineage of Christ.

Ruth--Romance and Redemption

Key verses--1:16, 17, 3:11

1: Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

2: Ruth Meets Boaz

3: Ruth Obeys Naomi

4: Boaz Marries Ruth

First Samuel is an account of Samuel, the last of the judges, and the early days of the monarchy under Saul, the failure of Saul, and the introduction of David, God's choice as king.

First Samuel--From Judges to Kings

Key verses--2:30, 15:22, 23

1--3: Eli, Hannah, and Samuel

4--7: Samuel's Judgeship

8--12: Saul Becomes King

13--15: Saul's Reign

16--31: Saul and David

Second Samuel tells about the restoration of order through the enthroning of David. God established the Davidic Covenant out of which the eternal kingdom of the Messiah was to come.

Second Samuel--David as King

Key verses--7:8, 9

1--5: Political Triumphs

6--7: Spiritual Triumphs

8--10: Military Triumphs

11: Sin

12--24: Failure

First Kings contains the story of the reign of Solomon, the building of the temple and the division of the kingdom under Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

First Kings--Solomon's Reign and the Divided Kingdom

Key verses--11:11, 18:21

1--11: The United Kingdom and Solomon

12--14: Division of the Kingdom

15--22: Kings of Judah and Israel

Second Kings continues the story of the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel and their eventual captivity, Israel by the Assyrians and Judah by the Babylonians.

Second Kings--The Kingdom to the Exiles

Key verses--6:15-17, 17:22, 23, 23:27

1--17: The Divided Kingdom
18--25: The Surviving Kingdom of Judah

First Chronicles and **Second Chronicles** largely duplicate the books of Samuel and Kings. The history of Judah and temple worship are emphasized. First Chronicles includes David's lineage and reign.

First Chronicles--The Royal Line and the Reign of David
Key verses--29:11-13
1--9: The Royal Line of David
10--29: The Reign of David

Second Chronicles tells of Solomon's reign, the division of the kingdom, and the history of Judah to the Exile.

Second Chronicles--Judah's History to the Exile
Key verses--15:2, 16:9
1--9: The Reign of Solomon
10--36: The Reigns of the Kings of Judah

Ezra is an account of the return of a Jewish remnant to Jerusalem, the restoration of law and ritual, and the rebuilding of the temple.

Ezra--Return from Babylon
Key verse--7:10
1--6: Restoration of the Temple of God
7--10: Reformation of the People of God

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and restore civil authority.

Nehemiah--Rebuilding Jerusalem's Wall
Key verses--6:15, 16, 8:8, 10, 9:25-27
1--7: Reconstruction of the Wall
8--13: Restoration of the People

Esther was a Jewess who, through God's providence, became queen of Persia and helped to deliver the Jews from extermination.

Esther--Divine Providence at Work in History
Key verses--4:13, 14
1--4: The Threat to the Jews
5--10: The Triumph of the Jews

POETRY

These books tell of the human experiences of God's people in the many vagaries of life.

Job is probably the oldest book in the Old Testament. Job, a righteous man, is plunged into suffering. The last chapters relate how his prosperity returned.

Job--Why Do the Righteous Suffer?
Key verses--1:8, 13:15, 40:8
1--2: Dilemma of Job
3--37: Debates of Job
38--42: Deliverance of Job

Psalms was the Hebrew hymnbook. The Psalms record deep devotion, intense feeling, exalted emotion, and dark dejection. They express the deep feelings of all believing hearts in all generations. The great themes of the Psalms include the Messiah, the Lord God, the Law, Creation, and the experiences of God's people.

Psalms--Worship Manual
Key verses--117:1, 2
1--41: Book 1--Man and Creation
42--72: Book 2--Deliverance

73--89: Book 3--Worship
90--106: Book 4--Wilderness
107--150: Book 5--Scripture and Praise

Proverbs is a book consisting of wise sayings about life, emphasizing practical righteousness and the fear of God. A proverb is a saying that conveys a specific truth in a pointed, pithy way.

Proverbs--Wisdom Manual

Key verses--1:1-7

1--9: Wisdom and Folly Contrasted

10--24: Proverbs of Solomon, Set 1

25--29: Proverbs of Solomon, Set 2

30: Oracle of Agur

31: Proverbs of a Mother to Lemuel

Ecclesiastes is a book that relates man's reasoning about life "under the sun," stressing the vanity of life without God.

Ecclesiastes--Life under the Sun

Key verses--1:2, 12:13, 14

1--6: All is Vanity

7--12: Living with Vanity

Song of Solomon is a story of the deep love between a man and a woman, symbolic of God's love for His people.

Song of Solomon--A Song of Love

Key verse--7:10

1--4: The Beginning of Love

5--8: Broadening of Love

MAJOR PROPHETS

Prophets were revivalists and patriots, speaking for God to the people, both forth-telling God's will and foretelling the future. Major Prophets are so called because of the size of the books.

Isaiah means "Yahweh (God) is salvation." Isaiah lived at the time the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Assyria. He predicted Judah's captivity by the Babylonians, and he also predicted the return to the land and the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah--Prophecy about the Coming Savior and King

Key verses--9:6, 7

1--35: Prophecies of Condemnation

36--39: History

40--66: Prophecies of Comfort

Jeremiah means "Yahweh establishes or sends." Jeremiah proclaimed God's judgment of Judah at the hand of the Babylonians because of the nation's apostasy and idolatry.

Jeremiah--Warnings from the Weeping Prophet

Key verses--15:16, 17:5-8

1: The Call of Jeremiah

2--45: Prophecies to Judah

46--51: Prophecies about the Gentiles

52: Fall of Jerusalem

Lamentations consists of five poems lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem at the time of the Babylonian captivity. In the midst of affliction the writer declares that "the Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail."

Lamentations--Lament over Jerusalem's Desolation

Key verses--3:22-24

1--2: Destruction of Jerusalem

3: Jeremiah's Cry to God
4--5: Siege and Prayer for Restoration

Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian captivity. His subjects include the judgment of God's people and the eventual restoration and glorious future of Israel.

Ezekiel--Prophecies about Jerusalem and the Temple

Key verses--37:11, 12

1--3: Commission of Ezekiel

4--24: Judgment on Judah

25--32: Judgment on Gentiles

33--48: Restoration of Israel

Daniel prophesied during the Babylonian captivity. His themes include prophecies about great Gentile world powers, the coming of the Messiah, and the events of the latter days.

Daniel--Daniel and the Visions

Key verses--1:8, 9, 7:13, 14

1: Personal History of Daniel

2--7: Prophecies about Gentiles

8--12: Prophecies about Israel

MINOR PROPHETS

These are so called because of the shorter size of the books.

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom (Israel) during the same time that Isaiah was prophesying to Judah. He pictured Israel as an adulterous wife, shortly to be put away, but eventually restored because of God's unchanging love.

Hosea--God's Faithfulness Despite Israel's Sin

Key verse--4:6

1--3: Hosea and Gomer

4--14: God and Israel

Joel was a prophet to Judah. This book contains two parts. In the first part, a great calamity by an army of locusts is predicted. The second part contains God's answer to the people's prayers. Joel contains a prophecy that the Jews would establish a great nation in Palestine in the future.

Joel--The Day of the Lord

Key verse--2:28

1: The Past Day of the Lord

2--3: The Future Day of the Lord

Amos prophesied to the Northern Kingdom. He denounced luxurious living, idolatry, and moral depravity.

Amos--The Just God Must Punish Sin

Key verses--3:1, 2

1--2: Judgments

3--6: Sermons

7--9: Visions and Promises of Restoration

Obadiah lived in Jerusalem after Judah's deportation to Babylon. He announced the doom of the Edomites, and prophesied a future when the Jews would again rule over all the lands formerly under David's control.

Obadiah--Judgment of Edom

Key verse--10

Jonah was a prophet called to testify to Nineveh. The book teaches that God's grace extends beyond His chosen people.

Jonah--Revival in Nineveh

Key verse--4:2

1--2: Jonah and the Fish

3--4: Repentance of Nineveh

Micah lived in the time of Isaiah and prophesied the destruction of both Israel and Judah.

Micah--The Messiah, Mankind's Deliverer

Key verses--5:2, 7:18

1--3: Judgment

4--7: Predictions

Nahum's message was that of judgment for Nineveh, predicting its destruction.

Nahum--Judgment of Nineveh

Key verse--3:5

1--3: The Destruction of Nineveh

Habakkuk prophesied in Judah and wrote of the overthrow of Judah by the Chaldeans (Babylonians). He described the sinfulness of the Chaldeans and their ultimate downfall, and he concluded the book with a prayer of faith.

Habakkuk--Justification by Faith

Key verses--2:4, 3:17-19

1--2: Habakkuk's Questions

3: Habakkuk's Praise

Zephaniah prophesied judgment upon Judah and surrounding nations, and prophesied blessings for a restored Jerusalem.

Zephaniah--Judgment and Future Blessing

Key verses--1:14, 15

1--3: The Day of the Lord and Future Salvation

Haggai prophesied when the remnant of Jews returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. His message was mainly concerned with the building of the unfinished temple.

Haggai--Call to Complete the Temple

Key verses--1:7, 8

1: Call to Rebuild the Temple

2: Prophecies

Zechariah was a prophet to the returning remnant who wrote about the restoration of the temple and the coming Messianic Kingdom.

Zechariah--Prepare for the Messiah

Key verse--9:9

1--6: Visions

7--8: Fasts and Feasts

9--14: The Messiah

Malachi was the last of the prophets to the restored remnant. He wrote to rebuke God's people for their backsliding and predicted the coming of the Messiah.

Malachi--Appeal to Backsliders

Key verses--4:5, 6

1--3: Sins of the Priests and the People

4: Coming Judgment

NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPELS

The Gospels are four accounts of the life and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews. Matthew shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of messianic prophecies, the Anointed One who came to save God's people.

Matthew--Jesus Christ, King of the Jews

Key verses--1:1, 28:5, 6, 18-20

1--4: Coming of the King

5--7: Communications from the King

8--10: Credentials of the King

11--16: Challenge to the King's Authority

17--20: Cultivation of the King's Disciples

21--26: Climax of the King's Offer

27--28: Crucifixion and Resurrection

Mark is the second of the Gospels, an account of Jesus Christ that portrays Him as the powerful Servant of God and Redeemer of mankind.

Mark--Jesus Christ, Servant of God

Key verse--10:45

1--9: Preparation and Preaching in Galilee

10: Preaching in Perea

11--16: Passion in Jerusalem

Luke was an educated Greek physician and companion of Paul. His book portrays Jesus Christ as the Perfect Man, as well as being the Divine Savior.

Luke--Jesus Christ, Son of Man

Key verse--19:10

1--4: Introduction of the Son of Man

5--9: Ministry of the Son of Man

10--18: Rejection of the Son of Man

19--24: Crucifixion and Resurrection

John was an apostle and was one of the three closest of Jesus. His book portrays Jesus as the incarnate Word, the Son of God, co-equal with the Father and Holy Spirit as Deity. John was written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

John--Jesus Christ, Son of God

Key verses--1:1, 14, 3:16, 20:30, 31

1:1-8: **B**irth of the Word

1:19-51: **E**xclamations of Witnesses

2--12: **L**ife in Public

13--17: **I**nstructions for Disciples

18--19: **E**xaminations and Crucifixion

20: **V**erification of Resurrection

21: **E**pilogue

HISTORY

Acts, written by Luke, is a history of the early church. Some have called it the Acts of the Holy Spirit because He is the guiding Person throughout. Peter is prominent in the first twelve chapters, and Paul is prominent from chapter thirteen to the end of the book.

Acts--History of the Early Church

Key verse--1:8

1--7: **A** Beginning in Jerusalem

8--12: **C**hristians in Judea and Samaria

13--28: **T**he **S**pread of Christianity

LETTERS OF PAUL TO CHURCHES

Paul was an apostle and church-planter. In his letters to the churches (which were inspired by the Holy Spirit), he instructed the churches about important truths.

Romans is a letter written by Paul whose major theme is justification by faith. Paul described the nature of Christ's work and the doctrines of grace.

Romans--The Gospel and Righteousness

Key verses--1:16, 17

1--2: **God's Just Condemnation of Man**

3--5: **Offer of Justification by Faith**

6--8: **Sanctification**

9--11: **Position of Israel**

12--14: **Exhortations about Christian Living**

15--16: **Last Words and Greetings**

First Corinthians was written by Paul to direct the Corinthian church away from error and disorder, and to answer specific questions submitted to him.

First Corinthians--Divisions, Disorder, and Difficulties

Key verses--6:19, 20

1--4: Divisions in the Church

5--6: Disorder in the Church

7--16: Difficulties in the Church

Second Corinthians, written by Paul, expresses Paul's pleasure about reported repentance, and also warns against false teachers. Paul also vindicated his apostleship.

Second Corinthians--Character and Credentials of Paul

Key verse--4:5

1--7: Character of Paul

8--9: Collection for Saints

10--13: Credentials of Paul

In **Galatians**, Paul wrote to refute legalistic Judaizers that had infiltrated the Galatian church. He emphasized the doctrine of justification by faith.

Galatians--The Gospel vs. Legalism

Key verse--2:16

1: **Gospel of Christ**

2: **Only Justified by Faith**

3: **Sons of God through Faith**

4: **Puzzle of Their Return to Legalism**

5: **Encouraged to Walk by Spirit**

6: **Law of Christ**

In **Ephesians**, Paul wrote about the Church, her position and blessings in Christ and her duties in her walk.

Ephesians--The Church

Key verses--2:8-10, 19-22

1: **Chosen for Blessings**

2: **Household of Faith**

3: **Understanding the Mystery**

4: **Relationships in the Body**

5: **Christian Conduct**

6: **Heavenly Adversaries and God's Armor**

Philippians was written from prison, yet the predominant note of the letter is joy. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, the first church in Europe, to discuss unselfish, fruitful Christian living.

Philippians--The Joy of Fruitful Living

Key verses--4:4, 8, 9

1: The Purpose of Fruitful Living

2: The Pattern of Fruitful Living

3: The Pitfalls of Fruitful Living

4: The Power for Fruitful Living

In **Colossians**, Paul wrote about the deity of Christ and the problems of legalism and mysticism. He also described proper Christian relationships.

Colossians--Christ is All

Key verses--1:13-16, 3:11

- 1: **P**reeminence of Christ
- 2: **U**ncontaminated by Error
- 3: **R**elationships
- 4: **E**nding Exhortations

First Thessalonians was the first of Paul's Epistles. He commended them for their missionary zeal, and corrected their ideas about the second coming of Christ.

First Thessalonians--Reproduction and the Rapture

Key verses--4:16-18

- 1: **A**dvance of the Gospel
- 2: **H**aving a Fond Affection
- 3: **O**bservation of Church Condition
- 4: **P**inciples about Sex, Love, and the Rapture
- 5: **E**xemplary Living and the Day of the Lord

In **Second Thessalonians**, Paul corrected some misunderstandings about his first letter to the Thessalonians, and also wrote about the tribulation.

Second Thessalonians--The Day of the Lord

Key verses--1:8, 9

- 1: **D**ealing Out Retribution
- 2: **A**ntichrist
- 3: **Y**ield to Paul's Instructions

LETTERS OF PAUL TO INDIVIDUALS

Paul was concerned not only with churches but also with individuals. Through the Holy Spirit, he penned instructions and revelations to church leaders and saints.

First Timothy was written after Paul's release from his first imprisonment, probably about A.D. 63. Timothy, the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother, had been converted under Paul's ministry, and became a companion on Paul's missionary travels.

First Timothy--Leadership Manual for Church Organization

Key verse--3:15

- 1: **W**arning
- 2: **W**orship
- 3: **W**orkers
- 4: **W**isdom
- 5: **W**idows
- 6: **W**ealth

Second Timothy, the last epistle written by Paul, was sent from prison in Rome, where he was awaiting execution. This letter was probably written about A.D. 64 or 65.

Second Timothy--Paul's Farewell

Key verses--3:15-17

- 1: **P**ower
- 2: **P**erseverance
- 3: **P**erfected by Word
- 4: **P**reach the Word

Titus was a Gentile and worked with the church on the island of Crete. This letter places an emphasis on sound doctrine and good deeds.

Titus--Order in the Church

Key verse: 1:5

1: Greeting and Elder Qualifications

2: Godly Behavior

3: Good Works

Onesimus, a slave who had belonged to **Philemon**, had stolen from his master and run away to Rome, where he was converted under the ministry of Paul. Paul asked that Philemon forgive Onesimus and receive him as a brother in Christ. This letter was written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome.

Philemon--Applied Fellowship

Key verses: 15-17

LETTERS FROM OTHERS

Although Paul wrote many of the New Testament Epistles, several were written by others. All of them were inspired by the same Holy Spirit.

Hebrews is a letter whose author is unknown. The writer shows the superiority of Christianity to all that went before it, and that the things of Judaism were merely shadows and types of the Person and work of Christ.

Hebrews--Christ is Superior to All

Key verses--1:8, 10:10, 10, 14, 12:1-3

1--3: Majesty of Christ

4--10: Ministry of Christ

11--13: Ministers for Christ

James emphasizes the difference between mere professing faith, and faith that results in good works. This letter contains many practical exhortations.

James--Practical Christian Living

Key verses--1:21, 22

1: Joy in Trials

2: Avoiding Partiality / Working Faith

3: Managing Your Tongue / Wisdom

4: Enemies of God

5: Silver, Suffering, Swearing, Sickness and Straying

In **First Peter**, Peter wrote to encourage believers to stand fast in the midst of intense persecution. Elders in the church were exhorted to faithfulness, and the younger men to be subject to them.

First Peter--The Adventure of the Royal Priesthood

Key verses--4:12, 13

1: Position

2: Excellencies Proclaimed

3: Testimony

4: Exultation

5: Responsibilities

Second Peter, Peter's last letter, speaks about Christian character, false teachers, and the coming judgment of the world.

Second Peter--Peter's Reminder

Key verses--1:4-8

1: Fruit

2: False Teachers

3: Future

First John, written by the apostle John, describes the traits of true believers, and corrects false ideas about the deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus.

First John--Knowing About True and False Fellowship

Key verses--1:3, 4

- 1: Fellowship
- 2: Abiding
- 3: Love
- 4: Spirit
- 5: Eternal Life

Second John is a warning against false teachers; the apostle advised to keep the door closed to all false teachers.
Second John--Avoid Fellowship with False Teachers
Key verses--7-11

Third John mentions three men. Gaius is commended for his godliness and hospitality, Diotrephes is rebuked for self-importance, and Demetrius is praised for his consistent behavior. Christians are exhorted to show hospitality and kindness to true believers.

Third John--Enjoy Fellowship with Brethren
Key verse--11

Jude is a letter that urges believers to contend earnestly for the faith and that warns against apostasy.
Jude--Apostasy
Key verse--3

Revelation, written by the apostle John, looks into the future when all of God's purposes for the earth will be fulfilled and a new heaven and a new earth will be ushered in.
Revelation--Things to Come
Key verses--1:3, 19, 21:1-4
1--3: Vision of Christ
4--18: Tribulations
19--22: Triumph of Christ