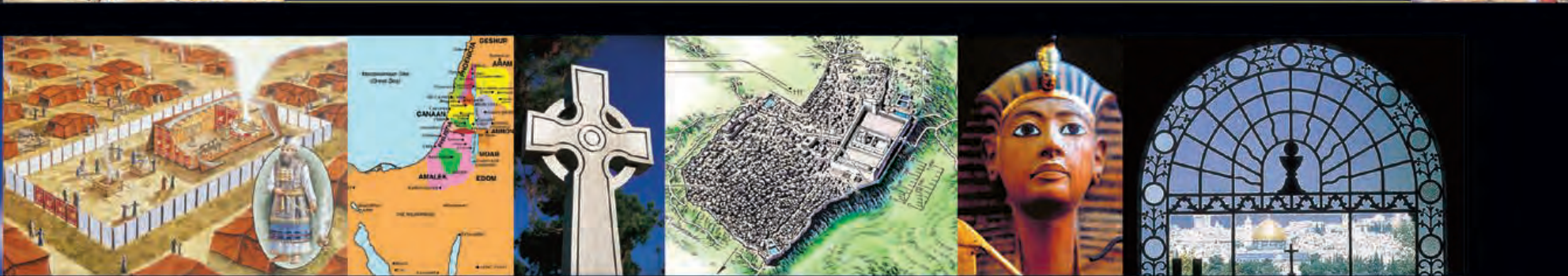





# ROSE BOOK OF BIBLE CHARTS, MAPS & TIME LINES



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ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Key

-  Major event
- c. Circa (about)
- || 10 years between lines
-  Year marker
-  Time span marker

---

Many dates listed are approximate and may vary according to different scholars.

## Middle East History



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2200 BC
2100 BC
2000 BC
1900 BC
1800 BC

## Bible History

**ABRAHAM** c. 2166-1991

Some scholars place Abraham's birth at 1952 BC. In this case, biblical events through Joseph would slide to the right 214 years.

**ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

**ISHMAEL** c. 2080-1943

**ISAAC** c. 2066-1886

**JACOB (ISRAEL)** c. 2005-1859

**JOB** (dates unknown)

**JOSEPH** c. 1914-1805

**JOSEPH BECOMES AN OFFICIAL IN EGYPT**

**JACOB AND HIS FAMILY GO TO EGYPT**

Sons of Jacob (Israel)—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasse, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Gad, Joseph (sons of Joseph)—Manasse

**JACOB FLEES TO HARAN** c. 1929

**The city of Ur falls** c. 2004

## World History

Earliest forms of writing (cuneiform) c. 3200

First Ziggurats built by Ur-Nammu c. 2112-2095

### Creation to Abraham

<p> (The Fall) <b>ADAM</b> 930*</p> <p><b>SETH</b> 912</p> <p><b>ENOS</b> 905</p> <p><b>KENAN (CAINAN)</b> 910</p> <p><b>MAHALALEEL</b> 895</p> <p><b>JARED</b> 962</p> <p><b>ENOC</b> 365 (God took him.)</p> <p><b>METHUSELAH</b> 969</p> <p><b>LAMECH</b> 777</p>	<p><b>NOAH</b> 950 (The Flood)</p> <p><b>SHAM</b> 600</p> <p><b>ARPHAXAD</b> 438</p> <p><b>SALAH</b> 433</p> <p><b>EBER</b> 464</p> <p><b>PELEG</b> 239</p> <p><b>REU</b> 239</p> <p><b>SERUG</b> 230</p> <p><b>NAHOR</b> 148</p> <p><b>TERA</b> 205</p> <p><b>ABRAHAM</b> 175</p>
--	--

\* The numbers indicate the age of the person at death.  
The red lines indicate the life span of the person in relationship to the others.

EGYPT
Old Kingdom Pyramids built c. 2700-2200

Middle Kingdom (11th-12th Dynasty) in Egypt c. 2050-1800

2200 BC
2100 BC
2000 BC
1900 BC
1800 BC

## Middle East History

Second Intermediate Period

NAHUM, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS  
EZEKIEL, HABAKKUK, OBADIAH

The diagram is a horizontal timeline divided into three main sections: Bible History, World History, and Middle East History. The timeline is marked with years from 1000 BC to 700 BC. The Bible History section includes the reigns of King David (c. 1011-971), King Solomon (c. 971-931), and the Divided Kingdom (Kings of Israel and Judah). The World History section includes the reigns of Hiram, king of Tyre (c. 978-944), the Battle of Qarqar (853), and the Assyrian Empire (883-609). The Middle East History section includes the reigns of various Assyrian emperors (Ashurnasirpal II, Shalmaneser III, Sargon II, Ashurbanipal) and the Babylonian Exile (586-539). The diagram also includes a map of the region and a list of key events, such as the fall of the Kingdom of Israel (722) and the fall of the Kingdom of Judah (586).

**1000 BC** **900 BC** **800 BC** **700 BC**

**United Kingdom** **Divided Kingdom**

**PRIESTHOOD OF ABIATHAR** **NATHAN** **JEROBOAM I** 931-910 **NADAB** 910-909 **BAASHA** 909-886 **ELAH** 886-885 **ZIMRI** 885 **TIBNI** 885-880 **OMRI** 885-874 **AHAB** 874-853 **HAZIAH** 853-852 **JORAM** 852-841 **JEHU** 841-814 **JEHOASH** 798-782 **JEROBOAM II** 793-753 **ZECHARIAH** 753 **SHALLUM** 752 **MENAHEM** 752-742 **PEKAHIAH** 742-740 **PEKAH** 752-732 **HOSHEA** 732-722 **ISRAEL (NORTHERN KINGDOM)** **FALLS TO THE ASSYRIANS** 722 **NAHUM** c. 658-615 **JEREMIAH** c. 650-582 **ZEPHANIAH** c. 640-609 **HABAKUK** c. 600 **EZEKIEL** c. 590 **DANIEL** c. 580

**KING DAVID** c. 1011-971 **KING SOLOMON** c. 971-931 **REHOBOAM** 931-913 **ABIAH** 913-911 **ASA** 911-870 **JEHOSHAPHAT** 873-848 **JEHORAM (JORAM)** 853-841 **HAZIAH** 841 **QUEEN ATHALIAH** 841-835 **JOASH** 835-796 **AMAZIAH** 796-767 **UZZIAH (AZARIAH)** 792-740 **JOTHAM** 750-732 **AHAZ (JEHOAHAZ)** 735-716 **HEZEKIAH** 716-687 **MANASSEH** 697-643 **AMON** 643-641 **JOSIAH** 641-609

**Bible History** **World History** **Middle East History**

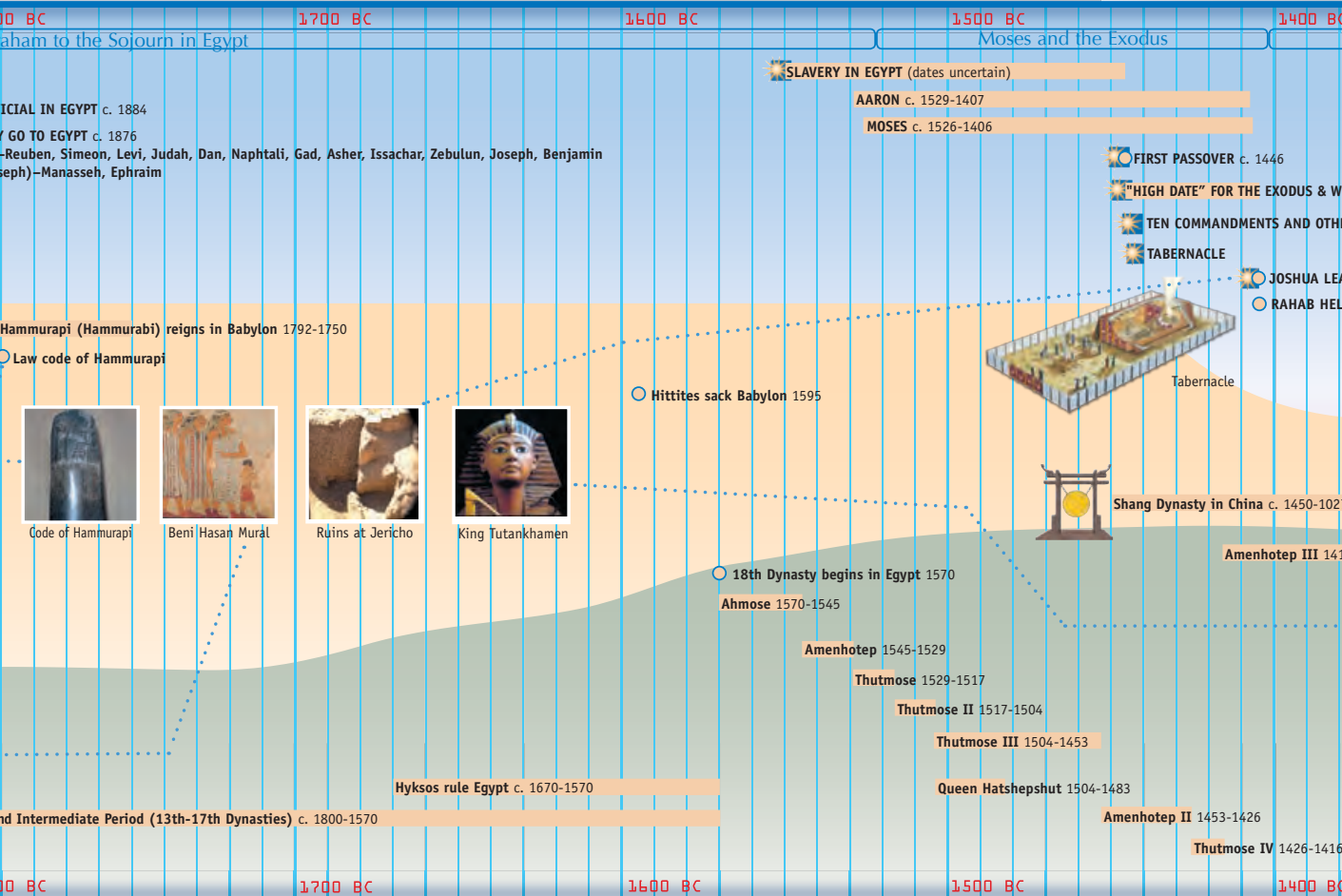
**SOLOMON'S TEMPLE COMPLETED** 960 **ELIJAH** c. 870-845 **ELISHA** c. 845-800 **JONAH** c. 781 **AMOS** c. 765-754 **ISAIAH** c. 760-673 **HOSEA** c. 758-725 **MICAH** c. 738-698 **City of Samaria founded** c. 879 **Hiram, king of Tyre** c. 978-944 **Battle of Qarqar-Israel and Syria clash with Assyria** 853 **Assyria forces Israel to pay tribute** 841 **Syria oppresses Israel** **First recorded Olympic games** 776 **Traditional date for the founding of Rome** 753 **Homer** c. 800-701 **King Mesha of Moab** 830 **Assyria rules Egypt** 671-652

**ASSYRIAN EMPIRE** **Ashurnasirpal II** 883-859 **Shalmaneser III** 858-824 **Shalmaneser IV** 783-773 **Ashurbanipal** 688-627 **Sargon II** (722-705) takes Samaria, exiles people to Assyria **Ashur-Nirari V** 754-745 **Tiglath-Pileser III** 744-727 **Shamsi-Adad V** 823-811 **Adad-Nirari III** 810-783 **Sennacherib** 704-681 **Esarhaddon** 680-669 **Nabopolassar** 626-562

**Shishak I** 945-924 **Mesha Stele** **Captives shown on Shishak Relief**

## THE IRON AGE



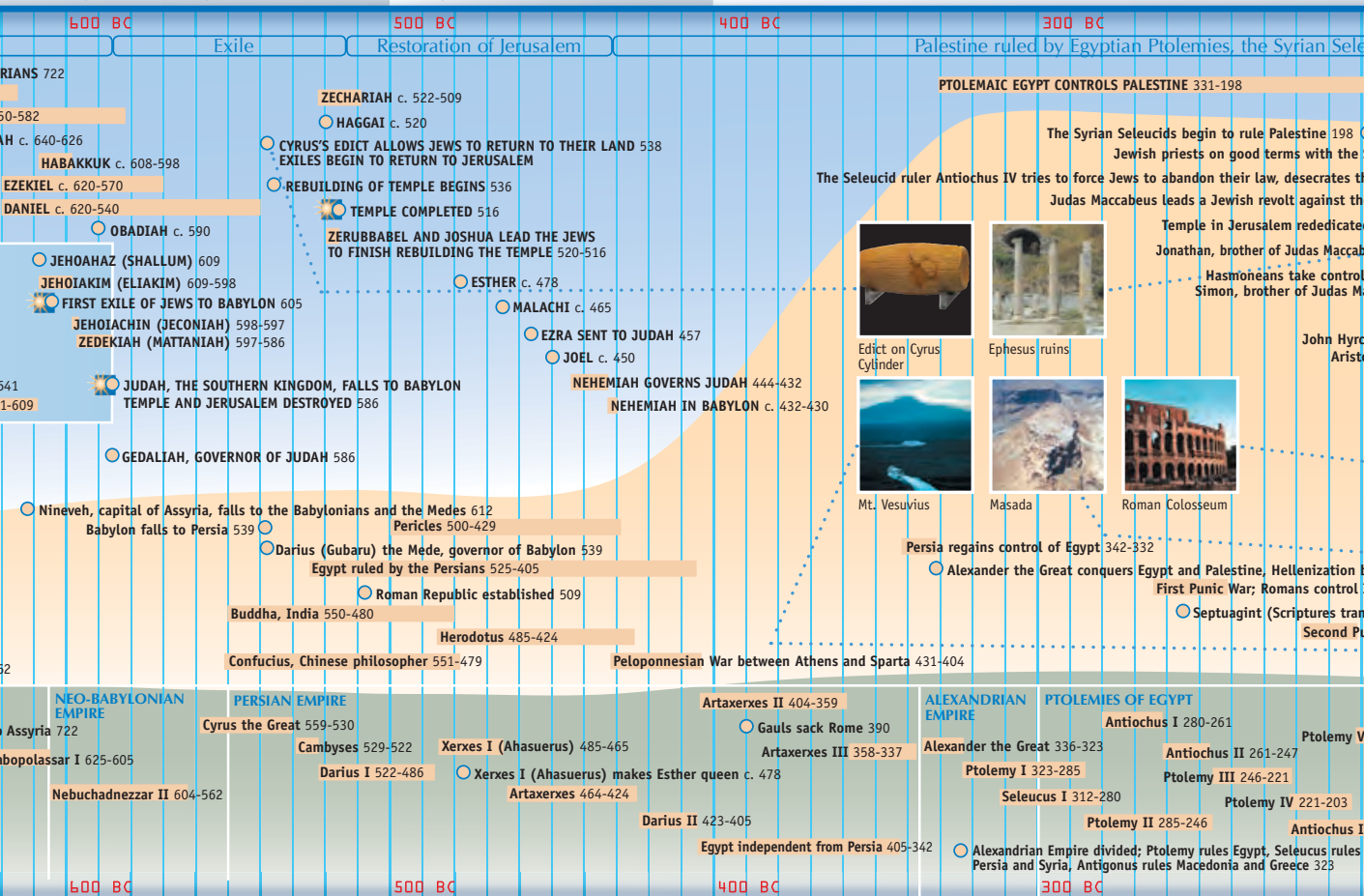


THE BRONZE AGE

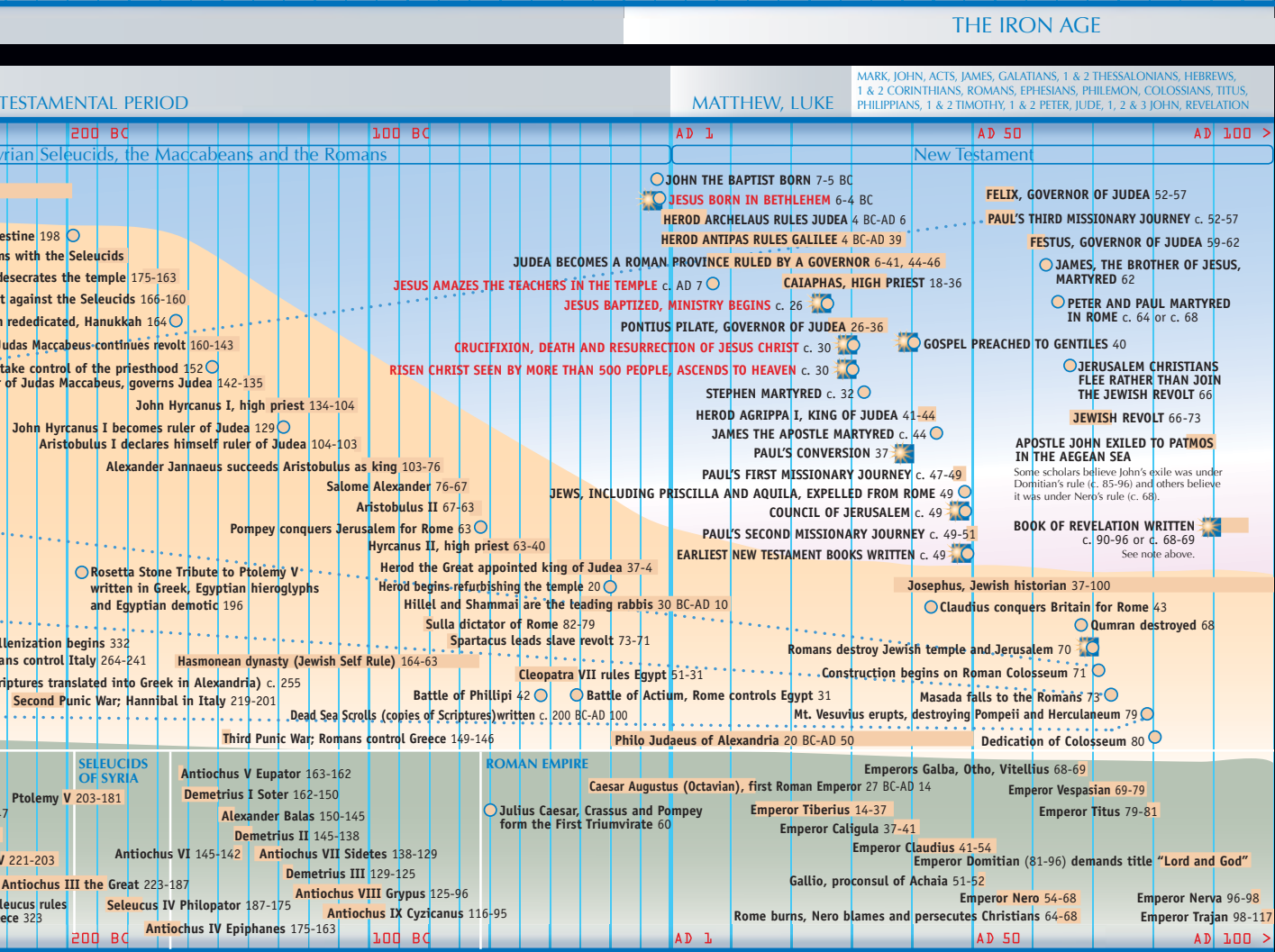
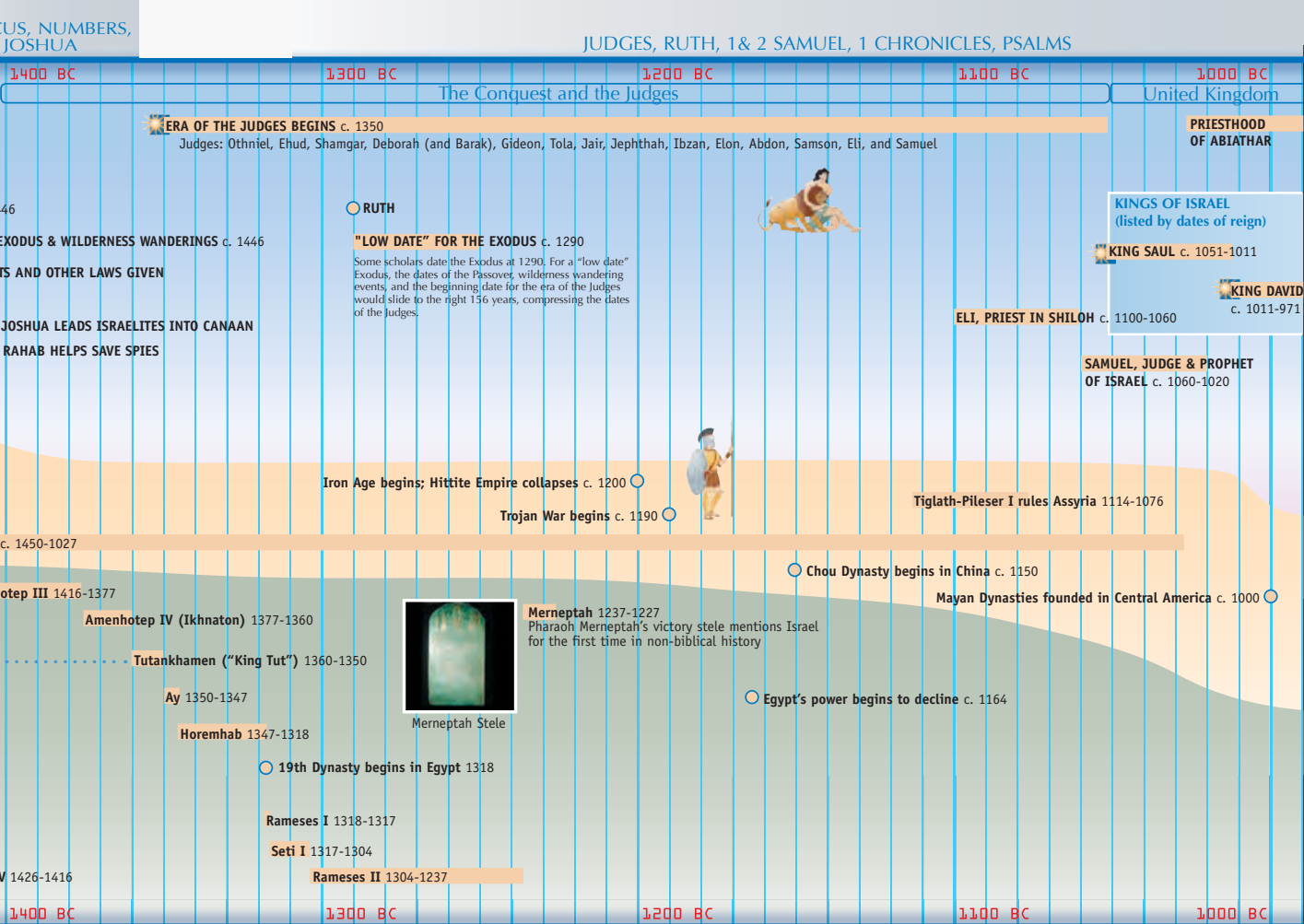
AMENEMHAT, ZEPHANIAH, DANIEL, OBADIAH, ZECHARIAH, HAGGAI

ESTHER, MALACHI, EZRA, JOEL, NEHEMIAH

INTER-TESTAMENTARY



THE IRON AGE















# The Tabernacle

Exodus 25–40; Hebrews 9–13

What is the Tabernacle?

The tabernacle was a moveable “tent of meeting” that God commanded Moses to build. God wanted to dwell among his people, the Israelites. He wanted to have fellowship with them and be able to communicate with them.

The tabernacle and its courtyard were constructed according to a pattern set by God, not by Moses. We study the tabernacle to understand the steps the Lord laid out for a sinful people to approach a holy God. The tabernacle was built approximately 1440 BC, and was the place where God dwelt with his people for 400 years. It was used from the time of the exodus until the time of King Solomon, when the temple was built. The tabernacle was the center of the Israelite camp. The twelve tribes of Israel camped around the tabernacle in a special arrangement.

ROSE BOOK OF  
BIBLE CHARTS, MAPS  
AND  
TIME LINES

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION



HENDRICKSON  
PUBLISHERS



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# Contents

Bible Time Line (foldout) .....	i
Tabernacle Cutaway (foldout) .....	ii

## Bible Overview ..... 5

Bible Overview .....	6
How We Got the Bible .....	18
100 Key People in the Bible .....	28
100 Prayers in the Bible .....	31
Weights, Measures, and Money in the Bible .....	34
Names of God .....	36
52 Key Bible Stories .....	40
100 Proofs for the Bible (archaeology) .....	48
Christian History Time Line .....	60

## Old Testament ..... 73

100 Old Testament Events .....	74
Creation .....	77
Noah's Ark .....	78
Twelve Tribes of Israel .....	80
The Exodus .....	88
Tabernacle .....	90
Ark of the Covenant .....	98
The Ten Commandments .....	100
The Judges .....	101
Feasts of the Bible .....	102
Kings and Prophets .....	107
Solomon's Temple .....	112
Psalms .....	116
Statue in the Book of Daniel .....	118

## New Testament ..... 125

Genealogy of Jesus (and foldout) .....	126
100 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus .....	129
Events in the Life of Jesus .....	135
Miracles of Jesus .....	136
Parables of Jesus .....	137
The Beatitudes .....	138
The Twelve Disciples .....	139
The Lord's Prayer .....	145
Herod's Temple .....	146



Palm Sunday to Easter .....	150
Jesus' Hours on the Cross .....	152
Evidence for the Resurrection .....	153
100 Events from Acts to Revelation.....	155
Armor of God .....	158
The Love Chapter: 1 Corinthians 13 .....	159
Fruit of the Spirit.....	160
Heroes of the Faith: Hebrews 11 .....	162
The Seven Churches of Revelation.....	163
Four Views of the End Times.....	166
Biblical Descriptions of Heaven and Hell.....	170

## **Maps.....171**

Middle East and Central Asia: 10-40 Window.....	172
Middle East: Then and Now.....	174
Holy Land: Then and Now .....	176
Holy Land: United Kingdom.....	178
Holy Land: Divided Kingdom.....	179
Assyrian Empire .....	180
Babylonian and Persian Empires.....	182
Middle East: Fascinating Facts and Figures .....	183
Where Jesus Walked: Then and Now .....	184
World of the First Christians: Then and Now .....	186
Paul's Journeys .....	188

## **Christianity, Cults, and Religions.....191**

Christianity, Cults, and Religions .....	192
Denominations Comparison .....	200
Essential Doctrines .....	207
The Trinity .....	213
Islam and Christianity .....	218

## **Map Index.....224**

## **Subject Index.....226**

Many Bible charts, maps, drawings, and time lines featured in this book are available individually as wall charts and/or pamphlets. Visit [www.rose-publishing.com](http://www.rose-publishing.com) for details.



# BIBLE OVERVIEW



# BIBLE OVERVIEW

## OLD TESTAMENT - 39 BOOKS

PENTATEUCH - 5	HISTORICAL BOOKS - 12	POETRY & WISDOM - 5	MINOR PROPHETS - 12
GENESIS	JOSHUA	JOB	HOSEA
EXODUS	JUDGES	PSALMS	JOEL
LEVITICUS	RUTH	PROVERBS	AMOS
NUMBERS	1 SAMUEL	ECCLESIASTES	OBADIAH
DEUTERONOMY	2 SAMUEL	SONG OF SONGS	JONAH
	1 KINGS	MAJOR PROPHETS - 5	MICAH
	2 KINGS		NAHUM
	1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK
	2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH
	EZRA		HAGGAI
	NEHEMIAH	EZEKIEL	ZECHARIAH
	ESTHER	DANIEL	MALACHI

## NEW TESTAMENT - 27 BOOKS

GOSPELS & ACTS - 5	PAUL'S EPISTLES (LETTERS) - 13		GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION - 9
MATTHEW	ROMANS	1 THESSALONIANS	HEBREWS
MARK	1 CORINTHIANS	2 THESSALONIANS	JAMES
LUKE	2 CORINTHIANS	1 TIMOTHY	1 PETER
JOHN	GALATIANS	2 TIMOTHY	2 PETER
ACTS	EPHESIANS	TITUS	1 JOHN
	PHILIPPIANS	PHILEMON	2 JOHN
	COLOSSIANS		3 JOHN
			JUDE
			REVELATION



# OLD TESTAMENT

## PENTATEUCH

The Pentateuch contains stories about the creation of the world, the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the children of Israel in Egypt, the exodus, and the time the children of Israel spent in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. The books also record the law God gave to the people on Mt. Sinai which laid down the regulations for sacrifice, worship, and daily living. The Pentateuch is also called the Torah.

### GENESIS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** The Beginnings  
**Where:** Egypt and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1446 BC-1406 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate that God is sovereign and loves his creation.

#### Outline (Chapter)

- Creation, Fall, and Flood (1-11)
- Abraham (12-25)
- Isaac and Jacob (26-36)
- Joseph (37-50)

**Key Verse:** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Genesis 17:7)

### EXODUS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Deliverance from Slavery  
**Where:** Egypt and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1446 BC-1406 BC  
**Why:** To show God's faithfulness to the covenant and provide Israel with guidelines for holy living.

#### Outline (Chapter)

- Moses (1-7)
- The Plagues (8-13)
- The Exodus (14-18)
- The Law (19-24)
- Tabernacle and Worship (25-40)

**Key Verse:** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14)

### LEVITICUS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Law and Sacrifice  
**Where:** Sinai and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1446 BC-1406 BC  
**Why:** To instruct Israel on how to be holy and to be a blessing to others.

#### Outline (Chapter)

- Sacrifice (1-7)
- Priesthood (8-10)
- Clean and Unclean (11-15)
- Day of Atonement (16)
- Laws for Daily Life (17-27)

**Key Verse:** Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:7-8)

### NUMBERS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Census and History  
**Where:** Borders of Canaan  
**When:** c. 1446 BC-1406 BC  
**Why:** A reminder of what happens when people rebel against God.

#### Outline (Chapter)

- Census (1-9)
- Sinai to Canaan (10-12)
- Spies and Rebellion (13-19)
- Moab (20-36)

**Key Verse:** The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

### DEUTERONOMY

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Sermons by Moses  
**Where:** Plains of Moab  
**When:** c. 1446 BC-1406 BC  
**Why:** To remind the people what God expects from them.

#### Outline (Chapter)

- Sermon 1: Journey Review (1-4)
- Sermon 2: Laws (5-28)
- Sermon 3: Covenant (29-30)
- Final Farewells (31-34)

**Key Verse:** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

# HISTORICAL BOOKS

The 12 Historical Books continue with the story of the people of Israel and the conquest of the Promised Land in the book of Joshua, the continuous cycle of disobedience in the book of Judges, the first kings and the United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, the Assyrian invasion, Babylonian invasion, the years in exile, and the return from exile during the Persian rule.

## JOSHUA

**Who:** Unknown (Joshua or Samuel)

**What:** History of Conquest

**Where:** Canaan

**When:** c. 1300s BC

**Why:** To assure the people that obedience to God is rewarded.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Conquest (1-12)
- Dividing the Land (13-22)
- Joshua's Farewell (23-24)

**Key Verse:** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)

## JUDGES

**Who:** Unknown (Samuel)

**What:** History before Kings

**Where:** Canaan

**When:** c. 1400 BC-1000 BC

**Why:** To stress the importance of remaining loyal to God.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Reasons for Failure (1)
- The Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson (2-16)
- Days of Lawlessness (17-21)

**Key Verse:** In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (Judges 21:25)

## RUTH

**Who:** Unknown (Samuel)

**What:** Story of a Faithful Foreigner

**Where:** Canaan

**When:** c. 1350 BC-1000 BC

**Why:** To demonstrate the kind of faithfulness, godliness, loyalty, and love that God desires for us.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Naomi and Ruth (1)
- Ruth meets Boaz (2)
- The Threshing Floor (3)
- The Marriage (4)

**Key Verse:** 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. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

## 1 SAMUEL

**Who:** Unknown

**What:** History of Events

**Where:** Israel and Judah

**When:** c. 1100 BC-931 BC

**Why:** To record how Israel got a king.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Samuel (1-7)
- Saul (8-15)
- Saul and David (16-31)

**Key Verse:** But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)

## 2 SAMUEL

**Who:** Unknown

**What:** History of Events

**Where:** Israel and Judah

**When:** c. 1100 BC-931 BC

**Why:** To demonstrate the prominence of David's line.

### Outline (Chapter)

- David's Reign in Judah (1-4)
- David Unites Israel (5-10)
- David and Bathsheba (11-12)
- Family Problems (13-20)
- Conclusions (21-24)

**Key Verse:** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. (2 Samuel 7:9)



## 1 KINGS

**Who:** Unknown

**What:** Evaluation of the Kings

**Where:** In Exile in Babylon

**When:** 561 BC–539 BC

**Why:** To demonstrate the value of obeying and the danger of disobeying God.

### Outline (Chapter)

- King Solomon's Reign (1–4)
- Temple Construction (5–8)
- Queen of Sheba (9–10)
- Kingdom Splits (11–16)
- Prophet Elijah (17–22)

**Key Verse:** So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. (1 Kings 3:9a)

## 2 KINGS

**Who:** Unknown

**What:** Evaluation of the Kings

**Where:** In Exile in Babylon

**When:** 561 BC–539 BC

**Why:** To demonstrate the value of obeying God.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Prophet Elisha (1–8)
- Kings of Judah and Israel (9–16)
- Fall of Israel (17–21)
- King Josiah (22–23)
- Fall of Judah; Exile (24–25)

**Key Verse:** And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth." (2 Kings 19:15)

## 1 CHRONICLES

**Who:** Unknown (Ezra)

**What:** Review of David's Reign

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 450 BC–400 BC

**Why:** To encourage the remnant.

**Key Verse:** "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." (1 Chronicles 4:10)

## 2 CHRONICLES

**Who:** Unknown (Ezra)

**What:** Highlights Kings of Judah

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 450 BC–400 BC

**Why:** To show the benefits that come from obedience.

**Key Verse:** As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. (2 Chronicles 13:10a)

## EZRA

**Who:** Ezra

**What:** History of Reconstruction

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 400s BC

**Why:** Provide a detailed account of the exiles' return and the rebuilding of the temple.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Exiles Return (1–2)
- Rebuilding the Temple (3–6)
- The Work of Ezra (7–10)

**Key Verse:** With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever. And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid." (Ezra 3:11)

## NEHEMIAH

**Who:** Ezra

**What:** History of Reconstruction

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 400s BC

**Why:** Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Nehemiah Returns (1–2)
- Rebuilding of the Walls (3)
- Threats and Persecution (4–7)
- Renewal of Covenant (8–10)
- Dedication and Laws (11–13)

**Key Verse:** Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

## ESTHER

**Who:** Unknown

**What:** Story of Redemption

**Where:** Persia

**When:** c. 400s BC

**Why:** To demonstrate that, in all circumstances, God is in control.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Search for a New Queen (1–2)
- Haman's Plot (3)
- Esther's Plan (4–6)
- Haman's Downfall (7)
- Esther Saves the Jews (8–10)

**Key Verse:** For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)

# POETRY & WISDOM

The five Poetry and Wisdom books include hymns, proverbs, poems, and dramas. They illustrate the creative ways the people of Israel expressed themselves to God and to each other.

## JOB

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** Story of Perseverance  
**Where:** Mesopotamia (Uz)  
**When:** Unknown  
**Why:** To show the sovereignty of God and to illustrate faithfulness in the midst of suffering.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Job Tested (1-3)
- Job's Friends (4-31)
- Elihu's Speech (32-37)
- God's Answer (38-42)

**Key Verse:** I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. (Job 19:25-26)

## PSALMS

**Who:** David, Moses, Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, Sons of Korah  
**What:** Poetry and Song  
**Where:** Ancient Israel  
**When:** c. 1000 BC-450 BC  
**Why:** To communicate with God and worship him.

### Outline (Chapter)

- 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 Verse:** My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. (Psalm 145:21)

## PROVERBS

**Who:** Solomon and others  
**What:** Wisdom  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 900s BC-700s BC  
**Why:** To provide wisdom and guidance for God's children.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Lessons in Wisdom (1-9)
- Proverbs of Solomon (10-22)
- Other Wise Sayings (23-24)
- Solomon's Sayings (25-29)
- Other Proverbs (30-31)

**Key Verse:** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

## ECCLESIASTES

**Who:** Unknown (Solomon)  
**What:** Wisdom  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. 900s BC or 500s BC  
**Why:** A search to discover truth.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Meaning of Life (1-2)
- Life is Not Always Fair (3-6)
- Wisdom (7-8)
- No One Knows the Future (9-10)
- Obedience to God (11-12)

**Key Verse:** Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

## SONG OF SONGS

**Who:** Solomon and others  
**What:** Love Poem  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. 900s BC or 500s BC  
**Why:** To illustrate the joy of authentic love found in marriage.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Courtship (1-2)
- The Wedding (3-4)
- The Lasting Relationship (5-8)

**Key Verse:** 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 Songs 8:7)



# MAJOR PROPHETS

The five Major Prophets are not called “major” because of their message or quality, but rather because of the length of the books. The prophets brought God’s word which included warning of judgment, warnings and hope for the immediate future (as well as warnings and hope for the distant future), and hope in the coming Messiah.

## ISAIAH

**Who:** Isaiah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgement  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 701 BC–681 BC  
**Why:** To convince the people that salvation was possible through repentance and hope in the coming Messiah.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Condemnation (1–39)
- Comfort in Exile (40–55)
- Future Hope (56–66)

**Key Verse:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

## JEREMIAH

**Who:** Jeremiah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgement  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 626 BC–582 BC  
**Why:** To warn Judah of their destruction, to remind them of their sin, and convince them to submit to the Babylonian invaders.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Jeremiah (1–10)
- Prophetic Warnings (11–28)
- New Covenant (29–39)
- The Fall of Jerusalem (40–52)

**Key Verse:** “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

**Who:** Unknown (Jeremiah)  
**What:** Dirge Poem (Lament)  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 586  
**Why:** To express the despair of the people of Judah over the loss of their land, city, and temple.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Sorrows of Captives (1)
- Anger with Jerusalem (2)
- Hope and Mercy (3)
- Punishment (4)
- Restoration (5)

**Key Verse:** Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22–23)

## EZEKIEL

**Who:** Ezekiel  
**What:** Prophecy and Warning  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 593 BC–571 BC  
**Why:** To confront people about their sin, give them one last chance to repent, and offer hope.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Ezekiel (1–3)
- Judgment of Judah (4–24)
- Judgment on the Nations (25–32)
- The End of the Age (33–39)
- Restoration of Temple (40–48)

**Key Verse:** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

## DANIEL

**Who:** Daniel  
**What:** Prophecy and Apocalyptic  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 605 BC–535 BC  
**Why:** To convince the Jewish exiles that God is sovereign and to provide them with a vision of their future redemption.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Daniel and His Friends (1–6)
- Apocalyptic Visions (7–12)

**Key Verse:** In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)

# MINOR PROPHETS

The 12 Minor Prophets, called “The Book of the Twelve” in the Hebrew Bible, are just as important as the Major Prophets. They are called “minor” because of the shorter length of the books. They also brought God’s word to the people regarding judgment and hope.

## HOSEA

**Who:** Hosea  
**What:** Prophecy and Warning  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 752 BC–722 BC  
**Why:** To illustrate Israel’s spiritual adultery and warn of destruction.

### Outline (Chapter)

- The Unfaithful Wife (1–3)
- The Unfaithful Nation (4–14)

**Key Verse:** Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children. (Hosea 4:6)

## JOEL

**Who:** Joel  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** Unknown  
**Why:** To call Judah to repentance in order to avoid judgment.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Locusts (1)
- Blessings and Curses (2–3)

**Key Verse:** And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (Joel 2:28b)

## AMOS

**Who:** Amos  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 760 BC–753 BC  
**Why:** To accuse and judge Israel for injustice and lack of mercy.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Neighbors Punished (1)
- Israel’s Destruction (2–8)
- Future Hope (9)

**Key Verse:** Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. (Amos 5:14)

## OBADIAH

**Who:** Obadiah  
**What:** Prophecy  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 586 BC  
**Why:** To prophesy against Edom.

### Outline (Verses)

- Judgment on Edom (1–9)
- Edom’s Violations (10–14)
- Israel’s Victory (15–21)

**Key Verse:** Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever. (Obadiah 10)

## JONAH

**Who:** Jonah  
**What:** Story of God’s Mercy  
**Where:** Nineveh  
**When:** c. 783 BC–753 BC  
**Why:** To show that God loves all.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Jonah Flees (1)
- Jonah Prays (2)
- Jonah’s Anger with God’s Mercy (3–4)

**Key Verse:** I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. (Jonah 4:2b)

## MICAH

**Who:** Micah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Israel and Judah  
**When:** c. 738 BC–698 BC  
**Why:** To warn people of judgment and to offer hope.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Judgment and Deliverance (1–5)
- Confession and Restoration (6–7)

**Key Verse:** He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

## NAHUM

**Who:** Nahum  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah and Nineveh  
**When:** c. 663 BC–612 BC  
**Why:** To pronounce judgment on Nineveh and the Assyrian empire.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Judgment and Mercy (1)
- Nineveh’s Destruction (2–3)

**Key Verse:** The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. (Nahum 1:7)

## HABAKKUK

**Who:** Habakkuk  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 609 BC–598 BC  
**Why:** To affirm that the wicked will not prevail and to remind Judah that God is in control.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Tough Questions (1–2)
- Praise to the Lord (3)

**Key Verse:** Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3:18)

## ZEPHANIAH

**Who:** Zephaniah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 641 BC–628 BC  
**Why:** To motivate repentance.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Judgment on Judah (1)
- Judgment on the Nations (2)
- Promise of Restoration (3)

**Key Verse:** The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. (Zephaniah 1:14)

## HAGGAI

**Who:** Haggai  
**What:** Prophecy and Hope  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 520 BC  
**Why:** To urge the people to complete rebuilding the temple.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Rebuild the Temple (1)
- Blessings and David’s Throne (2)

**Key Verse:** This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear. (Haggai 2:5)

## ZECHARIAH

**Who:** Zechariah  
**What:** Prophecy and Hope  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 520 BC–518 BC  
**Why:** To give hope to the remnant.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Zechariah’s Visions (1–8)
- Oracles against the Nations (9–14)

**Key Verse:** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

## MALACHI

**Who:** Malachi  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 400s BC  
**Why:** To examine Judah’s actions and make sure God has priority.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Six Prophetic Speeches (1–3)
- Day of the Lord (4)

**Key Verse:** But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. (Malachi 4:2)



# NEW TESTAMENT

# GOSPELS & ACTS

The Gospels, which are the first four books of the New Testament, record the good news of God's plan for a Savior through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each writer has a particular method or style to communicate the life and message of Jesus Christ.

## MATTHEW

**Who:** Matthew (also called Levi)  
**What:** Gospel  
**Where:** Judea  
**When:** c. AD 60  
**Why:** To show Jesus as the Son of David, the Kingly Messiah who fulfills prophecy.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1-4)
- Ministry of Christ (5-20)
- Death and Resurrection (21-28)

**Key Verse:** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:18-19)

## MARK

**Who:** John Mark  
**What:** Gospel  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 50s  
**Why:** To show Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man sent to serve and not be served.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2-10)
- Death and Resurrection (11-16)

**Key Verse:** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43-45)

Acts is the record of the radically changed "acts" or "actions" of the followers of Jesus Christ after the resurrection. Acts opens with the out-flowing of the Holy Spirit and describes the missionary efforts of the early followers of Jesus as they spread the message of the gospel to Judea and Samaria. Acts also records the actions of the apostle Paul as he and other courageous believers continued to spread the good news of Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles of the Roman Empire.

## LUKE

**Who:** Luke (The Physician)  
**What:** Gospel  
**Where:** Caesarea  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 62  
**Why:** To show Jesus as the Savior of the World who has compassion for all human beings.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1-4)
- Ministry of Christ (5-19)
- Death and Resurrection (20-24)

**Key Verse:** Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

## JOHN

**Who:** John (The Beloved Disciple)  
**What:** Gospel  
**Where:** Asia Minor  
**When:** c. AD 85-AD 95  
**Why:** To show Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, who provides eternal life for all who believe in him.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2-12)
- Private Ministry (13-17)
- Death and Resurrection (18-21)

**Key Verse:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

## ACTS

**Who:** Luke (The Physician)  
**What:** History of Early Church  
**Where:** Caesarea and Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 62  
**Why:** To record how the Holy Spirit acted through believers to spread the Word of God.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Jerusalem (1-7)
- Judea and Samaria (8-11)
- Paul's Journeys (12-20)
- Paul Taken to Rome (21-28)

**Key Verse:** 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 Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

# PAUL'S EPISTLES (LETTERS)

The apostle Paul wrote 13 letters to young churches, pastors, and friends in order to guide, encourage, and correct them. Most of these letters served a specific purpose or addressed a specific question or problem.

## ROMANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Roman Christians  
**Where:** Corinth  
**When:** c. AD 57  
**Why:** To illustrate law, faith, salvation, and righteous living.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Christian Gospel (1-8)
- Israel (9-11)
- Christian Life (12-16)

**Key Verse:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:1-2a)

## 1 CORINTHIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Corinth  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 55-56  
**Why:** To address division and immorality and to encourage them to love each other.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Divisions (1-4)
- Morality (5-11)
- Spiritual Gifts (12-14)
- The Resurrection (15-16)

**Key Verse:** 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

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Corinth  
**Where:** Philippi  
**When:** c. AD 56  
**Why:** To defend Paul's call as an apostle, to address deceivers.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Apostolic Characteristics (1-7)
- Giving (8-9)
- Paul's Defense (10-13)

**Key Verse:** 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 weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

## GALATIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Churches in Galatia  
**Where:** Asia Minor  
**When:** c. AD 48-49 or AD 54-55  
**Why:** To warn against legalism and defend justification by faith as well as Paul's apostolic authority.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Paul's Defense (1-2)
- Justification by Faith (3-4)
- The Christian Life (5-6)

**Key Verse:** 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

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Ephesus  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 62  
**Why:** To show believers what it means to be a follower of Christ and encourage them in their spiritual walk.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Spiritual Blessings (1-3)
- The Christian Life (4-6)

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

## PHILIPPIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Philippi  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 62  
**Why:** To express Paul's love and affection for the Philippians.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Joy of Life (1)
- Humility of Christ (2)
- Finish the Race (3)
- Thanks and Greetings (4)

**Key Verse:** Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. (Philippians 2:14-15)

## COLOSSIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Colossae  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 62  
**Why:** To counteract heretical teachings and exhort believers.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Thanksgiving (1)
- Work of Christ (1-2)
- Finish the Race (3-4)
- Final Greetings (4)

**Key Verse:** For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:9-10)



## 1 THESSALONIANS

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to the Church in Thessalonica

**Where:** Corinth

**When:** c. AD 50–AD 52

**Why:** To emphasize Christ's return and to stress commitment.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Faith and Example (1–3)
- Living for God (4)
- Christ's Return (4–5)

**Key Verse:** Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–22)

## 2 THESSALONIANS

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to the Church in Thessalonica

**Where:** Corinth

**When:** c. AD 50–AD 52

**Why:** To emphasize Christ's return and to encourage believers.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Praise and Encouragement (1)
- Christ's Return (2)
- Pray and Work (3)

**Key Verse:** We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. (2 Thessalonians 3:4–6)

## 1 TIMOTHY

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to Timothy

**Where:** Rome

**When:** c. AD 62–AD 66

**Why:** To remove false doctrine and suggest proper leadership for the church in Ephesus.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Trouble in Ephesus (1)
- Church Leadership (2–3)
- False Teachers (4)
- Discipline (5)
- Paul's Advice to Timothy (6)

**Key Verse:** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:12–13)

## 2 TIMOTHY

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to Timothy

**Where:** Prison in Rome

**When:** c. AD 66–AD 67

**Why:** To encourage Timothy to remain faithful in ministry even in the midst of suffering.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Thanksgiving (1)
- Call to Remain Faithful (2)
- Authority of God's Word (3)
- Lead a Godly Life (3–4)

**Key Verse:** From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15–17)

## TITUS

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to Titus

**Where:** Rome

**When:** c. AD 64–AD 66

**Why:** To encourage the church in Crete to do good works.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Instruction for Titus (1)
- Living the Faith (2–3)
- Final Instructions (3)

**Key Verse:** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4–7)

## PHILEMON

**Who:** Paul

**What:** Letter to Philemon

**Where:** Prison in Rome

**When:** c. AD 60–AD 62

**Why:** To appeal to Philemon to forgive and receive Onesimus, a runaway slave.

### Outline (Verses)

- Salutations (1–3)
- Philemon's Love and Faith (4–7)
- Paul's Appeal (8–22)
- Final Greetings (23–25)

**Key Verse:** So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. (Philemon 17–19)

# GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION

The eight General Epistles were written by other apostles and leaders including Simon Peter, James, John, and Jude. The General Epistles were addressed to the early Christians to provide guidance, encouragement through persecution, and warnings of false teachings.

## HEBREWS

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** Letter to Hebrew Believers  
**Where:** Unknown  
**When:** c. AD 60–AD 69  
**Why:** To emphasize the superiority of Christ over the Old Covenant.  
**Outline (Chapter)**

- Supremacy of Christ (1–4)
- The New Covenant (5–10)
- The Life of Faith (11–13)

**Key Verse:** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

## JAMES

**Who:** James  
**What:** Letter to Jewish Believers  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. AD 49  
**Why:** Encouragement to live out one's faith within the Christian community.  
**Outline (Chapter)**

- Living a Life of Faith (1–2)
- Faith without Works (2–3)
- Speech and Wisdom (3–4)
- Wealth and Prayer (5)

**Key Verse:** Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (James 1:19–20)

## 1 PETER

**Who:** Peter  
**What:** Letter to All Christians  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 64–AD 65  
**Why:** To call Christians to holiness.  
**Outline (Chapter)**

- Holiness and Submission (1–2)
- Suffering (3–4)
- Advice for Old and Young (5)

**Key Verse:** The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. (1 Peter 4:7)

## 2 PETER

**Who:** Peter  
**What:** Letter to All Christians  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 64–AD 65  
**Why:** To warn against false teachers.  
**Outline (Chapter)**

- Living Like Christ; False Teachers (1–2)
- The Return of Christ (3)

**Key Verse:** For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

## 1 JOHN

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to All Christians  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 85–AD 95  
**Why:** To emphasize love in Christ.  
**Outline (Chapter)**

- Living in the Light (1–2)
- Living in Love (3–4)
- Living by Faith (5)

**Key Verse:** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

## 2 JOHN

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to the Elect Lady  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 85–AD 95  
**Why:** To warn against heresy and false teachers.  
**Key Verse:** Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. (2 John 8)

## 3 JOHN

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to Gaius  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 85–AD 95  
**Why:** To praise Gaius for his loyalty to the truth and criticize Diotrephes for his pride.  
**Key Verse:** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 4)

## JUDE

**Who:** Jude  
**What:** Letter to all Christians  
**Where:** Unknown  
**When:** c. AD 60s–AD 80s  
**Why:** To warn against heresy.  
**Key Verse:** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. (Jude 24)

The book of Revelation addresses seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey today). It encourages believers who are experiencing persecution. Revelation illustrates that God is in control and that all people were created to love and worship God.

## REVELATION

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to Seven Churches  
**Where:** Island of Patmos  
**When:** c. AD 90–AD 96  
**Why:** To give hope to persecuted Christians and provide a vision of Christ's return.  
**Key Verse:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (Revelation 21:1)

**Outline (Chapter)**

- The Seven Churches (1–4)
- Visions (5–16)
- God's Triumph (17–20)
- The New Creation (21–22)



# Bible Bookcase

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

## LAW

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Song of Solomon

Ecclesiastes

Proverbs

Psalms

Job

## POETRY

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

## MAJOR PROPHETS

## MINOR PROPHETS

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

## GOSPELS

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

## EPISTLES TO FRIENDS

## EPISTLES TO CHURCHES

## HISTORY

## GENERAL EPISTLES



# How We Got the Bible

## TEN KEY POINTS

- 1 The Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- 2 The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written over 1,600 years (from approximately 1500 BC to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus. The Old Testament has 39 books (written approximately 1500-400 BC). The New Testament has 27 books (written approximately AD 45-100). The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible's Old Testament, but divides and arranges it differently.
- 3 The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
- 4 The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.
- 5 Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to insure that no errors had been made.
- 6 The Bible was the first book ever printed on the printing press with moveable type (Gutenberg Press, 1455, Latin Bible).
- 7 There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before 1500, nearly 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Plato or Aristotle.
- 8 The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing reliability of some of the copies of the Old Testament made over the years. Although some spelling variations exist, no variation affects basic Bible doctrines.
- 9 As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the common language of the people by scholars who wanted others to know God's Word. Today there are still 2,000 groups with no Bible in their own language.
- 10 By AD 200, the Bible was translated into seven languages; by 500, 13 languages; by 900, 17 languages; by 1400, 28 languages; by 1800, 57 languages; by 1900, 537 languages; by 1980, 1,100 languages; by 2014, 2,883 languages have some portions of Scripture.  
(Source: The Wycliffe Global Alliance)

### Old Testament Written (approx. 1500-400 BC)



stone

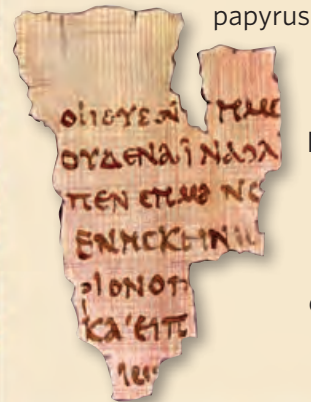


clay



leather

### New Testament Written (approx. AD 45-100)



papyrus

The oldest New Testament fragment (from John 18) that we have today was copied in Greek on a papyrus codex around AD 110-130.

### Bible Copied on Papyrus

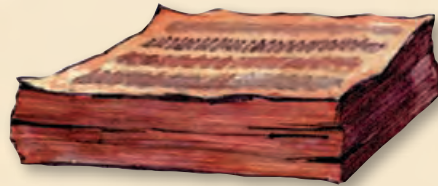


Scrolls of leather, and later of papyrus, were used to make copies of the Scriptures.

A papyrus codex is a bound volume made from sheets folded and sewn together, sometimes with a cover. They were used more than scrolls after AD 1-100.



### Bible Copied on Fine Animal Skins



Fine quality animal skins from calves or antelope (vellum) and sheep or goats (parchment) were used for over 1,000 years to make copies of the Bible approximately AD 300-1400.

Two of the oldest vellum copies (AD 325-350) that exist today are the Vatican Codex and the Sinaitic Codex.

### Bible Printed by Printing Press after 1455

Wycliffe Bibles were inscribed by hand on vellum in the 1300s-1400s. Some copies took ten months to two years to produce and cost a year's wage.



The Bible was the first book to be printed with Gutenberg's printing press in 1455.

### The Bible, God's Word to the World



The Bible is now printed on paper in many languages. It is also available in many digital formats.



## 2000 BC

**Old Testament** events are written down in Hebrew (portions in Aramaic) over centuries. In Exodus, the Lord tells Moses to write in a book. Other Old Testament writers, inspired by God, include leaders, kings and prophets. Together, these writings on leather scrolls and other materials are called the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament.



## 500 BC

**Ezra**, a priest and scribe, collects and arranges some of the books of the Hebrew Bible—the Old Testament—about 450 BC, according to Jewish tradition.

**The Septuagint** is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament). It is translated in 250-100 BC by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. (The word *Septuagint* means seventy, referring to the tradition that 70 or 72 men translated it. It is often abbreviated LXX, the Roman numeral for seventy.)

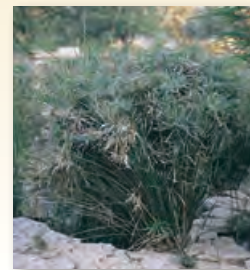
## 200 BC

The books are arranged by subject: historical, poetic, and prophetic. It includes the Apocrypha (meaning “hidden”), referring to seven books that were included in the Hebrew Bible until AD 90 when they were removed by Jewish elders.



A Scribe

**Papyrus**, a plant, is cut into strips and pressed into sheets of writing material and can be made into a scroll or a codex. The New Testament books were probably first written on papyrus scrolls. Later Christians begin to copy them on sheets of papyrus which are bound and placed between two pieces of wood for covers. This form of early book is known as a codex.



Papyrus

## AD 1

**Time of Jesus**  
4 BC-AD 33?

Jesus quotes the Old Testament (Scriptures) often. He says that he did not come to destroy the Scriptures, but to fulfill them. He says to his disciples, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:44-45

## AD 100

**Followers of Jesus**  
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude write the Gospels, history, letters to other Christians, and the Revelation between AD 45 and 100. The writers quote from all but eight of the Old Testament books. These writings in Greek are copied and circulated so that by about 150 there is wide enough use of them to speak of the “New Testament” (“New Covenant”). The new covenant God made with people was promised in Jer. 31:31-34 and referred to by Jesus (Lk. 22:20) and Paul (1 Cor. 11:25) and in the letter to the Hebrews.

## AD 200

*Early Coptic Translation*



**Old Testament Apocrypha**

Evidence derived from first century AD writers Philo and Josephus indicates that the Hebrew canon did not include the Apocrypha.

**Earliest Translations**

200-300 Latin, Coptic (Egypt), and Syriac (Syria).

**Church Fathers** accept the writings of the Gospels and Paul's letters as *canonical* (from a Greek word referring to the rule of faith and truth). Origen lists 21 approved New Testament books. Eusebius lists 22 accepted books.

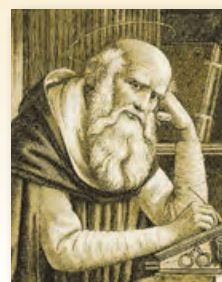
## AD 300

**The New Testament books** are collected and circulated throughout the Mediterranean about the time of Constantine, the Roman emperor who legalizes Christianity in 313. By 400 the standard of 27 New Testament books is accepted in the East and West as confirmed by Athanasius, Jerome, Augustine and three church councils. The 27 books of the New Testament were formally confirmed as canonical by the Synod of Carthage in 397, thus recognizing three centuries of use by followers of Christ.



Saint Matthew  
Lindisfarne Gospels  
Approximately 900

**Jerome** starts translating the Scriptures into Latin in 382 and finishes 23 years later. This translation, called the Latin Vulgate, remains the basic Bible for many centuries.



Jerome

## AD 500

**Roman Empire declines.** Germanic migrations (378-600) cause new languages to emerge.

**The Masoretes** are special Jewish scribes entrusted with the sacred task of making copies of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) approximately 500-900. They develop a meticulous system of counting the number of words in each book of the Bible to make sure they have copied it accurately. Any scroll found to have an error is buried according to Jewish law.

## AD 600

**Christianity reaches Britain** before 300, but Anglo-Saxon pagans drive Christian Britons into Wales (450-600). In 596, Augustine of Canterbury begins evangelization again.

**Caedmon**, an illiterate monk, retells portions of Scripture in Anglo-Saxon (Old English) poetry and song (676).

**Aldhelm of Sherborne**, 709, is said to have translated the Psalms.



Bede

**Bede**, a monk and scholar, makes an Old English (Anglo-Saxon) translation of portions of Scripture. On his deathbed in 735, he finishes translating the Book of John.

**Alfred The Great**, King of Wessex (871-901) translates portions of Exodus, Psalms, and Acts.

**Aldred**, Bishop of Durham, inserts a translation in the Northumbrian dialect between the lines of the Lindisfarne Gospels (950).

**Aelfric** (955-1020) translates portions of the Old Testament.

## AD 1300

**Normans** conquer England (1066) and make French the official language. No English translation work produced until the 1300s.

**Middle English** emerges, popularized by works such as the *Canterbury Tales* and Richard Rolle's Psalter (1340).



John Wycliffe

**First English Bible** is translated from Latin in 1382 and is called the Wycliffe Bible in honor of priest and Oxford scholar John Wycliffe. During his lifetime, Wycliffe had wanted common people to have the Bible. He also criticized a number of church practices and policies. His followers, derisively called Lollards (meaning "mumblers"), included his criticisms in the preface to the Wycliffe Bible. This Bible is banned and burned. Forty years after Wycliffe's death, his bones are exhumed and burned for heresy.

**In 1408, in England**, it becomes illegal to translate or read the Bible in common English without permission of a bishop.

**World's first printing press** with moveable metal type is invented in 1455 in Germany by Johann Gutenberg. This invention is perhaps the single most important event to influence the spread of the Bible.

**The Gutenberg Bible** is the first book ever printed. This Latin Vulgate version is often illuminated by artists who hand paint letters and ornaments on each page.



Gutenberg Bible Page

## AD 1500

**Erasmus**, a priest and Greek scholar, publishes a new Greek edition and a more accurate Latin translation of the New Testament in 1516. His goal is that everyone be able to read the Bible, from the farmer in the field to the weaver at the loom. Erasmus' Greek text forms the basis of the "*textus receptus*" and is used later by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James translators.

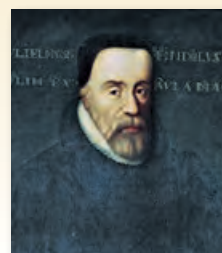


Erasmus

**Martin Luther** translates the New Testament into German in 1522.

**William Tyndale**, priest and Oxford scholar, translates the New Testament from Greek (1525), but cannot get approval to publish it in England. He moves to Germany and prints Bibles, smuggling them into England in sacks of corn and flour. In 1536 he publishes part of the Old Testament translated from Hebrew. In 1536, Tyndale is strangled and burned at the stake. His final words are "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

Tyndale is called the "Father of the English Bible" because his translation forms the basis of the King James Version. Much of the style and vocabulary we know as "biblical English" is traceable to his work.



William Tyndale



## AD 1500

### The Coverdale Bible

is translated by Miles Coverdale (1535) and dedicated to Anne Boleyn, one of King Henry VIII's wives. This is the first complete Bible to be printed in English.



*Tyndale's Initials  
printed in the  
Matthew's Bible*

### The Matthew's Bible,

translated by John Rogers under the pen name "Thomas Matthew," is the first Bible published with the king's permission (1537). Printed just one year after Tyndale's death, its New Testament relies heavily on Tyndale's version, and even has a tribute to him on the last page of the Old Testament. Tyndale's initials are printed in 2 1/2-inch block letters. Later Thomas Cromwell, advisor to King Henry VIII, entrusts Coverdale to revise Matthew's Bible to make the Great Bible.

### The Great Bible (1539)

is placed in every church by order of Thomas Cranmer, archbishop under King Henry VIII. This Bible is chained to the church pillars to discourage theft.



*The "Chained Bible"*

## AD 1555

### England's Queen Mary bans

Protestant translations of the English Bible. John Rogers and Thomas Cranmer are burned at the stake. Later some 300 men, women and children are also burned.

### The Geneva Bible

Exiles from England flee to Geneva, Switzerland, and in 1560 print the Geneva Bible, a complete revision of the Great Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew. The Geneva Bible contains theological notes from Protestant scholars John Calvin, Beza, Knox, and Whittingham. It is the first Bible to use Roman type instead of black letter. This is the Bible of Shakespeare and the one carried to America by the Pilgrims in 1620. The 1640 edition is the first English Bible to omit the Apocrypha.

## AD 1600

### Bishops Bible

A new translation begins under Queen Elizabeth in 1568. It is translated by several bishops of the Church of England in answer to the Geneva Bible.

### Rheims-Douai Bible

was translated into English from the Latin Vulgate by Catholic scholar Gregory Martin, while in exile in France (New Testament in 1582/Old Testament in 1609). It becomes the standard translation for the Catholic church.



*King James Bible  
Page from 1611 version*

### King James Version or Authorized Version

King James I of England commissions 54 scholars to undertake a new Bible translation. Over the next six years, six teams of scholars using the Bishops Bible and Tyndale's Bible, as well as available Greek and Hebrew manuscripts, complete the new version in 1611. The King James Version (also called the "Authorized Version," even though King James never gave the finished version his royal approval) is revised several times.

(The edition used today was revised in 1769.) It is the most popular Bible for more than 300 years.



*King James*

## AD 1800

### Older Manuscripts Discovered!

Between 1629 and 1947, several of the earliest known copies of the Bible are found.

### Codex Alexandrinus,

a copy of the New Testament from approximately 400, perhaps the best copy of the book of Revelation, is made available to western scholars in 1629.

### Codex Sinaiticus

(earliest complete copy of the New Testament, copied in approximately 350) is found in St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai.

### The Revised Version (1885)

In 1870, scholars in England decide to revise the King James Version to reflect the findings from the manuscripts discovered during the two previous centuries. Their goal is to use better Hebrew and Greek texts and to retranslate words based on new linguistic information about ancient Hebrew.



*The Revised Version*

### Codex Vaticanus

(earliest and probably best copy known of the New Testament from approximately 350) is released to scholars in 1889 by the Vatican Library.



## AD 1900

**The Dead Sea Scrolls**, found in a cave in 1947 by a shepherd, contain the oldest known copies of portions of the Old Testament. These copies were made between 100 BC and AD 100.

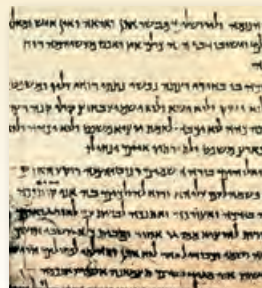


*A Qumran Cave near the Dead Sea*

**A Scroll of Isaiah** that is part of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the oldest complete manuscript of any book of the Bible (copied around 100). The copies of Isaiah discovered in the Qumran caves prove to be remarkably close to the standard Hebrew Bible, varying slightly in the spelling of some names. They give overwhelming confirmation of the reliability of the Masoretic copies.

During the 1900s more than a hundred New Testament manuscripts are found in Egypt.

**A Ugaritic Grammar** is published in the 1960s. Ugaritic is an ancient language similar to Hebrew and helps scholars understand Hebrew vocabulary and poetry.



*Scroll of Isaiah*

## AD 1900

### **Modern Translations**

The knowledge from newly discovered manuscripts has led to hundreds of new translations.

**1885**

### **The English Revised Version**

A British revision of the King James Version.

**1901**

### **American Standard Version (ASV)**

Revision of the King James Version in American English.

**1926**

### **Moffatt Bible**

A very popular modern-language version.

**1931**

### **Smith-Goodspeed, An American Translation**

Modern American English.

**1952**

### **The Revised Standard Version (RSV)**

A revision of the ASV. New Testament revised 1971.

**1958**

### **J.B. Phillips' New Testament in Modern English**

A paraphrase, originally made for youth.

**1965**

### **The Amplified Bible**

Uses word-for-word ASV with added words to communicate insights on original texts.

**1966**

### **Jerusalem Bible**

Translation by Catholic scholars in Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem Bible, 1985.

**1970**

### **New English Bible**

"Timeless" modern English. Revised in 1989.

**1970**

### **New American Bible (NAB)**

Official version of the Catholic Church. Revised New Testament in 1986.

**1971**

### **New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

Literal word-for-word translation. Updated in 1995.

**1971**

### **The Living Bible**

Popular paraphrase.

**1976**

### **The Good News Bible (Today's English Version) (TEV)**

Vernacular English translation.

**1978**

### **New International Version (NIV)**

Dignified, readable.

**1982**

### **New King James Version (NKJV)**

Modernization of the King James Version using the same manuscripts.

## AD 2000

**1987**

### **New Century Version (NCV)**

Puts biblical concepts into natural terms.

**1989**

### **Jewish New Testament**

English translation using traditional Jewish expressions.

**1989**

### **New Revised Standard Version**

"Gender neutral" revision of the RSV.

**1991**

### **Contemporary English Version**

"Natural, uncomplicated" English.

**1995**

### **God's Word**

Contemporary English.

**1996**

### **New Living Translation (NLT)**

A revision of The Living Bible to make it a translation.

**1996**

### **New International Reader's Version (NIRV)**

A simplified version of the NIV with a 3rd- or 4th-grade reading level.

**2001**

### **English Standard Version (ESV)**

Literal update of the RSV.

**2002**

### **The Message (MSG)**

A paraphrase from the original languages.

**2004**

### **Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)**

Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought.

**2005**

### **Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

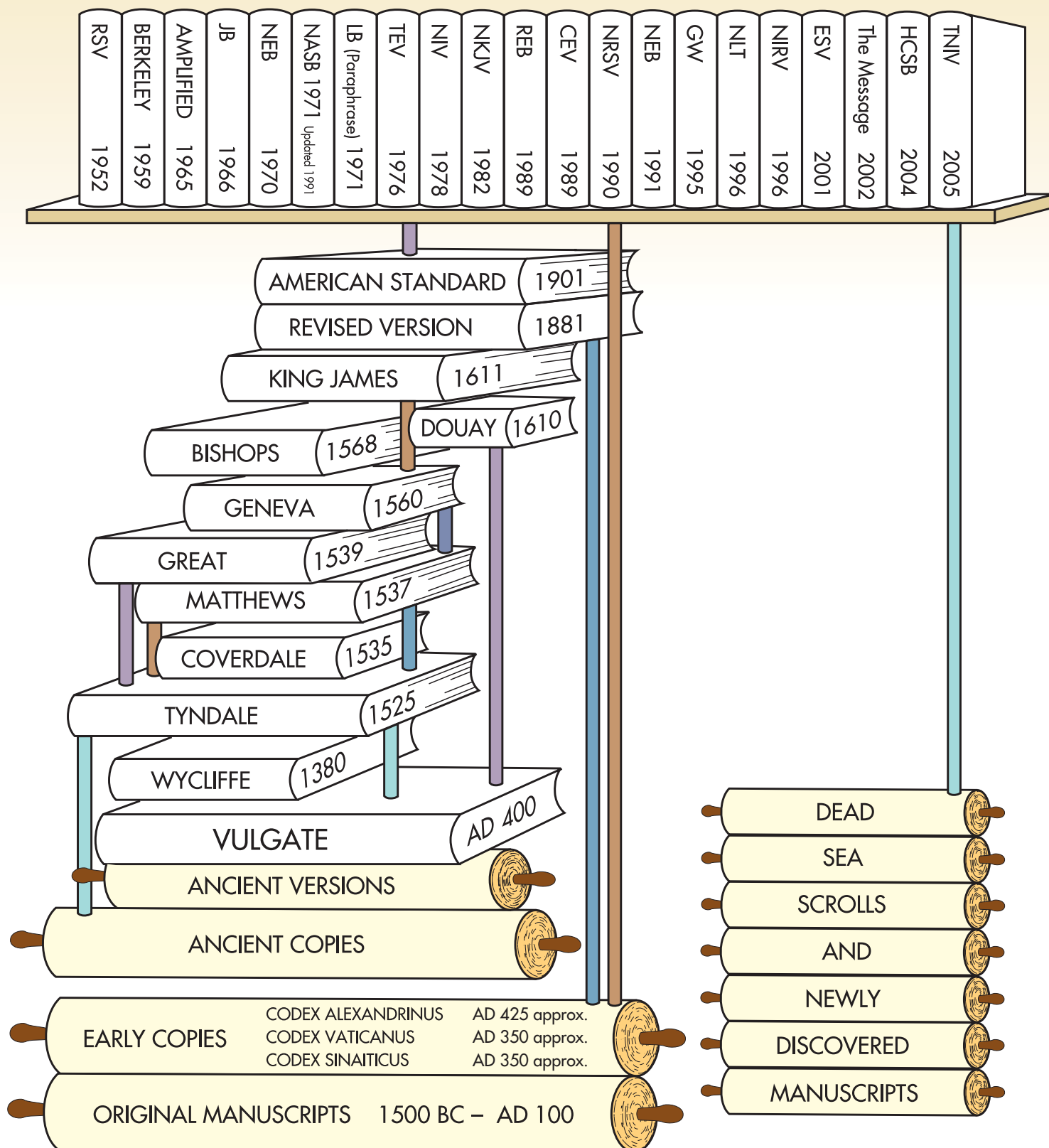
Modernization of the New International Version.

**2005**

### **New English Translation (NET)**

Available only on the Internet, with extensive translator's notes.

# The Origin and Growth of the English Bible



Adapted from the chart by BACK TO THE BIBLE BROADCAST, Lincoln, Nebraska