

Overview of the Bible

Bible Timeline

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Lesson 7

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1. Bible Information

The Bible is the standard of truth.

Reading and studying the Bible allows us to recognize false teachers by comparing them to biblical teachings.

The ability to do this is a sign of **Christian maturity** and **enduring faith.**

1. Bible Information

The Bible is a collection of ancient literature.

It includes many different types of literature, such as history, law, poetry, parables, prayers, narratives, letters, and sermons all combined to make up the 66 books of the Bible.

The 66 books were written individually over a period of about 1500 years.

1. Bible Information

It was written by over 40 authors with:

1. Different education levels—from none to the highest educated of the time.
2. Different professions—from fisherman to tax collector, to doctor.
3. Different social and economic statuses—from peasant to king.

The authors were spread across three different continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—and wrote in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

1. Bible Information

The Bible includes two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Testament is an ancient word that means “covenant” or “promise.”

The Old Testament (or *old covenant*) is the original Hebrew Bible and contains 39 books divided into groups (the Law, the historical books, poetry and wisdom writings, and the Prophets).

The New Testament (or *new covenant*) contains 27 books: about Jesus’ life (the Gospels), the apostles after He went to heaven (Acts), and letters from the apostles to the early church (Romans-Revelation).

1. Bible Information

The Bible is:

1. God's love letter to humanity.
2. His instruction manual for humanity.

Between the pages of the Bible you'll find **truth to believe**, **promises to claim**, **commands to obey**, and **examples to follow**.

1. Bible Information

1. The Bible tells us about God, about ourselves, and about how to live--now and eternally.
2. The Bible helps us know God, love God, and follow God.
3. The Bible helps us understand humankind.
4. The Bible contains God's master plan of salvation and how we can have assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation through Jesus.
5. God's love and plan to save people is woven throughout the entire Bible--Old Testament and New Testament.

1. Bible Information

	<u>OLD TESTAMENT</u>		<u>39 BOOKS</u>	
<u>Law</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Wisdom (Poetry)</u>	<u>Prophets</u>	
			<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	I Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	II Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	I Kings			Micah
	II Kings			Nahum
	I Chronicles			Habakkuk
	II Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra			Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah

1. Bible Information

Pentateuch

The first five books of the Bible (Genesis to Deuteronomy), the Pentateuch, were written by Moses.

They record the beginning of the universe, our world, man, sin, the first murder, the first false religion, the flood, the first rainbow, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the establishment of Israel, the Exodus from Egypt through the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments, wanderings of Israel in the wilderness, directions for building the tabernacle, guidelines for the sacrifices, numerous ordinances for worship, societal order of conduct and warnings relative to holiness. God loves holiness and hates sin.

These books also speak of historic people such as Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and Joshua.

1. Bible Information

Israel's History

The historical books of the Bible (12 books - Joshua to Esther) cover the period after Moses' death until approximately 400 years before Christ's birth.

After Moses died, Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land. God had directed Israel to defeat all the nations in the promised land so that they would not be polluted by the sin of the peoples in the region, but they failed.

After Joshua's death, Israel was guided by a series of judges during a period of moral bankruptcy.

Eventually, the Israelites asked for a king, which God granted to them. God gave them the desire of their hearts. The Israelites had made a bad decision.

What followed was a series of a few good kings but mostly evil kings who reigned over Israel.

1. Bible Information

Israel's History

The first king, Saul, did not remain true to God and sinned. He was followed by his son, Ish-Bosheth, who at the age of 40 reigned for two years (2 Sam. 2: 10). God replaced him with King David. God was and still is looking for godly leaders who love Him and respond accordingly.

Scripture says that David was a man after God's own heart, yet he sinned by committing adultery and had Bathsheba husband, Uriah, killed in battle. Nathan told David that he had sinned. David's child died. Bathsheba gave birth to his son Solomon. After David died, Solomon became king.

Solomon was blessed by God with wisdom and riches. He built the first temple and enjoyed great fame. In the late years of Solomon's life, he followed other gods due to the influence of his many unbelieving wives. Consequently, God divided the people into a northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) kingdom.

After that, most of the kings were wicked and did not follow God. As a result, both Israel and Judah were eventually deported and held captive in Babylon as a punishment for their waywardness. After 70 years, a portion of the Jews returned to the promised land.

1. Bible Information

Wisdom (Poetry)

The five books of poetry (Job to Song of Solomon) are God's wisdom literature.

The book of Job is probably the oldest book in the Bible. It is about a man who had trials and difficulties even though he had done no wrong (Job 1: 1, 8: 2: 3). The book reveals how God and the demon interact. It helps us to understand that God cares more about our spiritual growth than our comfort.

The books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon were written primarily by King David and Solomon.

Psalms is a book of worship. Many songs have been written using the words from various Psalms.

Song of Solomon is very unusual because it describes the love and beauty of a couple courting and their eventual marriage. The book is very explicit. It demonstrates that God cares about marriage and the physical aspects of that relationship.

1. Bible Information

Major Prophets

The books of the major prophets (5 – Isaiah to Daniel).

The prophets spoke to Israel on behalf of God and warned them to repent of their sins or else see Israel fall.

The major prophets also describe Israel's return to Canaan, Jesus' first coming, and future times.

1. Bible Information

Minor Prophets

The books (12 – Hosea to Malachi) of the minor prophets were written between 840 – 430 B.C. Detail about the lives of some of these prophets are unknown.

Their messages range from warnings to Israel, other nations, predictions concerning the Messiah and the future of Israel.

The Old Testament ends with the promise that a messenger will come before the Messiah – Jesus Christ – arrives. In the final verses of Malachi, we are told that Elijah the prophet will come before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Then there was silence for 400 years before Jesus arrived.

The New Testament continues the history of the promised One – the Messiah who is Jesus Christ.

1. Bible Information

	<u>NEW TESTAMENT</u>		<u>27 BOOKS</u>		
<u>Gospels</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Paul to Churches</u>	<u>Paul to Individuals</u>	<u>General Epistles</u>	<u>Apocalyptic</u>
Matthew	Acts	1 Corinthians	1 Timothy	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		2 Corinthians	2 Timothy	James	
Luke		Romans	Titus	1 Peter	
John		Galatians	Philemon	2 Peter	
		Ephesians		1 John	
		Philippians		2 John	
		Colossians		3 John	
		1 Thessalonians		Jude	
		2 Thessalonians			

1. Bible Information

Gospels

The four gospels describe the life of Jesus.

It reveals the fact that Jesus did miracles, taught divine principles, healed many, and was in fact God. Each book emphasizes various aspects of Jesus' life.

They are written by the Holy Spirit and three apostles with Luke being written by a medical doctor who was a friend of Paul the apostle.

Jesus is the focus and center of each book.

The books reveal that God greatly loves us, and wants to forgive our sins, and as a result Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins to accomplish that goal. Jesus then returned to life three days later and ascended back into heaven. Jesus will return some day.

1. Bible Information

Early Church History

Acts is the one book in the New Testament that is historical in nature.

It reveals the events after Christ's return to heaven.

The book describes the start of the spiritual church, the establishment of the first local church, and the spread of the gospel throughout the Roman world.

It reveals God's desire that both Jews and Gentiles be saved. God wants them to become Christians.

1. Bible Information

Pauline Epistles

The next section of books (13 - Romans to Philemon) was written by Paul the apostle. These books are mainly doctrinal. They explain salvation, the church, the future and how to live a Christian life.

Warnings concerning false teachers and false teaching are major themes. Many of the books address the sin of believers.

1. Bible Information

General Epistles

The general epistles (8 - Hebrews to Jude) are addressed to believers everywhere.

These books were written by the apostles Peter, John, Jesus' brother James and Jude. The writer of Hebrews is unknown.

These books deal with true faith and false teachers.

Hebrews shows the Superiority of Jesus' as the High Priest. The book of James instructs on practical living.

Peter's epistles deal with suffering and false teachers.

1. Bible Information

Prophecy

The last book (Revelation) is about the future.

It is a literal book with many symbols which have explanations from the Old Testament. A careful study reveals that many of the symbols are identical to symbols found in Daniel.

The main theme of Revelation is that there is victory in Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

GEN.
EXOD.
LEV.
NUM.
DEUT.
1450-1405 BC

JUDGES 1043 BC

RUTH 1030-1010 BC

1 SAM.
2 SAM.
931-722 BC

HOSEA 750-710 BC
MICAH 735-710 BC

EZEKIEL 590-570 BC
LAM. 586 BC
JER. 585-570 BC
1 KINGS 561-538 BC
2 KINGS 561-538 BC
DAN. 536-530 BC
HAG. 520 BC

ZECH. 480-470 BC
EZRA 457-444 BC
1 CHRON. 450-430 BC
2 CHRON. 450-431 BC
ESTER 450-331 BC
MAL. 433-424 BC
NEH. 424-400 BC

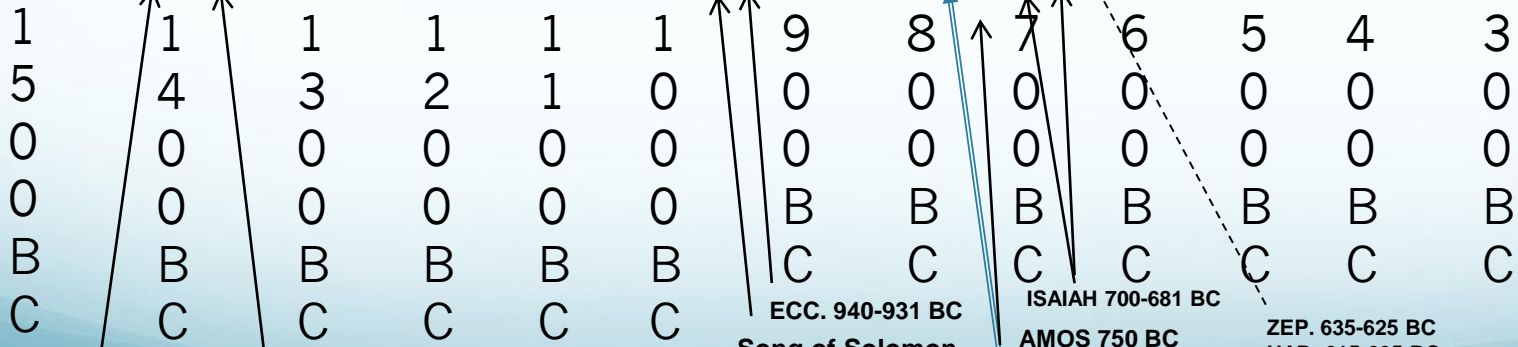
PSALMS 1410 - 450 BC

OBADIAH 850-840 BC

JOEL 835-796 BC

PROVERBS 971-686 BC

NAHUM 650 BC



JOSHUA 1405-1385 BC

JOB UNKNOWN

ECC. 940-931 BC
Song of Solomon
971-765 BC

ISAIAH 700-681 BC
AMOS 750 BC
JONAH 775 BC

ZEP. 635-625 BC
HAB. 615-605 BC

2. OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

Job: Considered earliest, but date unknown

Ecclesiastes: 940-931 BC

Genesis: 1445-1405 BC

1 Samuel: 931-722 BC

Exodus: 1445-1405 BC

2 Samuel: 931-722 BC

Leviticus: 1445-1405 BC

Obadiah: 850-840 BC

Numbers: 1445-1405 BC

Joel: 835-796 BC

Deuteronomy: 1445-1405 BC

Jonah: 775 BC

Psalms: 1410-450 BC

Amos: 750 BC

Joshua: 1405-1385 BC

Hosea: 750-710 BC

Judges: 1043 BC

Micah: 735-710 BC

Ruth: 1030-1010 BC

Isaiah: 700-681 BC

Song of Solomon: 971-965 BC

Nahum: 650 BC

Proverbs: 971-686 BC

Zephaniah: 635-625 BC

2. OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

Habakkuk: 615-605 BC

Zechariah: 480-470 BC

Ezekiel: 590-570 BC

Ezra: 457-444 BC

Lamentations: 586 BC

1 Chronicles: 450-430 BC

Jeremiah: 586-570 BC

2 Chronicles: 450-430 BC

1 Kings: 561-538 BC

Esther: 450-331 BC

2 Kings: 561-538 BC

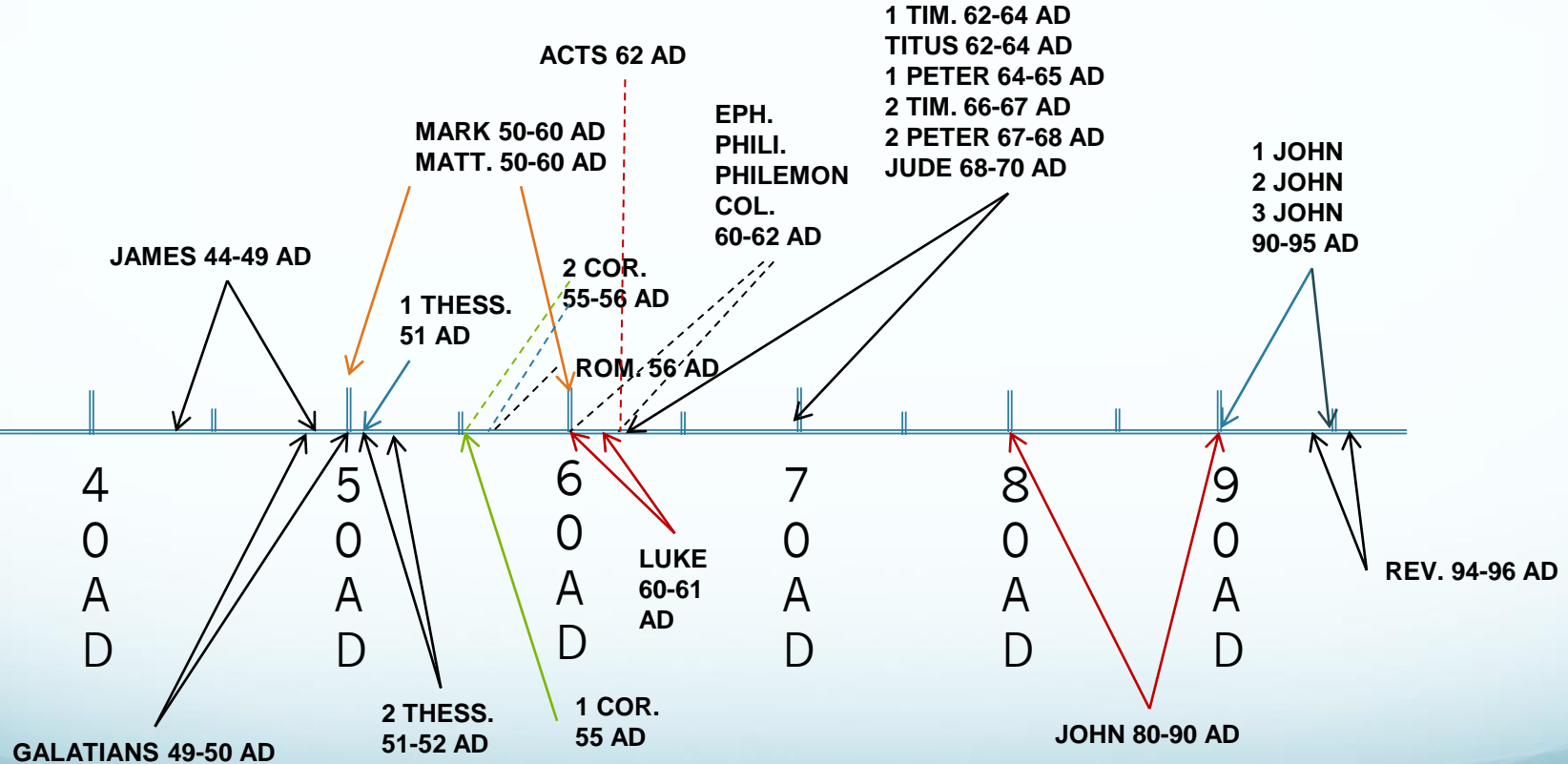
Malachi: 433-424 BC

Daniel: 536-530 BC

Nehemiah: 424-400 BC

Haggai: 520 BC

NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE



3. NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

James: AD 44-49

1 Corinthians: AD 55

Galatians: AD 49-50

2 Corinthians: AD 55-56

Mark: AD 50-60

Romans: AD 56

Matthew: AD 50-60

Luke: AD 60-61

1 Thessalonians: AD 51

Ephesians: AD 60-62

2 Thessalonians: AD 51-52

Philippians: AD 60-62

3. NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

Philemon: AD 60-62

2 Peter: AD 67-68

Colossians: AD 60-62

Hebrews: AD 67-69

Acts: AD 62

Jude: AD 68-70

1 Timothy: AD 62-64

John: AD 80-90

Titus: AD 62-64

1 John: AD 90-95

1 Peter: AD 64-65

2 John: AD 90-95

2 Timothy: AD 66-67

3 John: AD 90-95

Revelation: AD 94-96

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

1. He was born under the Law or the first covenant

Gal 4: 4-5

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

2. He did not come to destroy this Law, but to fulfill it.

Matt. 5: 17-18

17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

18 “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

3. He kept the Law perfectly

John 19: 30

30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Heb. 5: 8-10

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

1 Pet. 2: 22

22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

4. In His death He made it possible for mankind to be redeemed out from under the curse of the Law.

Gal 3: 13 -14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—

14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

5. His death made it possible to give a new and better covenant.

Gal. 3: 24-25

24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Col 2: 13-14

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

4. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

Heb. 8: 6-7

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

Heb. 8:13

13 When He said, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear