

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 12 WEEKS

Bible emphasis in presentation:

1. As the WORD OF GOD
2. As the THREAD OF CHRIST
3. As a PURPOSE FOR EACH BOOK

Introduction to the Bible

The Bible is God's message to mankind

It's central theme is salvation through Jesus Christ

It contains 66 books written by some 40 human authors over a period of some 4000 years of human history

The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, and was translated into Greek about 100 years before Jesus was born

The New Testament was written mostly in Greek.

Our English Bible is a translation from these original languages

"Testament" means "covenant" or "agreement"

The Old Testament is God original agreement with mankind – an agreement based on Law and obedience

The New Testament is God's agreement that came through Jesus Christ – an agreement of grace and love. One led to the other.

The Old Testament revolves around the person of Moses and looked forward to the Messiah Jesus – it is "Jesus concealed"

The New Testament revolves around the person of Jesus Christ and is "Jesus revealed"

Outline of the Old Testament

The Old Testament has 17 historical books, followed by 5 experiential books, followed by 17 prophetic books – 39 books in all

The Old Testament is NOT chronological from start to finish, but each of the three sections are generally chronological

The 17 Historical books are divided into sections of 5, 9 and 3

1. The 5 books of Moses (also called the Pentateuch)
2. 9 books of pre-exile history (before the Babylonian captivity)
3. 3 books of post-exile history

The 5 Experiential books are books of prose and poetry, including the Psalms and Proverbs

The 17 Prophetic books are also divided into sections of 5, 12 and 3

1. The 5 "Major Prophets" which set the standard for all Biblical prophecy
2. 9 "Minor Prophets" of pre-exile prophecy
3. 3 "Minor Prophets" of post-exile prophecy

The Old Testament begins with the creation of the universe, specifically the earth; and then chronicles the history of mankind, focusing specifically on the line of the human ancestors of Jesus Christ, tracing the history of the Hebrew race

The Old Testament concludes its account about 400 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

TODAY our focus of attention is the first 5 books of the Bible.

They are commonly called the books of Moses, because traditional scholarship claims Moses as the author

They are also called the “Pentateuch” – meaning “5 sacred books.”

These 5 books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

GENESIS means “beginnings” and it is the book of beginnings

1. The beginning of creation – the heavens and the earth
2. The beginning of family – one man and one woman in Adam and Eve
3. The beginning of sin on the earth through the tempting of Satan
4. The beginning of separation from God in being cast out of the Garden
5. The beginning of nations and language division at the tower of Babel
6. The beginning of Divine judgment with the Great Flood
7. The beginning of the nation of Israel through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

EXODUS means “departure” and it is the Israeli story of slavery to freedom under the leadership of **Moses**. It relates three key narratives:

1. The **EXODUS** of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
2. God’s giving of the **LAW** by the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai
3. The building of the **TABERNACLE** – God’s earthly abode

Familiar stories include:

- a. The burning bush
- b. The 10 plagues
- c. The parting of the Red Sea
- d. Manna in the wilderness
- e. The 10 Commandments
- f. The golden calf of Aaron and the people
- g. God filling the tabernacle with His presence

LEVITICUS means “book of the Levites” - the Hebrew tribe assigned to lead in worship.

The historical record is not advanced, but we discover how to commune with God through **ATONEMENT** and **HOLINESS** – the 2 key themes

1. **ATONEMENT** is the covering of our sins by the blood of the sacrifice
2. **HOLINESS** is the purity of walking in obedience to God

NUMBERS refers to the numberings of the people while in the wilderness

1. Census #1 before leaving Mt. Sinai
2. Wanderings in the wilderness for some 40 years
3. Census #2 when arriving across from Jericho before entering the promised land

DEUTERONOMY means “second law.”

1. **It retells the exodus and wanderings**, including the giving of the 10 Commandments a second time – thus the name
2. **It introduces the LOVE OF GOD** through it ll, thus also the “second law.”
3. It concludes with many moral laws, showing God’s holiness and desire for man’s complete obedience. Finally, we are told of the death of Moses.

Let us now follow the thread of Christ in these books, and note more of God's Divine purpose for each book:

Genesis 3:15 [God to the serpent] And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

Genesis 12:3 [God to Abraham] And I will bless those who bless you. And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 15:6 [Of Abraham] The he believed in the Lord, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 22:8 [Abraham to son Isaac] God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

22:16-18 [God to Abraham] By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you . . . And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

Exodus 12:13 [God to Moses] And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live, and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exodus 15 1-2 [Moses to God] I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will extol Him.

Leviticus 17:11 [God to Moses] For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.

Leviticus 20:26 [God to Moses] Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

Numbers 21: 8 [God to Moses] Make a fiery serpent and set it on a standard, and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he shall live.

Deuteronomy 1:30-31 [Moses to the people] The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 [Moses to the people] Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 [God to Moses] I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

A FINAL SPIRITUAL SUMMARY

GENESIS - **Ruin**
EXODUS - **Redemption**
LEVITICUS - **Communion**
NUMBERS - **Direction**
DEUTERONOMY - **Destination**

This is the life experience of every child of God. We all find that sin ruins us. We all find redemption in Christ Jesus. We then learn to commune with God as our strength, as we walk through the wilderness of life with Him as our guide. And now we stand, as it were, outside the promised land waiting for our appointed destination of glory.