

# BIBLE SURVEY

LEVEL 2 | CERTIFICATE OF PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bible Survey  
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# CONTENTS

## SESSION 1

The Importance of Bible Survey ..... 5

## SESSION 2

The Pentateuch ..... 19

## SESSION 3

Historical Books 1: The Rise to Monarchy ..... 35

## SESSION 4

Historical Books 2: The Fall of The Monarchy ..... 51

## SESSION 5

Wisdom Literature and Poetry ..... 71

## SESSION 6

Major Prophets ..... 87

## SESSION 7

Minor Prophets ..... 99

## SESSION 8

The New Testament Gospels ..... 111

## SESSION 9

The Acts of The Apostles ..... 131

## SESSION 10

The Pauline Epistles ..... 141

## SESSION 11

General Epistles ..... 161

## SESSION 12

Revelation ..... 171

GLC Project ..... 186

GLC Tools and Resources ..... 187

Appendix ..... 196

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# SESSION

one

The Importance of Bible Survey

two

three

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twelve

## OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the value of the Scripture
2. Cite passages that discuss the value of the Scripture
3. Identify practical facts about the Bible
4. Understand the major division of the whole Bible
5. Enumerate the 3 goals of Bible Survey





## ➔ Ice Breaker: "Bible Puzzle"

Instruction: Solve the Bible puzzle as a group!

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book name is not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local newspaper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that his puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There are really 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless!



## I. The Value of the Scripture

The Bible is one of the most identifiable representations of Christianity. People immediately identify a person to be a Christian when he/she is seen carrying a little black book with the Cross in the front cover. Sadly, many of us do not fully grasp the value of the Scripture.

### THE GREATEST STORY

THE GREATEST LOVE

“For God so loved the world”

THE GREATEST GIFT

“That He gave”

THE GREATEST SACRIFICE

“His only begotten Son”

THE GREATEST INVITATION

“That whosoever believeth”

THE GREATEST PROMISE

“Shall have eternal life.”

~ John 3:16 ~

### A. What do people say about the Bible?

Here are quotes from notable people on what they have to say about the Bible.

*“We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”*

*Isaac Newton*

*English mathematician and scientist, 1642-1727*

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*“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.”*

**George Washington**  
*First President of the United States*

*“I believe that the existence of the Bible is the greatest benefit to the human race. Any attempt to belittle it, I believe, is a crime against humanity.”*

**Immanuel Kant**  
*German idealist philosopher, 1724-1804*

*“I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God’s word because it finds me where I am.”*

**Abraham Lincoln**  
*16th President of the United States, 1809-1865*

*“England has two books; the Bible and Shakespeare. England made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England.”*

**Victor Hugo**  
*French writer, 1802-1885*

*“If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper. But if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”*

**Daniel Webster**  
*Secretary of State*

## B. What does the Bible say about itself?

The Scriptures also have something to say about itself. Let us look at some passage and highlight lessons we can draw out from them.

1. It instructs us in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(2 *Timothy* 3:16-17)

The Bible is not just there to teach us how to think about God, how to think about the Christ He sent, how to think about the Church, His people, but it is also there helping us to live right before God, before the Church, the community of the redeemed.

2. It warns us of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 *Corinthians* 10:6-11)

This talks about the people of the Old Testament. It warns us of the dangers of sin. In this passage, the writer specially singled out the generation that Moses led out of Egypt, and they fell because of sin.

3. It teaches us \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*Romans* 15:3-4)

The endurance is inspired by hope. The encouragement is unto hope, there is a future.

- 
4. It points us to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*John 5:39; Luke 24:25-27*)

The Old Testament is pointing in one direction, the Saviour. Without the Saviour Jesus Christ, there is no story of salvation.

5. It invites us to \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, our Lord. (*John 20:30-31*)

While the first four passages refer to the Old Testament scriptures, in this passage, the writer was referring to the Gospel that he wrote. We now move from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

6. It records the words and deeds of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (*Acts 1:7-8*)

The book of Acts gives us a narrative and a model of spiritual movement in its earliest form.

7. It explains the \_\_\_\_\_ and its implications for our life. (*Romans 1:1-6*)

This is a recurring theme in the New Testament epistles particularly those written by Paul.

8. It shows the \_\_\_\_\_ and calls us to believe and persevere. (*Revelations 1:1-3*)

It is a record of things to come. It is a preview of what shall happen and the book itself calls on believers to persevere to the very end of time despite all the sufferings and persecutions that the world brings to God's people.

### C. More facts about the Bible

The Scriptures also have something to say about itself, let us look at some passage and highlight lessons we can draw out from them.

1. All-time bestseller
2. Diversity
3. Unity
4. Accuracy
5. Reliability
6. Miraculous preservation
7. Life-changer

## II. Divisions of the Bible

The Christian Bible is not one book. It is a library of 66 books divided into two major parts: 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.

### A. OLD TESTAMENT

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (5 Books) - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (12 Books) - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (5 books) - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (17 books) - sub-divided into 2 parts
  - a. Major Prophets (5 books) - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
  
  - b. Minor Prophets<sup>1</sup> (12 books) - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

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1 The Minor Prophets are called such only because of their shorter contents and NOT because they are less important.

## B. NEW TESTAMENT

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (4 books) - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 book) - Acts
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (13 books) - Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (8 books) - Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 book) - Revelation

## II. The Goal of Bible Survey

The goal of this course is not just to help you memorize the names of the 66 Bible books in perfect order. Rather, our goal is to go deeper into understanding the message of the whole Bible. We are to go beyond seeing the Bible as just another book in our bookshelf or an accessory we bring on Sundays.

Here are 3 goals we would like to achieve in this class:

- A. To give a brief introduction to each Bible book.
- B. To provide a big-picture perspective focusing on the story of salvation.
- C. To highlight some spiritual lessons.

*WARNING ABOUT THE BIBLE*

*Usage can be habit forming. Regular reading can cause loss of anxiety and fear, decreased appetite for lying and cheating. Symptoms include increased sensations of love, joy, peace, compassion and contentment. If symptoms persist, just praise the Lord.*

***Rev. Dr. David Cheung***

## CONCLUDE

[5 minutes]

- We need to study the Bible because it is the inspired word of God and abiding in His word is a sign of true discipleship, which results in life change and prepares us for ministry.
- A Bible survey gives us a big picture of God's redemptive plan for mankind which reveals the awesome, infallible character and sovereignty of God.
- We should familiarize ourselves with the Books and Periods of the Bible which is composed of the Old and New Testament
- We will highlight some spiritual lessons found along the way as we journey from Genesis to Revelation

# SESSION

The Pentateuch  
The first five books of the Old Testament

## OBJECTIVES

1. Have an overview of the first five books of the OT
2. Identify key lessons from the Pentateuch
3. Trace the story of salvation in the Pentateuch

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Play “ICEBREAKER”  
from DVD menu:



## ➔ Ice Breaker: Bible Trivia\*

1. Distribute blank sheets of paper and answer the “Old Testament Trivia”
2. Write down the letter of your answer.
3. Exchange answer sheets and check each other’s answers!



### Learning Nugget

There are many hidden “nuggets” of knowledge in the Bible that when discovered and applied, will transform lives!

# COMMUNICATE

[30-40 minutes]

Play Session 2 DVD:  
"The Pentateuch"



## I. Introduction

In its original Hebrew form, the Torah (the Law) is rendered as one book with five divisions (Constable). But the Septuagint, the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament further widened the distinctions in the Torah and so now we have the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.

### A. Genesis

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis is often called the

- Book of beginnings
- Literally means "generations" or "origins". But more than just the creation story
- Sets the stage for the beginning of God's salvation history

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Narrative (Chapters 1-11)

This tells the story of how the world came into existence, how sin entered creation and how the world was further corrupted to the point of God's judgment. It is interesting to note that the primeval narrative started with creation but ended with destruction and dispersion.

##### a. Creation (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 19:1-2)

God starts His big project called creation- beginning with the heavens and the earth, plants and trees, the birds in the air, beast in the land, fish in the seas and of course, man and woman. God

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created everything in six days, looked around and called it “very good”, and then rested on the 7th day.

The Garden of Eden was the special place for God’s project where He made Adam and Eve managers of the Garden, an ideal arrangement until sin entered.

b. Sin (Genesis 2:16-17)

Genesis did not just narrate how sin entered humanity but also how it escalated. From the serpent, to Cain, to the unholy marriages in Genesis 6, we see an escalation of sin until God could not tolerate it anymore.

c. The Flood (Genesis 6:5-7, Genesis 9:11)

So the Lord decided that He will end the whole humankind and restart, not from another creation, but from a remnant - one man, his wife, his three children and their wives - just eight people. The Lord commanded Noah to build this huge ark and bring in his family and animals in specified numbers. And they went into the ark. And the rains came and the floods came and the whole of humankind was destroyed. God has restarted the human race with Noah. And just to assure Noah and his descendants that He will never again allow the earth to be destroyed by water, the Lord God told Noah that He will establish this covenant through a sign - a rainbow.

d. Nations (Genesis 9:1)

The children of Noah had more children until they diversified into so many. Genesis 10-11 is called the table of nations as sons of Noah and their families began to populate the earth and spread out.

e. Geographic Dispersion (cc. Genesis 11:1-9)

But the Lord God looked down from heaven and said, “These people are united in rebellion. We can’t let them do that.” So the Lord confused their tongues and they began to speak differently

to each other. And because they were linguistically divided, eventually they became geographically divided as well.

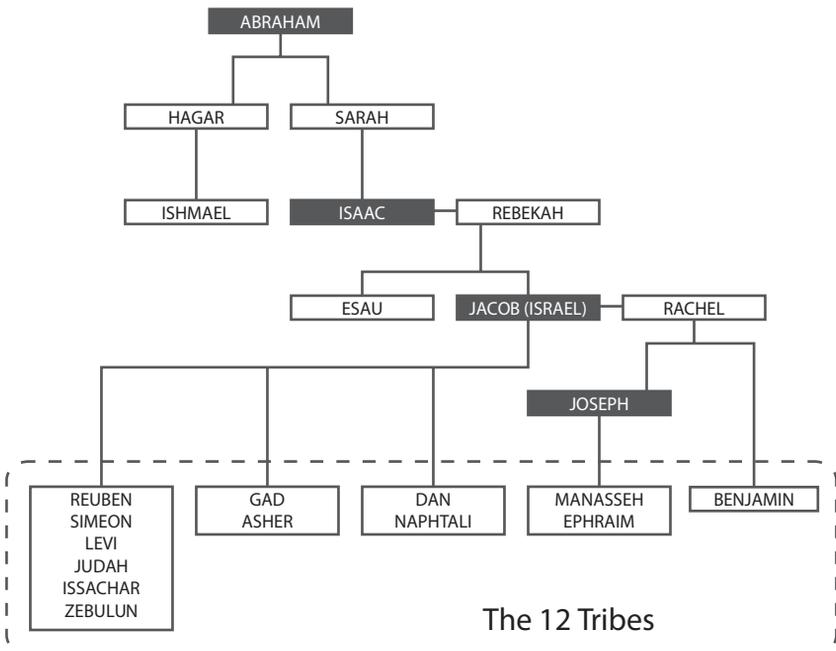
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Narrative (Genesis 12-50)

This narrates how the 12 tribes of Israel are connected from their earliest forefathers, their patriarchs. This portion of the book has to do with the journey of the Patriarchs, leading to the establishment of a nation within Egypt.

Theme: Is God's choice of a nation through whom He would bless all nations. (Abrahamic Covenant)

Key Verse: Genesis 12:2-3

### Genealogy: From Abraham to the 12 Tribes



- a. Abraham - Had no son and so tried to “assist” God by working out his own plan for having a son.
- b. Isaac - Had a step brother named Ishmael and had a wife who was childless for 29 years.
- c. Jacob - Deceived his twin brother Esau and fled.
- d. Joseph - became a powerful man in Egypt.

Key Lesson: These people cannot be considered as folks with clean records. Yet the whole story reveals God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and His willingness to work through us despite humanity’s limitation and propensity to sin.

Key Word: Origins / Beginning

4 KEY EVENTS	4 KEY PEOPLE
Creation	Abraham
Sin/Fall	Isaac
Flood	Jacob
Nations	Joseph

**B. Exodus**

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

The English title “Exodus” is a transliteration of the Greek word *exodos* from the Septuagint translation meaning “exit,” “way out,” or “departure.” The translators gave the book this title because it refers to the Israelites’ departure from Egypt.

*The purpose of the Book of Exodus is to celebrate God's gracious deliverance of His chosen people Israel from Egyptian slavery to the freedom of covenant relationship and fellowship with Him.*

***Eugene Merrill***

1. Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ (Chapters 1-18)

a. God's response

The initial section of Exodus shows that God did not forget His promise. He is one with those who suffer. And His response was recorded in Exodus 3:7-8.

b. God vs. Pharaoh

The stand-off between God and Pharaoh indicated in the plagues showed who really is in control. After ten rounds, Pharaoh threw the white towel and gave up, the score, 10-0.

c. The Passover

Among the plagues, the tenth stands out the most because it had the most intricate instructions and would be forever ingrained in the Jewish tradition. The Passover celebration is directly traced to this event where the Lord "passed-over" Egypt to bring judgment, yet spared the families where the blood of the Passover lamb is smeared across the door. This is a crucial representation in the story of salvation.

2. Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ (Chapters 19-40)

When Israel has been delivered out of Egypt, God took in Israel as His people. As God's covenant-nation, they are to adhere to the Sinai Covenant. When we think of Exodus, we mostly

remember the Ten Commandments but that was just the moral part of God's instructions.

LAW	EXAMPLES
Moral	Ten Commandments
Ritual	Feasts, Offering, Priesthood, Levites
Civil (Governmental)	Laws on property, slaves, land

### **The Tabernacle** (Chapters 27-28)

- Indicates God's presence
- Shows that God delivers, so we can serve Him

Key Verse: Exodus 19:5-6

C. Leviticus                      Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus focuses on the worship and the walk of the nation of God. Israel was redeemed and established as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Leviticus shows how God's people are to fulfill their priestly calling. It is a guidebook for God's newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve and obey a holy God.

Theme and Purpose: The theme of Leviticus is holiness (11:45, 19:2). It teaches that one must approach a holy God on the basis of sacrifice and priestly mediation.

In this case we can see why the key word for this book is holiness because at the very heart of this chiastic structure is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

## D. Numbers

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

The Hebrew book title is \_\_\_\_\_. The English title is based on the census (numbering) of the people that took place during the second year after they left Egypt, and again in the 40th year.

Theme and Purpose: The theme of Numbers is the consequences of disbelief and disobedience to a Holy God.

Key Verse: Numbers 14:22-23

Numbers Outline:

1. Census for Warfare (1-10) - Old Generation
2. Mutiny and Doom (11:1-20:13) - Unbelief/Discipline
3. Curse Turned to Blessing (20:14-25:18)  
- Kadesh Barnea 12 spies
4. The Inheritors of the Land (26-36) - New Generation
5. Christ in Numbers (21:8-9)

## F. Deuteronomy

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

The book title literally means \_\_\_\_\_. This refers to the second recitation of the law by Moses. The book mainly contains three lengthy monologues of Moses and ends with the account of his death. Compositionally, it has been observed that the book follows a covenantal structure (M. Kline).

Preamble	Covenant mediator	1:1-5
Historical Prologue	Covenant history	1:6-4:49
Stipulations The Great Commandment Ancillary Commandments	Covenant life	Chapters 6-26
Sanctions	Covenant ratification	Chapters 27-30
Dynastic Disposition	Covenant continuity	Chapters 31-34

Key Verse: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

**II. Lessons in the Pentateuch**

A. We serve a \_\_\_\_\_

1. Creator
2. Sovereign Lord
3. Lovingly initiates a relationship with His people

B. We are given a \_\_\_\_\_ (Presence, Protection, Purpose)

*“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”* Genesis 28:15

### III. The Story of Salvation in the Pentateuch

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Christ in the Pentateuch)

*“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 3:15

Even at the very start, God has already planned the salvation of His people. He made this promise of salvation.

B. \_\_\_\_\_

The Ark (Genesis 6-9)

The flood represents God’s judgment over the sins of humanity, yet in this judgment God has preserved the faithful so that the seed for salvation will continue.

C. \_\_\_\_\_

When John the Baptist saw Jesus he cried out “Look, the Lamb of God.” The first Passover reminds us that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Passover Lamb whose blood was shed to spare us from eternal judgment.

### The Hidden Message of the Gospel in Genesis 5

1. Adam means “Man”
2. Seth which means “appointed”
3. Enosh which means “mortal”
4. Kenan means “sorrow”
5. Mahalalel means “the blessed God”
6. Jared (Yared) meaning “shall come down”
7. Enoch which means “teaching”
8. Methuselah means “His death shall bring”
9. Lamech a root still evident today in our own English word, “lament” or “lamentation” “despairing”
10. Noah “to bring relief” or “comfort”, or “rest”

# CONCLUDE

[5 minutes]

## ➔ Key Points

- The focus of the Patriarchal Period is God's redemptive plan of mankind through His covenant with one man, Abraham.
- Through one man, Abraham, God established the nation of Israel.
- God called Moses to bring the people out of Egypt showing His faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham, and blessing the nations thereafter.
- God provided the Israelites the Law so they could learn to live in the presence of the Holy God.
- The Theocratic period shows the faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promise by bringing the Israelites to the Promised Land.

## CALL-TO-ACTION

[5 minutes]

### ➤ Pray Together

Pray that as committed followers of Christ, we will love His Word and completely obey Him.

### ➤ Life Application

Commit to read the entire Bible in one year. Read at least two chapters a day. You will need about 10 minutes to do this.



# SESSION

Historical Books 1  
The Rise to Monarchy

## OBJECTIVES

1. Have an overview of the twelve historical books in the Old Testament
2. Trace the three major periodic divisions of the Historical Books
3. Discuss the themes of each book

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eleven

twelve





## ➔ Ice Breaker: Name that Book

1. Turn to Appendix A (p. 196) at the back of the handbook for the answer sheet.
2. Each number consists of three verses from a book in the Bible.
3. You have three chances to guess which book the verse was taken. If on the first verse you already guessed the book, write the answer opposite number 3. If you guessed the book on the second verse, write it opposite number 2. If you guessed it on the 3rd verse, write it opposite number 1. You should only have one answer for each number.
4. Check the papers and add points to get the score.



### Learning Nugget

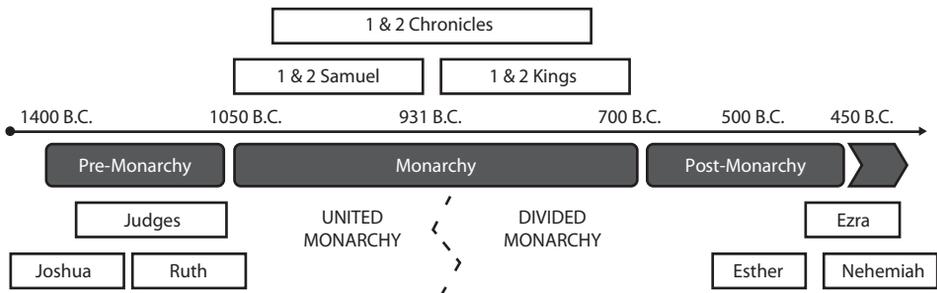
To know the Word of God by heart takes desire and discipline. We can ask God to create the desire in us and we can discipline ourselves through the power of the Spirit to study God's Word daily and apply it in all areas of life. The next two sessions will help us have an overview of the Historical Books of the Bible.



## I. Introduction

Israel has a very colorful history, and the Old Testament historical books chronicle a crucial period of their history.

- Joshua to Esther - 1400 B.C. to 450 B.C.
- From the Possession of Canaan (Joshua)
- Reigns of the Judges
- Establishment of Kings (Monarchy)
- Division into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms
- Fall of the Assyria and South to Babylon
- The Return to Jerusalem



In most cases, the time setting (background) indicated in the book is not the same as the time of writing. Usually the writing of the book occurs much later. The illustration above places the books in relation to its setting.

## II. Rise to Monarchy

In this session, we will discuss the first part of the historical books and trace the time when the Jewish people moved from conquering the Promised Land to becoming a powerful united kingdom.

Moses' Farewell Speech (Deuteronomy 34:7-10)

### A. Joshua

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua means “Yahweh is salvation,” or “the LORD is salvation.” Variant forms of his name include Jehoshua, and Yeshua. It is the Hebrew name of the Greek form of “Jesus.” In Numbers 13:16 his name was changed from Oshua to Jeho-shua (Numbers 13:8, 16). The Divine name was incorporated into his.

#### 1. Structure “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

The structure of the book also supports the \_\_\_\_\_ because everything happens in light of the Promised Land.

Conquering the Promised Land	Chapters 1-12
Dividing the Promised land	Chapters 13-21
Promised life in the Promised Land	Chapters 22-24

## 2. Theme

The Book of Joshua's theme is God's faithfulness to help Joshua conquer and take possession of the Promised Land (1:2-4; 11:23; 21:45; 24:14-16). What He has promised He will do.

### B. Judges

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Judges gives us a picture of the dark ages in Hebrew history after the death of Joshua. There was no strong central government in Israel after his death. There was however, the unifying force of their faith in Yahweh. It was a theocratic of government with the LORD God as their king. The only problem with a theocracy is that when the people do not take their commitment seriously, they keep falling into idolatry and apostasy.

7 Cycles of Apostasy, Judgement and Deliverance (Judges 2:10-11)

## 1. Theme

Judges describes God's dealings with people when "every man did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6; 21:25). It is a study of a permissive society, and the author draws from history lessons concerning righteousness, faithfulness and lovingkindness of Yahweh in contrast to the undisciplined society. It also serves as a link between the conquest of the Promised Land and the monarchy. Rev. Dr. David Cheung devised this table showing the book is about the SORRY cycle of Israel:

	3rd cycle	4th cycle	7th cycle
S _____	4:1	6:1	13:1
O _____	4:2	6:1-6	13:1
R _____	4:3	6:7-11	13:2-25
R _____	4:4-5:31	6:12-8:28	41:1-16, 31
Y _____	40 years	40 years	20 years

## 2. The Judges

Israel has a number of judges, but the book chooses to focus on these following 13 judges:

Judge	Tribe	Years of Oppression	Years of Peace	Reference
Othniel	Judah	8	40	Ch 3:9-11
Ehud	Benjamin	18	80	Ch 3:12-30
Shamgar	Naphtali			Ch 3:31
Deborah	Ephraim	20	40	Ch 4-5
Barak	Naphtali			Ch 4-5
Gideon	Manasseh	7	40	Ch 6-8
Tola	Issachar		23	Ch 10:1-2
Jair	Manasseh		22	Ch 10:3-5

Jephthah	Manasseh	18	6	Ch 11:1-12:7
Ibzan	(Bethlehem)		7	Ch 12:8-10
Elon	Zebulun		10	Ch 12:11-12
Abdon	Ephraim		8	Ch 12:13-15
Samson	Dan	40	20	Ch 13-16

### C. Ruth

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth gets its title from the heroine of the book.

- She is a foreigner from Moab
- She becomes the great grandmother of King David
- Story of the lineage of the King and the future Messiah

Key Verse: Ruth 1:16-17

#### 1. Purpose

One of the purposes of the book is found in the Messianic genealogy in 4:17-22 which connects Boaz and Ruth to Obed then Jesse and David.

Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5-6)

## 2. Theme

The most important theme is redemption with its main teaching centering on the Kinsman Redeemer as a type of the Messiah.

- He must be a blood relative
- He has the ability to purchase
- Be willing to buy the inheritance
- Be willing to marry the widow of the deceased kinsman

D. 1 & 2 Samuel                      Key words: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Purpose

In the books of Samuel, monarchy becomes a reality. Three figures dominate the book -- **Samuel the king-maker, Saul the abortive king, and David the ideal king.**

A major purpose of Samuel, then, is to define monarchy as a gracious gift of God to His chosen people.

Key Verses: 1 Samuel 15:22-33  
                  2 Samuel 7:12-13  
                  Revelations 22:16

### 2. Theme

God's covenant with David to bring forth a righteous King who is the Messiah. Human sin and bad judgment jeopardized the Davidic covenant, but God overrules it to accomplish His purposes.

The theme is developed around three characters: Samuel, Saul and David. Samuel is the last of the judges of Israel (7:6, 15-17);

Saul was the first king and the people's choice; and David is God's choice. His reign as king is described in Second Samuel.

### E. 1 Kings (Chap 1-11)

The Book of Kings is more than an account of the political and social history of this period. It records Israel's spiritual response to God, who had taken them into covenant relationship with Himself (2Ki 17:7-23), and who had bestowed great privileges on them through the promise made to David (1Ki 2:2-4). Accordingly, within its pages is found a detailed summary of their spiritual experiences--particularly their kings, prophets, and priests, whose activities largely point to the need for the advent of the one who would combine the intended ideal of these three offices in himself.

1. UNITED MONARCHY (1-11)
2. TEMPLE
3. DIVIDED KINGDOM (12-22)

The first part of 1 Kings (Chapter 1-11) describes the highest point of the kingdom. Under the rule of Solomon, the kingdom has prospered. It was during this period where the building of God's temple took place. This part also describes Israel's break from being a united kingdom to being a divided monarchy. The reason for the transition is chronicled in 1 Kings 11:29-39

<sup>29</sup>About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, <sup>30</sup>and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup>Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes. <sup>32</sup>But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. <sup>33</sup>I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in my ways, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my statutes and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.'" 1 Kings 11:29-33

<sup>34</sup>"But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who observed my commands and statutes. <sup>35</sup>I will take the kingdom from his son's hands and give you ten tribes. <sup>36</sup>I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. <sup>37</sup>However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. <sup>38</sup>If you do whatever I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you. <sup>39</sup>I will humble David's descendants because of this, but not forever."

1 Kings 11:34-39



[10 minutes]

Discuss the following in your group and take turns sharing your insights:

1. Which times are harder for us to get near to God- hard times or prosperous times?
2. How would you describe the time of your life today?
3. How is your intimacy with God affected by what you are experiencing in life at the moment?

## CALL-TO-ACTION

[5 minutes]

We have seen how the rise and fall of the nation of Israel was largely determined by the kind of leader that was in place. It is the same way with any country today.

Write down specific names of government leaders to pray for this week. Ask God to give them wisdom, a commitment to righteousness and a heart of compassion as they lead us. Above all, pray that God will transform the lives our leaders through Jesus Christ. Pray for their salvation and godly influence in our nation.



# SESSION

Historical Books 2  
The Fall of the Monarchy

## OBJECTIVES

1. Highlight some kings in the Divided Kingdom
2. Distinguish the difference between Kings and Chronicles
3. Explain the significance of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther
4. Discuss the relevance of OT Historical books

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve



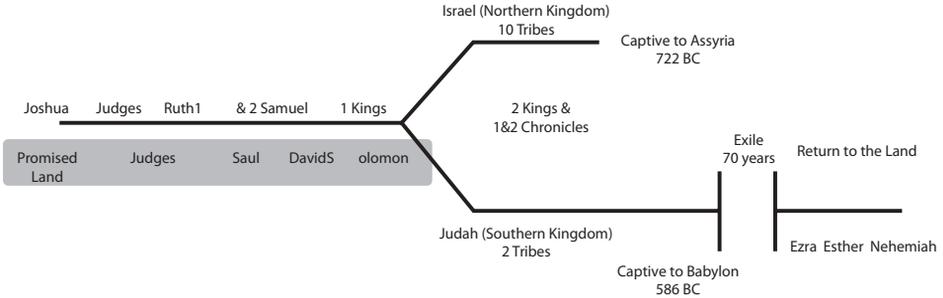


Books of the Old Testament: Unscramble the letters to reveal the names of the Old Testament Books.

1. SUXDEO \_\_\_\_\_
2. AIAODBH \_\_\_\_\_
3. DEGSUJ \_\_\_\_\_
4. SMEURNB \_\_\_\_\_
5. ETMOUNOEYRD \_\_\_\_\_
6. RLNICOEHSC \_\_\_\_\_
7. NSKGI \_\_\_\_\_
8. UAMNH \_\_\_\_\_
9. KELIEEZ \_\_\_\_\_
10. AOHJSU \_\_\_\_\_
11. JIMEAERH \_\_\_\_\_
12. HAIMHEEN \_\_\_\_\_
13. GISNEES \_\_\_\_\_
14. EETSRH \_\_\_\_\_
15. HOESA \_\_\_\_\_



## I. Introduction



### The Divided Kingdom

The once united kingdom was split in two as God had commanded. The Northern Kingdom took the 10 tribes and placed the center of power in Samaria. But God allowed two tribes to form the southern kingdom and remain in Jerusalem. This is again an indication that despite the disobedience of God’s people, God was still willing to fulfill His promise. These are the kings that ruled the divided kingdom after Solomon:

## Kings of Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Name	Time (B.C.)	Reference (1&2 Kings)	Reference (Chr)
Jeroboam (I)	930 - 909	1 Kgs. 12:25-14:20	2 Chr. 9:29-13:22
Nadab	909 - 908	15:25- 31	
Baasha	908 - 886	15:27-16:7	16:1-6
Elah	886 - 885	16:6-14	
Zimri	885	16:9-20	
Tibni	885 - 880	16:21-22	
Omri	885 - 874	16:15- 28	
Ahab	874 - 853	16:28-22:40	18:1-34
Ahaziah	853 - 852	22:51- 2Kgs 1:18	20:35-37
Joram/Jehoram	852 - 841	2Kgs 1:17; 3:1-27; 6:6-8:6; 9:14-26	22:5-7
Jehu	841 - 814	9:1-10:36	22:7-12
Jehoahaz	814 - 798	13:1-9	
Jehoash	798 - 782	13:10-25; 14:8-14	25:17:24
Jeroboam (II)	793 - 753	14:23-39	
Zechariah	753	15:8-12	
Shallum	752	15:10-15	
Menahem	752 - 742	15:14-22	
Pekahiah	742 - 740	15:22-26	
Pekah	753 - 752	15:25-31	
Hoshea	732 - 723	15:30; 17:1-6	

## Kings of Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Name	Time (B.C.)	Reference (1&2 Kings)	Reference (Chr)
Rehoboam	930 - 913	1Kg 12:1-24 ; 14:21-31	2Chr 9:31- 12:16
Abijam/Abijah	913 - 910	15:1-8	13:1-22
Asa	910 - 869	15:9-24	14:1-16:14
Jehoshaphat	872 - 848	22:41-50	17:1-20:37
Jehoram	853 - 841	2Kg 8:16-24	21:1-20
Ahaziah	841	8:25-29; 9:29	22:1-9
Athaliah	841 - 835	11:1-21	22:1-23:21
Joash	835 - 796	12:1-21	22:10,24-27
Amaziah	796 - 767	14:1-22	25:1-28
Azariah/Uzziah	792 - 740	15:1-7	26:1-23
Jotham	750 - 732	15:32-38 (15-30)	27:1-9
Ahaz	735 - 715	16:1-20	28:1-27
Hezekiah	715 - 686	18:1-20:21	29:1-32:33
Manasseh	697 - 642	21:1-18	33:1-20
Amon	642 - 640	21:19-26	33:21-25
Josiah	640 - 609	22:1-23-30	34:1-35:27
Jehoahaz	609	23:31-33	36:1-4
Jehoiakim	609 - 598	23:34-24:7	36:5-7
Jehoiachin	598 - 597	24:8-17	36:8-10
Zedekiah	597 - 586	24:28-25:26	36:11-21

The fall of these two kingdoms came at two different times and from different captors:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Northern Kingdom) fell at the hands of the Assyrians on 722 B.C.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Southern Kingdom) fell at the hands of the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

The Babylonian captivity and exile was a critical time in Jewish history as it was during this time that the people of God reflected their predicament.

*“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.”* Psalm 137:1 (NIV)

*“<sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, <sup>5</sup>‘Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce.’”* Jeremiah 29:4-5 (NASB)

Soon after, the Persians defeated the Babylonians and took over the exiles (539 B.C.). The Persian king became God’s instrument to deliver God’s people from the hands of Babylon. This also allowed the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their nation.

The following three periods are the focus of this section of the historical books:

1. The divided kingdom and its kings
2. The fall of the monarchy and captivity
3. The restoration

## II. Book by Book

### A. 1 & 2 Kings

1 Kings Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kings Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

“The Book of the Kings” trace the history of the Kings of Israel and Judah from the time of Solomon (970-931 B.C.) to the Babylonian captivity (586 B.C.).

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose is to give the reasons for the taking away of the kingdom, the people’s captivity and exile. It answers why and how did it happen? Why didn’t God keep His promises to David and his descendents? Can the LORD God be trusted?

## 2. Theme

Yahweh is Lord of history who is actively involved in the affairs of men and nations. “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Prov. 14:34). The prophets dominate the action in the Kings. Elijah’s ministry dominates 1 Kings and the influence of the prophets is seen on almost every page of the books. The author evaluates each king according to prophetic standards based on God’s covenant recorded in Deuteronomy.

### B. 1 & 2 Chronicles

1 Chronicle Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Chronicle Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

The Hebrew title means “\_\_\_\_\_”

These two books cover the same period of Hebrew history as described in 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, but from a priestly perspective. The theme centers on the worship of Yahweh at the temple in Jerusalem.

#### 1. Purpose

Purpose of the Chronicles was to encourage the despondent and discouraged workers who had returned to Jerusalem after the exile and begin work on rebuilding the temple.

Because of this emphasis on the temple and the Covenant, Chronicles has priestly views and overtones of the kingdom.

## 2. Theme

Theme of Chronicles is the Jewish temple in Jerusalem with its worship, officials, the Levites, and the uniqueness of Yahweh (2 Chron. 2:5; 6:5; 20:6-7; 1 Chron. 17:21).

It appears that these four books share the same contents and talk about similar events. The difference is the focus of each book. The table below shows the distinctions among these books:

Book	Contents	Key Characters	Key Word
1-2 Kings	From Solomon to the rise and fall of Israel and Judah	Kings of Israel and Judah	1 Kings: Reign of Kings  2 Kings: Fall of Kings
1 Chronicles	Reign of David	David	Reign of David
2 Chronicles	From Solomon to the fall of Judah	Kings of Judah	Fall of Judah

### C. Ezra

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

The book of Ezra reveals the providential intervention of the God of heaven on behalf of His people. In ch. 1 the Lord is sovereign over all kingdoms (v.2) and moves even the heart of a pagan ruler to fulfill His will (v.1). He accomplishes the refining of His people through calamities like the Conquest and the Exile. He stirs the

heart of His people to respond and raises men of God to lead His people (v.11). Ezra Chapter 3 shows that the service of God requires a united effort (v.1), leadership (v.2a), obedience to God's Word (v.2b), courage in the face of opposition (v.3), offerings and funds (vv.4-7), and an organized division of labor (vv.8-9). Meeting these requirements resulted in a sound foundation for later work (v.11), tears and joy (vv.11-12), and praise and thanksgiving to the Lord (v.11).

Ezra experienced the good hand of God. As a scribe he was more than a scholar--he was an expounder of the Scriptures (7:6, 12). He believed that God could guide and protect from misfortune (8:20-22). As an inspired leader he enlisted others and assigned trustworthy men to their tasks (7:27-28; 8:15, 24). He regarded what he did as a sacred trust (8:21-28). Ezra was above all, a man of fervent prayer (8:21; 10:1), deep piety, and humility (7:10, 27-28; 9:3; 10:6).

### **EZRA'S LEADERSHIP:**

Ezra chapter 3 shows that the service of God requires unified effort:

1. Leadership (v.1) "gathered as one man"
2. Obedience to God's Word (v.2a)
3. Courage to face opposition (v.3)
4. Offerings and Funds (vv.4-7)
5. Organized division of labor (vv.8-9)

Character: Ezra was a man of fervent prayer, deep piety and humility

Ezra means "JHVH (Jehovah) has Helped" and originally formed one

work with the books of Chronicles and Nehemiah. The purpose of his writing was to document God's faithfulness to His promises.

#### D. Nehemiah

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

Nehemiah brings the Old Testament history to a close. Nehemiah was a contemporary of Ezra, and his book was a complement to the book of Ezra. Nehemiah provides information about the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem and the spiritual and social reforms that took place in Judah after the return of the exiles. Nehemiah was the builder of the wall of Jerusalem and governor of Judea (5:14).

#### NEHEMIAH'S LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS:

- Stayed focused on the task in spite of great opposition. (Sanballat, Tobiah)
- He wisely divided the labor to the families.
- He kept the people motivated and encouraged.
- He finished the walls in 52 days!
- He then focused on rebuilding the people spiritually.

#### 1. Structure

The book can be divided into major sections dealing with the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (chs. 1-7:73) and the revival of the people (chs. 8-13).

- (Chs. 1-7:73) - Rebuilding the walls
- (Chs. 8-13) - Rebuilding the people

## 2. Theme

God demonstrates His sovereignty in the affairs of His people and the Persian emperors. He protected the repatriates on their journey and protected them from hostile forces in the land of Judah. He provided key leadership for the rebuilding of the wall and spiritual revival.

A sovereign God who used a pagan empire to chastise His people also used one to restore His people to the land He had given them. The LORD God is faithful to His people even when they are faithless. Grace is written all over the book of Nehemiah.

### E. Esther

Keyword: \_\_\_\_\_

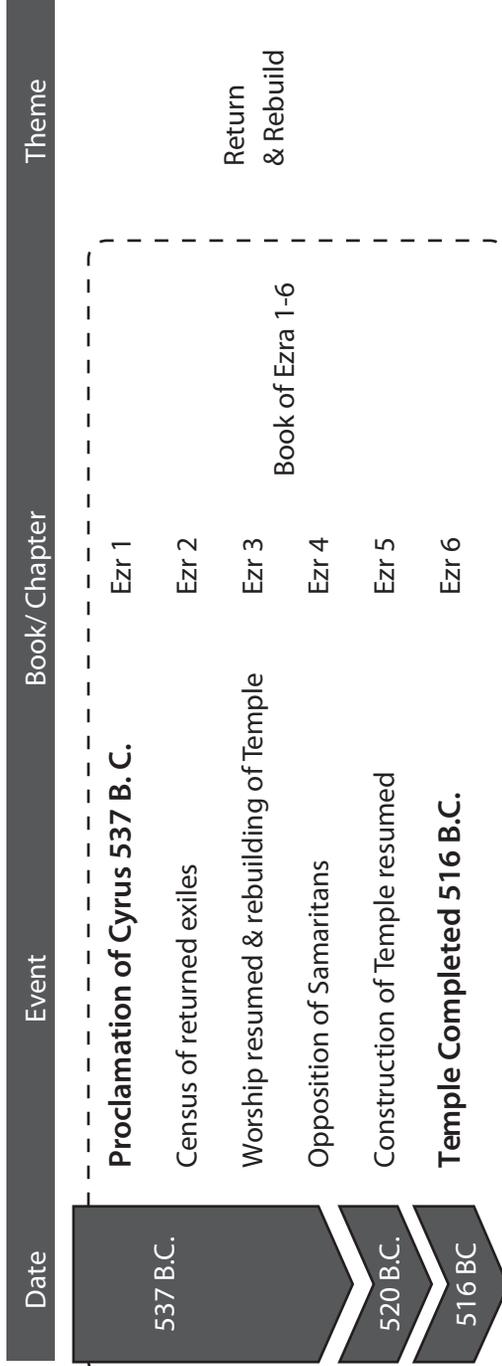
Five books that are found together in the third division of the Hebrew Bible (Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther) collectively are called the five Megilloth (“Scrolls”). The book of Esther is generally the last of the five, probably because it is read during Purim, the last festival of the Jewish year.

Esther is one of two OT books named for a woman, the other being Ruth, and one of several not quoted in the NT.

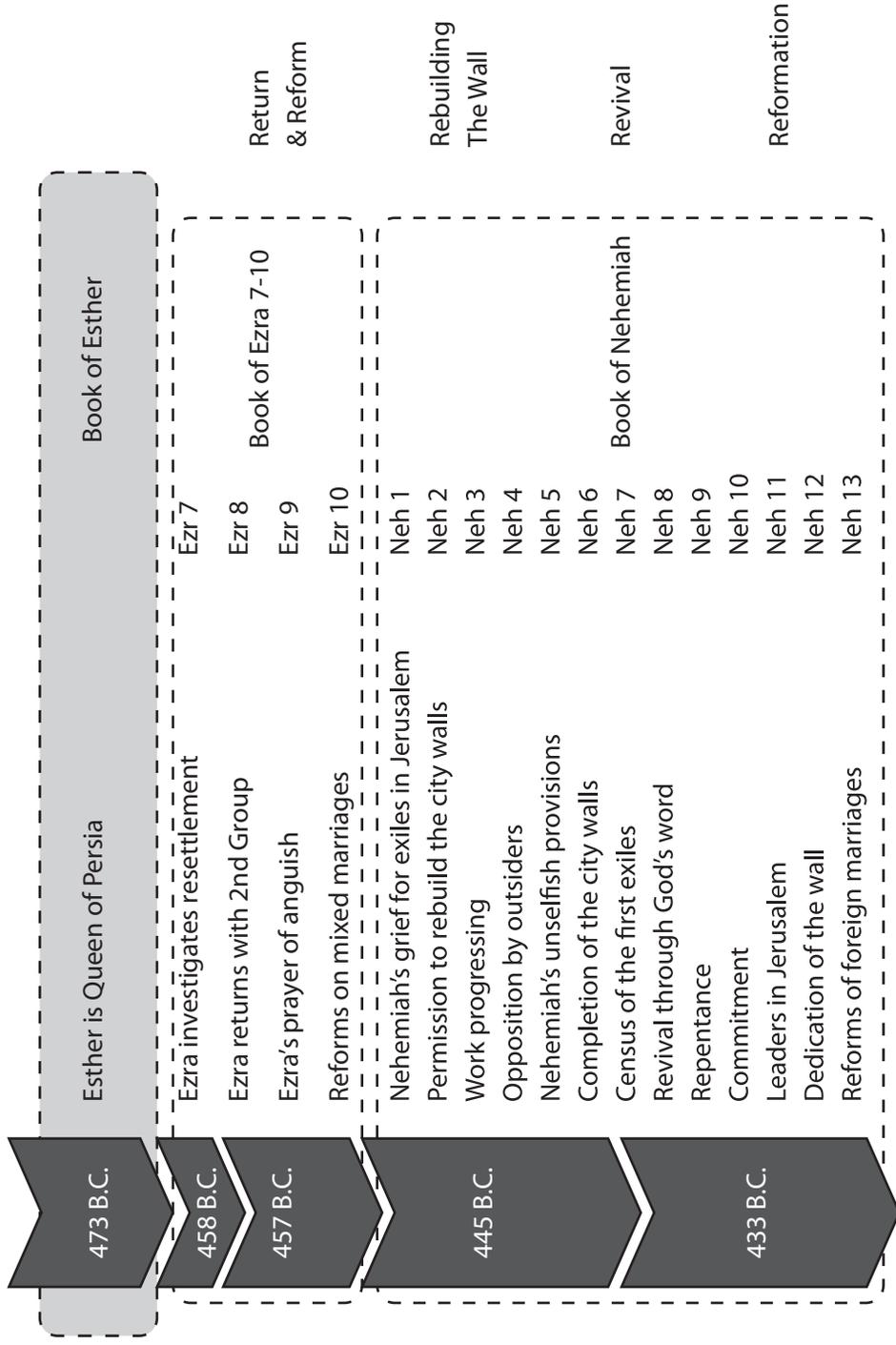
Like Song of Songs, it does not mention God; like Exodus, it deals specifically with persecution of the Hebrew people.

### III. Restoration & Reform

This illustration below will help us get a better idea on how to place these last three books in the Old Testament History:



537 B.C.



## IV. The Message of OT Historical Books

### A. Establishment of the \_\_\_\_\_

In the historical books, the coming of a future King is much more established. The writers, especially in Chronicles, focus on the line of David indicating the lineage where the Messiah will come.

### B. God is \_\_\_\_\_

The historical books of the Bible provide a clear message that God directs and decides the destiny of each individual and every nation. The Bible provides excellent examples of God's Providence by showing how He exalts and rewards the righteous for their virtue, has mercy on repentant sinners, and punishes stubborn sinners.

### C. Salvation is brought through \_\_\_\_\_

These books were consistent in establishing the Jewish people's frailty and susceptibility to sin. The covenant people and their leaders repeatedly failed, yet God fulfilled His promise to bring salvation through this imperfect community.

## THE MOST AMAZING PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE

### Daniel chapter 9 – Outline for the Future

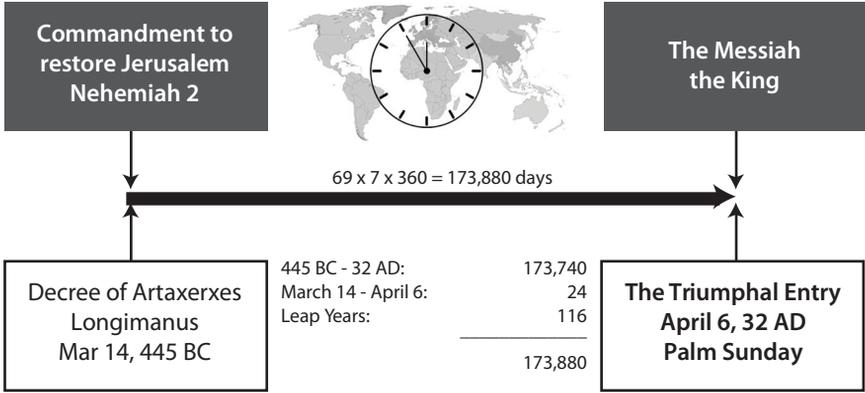
*“<sup>24</sup>Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. <sup>25</sup>Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’, and sixty-two ‘sevens’. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. <sup>26</sup>After the sixty-two ‘sevens’, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.” Daniel 9:24-26*

### THE SCOPE

Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to:

1. Finish transgression,
2. Put an end to sin,
3. Atone for wickedness,
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness,
5. Seal up vision and prophecy and
6. Anoint the Most Holy.

# DANIEL'S AMAZING PROPHECY DANIEL 9:24-27





## CALL-TO-ACTION

[5 minutes]

### ➤ Life Application: Pray for Leaders

Thank God for spiritual family of believers, mentors, counselors, pastors, elders, Dgroup leaders, and other believers, who have become instrumental in speaking the truth in love to rebuke, correct, train and restore our spiritual standing before Christ. Remember specific persons whom God is using to help us walk through life's spiritual journey in Christ.

Pray for the rulers and leaders at home, in the church, offices, business, in the community and country. Pray that you will be the kind of leader that God can use to bless those over whom he appoints you to lead.

# SESSION

## Wisdom Literature and Poetry

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs

### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the Poetry and Wisdom books
2. Enumerate and discuss the themes and key words for each book

one

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three

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seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





Leader will mention objects found in the Wisdom and Poetic books and members will guess what book/s the objects are mentioned. Those with the most number of correct answers wins! Note that an object might be “found” in more than one book.

Introduce each object by saying...”I have a/an...where did I get it?”

Objects:

1. Lamp
2. Honey
3. Harp
4. Dog
5. Sabeans and Chaldeans
6. Pomegranates
7. Deer/Gazelle
8. Arrows
9. Ostrich
10. Pleiades and Orion
11. Sun
12. Wine
13. Ashes
14. Behemoth
15. Golden Bowl



**Learning Nugget**

What did you notice about the objects we found in the Wisdom and Poetic books? These are “ordinary”, everyday objects that we see in the world around us. The wisdom that is contained in these books of the Bible deals with our everyday needs and concerns. God cares about everything and anything that goes on in our lives—that’s how much he loves us!



## I. Introduction

Every literate culture has poetry. Poetry could be defined as literature that is based on defined forms and structures, an art form. The word comes from a Greek word meaning “to form, to make.”

There is poetic material through much of the Old Testament - approximately one third of it is poetry, and only seven books of the Old Testament do not include some poetry. Poetry, which is easily memorized, is often found in the earliest literature of a people. There are the Psalms, magnificent songs of faith and worship, not only in the book of that name but scattered through the narrative books as well. There is poetry even in the first chapters of Genesis: see 1:27, 2:23, 4:14, 4:23-24. Often versions such as the NIV and NASV set these in a different type. The Book of Job and the Song of Songs are extended dramatic poems. The Wisdom literature includes the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, the “wisdom” being of practical day by day living, rather than searching for philosophical truth. A large portion of the prophets are written in Hebrew poetic form as well.

### The Periods of the Poetical Books

1. The Patriarchal Period – Job (2000 B.C.)
2. The Davidic Period – Psalms (1000 B.C.)
3. The Solomonic Period
  - a. Song of Solomon – a young man’s love
  - b. Proverbs – a middle aged man’s wisdom
  - c. Ecclesiastes – an old man’s sorrow (950 B.C)

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There are three basic kinds of poetry:

1. **Lyrical poetry** which was accompanied by music on the lyre (Psalms)
2. **Didactic poetry** which was used to teach basic principles of life (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes)
3. **Dramatic poetry** used to communicate a message (Job and Song of Solomon are extended dramatic poetry)

Hebrew poetry will use:

- a. **Simile** which is a comparison of two things that are similar to one another in some way. (Ps. 1:3-4)
- b. **Metaphor** in which one thing is compared to another without the use of the word “like or as” – i.e. Ps. 23: 1 David says “The Lord is my Shepherd” meaning He is to me like a Shepherd...
- c. **Implication** This is where there is an implied comparison between two things in which name of one thing is used in place of the other. (Ps 22:16)

## II. Job

The Book of Job is unique because of its depth and thoroughness in dealing with the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (the justice of God and why do the innocent suffer).

Job is “an artistic masterpiece put together skillfully by a great poet.” It breathes an atmosphere of human reality—sin, sorrow and a frightening silence.

Job is the main character of the book that bears his name. He is distinguished far and wide as the greatest and richest of the sons of the East. He is a wealthy and pious landowner who lived in patriarchal times. Job was a man “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and turned away from evil.” The typical Hebrew blessings of life were his to the fullest: wealth, honor, health, and family.

*“The book of Job is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of the human mind.”*

**Victor Hugo**

*“I call this book apart from all theories about it, the grandest thing ever written... There is nothing written, I think of equal literary merit.”*

**Thomas Carlyle**

*“The book of Job rises like a pyramid in the history of literature, without a predecessor and without rival.”*

**Philip Schaff**

## A. Purpose

Job seeks to answer the question: Why do the righteous suffer? (Theodicy) The answer is threefold:

1. God is worthy of love even apart from the blessing He bestows.
2. God may permit suffering to purify and strengthen.
3. God ultimately knows what is best for His glory and our good.

## B. Content and Structure

The book is about Job's suffering and the following discussions from Job's 3 friends then God Himself speaks to Job.

### 1. Job's suffering (Chapters 1-3)

*“and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.’”* Job 1:21 (NIV)

### 2. Debates (Chapter 4-37)

- a. First Debate (4-14)
- b. Second Debate (5-21)
- c. Third Debate (22-31)
- d. Elihu's speech (32-37)
- e. God's speech (38-42) - This ended the discussion
- f. Job's restoration

Job speaks 9 times, Eliphaz 3 times, Bildad 3 times, Zophar 2 times, Elihu 1 time, God 1.

The Lord rewarded Job with a restoration of what he lost. In fact it is a restoration, which is even more abundant than what he possessed in the beginning.

3. Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Psalms

The Book of Psalms is a collection of sacred Hebrew poems, intended for use in the \_\_\_\_\_ .

- The Psalms were written over 1000 year period
- From Moses to David to the return from exile
- Longest Psalm is Psalm 119
- Shortest Psalm is Psalm 117 and is at the center of the Bible

#### A. Structure

	Chief Author
1. Book One: Psalms 1-41	David
2. Book Two: Psalms 42-72	David / Korah
3. Book Three: Psalms 73-89	Asaph
4. Book Four: Psalms 90-106	Anonymous
5. Book Five: Psalms 107-150	David / Anonymous

Some of them you will find are not songs that you sing as in the hymns, but they are prayers that people pray in times of joy and in times of sorrow as well.

## B. Classification

	Psalms	Themes
Praise and thanksgiving	8, 24, 29, 33, 46-48, 65, 67, 68, 75, 76, 81, 87, 93, 95-100, 104, 105, 108 (57, 60), 111, 113-115, 117, 122, 133-136, 145-150	Worship Zion & Temple (24:3; 46:4-5; 48:1-3,8-14; 87:1-7; 122:1-9; 147:12-14) God's people (worshippers)
Prayer in troubled times	3-7, 10-13, 14 (53), 17, 22, 25, 28, 31, 35, 38, 39, 42-44, 51, 54-62, 64, 69-71, 73, 74, 77, 79, 80, 83, 85, 86, 88, 90, 94, 102, 109, 120, 123, 129, 130, 137, 140-143	Unanswered prayer Shortness of life (39:4-6,12-13; 88:3-12; 90:3-12; 102:3-11, 23-28) Consolation in God
Call to righteous living	1, 15, 19, 26, 36, 37, 49, 50, 52, 82, 101, 112, 119, 125, 127, 128	Law Fear of God
Testimony of God's goodness	9, 16, 23, 27, 30, 32, 34, 40, 41, 46, 63, 66, 78, 84, 91, 92, 103, 106, 107, 116, 118, 121, 124, 126, 131, 138, 139, 144	Answered prayer Praise and thanksgiving Broadcasting His goodness
Royal psalms	2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 110, 132	David's kingship Celebration

C. Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

The word God can tie all of them together. There are unanswered and answered prayers, laments, wisdom sayings, worship lines, hymnic materials.

The Psalms are very God-centered songs and prayers regardless of the kind of situation the psalmist found himself in.

## THE MESSIANIC PSALMS

1. The book of Psalms is quoted in the NT more than any other book in the OT
2. Constitute irrefutable testimony to the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures
3. Psalm 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 87, 89, 102, 110, 118 et al.

MESSIANIC PSALMS	
Book	Contents
Psalm 8	Messiah would come as a man but be Lord over all creation
Psalm 16	His Resurrection from the dead
Psalm 22	His suffering (Crucifixion)
Psalm 45	His Royal Bride, Eternal Throne
Psalm 72	Glory and Eternity of His Reign
Psalm 89	Endlessness of Messiahs Throne
Psalm 110	Eternal King and Priest
Psalm 118	Will be rejected by Israel's Leaders
Psalm 132	Eternal Inheritor of David's Throne

## IV. Proverbs

A. **Purpose:** \_\_\_\_\_ tells us the proverbs were written.

1. To impart moral discernment and discretion (v. 29, 3-5)
2. To develop mental clarity and perception (v. 2b, 6)

Wisdom = Skill  
Instruction = Discipline

- The ability to apply what we know to life!

### B. Outline

Ch 1-9	Solomon's proverbs
Ch 10-22:6	Solomon's proverbs
Ch 22:17-24:22	Sayings of the Wise
Ch 24:23-34	More sayings of the Wise
Ch 25-29	More proverbs of Solomon
Ch 30	Words of Agur
Ch 31	Words of Lemuel

C. Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

The whole book revolves around this theme to draw out and discover wisdom in the different situations of human life. Wisdom is the ability to discern or judge what is true, right or lasting.

V. Ecclesiastes \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes is a collection of Solomon's reflection about life. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 1:2). The word translated "vanity" (hebel) means vain, vapor, breath, worthless, futilities of futilities, or useless as a puff of wind.

Solomon begins his book in a pessimistic negative tone concerning the futility of all life and continues with this theme throughout the book. He uses the word "vanity" thirty-six times and at least once in every chapter, except chapter ten. It is a word with a calculated ambiguity, but skillfully used by Solomon to bring out the limitations of human activity and human wisdom. Life is brief, short, empty and meaningless without God.

A. Main thought

Even when seen from all dual-extremes, life without God is vain and meaningless. Still we must fear God, for He will judge our every act.

*“<sup>13</sup>The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NASB)*

B. Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Vanity is the futile emptiness of trying to make sense out of life without God. Without God, all of life's pursuits, power, prestige, pleasure are all nothing. Nothing can fill the God shaped vacuum except God Himself.

VI. Song of Songs \_\_\_\_\_

The book presents a healthy view of \_\_\_\_\_ within marriage.

It demonstrates faithfulness between married lovers as worthy of a place in the Scriptures. Many Jews and Christians have drawn spiritual strength from this song.

A. Lessons

Heterosexual love, even sensuality, is God's good gift to us. The love between a man and a woman including the sensual, physical, sexual dimension of this love is God's good gift to us. It provides a healthy outlook on a subject which was for a long time taboo in many Asian cultures, even in Victorian England and early modern America.

B. Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Verses: 7:10 “I am my beloved’s and his desire is for me.”

Christ in Songs of Solomon: Illustrates Christ’s love for the church which is seen as the bride in Christ in the New Testament.

BOOK	KEY WORD	THEME
Job	Mystery / Sovereignty	Unexplained suffering: God is mysterious
Psalms	God / Praise	Divine goodness: God is faithful
Proverbs	Wisdom	Fear the Lord: God is to be revered
Ecclesiastes	Vanity	Meaningless life: God is to be feared
Song of Songs	Love	Romance: God is to be thanked

## VII. Summary



[10 minutes]

## ➔ Life Application

Write down three areas in life where you are encountering challenges in decision-making. Then choose a Wisdom or Poetic book where you believe you can find guidance for your particular concerns. Take time this week to read a section or even an entire book from the Poetic or Wisdom books of the Bible and write down what it says about the decisions you need to make. Plan to decide on those areas of concern based on what God has revealed to you.



# NOTES

# SESSION

## Major Prophets

### OBJECTIVES

1. Enumerate the 17 Prophetic Books in the Old Testament
2. Identify the Major/Minor Prophets
3. Identify the four major messages found in these books
4. Discuss the story of salvation in the Prophetic Books

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





## ➔ Ice Breaker: Name that Prophet

Give 10 minutes for the members to arrange the scrambled letters and guess the Old Testament prophets. If you have a smaller group, let them work as a team. For bigger groups (8 members or more), they can either solve the puzzle individually or in smaller teams.

1. H M E E I A R J \_\_\_\_\_
2. I D E L N A \_\_\_\_\_
3. E Z K E I E L \_\_\_\_\_
4. A A I H D B O \_\_\_\_\_
5. O A H N J \_\_\_\_\_
6. I A N A P E Z H H \_\_\_\_\_
7. I A A C H H R E Z \_\_\_\_\_
8. A C H A M L I \_\_\_\_\_
9. M U A H N \_\_\_\_\_
10. I I A A C H M \_\_\_\_\_
11. Z I A A H R A \_\_\_\_\_
12. N A A N T H \_\_\_\_\_
13. A A I N N H \_\_\_\_\_
14. S M O A \_\_\_\_\_
15. J I A H L E \_\_\_\_\_



### Learning Nugget

There are more to learn about God's prophets than their names, and more to learn about God's timeless message found in the Old Testament. In the next two sessions, we will be going through an overview of seventeen (17) prophetic books. We will look at the Major Prophets in Session 6 and then the Minor Prophets in Session 7.

# COMMUNICATE

[30-40 minutes]

Play Session 6 DVD:  
"Major Prophets"



## I. Introduction

A. Five Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

B. Twelve Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

C. Major and Minor is not about importance but \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophetic book

Books	Propheesied to/against	Period	Date (B.C.)	World Empire
Isaiah	Judah	Pre-exile	740-680	Assyria
Jeremiah			627-580	Assyria/ Babylon
Lamentations			586	
Ezekiel		Exile	592-570	Babylon
Daniel			605-536	Babylon/ Medo-Persia
Hosea	Israel	Pre-exile	755-710	Assyria
Joel	Judah		835	
Amos	Israel		760-753	

*\*Some scholars tend to put Obadiah in the Pre-Exile period. The date for the book of Obadiah continues to be much debated. The prophecy is clearly a response to a time when Jerusalem was overrun by foreign armies, a sack in which the Edomites were understood to have in some way collaborated (see v.15). If it was the 586 B.C. destruction under Nebuchadnezzar, and if Edom herself came under Nabataean control by the fifth century B.C., the date of the book is best left sometime after the 586 invasion of Zion.*

Obadiah*	Edom	Exile	840	Assyria
Jonah	Nineveh	Pre-exile	785-775	
Micah	Judah		735-710	
Nahum	Nineveh		650-620	
Habakkuk	Judah		607	Babylon
Zephaniah			630	Assyria
Haggai		Post-exile	520	Medo-Persia
Zechariah			519-518	
Malachi				

### Chronology: Exilic and post-exilic prophets

Prophet	B.C.	To	Message
Obadiah	840	Edom	Judgment upon Edom (for violence to Jacob's house)
Joel	835	Judah	Locust plague foreshadows the day of the Lord; call to repentance; future restoration
Jonah	785-775	Nineveh	Coming of judgment (for wickedness); call to repentance
Amos	760-753	Israel	Inevitable judgment on Judah, Israel and their neighbors; future restoration
Hosea	755-710	Israel	Israel's harlotry; call to repentance; future restoration (11:8-11)
Isaiah	740-680	Judah	Warning about judgment; future restoration

Micah	735-710	Judah	Coming of judgment; future restoration
Nahum	650-620	Nineveh	Coming of judgment (on account of an evil counselor, 1:11-15)
Zephaniah	630	Judah	Coming of judgment (for idolatries); future restoration
Jeremiah	627-580	Judah	Imminent judgment (esp. for idolatry 7:30-8:3, 19:1-15; immorality 5:1-9; false prophecy 7:3-11; 14:11-16; 23:9-40); future restoration (ch30-33)
Habakkuk	607	Judah	Habakkuk's complaint (ch1): God's non-reply to his call for help. God's reply (ch2): I will judge in my appointed time Habakkuk's prayer (ch3).
Lamentations	586	Judah	Mourning the fall of Jerusalem; prayer for restoration (5:19-22)

### Chronology: Exilic and post-exilic prophets

Prophet	B.C.	Period	Message
Daniel	605-536	Exile	History (ch1-6); Prophecy (ch7-12)
Ezekiel	592-570		Impending fall of Judah; future restoration
Haggai	520	Post-exile	Four messages from Aug-Nov: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build God's house now</li> <li>• Continue the work</li> <li>• Now God will bless you</li> <li>• God will exalt Zerubabbel</li> </ul>

Zechariah	519-518	Post-exile	Call to return; eight visions; future restoration
Malachi	430		Rebuke on Israel and the priests for despising God; promise of future restoration (3:1-5; ch4)

## II. The Major Prophets

### A. Isaiah

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah's challenge to Judah is to learn from Israel's destruction before theirs comes at the hands of Babylon.

Isaiah contains more material on the incarnation and sacrifice of the \_\_\_\_\_ than any other Prophetic book.

#### The Dead Sea Scrolls

- Found 19 copies of Isaiah
- 1000 years older than available copies
- Dated to 200 B.C.
- Amazingly identical to the current copy
- Meaning the Bible is incredibly reliable

Isaiah	Bible
66 chapters	66 books
1st 39 chapters anticipate Messiah's coming	The 39 books of the OT anticipate Messiah's coming
Last 27 chapters focus on Messiah and His Kingdom	The 27 NT books focus on Jesus and His Kingdom
Chapter 1-39 speaks of man's great need for salvation	
Chapter 40-66 reveal God's provision of salvation	The NT reveals God's provision of a Savior in Jesus

## B. Jeremiah

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah began midway through Josiah's reign. False prophets in Judah are foretelling peace all throughout, considering Babylon a passing threat. Despite their idolatry, theology of the times gave Judah false security and an invincibility ego:

1. Judah is God's people
2. Jerusalem is God's city
3. The miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem (125 years earlier, about the same time Samaria was destroyed by Assyria) is case in point
4. False prophets proclaimed peace

### C. Lamentations

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

This book does not have a mentioned author, yet most assume Jeremiah because the literary form and historical context match.

This prophecy is made soon after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Lamenting the 2-year siege which ended in Jerusalem's destruction/exile, this book expresses personal pain and spiritual dismay of famine, thirst, cannibalism, rape, and slaughter.

Lamentations expresses the crumbling of Judah's theology and identity. Without YHWH or the land where He resided, they no longer know who they are. The punishment is received as just, yet Judah is left to wonder how or if they still fit into God's redemptive plan. This is a great book for giving voice to the random emotions that take place during mourning a loss.

### D. Ezekiel

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel is a younger contemporary of Jeremiah. Their ministries were compliments: Jeremiah served in Jerusalem with occasional letters to the exiles; Ezekiel served among the exiles (part of the 598 deportation took the Jerusalem's prominent people) with occasional letters to Jerusalem.

## E. Daniel

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel, a contemporary of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, prophesied in Babylon after being taken in the 598 B.C. exile. Daniel also ministers briefly under the Persian Empire after they dominated the world scene in 539 B.C. Daniel had a unique ministry by being promoted to a province leadership position for two world empires, sharing direct access to the mighty kings of history. The narrative material would also be well used to promote integrity when under strain.

### Daniel 5: The Final Feast

- Feast of Belshazzar (vv 1-4)
- Fright of Belshazzar (vv 5-6)
- Frustration of Belshazzar (vv 7-16)
- Fearlessness of Daniel (vv 17-28)

### Daniel 6: The Lion's Den

- Daniel Chosen by Darius (vv 1-3)
- Daniel Framed by His Enemies (vv 4-9)
- Daniel Caught by His Enemies (vv 10-15)
- Daniel Cast to the Lions (vv 16-18)
- Daniel Delivered from the Lions (vv 19-24)
- Daniel's God Glorified by Darius (vv 25-28)



## ➤ Discussion

As a group, or in smaller teams of 3-5 people, do the following:

Choose a major prophet whose message you think is most relevant to our world today. What truths about God, people or life in general can we find in the prophet's message and how can we apply these in our times? Be as specific as possible.

Note: Give members 15 minutes to discuss then use the remaining 5 minutes to let them share their insights from the discussion.

## CALL-TO-ACTION

### ➤ Life Application: Old Testament Survey

Prepare for an assessment test on the entire Old Testament in the following meeting.

# SESSION

## Minor Prophets

### OBJECTIVES

1. Enumerate the 17 Prophetic Books in the Old Testament
2. Identify the Major/Minor Prophets
3. Identify the four major messages found in these books
4. Discuss the story of salvation in the Prophetic Books

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





[10 minutes]

## ➔ Ice Breaker

Match the prophet to his place of ministry/people he addressed with God’s message. Place a check on the chart to show the match-up (see example given). Work in pairs or in groups of 3-4’s if you have a bigger group.

Prophets	Place/People				
	Judah	Israel	Jerusalem (Returned exiles)	Edom	Niniveh
Amos		✓			
Habakkuk					
Haggai					
Hosea					
Joel					
Jonah					
Malachi					
Micah					
Nahum					
Obadiah					
Zechariah					
Zephaniah					

### OT Assessment Test:

[30 minutes]

Play “OT ASSESSMENT”  
from DVD menu:



- This Assessment test is **not graded**.
- Exam Proper (10 minutes, max 5 minutes extension)
- Checking of papers (5 minutes)
  - Exchange papers with seatmate.
  - Leader: Be sure to go through EACH answer and entertain questions and clarifications if needed or if asked.



## I. The Minor Prophets

### A. Hosea \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea barely overlapped Amos at the close of Jeroboam II's reign. No other book more dramatically depicts YHWH's unflinching love amidst the tension of justice. God makes the metaphor of His love visual by instructing Hosea to marry a prostitute, and then to essentially marry her all over again after her unfaithfulness.

#### Hosea's 3 Children

1. Jezreel - "God sows or plants" - meaning that God is the one who will remove Israel's wicked kings.
2. Lo-Ruhamah - "No mercy" - prediction of judgment by Assyria.
3. Lo-Ammi - "No people" - because of Israel's adultery, God said you are not my people.

### D. Joel \_\_\_\_\_

Joel is the toughest prophetic book to place a date and audience on. He makes analogous connections between an invading army and a locust plague - both of which actually take place. Great book for repentance (hardly mentions the sins from which to repent) and restoration (restoring the years the locusts ate).

## Dual Fulfillment of Prophecy (Joel 2:28-29)

1. Day of Pentecost - the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Disciples to empower them.
2. In the last days prior the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ, God's spirit will once again be poured out on all flesh.
3. Promise of Hope and Restoration (Joel 2:25)

## D. Amos \_\_\_\_\_

This prophet is a shepherd, also prophesied for a short time during the peak of Jeroboam II's reign. Key themes are religious syncretism (blending of opposing religious ideas) and social injustice (especially the injustices of the rulers' wives).

Amos - prophet sent from Judah to the North Israel

1. Eight Prophecies - (1:1-2:6)  
- "Coming judgments"
2. Three Sermons (3:1-6:14)  
- "Hear this word..."
3. Five Visions (7:1-9:10)  
- 5 Visions of Judgment
4. Five Promises (9:11-15)  
- Words of consolation
  - Davidic line will be reinstated
  - The land will be renewed
  - People will be restored

## E. Obadiah \_\_\_\_\_

Obadiah delivers a doom oracle against Edom shortly after they rejoiced over the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 586 B.C. Edom even came out to slay the fleeing Jews. Edom was literally Israel's brother as descendants of Esau (Jacob/Israel's twin). Edom's delight and aid in the slaughter of Jews was the final straw in YHWH's broken expectations of brotherhood. Edom's fate is a bit of a mystery. They disappeared sometime after 586 and before 450 B.C. (Nehemiah 6:1 has a different inhabitant (Geshem), and Mal 1:2 also seems to assume they are gone).

- The Edomites were descendants of Esau
- The Edomites were defeated by the Maccabees then by the Nabateans and by the 1<sup>st</sup> century no longer existed as a people

## F. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_

Jonah serves as a bit of a transition between the miracle prophets and preaching prophets. Although rebellious to God's initial call, the miracle of being swallowed and transported by a large fish has Jonah prophesying destruction on Nineveh, the capital of Assyria (the cruelest nation), which ultimately leads to their repentance. This book will help one accept the grace God gives even to your enemies.

Christ in Jonah

*“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”* Matthew 12:40

## G. Micah \_\_\_\_\_

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. He too has many Messianic references (4-5). His oracles are carefully arranged by going back and forth between judgment and future hope - thus giving us a very balanced theology of God's judgment and mercy.

## H. Nahum \_\_\_\_\_

Nahum prophesies to Judah sometime after Assyria's peak of power in 663 B.C. (Assyria's conquering of Thebes, and therefore Egypt), yet prior to the fall of Assyria in 612 B.C. He prophesied the destruction of Nineveh (and therefore all of Assyria) for their legendary and barbaric cruelty/ injustice in conquest.

The oracles probably were not delivered on foreign soil, nor were they directed at calling Judah to repentance. The prophesied destruction of Assyria was simply for Judah's comfort. If God stretched you to forgive your enemies through Jonah, He relieves the tension a bit by the justice presented in Nahum.

## I. Habakkuk \_\_\_\_\_

Habakkuk prophesied in Judah sometime after the fall of Nineveh (612 B.C.), Rather than deliver YHWH's word to Judah (as did all the other prophets), Habakkuk delivers Judah's word to YHWH with several "Why?" questions. He asks why YHWH tolerates Judah's sin, but then when hearing that YHWH will punish Judah via Babylon, he asks "Why?" again with greater force. Use this book to ask God your "Why?" questions - note that proper "Why's" first come from observing God's character.

"This was the rallying cry of the REFORMATION!"

## I. Zephaniah \_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah prophesied leading to Josiah's reform alongside Jeremiah. Although only two generations have passed since King Hezekiah's reform, the nation was entirely converted to paganism under King Manasseh. The temple is being used to worship other gods, prophets were forbidden to speak on YHWH's behalf, hedonism is rampant, and no one could find a copy of the law even if they wanted to. This book could serve as good revival literature considering the times He spoke. Josiah (640-609 B.C.) goes on to rediscover the Law, refurbish the temple, and destroy all the idols as the last good king in Judah. His reform did everything externally possible but failed to change the people's hearts.

## J. Haggai \_\_\_\_\_

Haggai was successful in inspiring the people to start the reconstruction. Haggai also pushes against spiritual apathy, showing that the restoration is not something for the Jews to simply ride out - YHWH will wait for covenant obedience before fulfilling promises. He connects the current draught to a covenant curse for unfaithfulness. This is a great book for turning you toward obedience when wrestling with disappointments.

## K. Zechariah \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah's voice was needed to help them finish the temple construction in 516 B.C. His three year ministry began shortly after Haggai (520-518 B.C.). He delivers his vision to their present situation, as well as the distant future - things we are still waiting for. Zechariah's expectation of the Messiah King is his primary distinction.

## L. Malachi \_\_\_\_\_

Malachi orchestrates six disputes between YHWH and Judah. (examples: YHWH's love, divorce, faithfulness)

- Malachi is the last of the prophetic books of the Old Testament.
- For the next 400 year's there is no prophet (silent).
- Until an Angel announces the birth to Mary.
- John the Baptist fulfills the position of Elijah preparing the way for Jesus.

## II. The Message of Prophetic Books

God commissioned each prophet to fulfill a particular role. As servants of the Lord, the prophets conveyed God's message to His people.

There are four messages in these prophetic writings:

### A. Message of \_\_\_\_\_

The prophets encourage God's people to trust in God alone and not to depend on human strength or military power (Isa 30:12-14). They firmly believe that God is the Almighty Ruler of the universe, the moral Governor of the world and the covenant God of Israel. He controls all things for the good of those who love Him.

### B. Message of \_\_\_\_\_

The prophets urged men to know, believe and practice God's Word. They based their teaching on the laws of Moses. Because the prophets were keenly aware of the sinfulness and perversity of man.

C. Message of \_\_\_\_\_

The prophets encouraged God's faithful people regarding the future. Exile was not the end for them because God would restore His people and through them He would send the Messiah.

D. Message of \_\_\_\_\_

The prophets taught the people that God was the Lord of all creation, and sovereign over all facets of human history.

### III. The Story of Salvation

A. \_\_\_\_\_ was prophesied repeatedly.

Prophet	Restoration of...
Joel	Land, people, and all mankind
Amos	David's house and the land
Hosea	People and their houses or land
Isaiah	People, land and creation
Micah	People, land and king

Zephaniah	People and land
Jeremiah	People, land and Davidic
Lamentations	Prayer for restoration of people
Daniel	Jerusalem, Messiah and people
Ezekiel	Land, people, king and temple
Zechariah	Jerusalem, the people and the kingship
Malachi	Levites and the people

B. \_\_\_\_\_ increased in volume.

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”*  
Isaiah 7:14

*“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”* Micah 5:2

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* Zechariah 9:9

## CALL-TO-ACTION

[5 minutes]

### ➤ Life Application

What is your response to God's message to you from this lesson? What specific life application will you do this week?

# SESSION

## The New Testament Gospels

### OBJECTIVES

1. Enumerate some important historical-cultural background of the New Testament World
2. Identify distinct features of the Gospels
3. Discuss the major themes in each Gospel
4. Discuss the story of salvation in the Gospels

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





[10 minutes]

Play "NT Bible Trivia"  
from DVD menu:



1. There are 20 items in this trivia quiz.
2. The presentation is set to automatically advance to the next question after 15 seconds.
3. Choose and write down the letter that corresponds to your answer
4. Exchange answer sheets for correction

**New Testament Bible Trivia Answer Sheet**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

# COMMUNICATE

[30-40 minutes]

Play Session 8 DVD:  
“New Testament Gospels”



## I. Introduction

### A. The significance of the New Testament centers around:

1. The One who gave Himself for the remission of sins, Jesus Christ.
2. The people (church) who have received the salvation of Christ.

### B. The New Testament is an arrangement of 27 books and its writing covers a period of about 50 years. The books of the New Testament logically fall into four categories:

1. The Gospels: where we find the description of the life and times of Jesus Christ.
2. The Acts of the Apostles is the account of the Church and the spread of Christianity all over the Mediterranean world.
3. The books from Romans through Jude (21 letters) are a collection of epistles or letters mostly coming from the Apostle Paul.
4. The Revelation describes the victorious triumph of Jesus.

---

## II. The New Testament World

To have a better understanding on what kind of world the New Testament books and writers are operating in, let us try to look into the historical-cultural background at the time where the NT books were written.

The following made for the easy spreading of the Gospel:

A. Imperial \_\_\_\_\_

There was general peace and order under Roman rule.

The Romans were able to stabilize the revolts, and the rebellions were all put down. And at that time, there was no great serious threat to Roman rule. *Pax Romana* - there was general peace everywhere which made for easy moving about, easy assembly for preaching and so forth.

B. Easy \_\_\_\_\_

There were good land infrastructures and established sea (trade) routes. Hence, we see how Jesus could easily go from the former Southern Kingdom to the former Northern Kingdom. And Paul was able to go around the Roman world, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of the roads built by the Romans from those days still survived to this day thus attesting to its durability. And then there was the sea travel for commercial reasons.

C. Common \_\_\_\_\_

Communication was facilitated by the common use of *koine* Greek. 'Koine' simply means generally spoken common Greek.

D. Greek \_\_\_\_\_

The Septuagint (LXX) made the OT available in Greek. The writing of the Gospels that we have today is originally written in Greek. And many of the quotations from the Old Testament that the New Testament writers used were taken from the Septuagint, not from the Hebrew text tradition, but from the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

The following provided the background for the NT exhortations to shun idolatry, discern false philosophies and flee immorality:

E. Thought \_\_\_\_\_

There were the polytheistic religions and the Greek philosophies. In other words, there's not one dominating philosophy.

F. \_\_\_\_\_ degradation

Generally there was depravity. The Pharisees were strict while the Sadducees were compromising.

Sadducees	Pharisees
1. Self sufficient	1. God controls all things
2. Denied resurrection	2. Believed in resurrection
3. Denied after life	3. Believed in after life
4. Denied existence of angels	4. Believed in angels and demons

*The Jewish world*

G. \_\_\_\_\_

Law-keeping became the supreme object of piety. *This led to interpretations and disputes over the Law - on which Christ was often consulted or tested.*

At that time, the Law is the only identity marker of a Jew. And so they observed the Law very seriously. But the Law sometimes sounds a bit general, like the fourth commandment - Thou shall not work on a Sabbath. Hence, they depend on the interpreters of the Law who were the scribes, and many of which were Pharisees.

H. \_\_\_\_\_

The Jewish *Diaspora* was enlarged after the exile. The Diaspora provided the initial motivation for Paul to go out of Assyria, Antioch, and go out with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. \_\_\_\_\_

The synagogue became a major religious institution (where the Law was read and expounded on the Sabbath). *It became a first natural preaching place for Christ and Paul.*

J. \_\_\_\_\_

The rabbi became a major religious figure (as the contemporary Ezra). *Christ was perceived in the category of the rabbi.*

2 Major Schools

1. Hillel - liberal
2. Shamai - Conservative

K. \_\_\_\_\_

The Jewish-Samaritan hostility became worse. This explains the tension in John 4 and the significance of Acts 8.

L. \_\_\_\_\_

There emerged many Jewish groups such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots and Essenes. *The first three supplied the opposition to Christ.*

M. \_\_\_\_\_

There were intense Messianic expectations. *This generated a quick audience for the preaching of Christ and the apostles.*

### III. The Gospel Accounts

The word gospel derives from the Greek “*euangelion*” referring to a proclamation of \_\_\_\_\_.

The heart of this *euangelion* is the message of Jesus Christ, that He ministered, died and rose again to offer salvation in the light of the new age He has ushered.

The Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John

- Synoptic - “to see together”
  - Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the synoptic Gospels
  - John is called “a Gospel apart”
1. Matthew - written primarily to the Jews. It seeks to prove that Jesus is the kingly Messiah.
  2. Mark – written primarily to Roman Gentile believers. Portrays Jesus as the suffering servant.
  3. Luke – primarily to Gentile believers, presents Jesus as the perfect Son of Man.
  3. John – emphasizes Jesus as the Son of God. Portrays Jesus’ deity.

A. Matthew

Key phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

A common error for Bible readers is to think that the Gospel was written at the time of Jesus. Reliable records show that the earliest Gospel was written around 50 AD, two decades after Jesus' time.

Major Highlights and Themes

a. \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

Out of the four Gospel accounts in the canon, only Luke and Matthew provide a genealogy of Jesus, and it's obvious as to their differing intent in writing such.

b. Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_

While other Gospel writers use the phrase "Kingdom of God", Matthew prefers to use "Kingdom of heaven" more.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ References

Matthew Records:

- His miraculous birth
- Flight to Egypt
- Announcement by John the Baptist
- Battle with Satan in wilderness
  
- All pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of all the OT promises.

The Gospel according to Matthew also shows numerous Old Testament references. Most of these references are prophetic books, indicating that Jesus' existence is the fulfillment of such prophecies.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ Mount

#### 5 Key Discourses of Jesus in Matthew

1. Sermon on the Mount (5:3-7:27)
2. Instruction of the Disciples (10:5-42)
3. Parables of the Kingdom (13:3-52)
4. Terms of Discipleship (18:3-35)
5. Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46)

Matthew provides a very extensive discourse of Jesus not seen in other Gospels. Chapters 5-7 present Jesus as teacher that includes lessons about beatitudes, salt and light, the Lord's Prayer, giving to the needy, money and possessions, and the golden rule.

e. \_\_\_\_\_

The other Gospels give their own version of Jesus' final words, but Matthew's account is the most extensive and is now imbedded in the purpose statements of many Christian churches. We hold on to this charge as a calling of each individual and as a church.

#### OUTLINE OF MATTHEW:

1. The Presentation of the King – 1:1 – 4:11
2. The Proclamation of the King – 4:12 – 7:29
3. The Power of the King – 8:1 – 11:1

4. The Progressive Rejection of the King – 11:2 – 16:12
5. The Preparation of the King’s Disciples – 16:13 – 20:28
6. The Presentation /Rejection of the King - 20:29 – 27:66
7. The Proof of the King – 28

**B. Mark**

**Key phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_

The shortest among the Gospels is also said to be the earliest written. The Gospel according to Mark has a very action-packed feel to it, as Jesus is seen to be moving from one place to another and doing one thing after another.

Who is Mark?

- Son of Mary, wealthy woman of influence (Acts 12:12)
- Peter calls him “my son in the faith” (1 Peter 5:13)
- The young man in Gethsemane (Mark 14:51-52)

Major Themes

a. \_\_\_\_\_

Mark’s purpose was not just to give his readers a biographical or historical account of Jesus’ life. He had a more practical purpose. Clearly, Mark implied that faithfulness and obedience as a disciple of Jesus will inevitably result in opposition, suffering, and even death.

“Endure suffering as the servant has endured.”

b. \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- Mark stress the true humanity of the Son of God.
- Matthew presented Jesus as the Messiah.
- Mark showed that He was the human servant of God who suffered as no other person has.
- Yet in complete obedience as an example to us.

Mark had a theological as well as a pastoral purpose in writing. It was to stress the true humanity of the Son of God. Whereas Matthew presented Jesus as the Messiah, Mark showed that He was the human servant of God who suffered as no other person has suffered. Mark stressed Jesus' complete obedience to His Father's will. This emphasis makes Jesus an example for all disciples to follow (10:45).

### C. Luke

Key phrase: \_\_\_\_\_

Luke presents Jesus as the "Son of Man", the perfect man who came to seek and save the lost (19:10). He meets the needs of man, a perfect man among men, chosen from men, tested and supremely qualified to be the Savior and High Priest.

#### 1. Highlights

##### a. Historical Accuracy

Luke intended to include historical information to improve the validity of the gospel account.

## b. Prodigal Son

Parables are a distinct gospel feature, but only Luke wrote about the prodigal son which is a very familiar story even to nonbelievers nowadays.

### Who is Luke?

- A physician who traveled with Paul
- Known as the “Beloved Physician” gave great medical details
- His two books comprise 28% of the NT
- Excellent Historian
- Prolific Greek writing

## c. The twelve-year old Jesus

Only Luke gave an account of Jesus as a young boy, this highlights Luke’s purpose of presenting Jesus’ humanity.

*“That Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historical sense; ... In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.”*

*Sir William Ramsay*

## 2. Highlights

- a. That God used many different people to introduce Jesus to history (1:26, 2:1, 4, 8, 25, 36)
- b. That Jesus has a distinctive and singular role in God’s kingdom (1:32-33, 4:20, 7:14-15, 9:34-36, 20:34-38)

- c. That discipleship has particular characteristics: witnessing (5:10), compassion (13:19), gratitude (7:44-47) are among them.
- d. That prayer has a distinctive role for believers (3:21, 6:12, 11:1, 18:1)
- e. That God longs to forgive sinners (15:1-32)

## D. John

**Key phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Apostle John presented Jesus unlike the other gospels and unlike any other human being. John 20:30-31 pretty much summarizes his purpose of writing:

*<sup>30</sup>Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name”*

Who is John?

- Known as the “Beloved Apostle”
- Brother of James, son of Zebedee
- Jesus called them the “Sons of Thunder”
- Part of the inner circle (Peter, James, John)
- Known later as the Apostle of Love “My Beloved”
- Was the only disciple not martyred

### 1. Distinct features

Here are further distinctions of the fourth Gospel compared to the synoptic- Matthew, Mark, Luke. (M.Tenney):

THE SYNOPTICS	THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
Chiefly concerned with Jesus' ministry in the north, around Galilee	Gives more coverage to Jesus' ministry in the south, around Judea
Much emphasis on the kingdom	More emphasis on the person of Jesus
Jesus as Son of David, Son of Man	Jesus especially as Son of God
Anticipation of the church and references to the infant church	Gospel of the maturing church
The earthly story	The heavenly meaning
Jesus' sayings generally short (e.g., parables)	More of the long discourses of Jesus
Comparatively little commentary by the gospel writers	Much commentary by John
Only one mention of a Passover	Mention of three, possibly four, Passovers

## 2. Major highlights and themes

### a. The "Logos"

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* John 1:1

Who is the "Word"?

- Jesus is the "Word"
- Word = Greek "Logos"
- Definition: it means reason, rationale, the source or author of

the ordered universe.

b. I Am

Jesus has many long discourses about who He is in the gospel of John. He uses powerful metaphors describing Himself.

**The I Am sayings of Christ in the Gospel of John:**

10:11	Good Shepherd
6:35, 41, 48, 51	Bread of life
8:12; 9:5	Light of the world
10:7,9	Gate (door)
10:11,14	Resurrection and life
14:6	Way, truth, the life
15:1,5	True vine

**7 Miracles**

Miracle 1 (Water Into Wine ... 2:1-11)

Miracle 2 (Healing the Official's Son ... 4:43-54)

Miracle 3 (The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda ... 5:1-9)

Miracle 4 (The feeding of the 5000 ... 6:1-5)

Miracle 5 (Walking on Water ... 6:16-25)

Miracle 6 (Healing The Man Born Blind ... 9:1-41)

Miracle 7 (Raising Lazarus From The Dead ... 11:1-44)

c. Believe

The key word in the book is the verb “believe” (Gr. pisteuo), which appears 98 times.

E. Summary Themes in the Gospels

Presents	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus as	_____	_____	_____	_____
Feature	Fulfillment	Ministry	Biography	Signs
Audience	Jews	Gentiles	Believer	Unbelievers
The Writer Hits	Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sermon on the Mount</li> <li>• Great Commission</li> <li>• Lord’s Prayer</li> </ul>	Preacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Gospel”</li> <li>• 15:34</li> </ul>	Historian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prodigal Son</li> </ul>	Theologian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3:16</li> <li>• I Am</li> </ul>

1. The Person of the Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The Proclamation of the Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The Purpose of the Gospel is to \_\_\_\_\_.

---

## **F. Story of Salvation in the Gospels**

1. The Old Testament prophesied the coming of a Savior/Redeemer. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies.
2. The New Testament church looked back at the “Jesus event”, the time when Jesus walked on the earth as a source of their faith, hope and perseverance. They also look forward to the promise of Christ’s return.
3. The Gospels is at the center of it all.



[10 minutes]

Recall the New Testament books in chronological order from memory, recite by pairs.

## ➤ Reflection

Focus on the Gospels: *Matthew 28:19-20, the CCF mission.*

GLC is developing leaders for nationwide and world-wide harvest. What will you do to help fulfill our vision to have 20,000 small group leaders in 2020?

## OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the importance of the Book of Acts in the whole of the New Testament
2. Identify the central theme of the Book of Acts
3. Enumerate major events and highlights in the Book of Acts

## SESSION

The Acts of the Apostles  
Early Church History

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

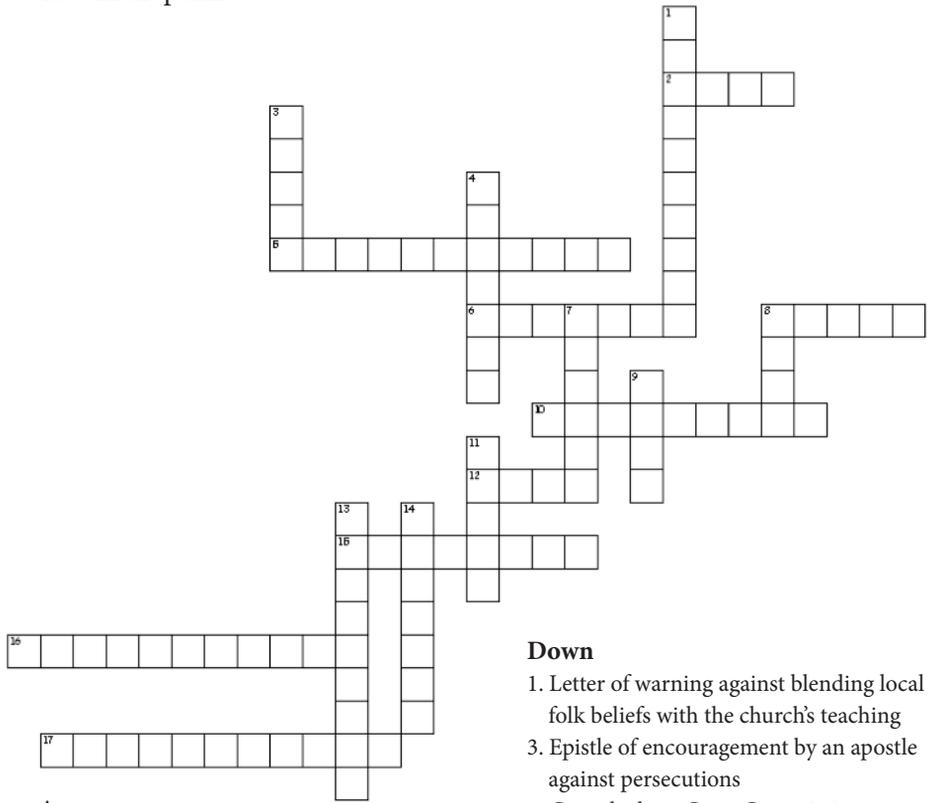
twelve





## ➔ New Testament Bible Crossword Puzzle

Let's prepare ourselves for our lesson tonight which will be on Acts and the letters written by the apostle Paul. To help us do that, let's solve a New Testament puzzle!



**Across**

- 2. Gospel that talks about the cost of discipleship
- 5. Prophetic letter by an apostle to 7 churches
- 6. 'Unknown' author writes about the link of the Old Testament with the New Testament
- 8. Letter written by Jesus' half-brother
- 10. Paul affirms True Gospel
- 12. Luke's letter talks about church expansion
- 15. A letter to the master of Onesimus
- 16. Paul's letter that speaks of "JOY"
- 17. Paul addresses church division in this letter

**Down**

- 1. Letter of warning against blending local folk beliefs with the church's teaching
- 3. Epistle of encouragement by an apostle against persecutions
- 4. Gospel where Great Commission is emphasized
- 7. Paul speaks of "Justification by Faith"
- 8. Gospel with 7 "I am" statements of Jesus, ex. I am Bread of Life
- 9. Gospel where focus is on servanthood
- 11. Epistle that avers faith without works is dead
- 13. Paul writes to affirm believers' position in Christ
- 14. Pastoral letter to Paul's protégé



## I. Introduction

Clear evidence shows that Luke, the writer of the 3rd Gospel is the same writer of Acts. Not only that, the book also functions as a sequel to the gospel:

Luke	Acts
The teachings and ministry of Jesus	The teachings and ministry of the apostles
Introduction of the Gospel	Progress of the Gospel
Christ revealed historically	Christ revealed through the Holy Spirit
Christ for us	Christ in us
Begins with events surrounding the coming of Christ on earth	Begins with the ascension of Christ to heaven
Ends with disciples in Jerusalem	Ends with Apostle Paul in Rome

### A. Central Theme

Acts 1:8 could indicate the central theme of the whole book:

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

This passage contains key elements in understanding the message of the book

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the source of power. He enabled the early church to grow.

The Disciples in Acts	
After Crucifixion in the Gospels	After the Resurrection and Empowering of Spirit in Acts
Afraid of Lives	Bold as Lions
Scattered	Unified
Doubting	Effective and Fruitful

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the purpose of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Witness = *marturia*  
mar-too-ree'-an

A “witness” is someone who attests to a fact, so in order to be an effective witness for Christ, one must have first-hand knowledge of Him.

3. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth are the places where witnessing should be done.

## Missionary View

- Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost
- E1 = Same culture and language
- E2 = Different culture, same language
- E3 = Different culture, different language
- E4 = Very different culture, different language

The third point became the structure by which events in the book were organized:

Chapters	Location	Length
1-7	Jerusalem	2 years
8-12	Judea & Samaria	13 years
13-28	Ends of the Earth	14 years

- The book covered three decades of early church history in 28 chapters.

## B. Purpose

### 1. Primary Purpose

Luke states that his primary purpose in writing his gospel account was to give an account of the teachings of Jesus. By the same token, his primary purpose in writing the book of Acts was to give an account of the teachings of the apostles and those who came after Jesus.

## 2. Secondary Purposes

- a. It is an evangelistic tool, telling us the Gospel that was preached by the church.
- b. The book defends Paul and Christianity in the face of Jewish attacks. It may even have been designed as a part of his defense before the court of law in Rome.
- c. To convey the historical movement of the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.
- d. The book takes us through the Gospel as it is preached in Jerusalem and to Judea and then north to Samaria and finally to the uttermost part of the world.
- e. To explain the defeat and rejection brought to Israel and her Hope by the events of the fall of Jerusalem, and explain its cause and the answer to it, found in Christianity.

### Why rejected?

1. Ascribed Jesus miracles to the devil
2. Reject Jesus as Messiah have Him crucified
3. In Acts continue to reject the Gospel

### C. Highlights

1. \_\_\_\_\_: Holy Spirit descended, mass conversions

Mass conversions: (Chapter 2)

- Peter's 1st sermon, first converts (3000 people), Jerusalem commune
- (Chapters 3-4) Healing the cripple at the temple
- Peter's 2nd sermon, 5000 converts.

2. Out of \_\_\_\_\_

Early opposition caused dispersal:

- Arrest and release of Peter and John (first Sanhedrin opposition)
- Ananias and Sapphira, more converts
- Apostles imprisoned (2nd Sanhedrin opposition) but freed by angel, 2nd interrogation
- Stephen, first martyr, great persecution in Jerusalem

3. \_\_\_\_\_ believers accepted

Judea and Samaria, Philip (the Evangelist) in Samaria, Ethiopian eunuch.

The people heard the Gospel in Judea and Samaria and they accepted. Philip the evangelist was there. He also witnessed to an Ethiopian eunuch who on his way home, became a believer.

4. Conversion of \_\_\_\_\_

The next episode was about Saul of Tarsus who on his way to Damascus was converted. He eventually became known as Paul. (cc Acts 9)

Who was Saul?

- From the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5)
- A Pharisee and native of Tarsus
- Student of the great teacher Gamalid

- Born a Roman citizen (Acts 22:28)
- Determined to destroy the church
- Stood by in condemning Stephen
- Radical conversion on road to Damascus (Acts 9)
- Became Paul the greatest missionary

5. \_\_\_\_\_ believers accepted

Cornelius' vision, Peter's vision, Peter's report at Jerusalem, Gentile salvation acknowledged, more Gentile conversions at Antioch, Barnabas brought Saul (from Tarsus) to Antioch, the name Christians first used, famine aid to Jerusalem.

6. Paul's three \_\_\_\_\_

	1st MJ	2nd MJ	3rd MJ
Paul's companions	Barnabas, John, Mark	Silas, Timothy, Luke	Luke, Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, Trophimus
A.D. years	47-49	49-52	52-56
Distance (kms.)	1,986	4,350(+)	4023(+)
Places visited excl. origin and terminal	14	19(+)	23
Book of Acts	Ch. 13-14	15:36-18:32	18:23-21:26

### Summary of Events on Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey

- 16:6-10 while Paul is in Troas he has a vision of a man from Macedonia
- 16:11-15 Lydia the businesswoman is converted
- 16:16-24 Spirit of divination cast out of slave girl
- 16:25-43 The Philippian Jailer is converted
- 16:35-40 Paul is released from prison
- 17:1-9 The world is turned upside-down
- 17:16-34 Paul on Mars Hill reasoning with the epicureans

### Summary of Events on Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey

- 18:24-19:41 Three years in Ephesus
- 20:1-5 Macedonia three months
- 20:6-12 Troas: Euthychus falls from loft
- 20:13-38 Paul bids farewell to Ephesian Elders
- 21:1-6 Paul is warned about Jerusalem
- 21:7-16 Caesarea, Agabus' Prediction
- 21:17-28:31 Paul arrested, Paul's Trip to Rome and defense before Felix, Festus and Agrippa

### 7. Paul's \_\_\_\_\_

Arrested in Jerusalem, facing the Sanhedrin, imprisoned at Caesarea, trial before Felix and Festus, speech before Agrippa, journey to Rome, 2-year house arrest in Rome.

A.D.	Event
30 (33)	Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (Acts 2)
32/33 (36)	Conversion of Paul (Acts 9)
42-44	Death of James (Acts 12)
46	Famine of Acts 11:27-30
47-49	Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)
49	Jerusalem council (Acts 15)
49	Edict of Claudius (Acts 18:2) expelling Jews from Rome
49-52	Paul's 2nd missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)
51-52	Proconsulship of Gallio in Achaia
52-56	Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:26)
56	Arrest of Paul at Jerusalem (Acts 21)
56-58	Caesarean imprisonment
58-59	Paul's journey to Rome
59-61	First Roman imprisonment (Acts 28)

## CATCH

[20 minutes]

Discuss in your group: What early church event highlighted in Acts are you most familiar with? What are you most unfamiliar with? If you were to pick your own highlight from the Book of Acts, what would it be? What lesson from that event can you apply in your life today?

## OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss distinct features of a Pauline epistle.
2. Enumerate common themes in Pauline epistle.
3. Enumerate the books included in the Pauline epistles.
4. Categorize each epistle as missionary, prison or pastoral.

## SESSION

The Pauline Epistles

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





➔ Ice Breaker

1. Decode the scrambled letters to read the letters from Paul for 5 minutes.
2. Exchange papers and check to see who gets the most correct answers!

**Paul's "Secret Letters"**

Re-arrange the scrambled letters to read the letters from Paul.

1. T H I N S O N R I C A

\_\_\_\_\_

2. L E S S A T N N H I O A S

\_\_\_\_\_

3. S H E E P A I N S

\_\_\_\_\_

4. S O N A R M

\_\_\_\_\_

5. S T A I N A G L I A

\_\_\_\_\_

6. T U S I T

---

7. L A S S O S C I O N

---

8. H I P M O L E N

---

9. H A P P I I S L I N P

---

10. O I T M Y T H

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### Learning Nugget

Paul wrote the most number of New Testament epistles that were addressed to different audiences in different settings to address different concerns in Christian living. We will learn today more of what these letters were all about.



## I. Introduction

Apostle Paul’s letters or epistles were substitutes for his personal presence and were therefore occasional and practical, yet at the same time, official and authoritative, bringing the Word of God to bear in the situations they address.

### A. Structure

Pauline epistles are unique literary productions. His letters follow this general structure:

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
<b>The Opening</b> Name of the Writer	Paul identifies himself and uses his own style by referring to himself as an “apostle” or as a “servant”.	Titus 1:1

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Name of Recipients	Paul usually identifies his recipient/s. It can be Christian communities, and individuals such as Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. He often called his readers as “saints”, “beloved”, “called”, “my true son/child” or “sanctified”. ( <i>Schreiner, Interpreting, 27</i> ).	Titus 1:4a
Greetings	The conventional form of Hellenistic greeting is simply “greetings”. However, Paul used his own style by replacing it with “grace and peace to you” or “grace, mercy, and peace”.	Titus 1:4b
Prayer	Hellenistic letters usually contain wishes and prayers to their gods. However, Paul replaced it with prayer of thanksgiving and sometimes benediction. Almost all letters of Paul contain prayers except for Titus and Galatians.	2 Timothy 1:3

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
<b>The Body</b>	The argument is introduced and presented. There is no consensus among scholars as to how Pauline letters were structured. Since the letters don't follow the same pattern, it is important for the interpreter to observe the letter in its own terms ( <i>Schreiner, Interpreting, 31</i> ).	Browse Titus 1:5 to Titus 3:11. Look at the section headings of the New American Standard Bible in order to have a quick glance at the general idea of the body.
<b>The Closing</b> Travel Plans or Personal Situation  Prayer  Commendation of Fellow Workers  Prayer Requests  Greetings	Paul states his condition or his travel plans.  Paul prays for his recipients.  Paul mentions his co-workers and acclaims them.  Paul asks the community or individual recipients to pray for him.  Paul sends his greetings before closing his letter.	Ephesians 6:21-22  Romans 15:33  1 Corinthians 16:10-12  Colossians 4:2-4  Titus 3:15a

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Final Instructions and Exhortations	Paul gives his final instructions and exhortations to the community or individual.	1 Timothy 6:20-21a
Benediction	Paul blesses his recipient/s.	Titus 3:5b

### Purpose of the Epistles

- There are a total of 21 Epistles
- 13 Pauline Epistles (9 written to churches and 4 individuals)
- 8 General (Hebrew Christian Epistles)
- The Epistles communicate the meaning and application of the Gospels in our everyday lives. They give us the interpretation of the person and work of Christ and how to apply the gospel truths to life in any situation.

### Paul's Conversion

- Known as Saul of Tarsus
- A Pharisee and son of a Pharisee
- Studied under Gamaliel
- Advanced beyond his fellow Jews (Zealous)
- Present at Stoning of Steven
- Persecuted the church
- Encountered Christ on road to Damascus (Acts 9)
- Educated in Greek culture
- Uniquely qualified to be the Apostle to the Gentiles

## II. The Pauline Epistles

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Epistles

These epistles were written when Paul was on his mission trips/ missionary journeys. So these were written while he was in an itinerant or traveling ministry.

#### 1. Romans (A.D. 57-58)

By common consent, Romans is the greatest of Paul's letters, and the Roman church became one of the major centers of Christendom.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Romans:

1. To announce Paul's plan to visit Rome.
2. To present a complete and detailed explanation of the Gospel image.
  - a. Justification - Past
  - b. Sanctification - Present
  - c. Glorification - Future
3. Romans is the most systematic of the Epistles, Paul traces the Gospel from condemnation, to justification, to sanctification, to glorification. It explains God's program for Jesus and Gentiles and practical exhortations for living a godly life.

Christ is Romans

Paul present Jesus as the second Adam whose righteousness and substitutionary death have provided justification for all who place faith in Him. (cc. Romans 5:12-19)

## Basic Outline of Romans

1. Condemnation: The need of Righteousness (1-3:20)
  2. Justification: The Imputation of God's righteousness (3:21-5:21)
  3. Sanctification: Righteousness imparted and demonstrated (6:1-8:39)
  4. Vindication: God's dealing's with Jews and Gentiles (9:1-11:36)
  5. Application: The practice of righteousness in service (12:1-15:13)
  6. Personal messages and Benediction (15:14-16:27)
2. 1 Corinthians

First Corinthians is a source book of answers to church problems in the past and today. After the introductory material, Paul answers the theological and practical problems raised through the report from members of the household of Chloe (1Co 1:11) --reports about:

- Divisions, incest, adultery
- Christians taking fellow Christians to court
- And the misuse of Christian liberty (ch. 1-6)

## Corinth

- Corinth had 700,000 people
- 2/3 were slaves
- Filled with shrines and temples
- Reputation for materialism and deep sinfulness
- Temple of Aphrodite
- To play the Corinthian = to practice fornication

These things, together with Paul's desire to send greetings to Corinth, were sufficient occasion for him to write the letter.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. 2 Corinthians

False teachers who claimed to be apostles had infiltrated the Corinthian church with the goal of discrediting Paul's ministry and apostleship. This letter was written with the purpose of refuting these intruders. Paul is defending his integrity.

Major Theme: Paul's defense of his apostolic credential and authority against false apostles who infiltrated the church.

- a. Paul wrote to prepare the Corinthians for his visit and insure the restored relationship with them (chapter 1-7).
- b. He wrote to remind the church of their commitment to the offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem (chapters 8-9).
- c. Paul defended his apostolic authority (chapters 10-13).

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Galatians

Word had reached Paul that the Galatian Christians were falling away from the true gospel of grace which he had preached, and were turning to a legalistic system of merit salvation (1:6-9).

- a. Purpose

Paul wrote to correct two errors: Do you have to become a Jew before you can be saved? The second error was, "If Christ has set us free, then we can live as we please!" (cf. 5:1, 13). He demonstrates clearly the only way sinful man can stand before a Holy God is by God's grace made available through the death and resurrection of

Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, and we are also sanctified by grace through faith (3:3).

b. Central Theme

Galatians answers clearly the question posed in Acts 16:31, “What must I do to be saved?” Are we saved by believing or achieving? Paul declared, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Because Christ has done it all, there remains nothing for us to do except believe in His finished work, and receive the free gift of eternal life. He gives evidences to that declaration in Galatians.

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

We are free of the law. Not only is the Christian saved by grace through faith, but the saved sinner lives by grace through faith. “Grace is the way to life and the way of life.”

5. 1 Thessalonians

The beginning of the church at Thessalonica is found in Acts 16:6-10; 17:1-10. In Roman times it was one of the world’s greatest dockyards. In 315 B.C., Cassander had rebuilt the city and renamed it Thessalonica, the name of his wife, who was a daughter of Philip of Macedon and a half-sister of Alexander the Great. It was a free city.

Purpose of 1 Thessalonians

1. Express thanksgiving for their faith, love and steadfastness in the face of persecution.

2. Paul defended himself against slanderous attacks from Jewish opposition.
3. Sought to correct their ignorance concerning believers who had died and what happens at the second coming of Christ since both groups will meet the Lord in the air.

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. 2 Thessalonians

Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica did not settle all the differences in the church there. This second letter is written to correct misunderstandings regarding the Second Coming of Christ which were not corrected with the first letter. The "day of the Lord" had not already come, and it will not come until after "the man of lawlessness" has appeared (2:9-10).

### Purpose of 2 Thessalonians

- Paul writes to comfort the Thessalonians in view of religious persecution, doctrinal misunderstanding and their improper response.
  1. Applaud their growth in faith and love.
  2. Correct fallacies concerning the "Day of the Lord".
  3. Correct some who had abandoned their work and were just waiting around for Christ's coming.

### Concerns:

Paul's central concern is to correct their mistaken view regarding the day of the Lord and to rebuke their idleness. The second letter is sharper in tone than the first. It is also briefer, almost like a quick memo shot off from the pen of a busy pastor, or mission executive. It may be with some annoyance because of their meddlesome idleness.

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ Epistles**

Paul wrote his letters to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians and Philippians while under this house arrest in Rome. These letters were written around A.D. 59 to 61.

**1. Ephesians**

Ephesus was a commercial city, political, and religious center. As a major trading center, Ephesus ranked with Alexandria and Antioch.

Ephesians focuses on: Our wealth, our walk and our warfare.

**The Full Armor of God (Eph. 6)**

1. Put the full armor (v. 13)
2. Belt of truth (v. 14)
3. Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14)
4. Boots of peace (v. 15)
5. Shield of faith (v. 16)
6. Helmet of salvation (v. 17)
7. Sword of the Spirit (v. 17)
8. All prayer (v. 18)

This letter was meant to be a circular letter, addressed to a bigger body of Christ than a local congregation.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Philippians

Philippi was Paul's pride and joy. Arms of friendship extended between Paul and the believers at Philippi that didn't exist in the other churches. None of his other letters has such abundant expressions of tender personal dedication and benevolence as this letter.

### a. Purpose

Philippians 1:5-7; 4:16 indicates it is a missionary prayer letter thanking the Philippian Church for their gifts and support, sharing with them the outreach in Rome and presenting prayer requests in their joint-participation in the Gospel.

Theme: Paul's joy in Christ.

Key Verse: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (1:21).

Key Word: "Rejoice"

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

Christ in Philippians: The "kenosis" or self-emptying of Christ and humbling Himself as a man. (Philippians 2:5-10)

## 3. Colossians

Colosse was about one hundred miles from Ephesus. It was probably in the missionary expansion of the Ephesian Church that the Colossian Church was founded. We do not know who its founder was; but it may well have been Epaphras who is connected with the Churches at Colosse, Hierapolis and Laodicea (1:7; 4:12-13).

a. Purpose

Paul wrote to counter the Gnostic attack on the Person of Christ. The Docetic (dokeo, to seem) held that Jesus did not have a real human body, but only a phantom body. He was an aeon and had no real humanity.

Paul confronted both false teachings with “his full-length portrait of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Son of Man (both deity and humanity) in opposition to both types of Gnostics.” Cf. Phil. 2:5-11.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Philemon

Postcard on forgiveness is the best way to describe Philemon. It is the briefest of Paul’s letters, contains only 334 words in the Greek text.

a. Purpose

Onesimus, a slave of Philemon, prominent member of the church at Colossae, had stolen from his master and sought freedom by fleeing to Rome. Onesimus came in contact with Paul in Rome and was converted to Christ (v. 10). Paul wrote this letter to Philemon to tell him of the conversion, and to plead for the returning slave.

b. Theme

One Christian brother makes his plea to another to forgive and restore another brother.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Pastoral Epistles

1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles because Paul was writing to two younger pastors who were assigned with very heavy responsibilities and are encountering a lot of pressures. Paul wrote instructions and encouragement to Timothy and Titus.

### 1. 1 Timothy

Timothy was a young man who joined Paul on his second missionary journey when he was in the city of Lystra in Galatia (Acts 16:1-4). His mother, Eunice, was a Jew and his father a Greek. Paul was probably the person who led Timothy to the Lord (I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2; I Cor. 4:17), and perhaps on Paul's first trip there (Acts 14:8-20). Paul took Timothy with him and spent three years preaching and teaching in Ephesus and the surrounding area on his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:17).

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: There are three primary goals in this letter:

1. Encourage Timothy in his ministry at Ephesus
2. To warn Timothy of the false teachers and the methods they use
3. To instruct Timothy on the government of the church and be an example in faith, love and perseverance

#### 4. 2 Timothy (Paul's Final Words)

This is the last letter written by the apostle Paul. He explains to Timothy his personal condition just before his death. All his companions had forsaken him except Dr. Luke. Paul is in a dungeon. He longs for his cloak, his books, and most of all for Timothy.

#### 5. Titus

Titus (1:4) is a Gentile believer who became a capable missionary and fellow-worker of the Apostle Paul (cf. Gal. 2:3; I Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4). Titus accompanied Paul to the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:2; Gal. 2:1-3).

##### a. Purpose

The Epistle was written to instruct Titus in the ministry. The letter deals with the officers and conduct of the church. Paul encourages Titus in a difficult ministry, and stresses that the Cretans live in a manner that reflects sound doctrine.

Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Summary of Themes Seen in Pauline Epistles

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

Paul's letters are very much Christo-centric. It discuss the great importance of Jesus' works and His identity as human and divine.

B. A \_\_\_\_\_ for living

Paul believed that when men and women were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they could not only be informed by Christian morality but also be transformed and empowered to live in accordance with that morality.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's plan

Paul's eschatology is related to his Christology. Christ entered history "when the time had fully come" (Gal 4:4) thus inaugurating the Messianic Age and triggering the series of events which will climax in the final days.



[10 minutes]

## ➔ Discussion

1. Name one letter of Paul that was written in prison and share what you have learned from it.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Name a pastoral epistle and one advice or instruction given by Paul to his protégé. In what way can you follow that instruction in your own ministry (current or future Dgroup)?

## CALL-TO-ACTION

### ➤ Life Application

Reflect on your attitude when faced with trials and difficulties in your own journey with God.

Do you tend to focus on your painful circumstances or do you seek to build others up in the faith?

In what ways can you encourage your CCF spiritual family starting with your dgroup this week?



## OBJECTIVES

1. Enumerate and discuss the books considered as General
2. Discuss the common theme found in the General Epistle

## SESSION

General Epistles

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve





Play “ICEBREAKER”  
from DVD menu:



**Note to small group leader:** Before the session...

Play “Icebreaker” on DVD menu to see the ten scrambled “keywords” and their corresponding answers.

Prepare the “keywords” on small pieces of paper and make a list of their corresponding answers for your reference.

## ➔ Ice Breaker: Jailbreak

Have the small group members sit around in a circle close enough to each other so they can link arms with the persons seated to their left and right. The linked arms symbolize prisoner chains in jail.

Pass around a container with prepared “keywords”. The pieces of paper contain scrambled letters that are the names of selected characters mentioned in the epistles of Paul. If they can arrange the letters to reveal a name, they will be released from the “jail” by unlocking their arms. If the “prisoner” cannot decode the name, he/she can ask another “prisoner” to help. Prisoners can only ask one other prisoner to help at a time. Once a prisoner is freed, he/she can also be asked to help free another prisoner who cannot decode the keyword.

They can open the Bible to search for the names, although it is going to be a challenge with linked arms!



### Learning Nugget

The jail setting is a fun game to remind us that Paul wrote 5 out of his 12 epistles while he was in prison. The character names to be decoded are some of Paul’s disciples and friends during his missionary journey in and out of the prison bars. This also serves as a short review of our previous study on the Pauline epistles. In this session, we will deal with the general epistles in the NT written by other authors other than Paul.



## I. Introduction

The letters that appear after the Pauline epistles in the New Testament were written by different people in differing styles.

- Hebrews is an early Christian sermon whose author is unknown.
- The books of James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude are sometimes called the "General Epistles" since some of them are addressed to a broad readership rather than to specific congregations.
- The book of Revelation is sometimes placed in a category by itself because of its distinctive writing style, but it is actually a letter that was addressed to seven congregations in Asia Minor.

	<b>Date</b>
Hebrews	c. 64-69
James	c. 50
1 Peter	c. 63-64
2 Peter	
1 John	c. 85-90s
2 John	
3 John	
Jude	c. 65-80
Revelation	c. 94-95

## II. The General Epistles

### A. Hebrews

Authorship of Hebrews is unknown although some say it's Paul yet his name was never mentioned in the book. Regardless, we believe that Hebrews is an inspired message of God.

#### 1. Purpose

The epistle was written to prevent the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jewish Christians, who were tempted to forsake their faith in Christ because of intense persecution and go back to the legalism of Judaism.

Hebrews “is a stirring apologetic for the superiority of Christ and Christianity over Judaism in terms of priesthood and sacrifice.” Cf. 2:1, 3; 3:12ff; 5:12ff; 10:32ff. It is a call to remember and rekindle the fire of Christ in their hearts (Cf. 4:14). If they went back to legalism, they would be abandoning Christ and would lose all that He came to bring them.

#### 2. Theme

The \_\_\_\_\_ and Christianity over the old Jewish economy.

- Christ is superior to the prophets, angels, Moses, Aaron's priesthood, etc. Faith, hope and love in Christ are superior to Judaism. The all sufficiency of Christ is the emphasis.

Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. James

- Half brother of Jesus
- Leader over the church in Jerusalem
- Called “James the Just”
- Old camel knees
- Martyred in Jerusalem

Key verse: “Faith without works is dead.” (2:14-26)

James places strong emphasis on the \_\_\_\_\_ of justification by faith. He examines practical applications of truth in everyday situations, encouraged Christians who are being persecuted, and gives instruction on Christian ethics.

Outline of James:

1. Test of faith - 1:1-1:18
2. Characteristics of faith - 1:19-5:6
3. Triumph of faith - 5:7-5:20

## D. 1 Peter

Purpose:

Peter wrote to explain \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian and to encourage their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (2:11-12; 4:12-13).

Key verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## E. 2 Peter

Purpose:

This letter contains warnings against false teachings, corrects denials concerning the Second Coming of Jesus, and urges diligence and holiness. He is dealing with dangers from within the church. They are facing serious attack from people who are “friendly” to the Christian faith.

Themes:

1. Be on the guard against \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Live with a view toward the \_\_\_\_\_.

Key verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## E. 1 John

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this letter was to tell believers how they might know they have \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is John?

- He wrote the Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John, and Revelation
- Son of Zebedee, brother of James
- One of the 12 apostles of Jesus (inner circle)
- Jesus called him “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17)
- Became known as the “Apostle of Love”

2. Theme: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

#### F. 2 John

The second epistle is a personal letter from the Apostle to the “elect lady.” Much discussion has been around who this “lady” is.

Who is the “elect lady”?

1. The church universal
2. A Christian sister
3. Mary, the mother of Jesus

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ and have nothing to do with false teachers.

#### D. 3 John

The letter is addressed to Gaius which is a very common Greek name. He is described as a “dear friend” who was loved by the aged apostle (vv. 1, 2, 5, 11).

Theme: A healthy believer will follow the truth, help others and do good.

Outline of James:

1. Commendation of Gaius (v. 2-8)
2. Condemnation of Diotrophes (v. 9-11)
3. Praise of Demetrius (v. 13-14)

## D. Jude

Jude starts out with the intention of writing a treatise on salvation, but the pressing circumstances in the church required him to write a warning against false teachers and a plea that his readers contend earnestly for their faith.

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

## CALL-TO-ACTION

What are some circumstances in your life that makes you feel hinder from doing God's will? Paul was in jail a majority of the time when he wrote his letters to the early church. He did not allow his situation to stop him from expanding God's kingdom!

### ➤ Life Application: Pray-Care-Share

This week, look for ways to expand God's kingdom even if you have difficult trials. Pray for someone, show care for somebody in need or share the gospel to those around you.

# NOTES





## OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the purpose of the book of Revelation
2. Understand the basic outline and key events in the book
3. Identify the three possible genres of Revelation

SESSION

Revelation

one

two

three

four

five

six

seven

eight

nine

ten

eleven

twelve



## CONNECT

**Note to small group leader:** Before the session...

Prepare the half-bond paper pieces with a Bible book on each piece. All books from Genesis to Revelation must be included

Arrange the Bible books in sequence.

*“OT and NT Books Mastery”*

Distribute prepared sheets of paper with the books of the Bible printed on them (one book per 1/4 sheet of paper). As a group, arrange the Old Testament and New Testament books of the Bible in sequence in the fastest possible time. See if your group got the correct sequence using your Bible as a guide

# COMMUNICATE

[30-40 minutes]

Play Session 11 DVD:  
"Revelation"



## Revelation

### I. Purpose

The book of Revelation was written to give \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ to persecuted and troubled Christians.

It answered haunting questions like, "Where is Christ?" and "What is going to happen to the churches?" This book encourages believers to take a strong stand amid persecution and warns them against turning away from Christ. It is also a clear clarion warning to unbelievers of the coming judgment of God on sin and unbelief. The exhortation to Christians is to "shape up."

### II. Structure

Key Verse: Rev 1:19 gives the basic structure / outline of the entire book.

"Therefore write the \_\_\_\_\_,  
and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the  
\_\_\_\_\_ these things."

Main contents	Highlights
1. The things you have seen – Ch 1	The communication and vision of the Glorified Christ
2. The Things Which Are - Ch 2-3	Vision of The Seven Churches-Christ commends, corrects, condemns the actions of the churches
3. The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter – Ch. 4-22	God's Final Judgments on an unrepentant world and the re-establishment of His kingdom
Vision of heaven and the Lamb (4-5)	John is caught up and sees 7 sealed scroll and the Lamb
Vision of the 7 Seal judgments (6-8:1)	This begins with the 4 horses of the Apocalypse
Vision of the 7 trumpet Judgments (8:6-11:19)	
Vision of the 2 signs: woman & dragon (12)	Israel vs. Satan
Vision of the two beasts (13)	The antichrist and the false prophet
Vision of the Lamb and the 144,000 (14)	144,000 Jews from the 12 Tribes believe in Jesus as Messiah and evangelize the planet.
Vision of the 7 Bowl Judgments (15-16)	Final defeat of evil
Unclean Spirits, Great Earthquake, Final Bowl Judgment (16)	
Judgment on Babylon (17-18:1-24)	Ecclesiastical Babylon (17:1-18) Commercial Babylon (18:1-24)
The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ (19:1-21)	Marriage of the Lamb, and the Battle of Armageddon
The Millennial Kingdom and the Great White Throne Judgment (20:1-15)	Satan is bound, the First Resurrection, Satan Loosed, Great White Throne
The Eternal State (21:1-22:5)	New Heaven and Earth, The New Jerusalem, Description of the City
4. Epilogue (22:6-21)	

## Summary:

Revelation begins with letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor, then goes on to reveal a series of devastations poured out upon the earth (The Tribulation);

- A. The mark of the beast, “666”; (Rev 13)
- B. The climactic battle of Armageddon; (6-18)
- C. The binding of Satan; (20:1-3)
- D. The reign of the Lord; the Great White Throne Judgment; (20:11-15)
- E. The nature of the eternal city of God. (21-22)

### III. Revelation as apocalypse, prophetic, and epistolary

#### A. Revelation as an **apocalypse**

This Book is primarily an apocalyptic literature. The distinction between prophecy and apocalypse is that it focuses on the event at the \_\_\_\_\_ of history as opposed to specific events \_\_\_\_\_ history.

An apocalypse also uses a lot of symbols that will make most sense to its intended audience. **Yet these symbols have a literal meaning but must be interpreted in light of the rest of scripture both the Old and New Testament.**

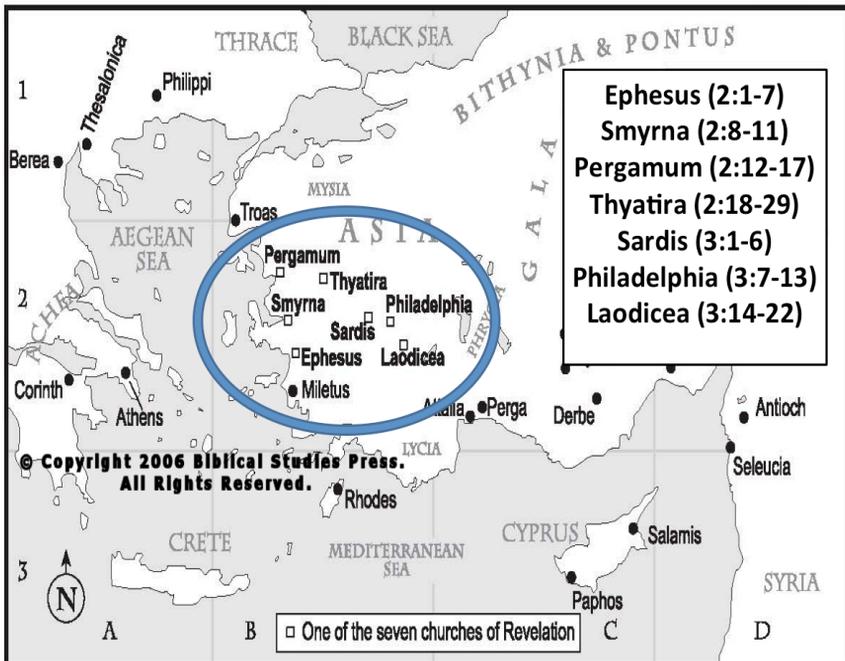
## B. Revelation as prophecy

Revelation is also essentially a prophetic book because it “\_\_\_\_\_” as well as “\_\_\_\_\_” meaning God intends to speak to a specific group or individual through the prophecy.

## C. Revelation as epistle

Revelation is also a \_\_\_\_\_ to the seven churches (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea) with messages of encouragement and reproach. We should not take Revelation out of the context of these churches.

### The Things which are: THE 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA



## Jesus' Message to the 7 Churches

The seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation were literal churches located in Asia Minor or what we call today modern Turkey. It is interesting to note that none of these literal churches are in existence in Turkey today. Jesus brings both words of commendation and encouragement as well as rebuke. Jesus encourages the churches to repent of their sin and to return to Him. Many theologians see a pattern in the characteristics of each church and the growth and pattern of the church throughout history. The order of the churches in Revelation mimics the type of church throughout history. Consider the chart below.

The order of the churches in Revelation mimics the type of church throughout history.

The Churches	Historical Church
<b>Ephesus</b> (Rev. 2:1-7) The church that had forsaken its First Love (2:4)	Apostolic Church (A.D. 30-100)
<b>Smyrna</b> (Rev. 2:8-11) The church that would suffer persecution	Persecuted Church (A.D. 100-313)
<b>Perganum</b> (Rev. 2:12-17) The church that needed to repent (2:16)	State Church (A.D. 313-590)
<b>Thyatira</b> (Rev. 2:18-29) The church that had a false prophetess (2:20)	Papal Church (A.D. 590-Tribulation)
<b>Sardis</b> (Rev. 3:1-6) The church that had fallen asleep (3:2)	Reformed Church (A.D. 1517-Tribulation)
<b>Philadelphia</b> (Rev. 3:7-13) The church that had endured patiently (3:10)	Missionary Church (A.D. 1730-1900-Rapture)
<b>Laodicea</b> (Rev. 3:14-22) The church with the lukewarm faith (3:16)	Apostate Church (A.D. 1900-Tribulation)

# THINGS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS (6:1-22:21)

## The Scroll & The Lamb (Chap. 5)

**SCROLL OF DESTINY  
SEVEN SEALS**  
(6:1-17)

1. White Horse & Rider
2. Red Horse & Rider
3. Black Horse & Rider
4. Pale Horse & Rider
5. Slain Martyrs
6. Great Day of Wrath
7. Tribulation Events

**THE SEVEN TRUMPETS**  
(8:1-12:17)

1. Fire Storm
2. Volcanic Eruptions
3. Meteoric Mass
4. Astronomical Eclipse
5. Demonic Locust
6. Demonic Military
7. Announce Bowl Judgments

**7 BOWL JUDGMENTS**  
(15:1-16:21)

1. Upon Earth
2. Upon the Sea
3. Upon Fresh Water
4. Upon the Sun
5. Upon the Beast
6. Upon Euphrates
7. Upon the Air

**JUDGMENT ON  
BABYLON** (17-19:10)

**SEVEN VISIONS  
MILLENNIUM** (19:11-21:8)

**FINAL REVELATIONS;  
ETERNAL STATE; NEW JERUSALEM;  
NEW HEAVEN & EARTH**  
(21:9-22:19)

**INTERLUDE**  
7:1-17

**TWO INTERLUDES**  
CHAPS. 10-14

**Epilogue (22:20-21)**

## The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse Explained:

As the Lamb (Jesus) begins to open each seal of the 7 sealed scrolls, a major event takes place on the earth. The first four seals unleash the rise of the antichrist, war, famine and death. One must remember that Christ desires that all men come to repentance. God is very patient but His patience will finally come to an end and He must bring judgment. It is during this time of judgment that there will also be many who will repent of their sin and turn to Christ.

1. White Horse (Rev 6:1-2) – Antichrist takes the stage
2. Red Horse (Rev 6:3-4) – Takes peace from the earth -War
3. Black Horse (Rev 6:5-6) – Famine
4. Pale Horse – (Rev 6:7-8) – Death

### Key Events:

- Rise of the antichrist and false prophet (v. 4, 13)
- Economic system (v. 13)
- Two witnesses (Moses and Elijah) (v. 11)
- Israel vs. Satan (v. 12)
- Battle of the Armageddon, Kings of the East (v. 16)
- Glorious Appearing (v. 19)
- Antichrist / False Prophet cast Lake of Fire (v. 19)
- Millennium (v. 20)
- New heaven and Earth, Eternal State (v. 21-22)

## Rise of the Antichrist

- The leadership of a Washington and Lincoln
- The eloquence of Franklin Roosevelt
- The charm of Teddy Roosevelt
- The charisma of Kennedy
- The political savvy of Johnson
- The intellect of Jefferson
- The Antichrist will be hailed as the savior of the world

## Summary of the Seal Judgments

## Summary of the Trumpet Judgments

## Summary of the Bowl Judgments

## The Glorious Appearing of Christ

### IV. Themes

- A. The unveiling character and work of Jesus in the present and future
- B. Christ is the center of the entire book
- C. Victory of the church through Christ
- D. Lamb and Throne
- E. Lamb (occurring 29 times); Throne (occurring 44 times)

## V. Story of Salvation

The Book of Revelation is a fitting closing remark to the whole Bible because it also concludes the whole salvation history.

PARADISE LOST IS NOW RESTORED	
GENESIS 1-3	REVELATION 20-22
In the beginning God created	I saw a new heaven and new earth
Satan appears as deceiver	Satan disappears forever
Initial triumph of the Serpent	Ultimate Triumph of the Lamb
Ground is cursed	No more curse
Paradise closed	New Paradise opened
Man driven from God's presence (3:24)	They shall see His face (22:4)

*<sup>6</sup>The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."*

*<sup>7</sup>"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."<sup>8</sup> Revelation 22:6-7*

CHALLENGE FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION- Make Disciples who will Make Disciples

*<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20*



[10-15 minutes]

Give small group members around 10 minutes to answer the review questions below. Take turns reading the questions aloud then have them write down their answers on the space provided in their workbooks.

After the review, play DVD “Review of GLC 2” for appropriate answers to the review questions

## ➔ Review Questions

What is the name of the Level 2 Certificate?

What part of the discipleship process does each GLC level equip you for?

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

### CCF DNA

What is the mission of CCF?

What is the vision of CCF?

What are the Core Values of CCF?

S-

E-

R-

V-

A-

N-

T-

S-

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

What are the 5 areas of Personal Development?

1.

2.

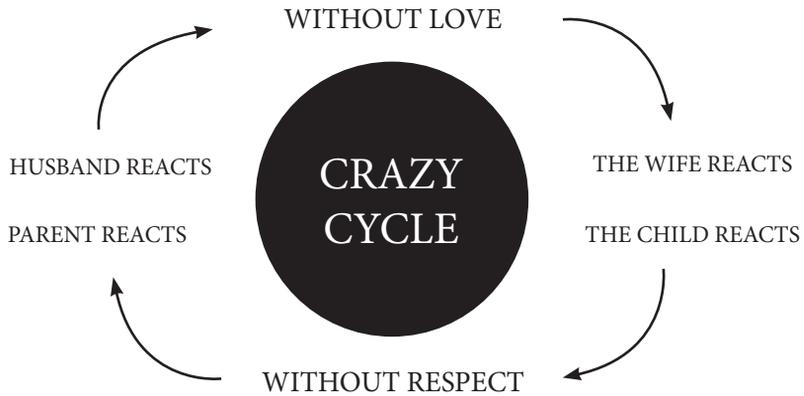
3.

4.

5.

## FAMILY LIFE

Explain the Crazy Cycle and how to break it.



## BASIC DOCTRINES

Give the 6 Bible Doctrines based on CCF's Statement of Faith and a brief explanation of each

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## MAKING DISCIPLES 1

Name at least 3 tools you can use to share the Gospel. (Appendix)

## BIBLE SURVEY

Give the 5 Major Prophetic books

**CALL-TO-ACTION**

[5 minutes]

Play DVD:  
“The Next Step in Your Journey”



# NOTES





# GLC PROJECT

## ➔ Bible Survey Final Project: Bible Book Essay

Guidelines in making your paper:

### A. Format

- a. Paper Format: Preferably typewritten. If handwritten, please write legibly (print-style).
- b. Your project must be 2-3 pages long (maximum). It must be written in essay form and not in bullet-point format.

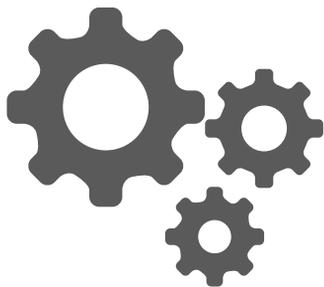
### B. Steps in making your essay

- a. Select a Bible book (Old Testament or New Testament)
- b. Read the book in one sitting
- c. Read the book again carefully
- d. Write down your observations (not to be submitted)

### C. Steps in making your essay

Your essay should include the following information:

- a. Brief background of the Bible book (what the book is all about)
- b. One theme of the book (based from the class discussion). Cite verses whenever possible.
- c. One theme of the book (that you discovered based from your personal reading). Cite verses.
- d. Contemporary relevance (What issues can you find in the book that are still relevant today?)
- e. Practical applications (How can this book help you grow as a Christian?)
- f. Message of salvation (What lessons can you draw out from the book? How can you use this book to share the good news to an unbelieving friend?)
- g. Cite all your sources (website, book, verses, etc.)



# GLC

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## TOOLS AND RESOURCES

*If you are going through this course as a small group, take a few minutes to go through these tools and resources. Use these to further enrich your learning experience as a group.*



### CCF Discipleship Covenant

This covenant ensures that everyone in the group understands and agrees with the expectations involved in being part of this small group.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

I will not gossip about fellow members, and will ensure that what is shared in the group stays in the group.

👉 *“A gossip goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them.” Proverbs 11:13*

#### **HONESTY**

I will be open and honest with my Dgroup leader and fellow members.

👉 *“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.” Proverbs 12:22*

#### **RESPECT**

I will respect those in my Discussion group by attending meetings regularly and punctually, and by honoring the authority of my leader.

👉 *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17*

## INTERCESSION

I will pray regularly for my Discussion group leader and fellow members.

✍️ *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”* Ephesians 6:18

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Because I am joining this group to grow spiritually and to help others do the same, I will refrain from conducting business, borrowing money or using this group for purposes other than spiritual growth.

✍️ *“<sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”* Hebrews 10:24-25

## TIMOTHIES

I will have it as my goal to eventually build my own Discussion group..

✍️ *“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”* 2 Timothy 2:2



## Dgroup Accountability Questions

Accountability is one of the benefits of being part of a small group. Take some time each week to discuss any of the questions below either as a group or with an accountability partner.

1. Have you been faithful in your quiet time, reading of God's Word and prayer?
2. How is your relationship with your spouse and children, or parents and siblings?
3. When was the last time you shared the gospel? Are you discipling or taking steps to disciple other men/women?
4. Have you been struggling with impure thoughts? Have you looked at questionable materials (movies, TV, books, internet, magazine, etc.) which would bring shame to the Lord?
5. Are you struggling with substance abuse such as using drugs, drinking alcohol and/or smoking?
6. Have you been alone with a man/woman in any kind of situation where your feelings or actions became inappropriate or where others could have suspected that something inappropriate was going on?
7. Are there any problems, challenges or stress in your personal life or ministry?
8. How is your financial situation? Any debts? Have you been faithful in giving your tithes to the Lord?
9. Have you lied or compromised your answer to any of the above questions?



## Small Group Post-Meeting Summary\*

If you are facilitating a group, you can use this tool to do a quick evaluation of how your meeting went.

SESSION 1	
What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	
SESSION 2	
What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	
SESSION 3	
What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	
SESSION 4	
What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

\*adapted from: "Leading Life-Changing Small Groups" by Bill Donahue, Zondervan Publishing

**SESSION 5**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 6**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 7**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 8**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 9**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 10**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 11**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	

**SESSION 12**

What worked well?	
What could be improved?	
Other concerns	



## Planning for Life Change\*

Once you have finished the course, go through this small group tool to create a plan for life change given what you have learned the past few weeks.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dgroup Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe a picture of what you want your group to look like in the next few months as a result of what you have learned in this course. Jot down action steps and target dates for completing these steps.

**MATURING SPIRITUALLY**

Specifically, in \_\_\_\_ months, we would like to see our group...

As a Dgroup leader/member, I will take these steps by the following date : \_\_\_\_\_

STEPS TO TAKE:

**GROWING SPIRITUALLY**

Specifically, in \_\_\_\_ months, we would like to see our group...

As a Dgroup leader/member, I will take these steps by the following date : \_\_\_\_\_

STEPS TO TAKE:

\*adapted from: "Leading Life-Changing Small Groups" by Bill Donahue, Zondervan Publishing







# APPENDIX A

## ➔ Score Sheet for Session 3 Ice Breaker

Name of Bible Book	Points
1.	3
	2
	1
2.	3
	2
	1
3.	3
	2
	1
4.	3
	2
	1
5.	3
	2
	1
6.	3
	2
	1
7.	3
	2
	1
8.	3
	2
	1
9.	3
	2
	1
10.	3
	2
	1
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	