

An Overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

I. The purpose of this study

1. Many of us grew up learning about the Bible or have been studying it for many years and we take the basics of it for granted.
2. This is not the case with billions of people in this world though.
3. This study will attempt to take nothing for granted and cover the basics of the Bible and its history and teachings.

II. What is the Bible?

1. The Bible is a book made up of 66 small books of varying sizes written by about 40 different authors over a period of about 1600 years (approx. 1500 BC - 90 AD).
2. The Bible was written by men who were under the inspiration of God (**2Pe 1:21; 2Ti 3:16**).
3. The Bible is divided into two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - A. The Old Testament has three major sections: the Law (Genesis - Deuteronomy), the Psalms or the Writings (Joshua - Song of Solomon), and the Prophets (Isaiah - Malachi).
 - i. The Old Testament was written during the period between approximately 1533 BC - 400BC, and it covers world history from creation in 4000BC to around 400BC.
 - ii. The OT is not entirely laid out in chronological order, though some sections are.
 - iii. We will cover the OT in detail later.
 - B. The New Testament has four major sections: the Gospels (Matthew - John), the book of Acts, the Epistles which are letters to churches and individuals (Romans - Jude), and the book of Revelation.
 - i. The New Testament was written during the period between approximately 48AD - 90AD and covers events from 2BC to 70AD and prophesies of future events up to the last day of time.
 - ii. We will cover the NT in detail later.

III. An overview of the Old Testament and its major characters and events

1. "The Law" - Genesis to Deuteronomy
 - A. "The Law" was written by a man named Moses and covers the period from the creation of the world (approx. 4000 BC) to the death of Moses (approx. 1494 BC). (More on Moses later)
 - B. The book of Genesis
 - i. The book of Genesis was written by Moses between 1533 - 1494 BC.
 - ii. Genesis 1&2 records the creation of the universe, the earth, and all life therein, culminating in the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.
 - a. God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day.
 - b. God created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life.
 - c. God placed Adam in a garden called the garden of Eden and his job was to dress and keep it.

- d. God made a law that Adam was not to eat of one of the trees of the garden called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- e. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone so he made a companion for him out of one of Adam's ribs named Eve and they were married and became one flesh.
- iii. Genesis 3 records what is called "the fall of man."
 - a. During the creation, God created millions of angels which are spiritual beings that are God's helpers (this is not recorded in Genesis, but it found in other parts of the Bible).
 - b. The highest of the angels was called Lucifer who desired to like God and led a rebellion to try to usurp God's place, in which he and one third of the angels were cast out of heaven and have been at war with God and His chosen people ever since.
 - c. When Lucifer fell he acquired the name of Satan and the Devil.
 - d. The Devil came to Eve in the form of a serpent and deceived her into eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - e. Once Eve ate of the tree, she gave it to Adam and he also ate.
 - f. God had told Adam that he would die in the day that he ate of that fruit and so he died spiritually that day and was immediately ashamed of his nakedness, hid from God, and blamed his wife.
 - g. God cursed the ground for Adam's sake, cursed Eve with painful child birth and increased conceptions, and banished them both from the garden of Eden.
 - h. God prophesied of a coming seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) which would crush the serpent's head (Satan).
- iv. Genesis 4 records the birth of Cain and Abel.
 - a. Abel offered God an animal sacrifice which God accepted, but Cain offered God the fruit of ground which God rejected.
 - b. Cain was envious of Abel and killed him.
 - c. Such is the story of world history.
- v. Genesis 5 records all the generations from Adam to a man named Noah.
- vi. Genesis 6-9 records how God destroyed the earth with a global flood.
 - a. The earth had become very corrupt and filled with violence.
 - b. God decided to destroy all of humanity with a flood with the exception of Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives.
 - c. God told Noah to build an ark that could house Noah and his family and pairs of all land animals.
 - d. God destroyed the earth with the flood and repopulated the earth through Noah's family.
- vii. Genesis 11 records how God scattered the people of the earth and confused their languages when they tried to build a tower at Babel to unite themselves.
- viii. Genesis 12-25 records how God called a man named Abram from Ur of the Chaldees and promised to make him a father of many nations when he was 75 years old and childless and his wife Sarai was barren.
 - a. God changed Abram's name to Abraham and his wife Sarai's name to Sarah and gave them the promised child Isaac in due time.

- b. God promised to make Abraham's seed as numerous as the stars of heaven and that he would be a father of many nations.
 - c. This promise was made to the Messiah, Jesus Christ - Abraham's seed, who would be born thousands of years later.
- ix. Genesis 25-27 records how Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau.
 - a. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some potage.
 - b. Later Jacob acquired Esau's blessings from Isaac by nefarious means.
- x. Genesis 28-36 records how Jacob had 12 sons.
 - a. Jacob was renamed Israel which is where the people of Israel got their name.
 - b. Jacob's 12 sons became the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- xi. Genesis 37-50 records the story of Jacob's favorite son Joseph.
 - a. Joseph's brothers hated him and sold him into slavery in Egypt.
 - b. Joseph found favour in Potiphar's house where he was a servant and his was promoted to be the master of his house until Potiphar's wife framed Joseph and had him thrown in prison.
 - c. Joseph became the head of the prison and interpreted some dreams of the Pharaoh and was promoted to be the Prime Minister of Egypt.
 - d. Joseph wisely stored up corn during seven years of plenty in Egypt which he used to provide for the people during seven years of famine.
 - e. During the famine, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy corn.
 - f. Joseph was reunited with his family and moved them to Egypt where they lived for over 200 years.

C. The book of Exodus

- i. The book of Exodus was written by Moses between 1533 - 1494 BC.
- ii. Exodus 1-2 records the growth of the people of Israel in Egypt, their oppression by the Egyptians, and the birth of a child named Moses.
 - a. The Pharaoh had decreed that all the baby boys in Israel were to be killed.
 - b. Moses was put in a little boat and hid in the river when he was three months old and Pharaoh's daughter found him and took him to be her own.
 - c. When Moses was 40 years old he went to visit his people Israel and killed an Egyptian in defense of an Israelite, which caused Moses to flee Egypt for 40 years.
- iii. Exodus 3-4 records God appearing to Moses and telling him that he would lead Israel out of Egypt to a promised land.
- iv. Exodus 5-13 records how God destroyed Egypt with 10 plagues which finally convinced Pharaoh to let Israel leave Egypt.
 - a. The final plague was an angel of death that killed the firstborn of both man and beast in Egypt of those who didn't have the blood of a lamb sprinkled on their door posts.
 - b. This became known as the Passover and was the basis for the annual observance of the Passover in Israel.

- v. Exodus 14 records how God parted the Red Sea and brought Israel through it on dry ground and drowned the Egyptian army therein that pursued them.
 - vi. Exodus 20 records God's giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.
 - vii. Exodus 21-40 records God giving what became known as "the law" or "the law of Moses" to Moses to give to Israel.
 - a. God gave instructions of how the tabernacle was to be constructed, which was a tent wherein God was worshipped that was assembled and disassembled as Israel traveled through the wilderness on their way to the land of Canaan (the promised land).
 - b. God also ordained Moses' brother Aaron and his sons to be the priests, and the sons of Levi (one of the 12 sons of Israel) to be the ministers of the tabernacle.
- D. The book of Leviticus
- i. The book of Leviticus was written by Moses between 1533 - 1494 BC.
 - ii. The book of Leviticus records more laws that pertain to Israel and specifically to the priesthood.
 - iii. Some of the laws given in Leviticus are against sexual perversion, which shows us the debauchery of the nations in the land of Canaan that Israel supplanted.
- E. The book of Numbers
- i. The book of Numbers was written by Moses between 1533 - 1494 BC.
 - ii. The book of Numbers records a period of 40 years in which Israel wandered in the wilderness between Egypt and Palestine.
 - iii. When Israel reached the border of the land of Canaan, Moses sent 12 spies to spy out the land.
 - iv. Ten of them brought back an evil report saying that there were giants in the land and that they could not take it.
 - v. Two of them (Joshua and Caleb) believed God and said that they could take it.
 - vi. The people followed the advice of the ten and God punished them by making the whole nation wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that entire generation died except for Joshua and Caleb.
- F. The book of Deuteronomy
- i. The book of Deuteronomy was written by Moses between 1533 - 1494 BC.
 - ii. The book of Deuteronomy is a review of the events and the covenants that God made with Israel in the books of Exodus - Numbers.
 - iii. In Deuteronomy Moses reminds Israel of what happened to them during the 40 years in the wilderness and warns them of the curses that await them if they do not follow the Lord and keep His law.
 - iv. Moses was not permitted to take Israel into the promised land because he lost his temper and struck a rock when he was supposed to speak to it to get water to come out of it for Israel to drink.
 - v. Moses ordained Joshua in his place as the leader of Israel who would bring them into the promised land.
 - vi. Deuteronomy ends with the death of Moses.

2. The Writings

A. The book of Joshua

- i. The book of Joshua was written by Joshua in approximately the late 1400's BC.
- ii. The book of Joshua records Israel's conquest of the land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua.
- iii. Israel possessed all the land that God had promised to them by the end of Joshua's life (**Jos 21:43**).
- iv. The book of Joshua concludes with the death of Joshua.

B. The book of Judges

- i. The book of Judges records a period of about 450 years (1487-1037 BC) in which Israel was ruled by a series of judges.
- ii. The same scenario is repeated many times in the book of Judges:
 - a. Israel does evil in the sight of the Lord and He turns them over to a foreign power as a judgment against them.
 - b. Israel then cries unto the Lord in their oppression and He raises up a judge to deliver them from the enemy.
 - c. Israel does well during the life of the judge, but as soon as he dies we read the all-to-common words, "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord..." (**Jdg 3:12**).
 - d. And then the cycle repeats.
- iii. Those days were characterized by the concluding verse of the book of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (**Jdg 21:25**)

C. The book of Ruth

- i. The book of Ruth takes place during a time when the Judges ruled Israel.
- ii. It tells the story of a woman named Naomi who left Israel with her husband and her two sons and went to live in Moab to escape a famine.
- iii. Naomi's husband dies and so do her sons after they had married women from Moab.
- iv. Naomi decides to go back to Israel and tells her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab, which one did, but the other named Ruth would not and insisted on going back to Israel with Naomi.
- v. Ruth ends up marrying a wealthy man named Boaz who takes care of her and Naomi.
- vi. Ruth ended up becoming the great grandmother of a man named David who would later become one of the greatest kings in Israel's history.

D. The book of 1 Samuel

- i. The book of 1 Samuel begins at the end of the rule of the judges (approx. 1043 BC).
- ii. A boy named Samuel was born to a barren woman named Hannah who gave him to the Lord to minister with the priests.
- iii. Samuel was called by God to be a prophet and the last judge of Israel.
- iv. Israel decided that they wanted a king to rule over them like the other nations had, so God gave them a man named Saul to reign over them as a judgment against them.

- v. At that time, Israel was fighting the Philistines who had a mighty warrior named Goliath whom they could not conquer.
 - vi. A young man named David (the great grandson of Ruth) who had been a shepherd volunteered to fight the giant and killed him with a stone from his slingshot.
 - vii. David served under Saul after that and married Saul's daughter.
 - viii. God took the kingdom from Saul because of his rebellion and crowned David king in his stead.
 - ix. Saul tried to kill David and ended up committing suicide after being wounded in battle.
- E. The book of 2 Samuel
- i. The book of 2 Samuel records the reign of king David over Israel for 40 years beginning in approximately 983 BC.
 - ii. In 2 Samuel 7, there was a prophecy given to David that after his death God would establish one of his descendents on his throne who would also be God's son (**2Sa 7:12-16**).
 - iii. This prophecy was fulfilled about 1000 years later in Jesus Christ who was a son of David and who was seated on his throne when He was resurrected from the dead (more on this later).
 - iv. 2 Samuel 11 records the very familiar story of king David committing adultery with a woman named Bathsheba, getting her pregnant, and then having her husband killed to cover it up.
 - v. 2 Samuel 12 records how the baby that Bathsheba birthed died and the Lord gave them another son named Solomon who would later become the king of Israel.
- F. The book of 1 Kings
- i. The book of 1 Kings records the history of the kings of Israel (the northern kingdom) and of Judah (the southern kingdom) beginning in approximately 943 BC.
 - ii. Chapters 2-11 give the history of king Solomon, David's son.
 - a. Solomon was heir to David's throne.
 - b. When Solomon became king of Israel, God told him that he could have anything he desired, and because Solomon chose wisdom, God gave him wisdom, riches, and power.
 - c. Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived until Jesus Christ was born.
 - d. Solomon built God's original temple.
 - e. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines which ended up causing his downfall because he became an idolater and served their gods in the end of his life.
 - f. Because of Solomon's unfaithfulness, God would rend the kingdom after Solomon's death and give ten tribes to Solomon's servant, Jeroboam (**1Ki 11:11-13,31-32**).
 - iii. After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam followed the advice of his foolish young advisors and attempted to oppress the people, and the nation

of Israel was divided into two kingdoms, the northern kingdom whose capital was Samaria and the southern kingdom whose capital was Jerusalem.

- a. The northern kingdom was called Israel which comprised ten of the tribes and was ruled by a man named Jeroboam.
 - b. The southern kingdom was called Judah which comprised two of the tribes, Judah and Benjamin, and was ruled by Rehoboam.
- iv. 1 Kings 12-22 records the reigns of the kings of Judah and of Israel.
- a. The kings of Judah
 - (i) Rehoboam - bad - **1Ki 11:43**
 - (ii) Abijam - bad - **1Ki 15:1**
 - (iii) Asa - good - **1Ki 15:11**
 - (iv) Jehoshaphat - good - **1Ki 15:24**
 - (v) Jehoram - bad - **1Ki 22:50**
 - b. The kings of Israel
 - (i) Jeroboam - bad - **1Ki 12:20**
 - (ii) Nadab - bad - **1Ki 15:25**
 - (iii) Baasha - bad - **1Ki 15:28,33-34**
 - (iv) Elah - bad - **1Ki 16:6**
 - (v) Zimri - bad - **1Ki 16:10**
 - (vi) Omri - bad - **1Ki 16:16**
 - (vii) Tibni - bad - **1Ki 16:21**
 - (viii) Ahab - bad - **1Ki 16:28**
 - (ix) Ahaziah - bad - **1Ki 22:40**

G. The book of 2 Kings

- i. The book of 2 Kings records the continuation of the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah beginning in about 826 BC.
- ii. 2 Kings 1-16 records the reigns of more kings of Judah and Israel.
 - a. The kings of Judah
 - (i) Ahaziah - bad - Judah - **2Ki 8:25**
 - (ii) Joash - good - **2Ki 11:2**
 - (iii) Amaziah - good - **2Ki 12:21**
 - (iv) Azariah - good - **2Ki 14:21**
 - (v) Jotham - good - **2Ki 15:7**
 - (vi) Ahaz - bad - **2Ki 15:38**
 - (vii) Hezekiah - good - **2Ki 16:20**
 - b. The kings of Israel
 - (i) Jehoram (Joram) - bad - **2Ki 1:17**
 - (ii) Jehu - good and bad - **2Ki 9:13**
 - (iii) Jehoahaz - bad - **2Ki 10:35**
 - (iv) Joash - bad - **2Ki 13:9**
 - (v) Jeroboam - bad - **2Ki 13:13**
 - (vi) Zachariah - bad - **2Ki 14:29**
 - (vii) Shallum - bad - Israel - **2Ki 15:10**
 - (viii) Menahem - bad - Israel - **2Ki 15:14**
 - (ix) Pekahiah - bad - Israel - **2Ki 15:22**
 - (x) Pekah - bad - Israel - **2Ki 15:25**

- (xi) Elah - bad - Israel - **2Ki 15:30**
 - (xii) Hoshea - bad - **2Ki 17:1**
 - iii. 2 Kings 17 records how the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria
 - a. The Samaritan people were formed by the king of Assyria bringing in people from foreign nations and replacing the Jews.
 - b. These people "feared the LORD, and served their own gods" (**2Ki 17:33**).
 - c. This is why the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans (**Joh 4:9**).
 - iv. 2 Kings 18-24 records the kings of Judah up to the time of the Babylonian captivity.
 - a. The kings of Judah during this time were:
 - (i) Manasseh - bad - **2Ki 20:21**
 - (ii) Amon - bad - **2Ki 21:18**
 - (iii) Josiah - good - **2Ki 21:24**
 - (iv) Jehoahaz - bad - **2Ki 23:30**
 - (v) Jehoiakim - bad - **2Ki 23:34**
 - (vi) Jehoiachin - bad - **2Ki 24:6**
 - (vii) Zedekiah - bad - **2Ki 24:17-18**
 - v. 2 Kings 24-25 records how Judah was conquered by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and how the Jews were carried away to Babylon and would remain there for 70 years.
- H. The books of 1&2 Chronicles
- i. 1&2 Chronicles records many genealogies and summarizes the history given in 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings.
 - ii. Additional and valuable information can be gained by comparing 1&2 Chronicles with 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings.
- I. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah
- i. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah record the history of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple which took place in about 450 BC after Israel returned to their land after 70 years of captivity in Babylon.
- J. The book of Esther
- i. The book of Esther records a time which was likely between 486 - 465 BC in which a Jewish girl named Esther became the queen of the Persian empire and ended up saving the Jewish people from being slaughtered by their enemies.
- K. The book of Job
- i. The book of Job is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible.
 - ii. The book of Job is about a man named Job who lived during the patriarchal times after the flood of Noah (**Job 22:15-16**) (2390 BC), but likely prior to the law of Moses (1533 BC), since the law of Moses is not ever mentioned in it.
 - iii. It records an account of how God allowed Satan to destroy Job's life as a test as to whether Job would remain faithful to God.

- iv. Job remained faithful to God through his affliction, which exposed his pride which he repented of, and God made his latter end better than his beginning.
- L. The book of Psalms
 - i. The book of Psalms is a compilation of 150 poetic songs of various sizes written by David (983-943 BC) and others which include comforting words, prophecy, and praise of God and His word.
- M. The book of Proverbs
 - i. The book of Proverbs was written by Solomon between 943-903 BC.
 - ii. It is a compilation of wise pithy sayings about many different aspects of life.
- N. The book of Ecclesiastes
 - i. The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon between 943-903 BC.
 - ii. It is an expose on the vanity and futility of life without God.
- O. The book of The Song of Solomon
 - i. The book of The Song of Solomon was a love letter written between Solomon and his wife between 943-903 BC
 - ii. In it the joy of marital love is exalted.
- 3. The prophets (major and minor)
 - A. The book of Isaiah
 - i. The book of Isaiah was written by the prophet Isaiah "in the days of Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah" (**Isa 1:1**) between the years of 727-617 BC prior to the Babylonian captivity.
 - ii. Isaiah was a contemporary of Hosea, Amos, and Micah.
 - iii. The book of Isaiah includes much censure of the nation of Judah as well as the surrounding nations.
 - iv. It also includes many prophecies of the coming of Jesus Christ and of His second coming as well.
 - v. Isaiah has 66 chapters which have an interesting parallel to the Bible's 66 books.
 - vi. The first 39 chapters prophesy much of judgment (the 39 books of the Old Testament), chapter 40 opens with a prophecy of John the Baptist which was the forerunner of Christ (the 27 books of the New Testament), and chapter 66 ends by mentioning the new heavens and the new earth (the book of Revelation).
 - B. The book of Jeremiah
 - i. Jeremiah prophesied from the days of Josiah, king of Judah until the Babylonian captivity during the years of 547-524 BC (**Jer 1:1-3**).
 - ii. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Zephaniah.
 - iii. Jeremiah is sometimes referred to as "the weeping prophet" because he spent his whole ministry preaching to Israel of their coming judgment, but none listened and the nation rejected him.
 - iv. Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would be taken captive by the Babylonians for 70 years.
 - C. The book of Lamentations
 - i. The book of Lamentations was also written by Jeremiah.
 - ii. It records Jeremiah's lamentations for the city of Jerusalem after it had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 518 BC.

- D. The book of Ezekiel
 - i. Ezekiel prophesied while being a captive in Babylon during the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity in 514 BC (**Eze 1:1-3**).
 - ii. Ezekiel saw visions of heaven and condemned Israel for their idolatry.
 - iii. He also prophesied against other nations such as Tyrus and Egypt.
 - iv. Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would return to the land after the captivity.
- E. The book of Daniel
 - i. The book of Daniel was written by Daniel during the Babylonian captivity (518-448 BC).
 - ii. Daniel was carried away captive to Babylon along with three other young men at the beginning of the captivity who were chosen to serve the king of Babylon.
 - iii. There are two popular stories told in the book, one of a time when Daniel's three friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a furnace and were not harmed when they refused to worship a giant statue that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made, and another time when Daniel was thrown into a lions' den and was not harmed when he disregarded a law made by Darius king of the Medes and Persians which said that he had to make his petitions to the king instead of God.
 - iv. Daniel made some incredible prophecies including prophesying of the succession of world empires (Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman), the acts of Alexander the Great, the Ptolemys of Egypt, the battle of Actium, the Maccabees, the Herod dynasty, the coming of the Messiah and the kingdom of God (the New Testament church), and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- F. The book of Hosea
 - i. Hosea prophesied in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel (**Hos 1:1**) between 753-617 BC.
 - ii. Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah, Micah, and Amos.
 - iii. Hosea prophesied of the fate of the nation of Israel (the northern kingdom).
- G. The book of Joel
 - i. The book of Joel was written by the prophet Joel.
 - ii. There is not a clear reference given in the book to be able to date it accurately and people have dated it anywhere from the 5th-9th century BC.
- H. The book of Amos
 - i. Amos was a sheep herder who prophesied in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel (**Amo 1:1**) between 753-675 BC.
 - ii. Amos was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.
 - iii. Like the other prophets, Amos prophesied of the judgment of Israel.
- I. The book of Obadiah
 - i. The book of Obadiah was written by the prophet Obadiah who prophesied against Edom (**Oba 1:1**).

- ii. The date of the book of Obadiah is not known for certain. Some think it was in the 9th century BC in the days of Elijah, others think it was in the 6th century in the days of Jeremiah.
 - iii. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- J. The book of Jonah
- i. Jonah prophesied in the northern kingdom (Israel) during the reign of Amaziah king of Judah and Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel (**Jon 1:1 c/w 2Ki 14:23-25**) around 753 BC.
 - ii. The book of Jonah records the account of God telling Jonah to go preach to the Ninevites and tell them that God was going to destroy Nineveh in 40 days for their wickedness.
 - iii. Jonah didn't want to do it so he instead took a ship to Tarshish.
 - iv. The LORD sent a great storm upon them and Jonah ended up being thrown overboard to appease God.
 - v. God prepared a whale to swallow Jonah and he spent three days and three nights in the whale's belly before it spewed him out.
 - vi. Jonah then goes to Nineveh and preached to them to repent, which they did, and God spared them the destruction that He had planned for them.
 - vii. Jonah then got angry with God for being merciful to them.
- K. The book of Micah
- i. Micah prophesied in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (**Mic 1:1**) between 675-617 BC.
 - ii. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.
 - iii. Micah prophesied concerning Samaria and Jerusalem (**Mic 1:1**).
 - iv. Micah had a few notable prophecies including a prophecy of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (**Mic 5:2**) and of the 40 year period of signs and wonders that accompanied Christ's and the apostles' ministries (**Mic 7:15**).
- L. The book of Nahum
- i. Nahum is said to have prophesied at the end of the Assyrian empire around 600 BC.
 - ii. Nahum prophesied of the destruction of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria.
- M. The book of Habakkuk
- i. The exact date of the book of Habakkuk is unknown, but we know it was written before the Babylonian captivity of Israel in 507 BC because it prophesied of it.
 - ii. Habakkuk prophesied of the destruction of Judah by the Chaldeans (Babylonians) and of the judgment of God against the Chaldeans.
- N. The book of Zephaniah
- i. Zephaniah prophesied in the days of Josiah king of Judah (**Zep 1:1**) between 560-529 BC.
 - ii. Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah.
 - iii. Zephaniah prophesied against Judah, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Nineveh.
- O. The book of Haggai
- i. Haggai prophesied in the second year of Darius (**Hag 1:1**), king of the Medo-Persian empire in around 450's BC.
 - ii. Haggai was a contemporary of Zechariah.

- iii. Haggai's prophecy was to spur the Jews to continue in the work of rebuilding the temple who had returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity.
- P. The book of Zechariah
 - i. Zechariah prophesied in the second year of Darius (**Zec 1:1**), king of the Medo-Persian empire in around 450's BC.
 - ii. Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai.
 - iii. Zechariah prophesied about many things, including the restoration of Jerusalem and the coming of Jesus Christ.
- Q. The book of Malachi
 - i. Malachi is the last book of the OT and it is believed that it is the last book chronologically as well, and is thought to have been written around 420 BC after the Jews returned to the land and rebuilt the temple.
 - ii. Malachi prophesied against Israel for not taking their religion seriously.
 - iii. He also prophesied of the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

IV. An overview of the New Testament and its major characters and events

1. The major characters in the NT

A. Jesus Christ

- i. The New Testament focuses on the life and doctrine of Jesus Christ, the Messiah (Saviour) who was promised and prophesied in the Old Testament.
- ii. It declares that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh and that He came to earth to perfectly fulfill the law of God and die for the sins of all of God's elect in their stead.
- iii. It declares that He built His church while on this earth and promised to preserve it forever.
- iv. It declares that Jesus died by crucifixion, was dead and buried for three days and three nights, was raised from the dead, appeared to hundreds of witnesses, and ascended bodily into heaven and sat on His throne at the right hand of God ruling over all the universe.
- v. It declares that Jesus will return on the last day of time to destroy the world, judge the wicked, and create new heavens and a new earth for His people to dwell in with Him.

B. John the Baptist

- i. John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus who was born six months before Him.
- ii. John was the prophesied forerunner of Jesus who announced His coming and baptized him.
- iii. Jesus said that John was the greatest prophet that ever lived.
- iv. John was beheaded in prison by king Herod.

C. The twelve disciples/apostles

- i. Jesus chose twelve disciples in the beginning of His ministry whom He named apostles.
- ii. Those men were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Lebaeus (Judas, the brother of James), Simon (the Canaanite), and Judas Iscariot.

- iii. These men accompanied Jesus during his ministry and were commissioned to go into all the world and preach the gospel, which they did, with the exception of Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.
 - iv. Peter, John, and Matthew were authors of several of the books of the NT.
 - D. The apostle Paul
 - i. Before he became an apostle, Paul's name was Saul and he was a Pharisee and a vehement persecutor of the churches of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. On his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, he was arrested by Jesus who appeared to him and blinded him for three days.
 - iii. He was converted, baptized, and became an apostle of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (non-Jews).
 - iv. He made several evangelistic trips around the Mediterranean world and started churches all over the place.
 - v. He wrote 2/3 of the New Testament and was the most influential Christian in history.
- 2. The Gospels (Matthew - John)
 - A. The Gospels are four different accounts of the life of Jesus Christ written by four men named Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 - B. The book of Matthew
 - i. The Gospel of Matthew was written in the first century AD, probably in the 60's AD.
 - ii. Matthew was a publican (tax collector) (**Mat 9:9**) who became one of Jesus 12 apostles (**Mat 10:3**).
 - iii. Matthew records Jesus' life from His birth to His death, resurrection, and ascension.
 - C. The book of Mark
 - i. The Gospel of Mark was written in the first century AD, probably in the 40's AD.
 - ii. Some say that the Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark was Peter's disciple (**1Pe 5:13**).
 - iii. Mark begins his gospel with the baptism of Jesus Christ and ends it with the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.
 - D. The book of Luke
 - i. The Gospel of Luke was written in the first century AD, probably in the 50's AD.
 - ii. Luke was a physician and the traveling companion of Paul.
 - iii. Paul confirmed Luke's gospel to be scripture by quoting it as such in **1Ti 5:18 c/w Luk 10:7**.
 - iv. Luke records Jesus' life from His birth to His death, resurrection, and ascension.
 - E. The book of John
 - i. The Gospel of John was written in the first century AD.
 - ii. John's gospel emphasizes the deity of Jesus Christ and sovereign grace.
 - iii. John records Jesus' life from His baptism to His death and resurrection.
- 3. The Book of Acts

- A. The book of Acts (The Acts of the Apostles) was written in the first century AD, likely in the 60's AD.
 - B. The book of Acts was written by Luke (**Act 1:1 c/w Luk 1:3**).
 - C. Acts begins on the day of Pentecost which was a Jewish feast that Jews from all over the known world had come to Jerusalem to participate in.
 - i. On that day the church was filled with the promised Holy Spirit and they all began to speak in the languages of the Jews that were there from 16 different nations.
 - ii. Peter preached a sermon to them and they were convicted in their hearts and about 3000 of them were baptized and added to the Jerusalem church that day.
 - D. The church in Jerusalem grew greatly.
 - E. There arose a persecution of the church in Jerusalem and the church scattered and Christianity began to spread to Samaria and north to Antioch.
 - F. In Acts 9, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who became the apostle Paul is recorded.
 - G. In Acts 10 God sends Peter to preach the gospel to the Gentiles for the first time.
 - H. in Acts 11 Paul joined with the church of Antioch.
 - I. In Acts 13 Paul was sent on his first evangelistic trip to Asia Minor, after which he made two more trips the whole way to Greece where he started many churches,
 - J. Paul would later write letters to many of those churches, which make up much of the New Testament.
 - K. Paul was taken into custody in Jerusalem, and because he appealed to Caesar, he was sent to Rome to be tried.
 - L. The book of Acts concludes with Paul preaching the gospel to people who came to see him in house-arrest in Rome.
4. The Epistles
- A. The book of Romans
 - i. The book of Romans is a letter to the church of Rome by Paul which was written around 58 AD.
 - ii. Romans contains much teaching about sovereign grace and many other topics, both doctrinal and practical.
 - B. The book of 1 Corinthians
 - i. The book of 1 Corinthians is a letter to the church of Corinth by Paul which was written around 57 AD.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians was a scathing rebuke of the church of Corinth for their immaturity, tolerance of sin in the church, abuse of the Lord's Supper, and other things.
 - C. The book of 2 Corinthians
 - i. The book of 2 Corinthians is another letter to the church of Corinth by Paul which was written around 58 AD.
 - ii. 2 Corinthians was a follow-up letter to the first letter written about a year later in which Paul commends them for how they had received and acted on the first letter.
 - iii. Paul also warns them to clean up their act because he was coming for another visit and didn't want to find them in sin and disorder.

- D. The book of Galatians
 - i. The book of Galatians is a letter to the churches of Galatia by Paul which was probably written around 55-57 AD, though some scholars date as early as the late 40's AD.
 - ii. Galatians is another epistle in which Paul is condemning error in churches.
 - iii. The churches of Galatia had been infiltrated by Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders) and had been deceived into believing that salvation was by the works of the law and not by grace alone, which idea Paul systematically destroys in the epistle.
- E. The book of Ephesians
 - i. The book of Ephesians is a letter to the church of Ephesus by Paul which was written between 58-64 AD when he was a prisoner in Rome.
 - ii. Ephesians begins with one of the most elegant discourses on sovereign grace and also covers the bringing together of Jew and Gentile in the NT church, the purpose of the ministry, family life, and spiritual warfare.
- F. The book of Philippians
 - i. The book of Philippians is a letter to the church of Philippi by Paul which was written between 63-64 AD when he was a prisoner in Rome.
 - ii. Philippians is thought to be the last of Paul's epistles to the churches.
 - iii. In it Paul speaks frequently of his imprisonment in Rome, which resulted in the conversion of many in Caesar's household.
- G. The book of Colossians
 - i. The book of Colossians is a letter to the church of Colosse by Paul which was written between 58-64 AD when he was a prisoner in Rome.
 - ii. The book of Colossians is a good commentary on the book of Ephesians since they cover many of the same topics.
- H. The book of 1 Thessalonians
 - i. The book of 1 Thessalonians is a letter to the church of Thessalonica by Paul which was written between 48-53 AD.
 - ii. 1 Thessalonians was one of the earliest of Paul's epistles.
 - iii. In it Paul writes about election, holy living, the second coming of Jesus Christ, and much more.
- I. The book of 2 Thessalonians
 - i. The book of 2 Thessalonians is another letter to the church of Thessalonica by Paul which was written between 48-53 AD.
 - ii. In it Paul writes about the second coming of Jesus Christ, the end-time events, church discipline, the importance of working, and much more.
- J. The book of 1 Timothy
 - i. The book of 1 Timothy is a letter to a pastor named Timothy by Paul which was written between 61-67 AD.
 - ii. 1 Timothy is the first of the three pastoral epistles.
 - iii. Paul ordained Timothy to the ministry.
 - iv. In this epistle, Paul instructs Timothy about many things which he needs to know to be a good minister such as the importance of prayer, male leadership in the church, the qualifications for pastors and deacons, the

importance of reading and studying the word of God, how to relate to variously aged people in the church, servants, and wealth.

K. The book of 2 Timothy

- i. The book of 2 Timothy is a second letter to Timothy by Paul which was written between 61-67 AD.
- ii. In this epistle, Paul reminds Timothy of sovereign grace, exhorts him to ordain other men who will be able to teach others, tells him how to deal with heretics, warns him about the perilous times of the last days, and charges him to preach the word and do the work of an evangelist.

L. The book of Titus

- i. The book of Titus is a letter to a pastor named Titus by Paul which was written between 61-67 AD.
- ii. Titus was another pastor that Paul ordained and he tells him much of the things as he did Timothy.

M. The book of Philemon

- i. The book of Philemon is a letter by Paul to a friend of his named Philemon which was written between 58-64 AD.
- ii. The epistle to Philemon was written while Paul was in prison in Rome.
- iii. While in prison at Rome, Paul met a slave named Onesimus who had escaped from his master, Philemon.
- iv. Paul converted Onesimus and sent him back to Philemon with a letter asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus and charge anything that Onesimus owed him to Paul's account.
- v. The epistle to Philemon is a lesson on how to win friends and influence people.

N. The book of Hebrews

- i. The book of Hebrews is a letter by Paul to the Hebrews which was written probably in the 50's or 60's AD.
- ii. The following are reasons why Paul wrote the book of Hebrews.
 - a. Paul might have not given his name in the beginning of the epistle like he did the others he wrote because he was the apostle to the Gentiles (**Rom 11:13**), which might have put off some of his Hebrew readers.
 - b. Paul was more qualified than any other to write a book to the Hebrews considering he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews and a Pharisee who was trained by Gamaliel (**Php 3:4-6; Act 5:34 c/w Act 22:3**).
 - c. Paul was in bonds (**Heb 10:34 c/w Php 1:7,13,14,16 c/w Col 4:18**).
 - d. Peter, the apostle to the Jews (**Gal 2:8-9**), said that Paul had written to the Jews (Hebrews) (**2Pe 3:15**).
 - e. Paul mentions his convert and son in the ministry, Timothy in Hebrews (**Heb 13:23**), who is only mentioned in Paul's epistles, but not in any of the other epistles.
 - f. The book of Hebrews ends with Paul's signature (**2Th 3:17-18 c/w Tit 3:15 c/w Heb 13:25**).

- iii. The book of Hebrews was written to a Jewish church to assure them of the supremacy of Jesus Christ to Moses, and of His once all-sufficient sacrifice to the sacrificial system of the law of Moses and the Levitical priesthood.
 - iv. Paul also encourages the Hebrews to continue steadfast in the faith in the face of persecution and ostracization.
- O. The book of James
- i. The book of James is a letter by James to a Jewish church which was written before 63 AD.
 - ii. The James that wrote it was likely James the Lord's brother for the following reasons.
 - a. James, the Lord's brother, was an apostle (**Gal 1:19**).
 - b. James the brother of John was killed by king Herod early in the days of the spread of Christianity (**Act 12:1-2**).
 - c. After James the brother of John was killed and Peter was miraculously saved from prison, he told the brethren to go tell the news to James and the brethren (**Act 12:17**).
 - d. This James appears to be the presiding elder of the church in Jerusalem (**Act 15:13-22; Act 21:18**).
 - (i) James, the presiding elder at Jerusalem, appears to be James the Lord's brother because Paul mentions seeing James the Lord's brother with Peter when he went to Jerusalem three years after his conversion (**Gal 1:17-19 c/w Act 9:26-28**).
 - (ii) This was before the death of James the brother of John in **Acts 12:1-2**.
 - (iii) In the next chapter of Galatians, Paul recounts when he and Barnabas went to Jerusalem 14 years later to dispute with the Pharisees in Jerusalem (**Gal 2:1-5**) which happened in **Act 15:1-2**.
 - (iv) There, Paul met James, Peter, and John (**Gal 2:9 c/w Act 15:7,13-14**).
 - (v) In that Paul had previously referred to meeting James the Lord's brother who was an apostle in Jerusalem in **Gal 1:18-19**, and then mentions meeting James again in Jerusalem in **Gal 2:9** after James the brother of John was dead, it seems reasonable to conclude that James the Lord's brother was the presiding elder in the Jerusalem church in Acts 15.
 - e. In that James the Lord's brother was most likely the presiding elder in the Jerusalem church, which was a Jewish church, it is reasonable to conclude that he wrote the book of James that was addressed to Jews (**Jam 1:1**).
 - f. There was also another apostle named James the son of Alphaeus (**Mat 10:3**), but it seems unlikely that he was the author of James because of the prominence of both James the Lord's brother and James the brother of John (who was killed early on, likely before the epistle was written).

- iii. James covers mostly practical matters of Godly living, including resisting sin, not showing favoritism, the importance of maintaining good works which validate faith, controlling the tongue, humility, and much more.
- P. The book of 1 Peter
- i. The book of 1 Peter is a letter by Peter to a Jewish church which was written around 64 AD.
 - ii. Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples and he went through quite a transformation from being a immature, impulsive Christian to a mature apostle who wrote two books of the Bible.
 - iii. 1 Peter covers many facets of Christian doctrine and practice such as election, salvation, the nature of the local church, submitting to authority, spousal relationship, suffering as a Christian, and instruction to elders on overseeing the church.
- Q. The book of 2 Peter
- i. The book of 2 Peter is another letter by Peter to a Jewish church which was written around 64 AD.
 - ii. 2 Peter covers topics such as making one's election sure, false teachers and wicked people creeping into the church, and the second coming of Christ and destruction of the world.
- R. The book of 1 John
- i. The book of 1 John is a letter by the apostle John to Christians which was likely written in the late first century AD.
 - ii. This was one of five books that John wrote in addition to 2 & 3 John, the gospel of John, and Revelation.
 - iii. In this epistle, John covers his personal witness of the life of Jesus Christ, confession of sins, identifying antichrists, how to know that one is born of God, the Trinity, and the deity of Christ.
- S. The book of 2 John
- i. The book of 2 John is a letter by the apostle John to a Christian lady and her children which was likely written in the late first century AD.
 - ii. In this letter, John emphasized the importance of knowing the truth of Jesus Christ and abiding in His doctrine.
- T. The book of 3 John
- i. The book of 3 John is a letter by the apostle John to a Christian named Gaius which was likely written in the late first century AD.
 - ii. In this letter, John praised Gaius for walking in the truth and warns him about a wicked pastor of a church named Diotrephes who was being of lord over God's heritage.
- U. The book of Jude
- i. The book of Jude is a letter by a man named Jude to Christians which was likely written between 65-80 AD.
 - ii. The author of Jude was "the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James" (**Jud 1:1**).
 - a. This could be Judas the apostle who was the brother of James the apostle (**Luk 6:15-16**).

- b. This could also be Juda the brother of James and of our Lord Jesus (**Mar 6:3**).
 - iii. It is more likely that it was Juda the brother of Jesus Christ who wrote Jude for the following reasons:
 - a. Jude didn't identify himself as an apostle as Peter and Paul did in their epistles, but only as a servant of Jesus Christ (**Jud 1:1**) like his brother James did (**Jam 1:1**).
 - b. Jude exhorts his readers to remember the words spoken by the apostles, and refers to them as "they" not "we" (**Jud 1:17-18**).
 - iv. The book of Jude closely follows 2 Peter chapter 2 in warning about false teachers and converts that will creep into the church.
- 5. The Book of Revelation
 - A. The book of Revelation is a letter by the apostle John to the seven churches in Asia (**Rev 1:1,4**) which was likely written in the late first century AD.
 - B. John received The Revelation from Jesus Christ (**Rev 1:1**) while on the island of Patmos (**Rev 1:9**).
 - C. The book of Revelation is *signified* (To be a sign or symbol of) (**Rev 1:1**) which means that it is largely symbolic and not to be taken literally, but figuratively and allegorically.
 - D. The Revelation includes messages and warnings from Jesus Christ to the seven churches of Asia.
 - E. It also covers events in the past, present (1st century), and future (**Rev 1:19**).
 - F. Revelation prophesies of the end times when Satan amasses a world empire and religion which culminates in the second coming of Christ in which He destroys the devil, destroys the heavens and the earth, judges the wicked, and creates new heavens and a new earth where His saints dwell with Him forever.