

# OLD TESTAMENT

## THE LAW

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

### GENESIS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** The Beginnings  
**Where:** Egypt and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1450 BC–1400 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate that God is sovereign and loves his creation.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### EXODUS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Deliverance from Slavery  
**Where:** Egypt and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1445 BC–1440 BC  
**Why:** To show God's faithfulness to the covenant and provide Israel with guidelines for healthy living.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### LEVITICUS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Law and Sacrifice  
**Where:** Sinai and Canaan  
**When:** c. 1445 BC–1400 BC  
**Why:** To instruct Israel on how to be holy and to be a blessing to others.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### NUMBERS

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Census and History  
**Where:** Borders of Canaan  
**When:** c. 1445 BC–1400 BC  
**Why:** A reminder of what happens when people rebel against God

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### DEUTERONOMY

**Who:** Moses  
**What:** Sermons by Moses  
**Where:** Plains of Moab  
**When:** c. 1401 BC–1400 BC  
**Why:** To remind the people what God expects from them.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## HISTORY

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

### JOSHUA

**Who:** Unknown (Joshua)  
**What:** History of Conquest  
**Where:** Canaan  
**When:** c. 1405 BC–1383 BC  
**Why:** To assure the people that obedience to God is rewarded.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### JUDGES

**Who:** Unknown (Samuel)  
**What:** History before Kings  
**Where:** Canaan  
**When:** c. 1086 BC–1004 BC  
**Why:** To stress the importance of remaining loyal to God.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### RUTH

**Who:** Unknown (Samuel)  
**What:** Story of Faithful Foreigner  
**Where:** Canaan  
**When:** c. 1046 BC–1035 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate the kind of faithfulness, godliness, loyalty, and love that God desires for us.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

**Key Verse:** But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

### 1 SAMUEL

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** History of Events  
**Where:** Israel and Judah  
**When:** c. 1050 BC–750 BC  
**Why:** To record how Israel got a king.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

### 2 SAMUEL

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** History of Events  
**Where:** Israel and Judah  
**When:** c. 1050 BC–750 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate the prominence of David's line.

#### Outline (Chapter)

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

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



# HISTORY

## 1 KINGS

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** Evaluation of the Kings  
**Where:** In Exile in Babylon  
**When:** 590 BC–570 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate the value of obeying and the danger of disobeying God.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 2 KINGS

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** Evaluation of the Kings  
**Where:** In Exile in Babylon  
**When:** 590 BC–550 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate the value of obeying God.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 1 CHRONICLES

**Who:** Ezra  
**What:** Review of David's Reign  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 450 BC–425 BC  
**Why:** To encourage the remnant.  
**Key Verse:** "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." (1 Chronicles 4:10)

## 2 CHRONICLES

**Who:** Ezra  
**What:** Highlights Kings of Judah  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 450 BC–425 BC  
**Why:** To show the benefits that come from obedience.

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

## EZRA

**Who:** Ezra  
**What:** History of Reconstruction  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 457 BC–444 BC  
**Why:** Provide a detailed account of the exiles' return and the rebuilding of the Temple.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## NEHEMIAH

**Who:** Nehemiah  
**What:** History of Reconstruction  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 445 BC–430 BC  
**Why:** Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## ESTHER

**Who:** Unknown  
**What:** Story of Redemption  
**Where:** Persia  
**When:** c. 464 BC–435 BC  
**Why:** To demonstrate that, in all circumstances, God is in control.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

# POETRY & WISDOM

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

## JOB

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

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## PSALMS

**Who:** David, Moses, Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, Sons of Korah  
**What:** Poetry and Song  
**Where:** Ancient Israel  
**When:** c. 1410 BC–430 BC  
**Why:** To communicate with God and worship him.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Book I: Psalms 1-41
- Book II: Psalms 42-72
- Book III: Psalms 73-89
- Book IV: Psalms 90-106
- Book V: Psalms 107-150

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

## PROVERBS

**Who:** Solomon and others  
**What:** Wisdom  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 950 BC–700 BC  
**Why:** To provide wisdom and guidance for God's children.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## ECCLESIASTES

**Who:** Solomon  
**What:** Wisdom  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. 935 BC  
**Why:** A search to discover truth.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## SONG OF SOLOMON

**Who:** Solomon  
**What:** Love Poem  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. 965 BC  
**Why:** To illustrate the joy of authentic love found in marriage.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

**Key Verse:** Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. (Song of Solomon 8:7)



# MAJOR PROPHETS

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

## ISAIAH

**Who:** Isaiah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgement  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 740 BC–680 BC  
**Why:** To convince the people that salvation was possible through repentance and hope in the coming Messiah.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## JEREMIAH

**Who:** Jeremiah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgement  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 626 BC–580 BC  
**Why:** To warn Judah of their destruction, to remind them of their sin, and convince them to submit to the Babylonian invaders.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

**Key Verse:** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

## DANIEL

**Who:** Daniel  
**What:** Prophecy and Apocalyptic  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 605 BC–530 BC  
**Why:** To convince the Jewish exiles that God is sovereign and to provide them with a vision of their future redemption.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## EZEKIEL

**Who:** Ezekiel  
**What:** Prophecy and Warning  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 587 BC–565 BC  
**Why:** To confront people about their sin, give them one last chance to repent, and offer hope.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## LAMENTATIONS

**Who:** Jeremiah  
**What:** Dirge Poem (Lament)  
**Where:** Babylon  
**When:** c. 586 BC–584 BC  
**Why:** To express the despair of the people of Judah over the loss of their land, city, and Temple.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

# MINOR PROPHETS

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

## HOSEA

**Who:** Hosea  
**What:** Prophecy and Warning  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 755 BC–710 BC  
**Why:** To illustrate Israel’s spiritual adultery and warn of destruction.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## OBADIAH

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

### Outline (Verses)

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

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

## NAHUM

**Who:** Nahum  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah and Nineveh  
**When:** c. 664 BC–612 BC  
**Why:** To pronounce judgment on Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Judgment (1)
- Hope for Judah (1)
- Nineveh’s Destruction (2-3)

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

## JOEL

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

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## JONAH

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

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## HABAKKUK

**Who:** Habakkuk  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 609 BC–597 BC  
**Why:** To affirm that the wicked will not prevail and to remind Judah that God is in control.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## AMOS

**Who:** Amos  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Israel  
**When:** c. 760 BC–750 BC  
**Why:** To accuse and judge Israel for injustice and lack of mercy.

### Outline (Chapter)

- Neighbors Punished (1-3)
- Israel’s Destruction (3-8)
- Future Hope (9)

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

## MICAH

**Who:** Micah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Israel and Judah  
**When:** c. 739 BC–686 BC  
**Why:** To warn people of judgment and to offer hope.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## ZEPHANIAH

**Who:** Zephaniah  
**What:** Prophecy and Judgment  
**Where:** Judah  
**When:** c. 640 BC–628 BC  
**Why:** To motivate repentance.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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



# How to Use the *Bible Overview* Pamphlet

Name of the Book of the Bible

Author of the Book

Type of Writing

Where Was it Written?

When Was it Written?

Why Was it Written?

Outline: Topics and Chapters

Key Verses that Summarize  
an Important Truth

c. = Circa (about)



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## MINOR PROPHETS

(Continued)

### HAGGAI

**Who:** Haggai

**What:** Prophecy and Hope

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 520 BC

**Why:** To urge the people to complete rebuilding the Temple.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Rebuild Temple (1)
- Blessings (2)
- David's Throne (2)

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

### ZECHARIAH

**Who:** Zechariah

**What:** Prophecy and Hope

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 520 BC–519 BC

**Why:** To give hope to the remnant.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Zechariah's Visions (1-8)
- Messianic Prophecy (9-12)

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

### MALACHI

**Who:** Malachi

**What:** Prophecy and Judgment

**Where:** Judah

**When:** c. 430 BC–400 BC

**Why:** To examine Judah's actions and make sure God has priority.

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Sins Identified (1-3)
- Rewards for the Righteous (4)

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

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

### MATTHEW

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### MARK

**Who:** John Mark  
**What:** Gospel  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 58  
**Why:** To show Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man sent to serve and not be served.

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

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

### LUKE

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### JOHN

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### ACTS

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

- Jerusalem (1-8)
- Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- Paul's Journeys (13-20)
- Paul Taken to Rome (21-28)

**Key Verse:** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

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

### ROMANS

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### 1 CORINTHIANS

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

**Key Verse:** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5)

### 2 CORINTHIANS

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

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

**Key Verse:** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

### GALATIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Churches in Galatia  
**Where:** Asia Minor  
**When:** c. AD 50-AD 55  
**Why:** To warn against legalism and defend justification by faith as well as Paul's apostolic authority.

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

**Key Verse:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22, 23)

### EPHESIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Ephesus  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 64  
**Why:** To show believers what it means to be a follower of Christ and encourage them in their spiritual walk.

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### PHILIPPIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Philippi  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 64  
**Why:** To express Paul's love and affection for the Philippians.

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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

### COLOSSIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Church in Colossae  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60-AD 64  
**Why:** To counteract heretical teachings and exhort believers

**Outline (Chapter)**

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

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



# PAUL'S LETTERS (EPISTLES)

## 1 THESSALONIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to the Church in Thessalonica  
**Where:** Corinth  
**When:** c. AD 49–AD 54  
**Why:** To emphasize Christ's return and to stress commitment.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

**Key Verse:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 5:16-23)

## 2 THESSALONIANS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to the Church in Thessalonica  
**Where:** Corinth  
**When:** c. AD 50–AD 54  
**Why:** To emphasize Christ's return and to encourage believers.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 1 TIMOTHY

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Timothy  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 64  
**Why:** To remove false doctrine and suggest proper leadership for the church in Ephesus.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 2 TIMOTHY

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Timothy  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 65–AD 67  
**Why:** To encourage Timothy to remain faithful in ministry even in the midst of suffering.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## TITUS

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Titus  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 64  
**Why:** To encourage the church in Crete to do good works.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## PHILEMON

**Who:** Paul  
**What:** Letter to Philemon  
**Where:** Prison in Rome  
**When:** c. AD 60  
**Why:** To appeal to Philemon to forgive and receive Onesimus, a runaway slave.

### Outline (Verses)

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

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

# GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION

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

## HEBREWS

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

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## JAMES

**Who:** James  
**What:** Letter to Jewish Believers  
**Where:** Jerusalem  
**When:** c. AD 48  
**Why:** Encouragement to live out one's faith within the Christian community.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

**Key Verse:** My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. (James 1:19, 20)

## 1 PETER

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

### Outline (Chapter)

- Holiness and Submission (1-2)
- Suffering (3-4)

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

## 2 PETER

**Who:** Peter  
**What:** Letter to All Christians  
**Where:** Rome  
**When:** c. AD 64–AD 70  
**Why:** To warn against false teachers.

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 1 JOHN

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

### Outline (Chapter)

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

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

## 2 JOHN

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to the Elect Lady  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 85–AD 95  
**Why:** To warn against heresy and false teachers

**Key Verse:** Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. (2 John 8)

## 3 JOHN

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to Gaius  
**Where:** Ephesus  
**When:** c. AD 85–AD 95  
**Why:** To praise Gaius for his loyalty to the truth and criticize Diotrephes for his pride.

**Key Verse:** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 4)

## JUDE

**Who:** Jude  
**What:** Letter to all Christians  
**Where:** Unknown  
**When:** c. AD 60–AD 95  
**Why:** To warn against heresy

**Key Verse:** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. (Jude 24)

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

## REVELATION

**Who:** John  
**What:** Letter to Seven Churches  
**Where:** Island of Patmos  
**When:** c. AD 96 or c. AD 69  
**Why:** To give hope to persecuted Christians and provide a vision of Christ's return.

**Key Verse:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (Revelation 21:1)

### Outline (Chapter)

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