

## The Old Testament

Genesis - The book of beginnings. Records the beginning of the universe, man, the Sabbath, marriage, sin, sacrifice, nations, government. Chapters 1-11 focus on events, the others focus on people.

Exodus - How Israel became a nation, with Moses as leader.

Leviticus - A manual of worship for Israel under the law. Theme of how sinful people can approach God points also to the coming of Jesus Christ, the "lamb of God".

Numbers - Records Israel's wandering in the wilderness, a result of disobedience. Title comes from two "numberings" or censuses taken during the long trek.

Deuteronomy - In large part a review of the laws set forth by Moses in Exodus and Leviticus.

Joshua - In 3 brilliant campaigns, Joshua, successor of Moses, leads the people into the Promised Land.

Judges - Mingling with the Canaanites, Israel strayed from God after Joshua's death, doing "that which was right in their own eyes." God raised up judges or military rulers to deliver them.

Ruth - The story of a woman of Moab, who chooses to serve God and becomes great grandma of David.

I Samuel - The rise of Israel under monarchy. Book centers around Samuel, Saul and David.

II Samuel - The 47 year reign of David. 7 years over Judah and 33 years over all Israel.

I Kings - King Solomon's reign, the kings of the divided kingdom through Ahab and Jehoshaphat.

II Kings - The final decline and fall of Israel and then Judah.

I Chronicles - The reign of David and preparations for building the temple. Same time period as II Sam.

II Chronicles - Continues Israel's history through Solomon's reign, then focuses on southern kingdom.

Closes with decree of Cyrus. Parallels I and II Kings but focus is on religious not political aspect.

Ezra - The return of the Jews after decree of Cyrus. 1st Zerubbabel, then Ezra. The temple is rebuilt.

Nehemiah - The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls under Nehemiah, begun 14 years after Ezra's return.

Esther - God's providential deliverance of the Jews through Esther and Mordecai during a time when many of them had dispersed throughout the Persian empire after decree of Cyrus.

Job - The account of Job, an historical figure who lived probably about the time of Abraham. It's theme: Why the righteous suffer.

Psalms - The believer's communion with God in prayer and praise. David wrote at least half of these.

Proverbs - Divine wisdom applied to the practical problems of everyday life. Written by Solomon.

Ecclesiastes - The futility of life from a human perspective, apart from God. The author is Solomon.

Song of Solomon - The blissful romance of Solomon and his Shulamite bride. Represents God's love for Israel and prophetic of Christ and the Church.

Isaiah - Warns of coming Judgment against Judah which materialized when it fell to the Babylonians.

Jeremiah - Written during the later decline and fall of Judah to the Babylonians.

Lamentations - Jeremiah's lament over Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem. Also portray's God's lament over this necessary act of divine chastisement.

Ezekiel - Writes first of Jerusalem's impending fall (586 B.C.) and then foretells its future restoration.

Daniel - The prophet Daniel, captured during early siege of Judah, wrote from Babylon. The foundational book in understanding Bible prophecy, especially the book of Revelation.

Hosea - Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah. Theme: Israel's unfaithfulness, chastisement, restoration.

Joel - One of earliest prophetic writings. Locust plague foreshadows future judgement in "Day of the Lord".

Amos - In a period of material prosperity but moral decay, Amos tells Israel and surrounding nations of God's inevitable judgment on sin.

Obadiah - God's judgment against Edom, a nation descended from Esau, located south of the Dead Sea.

Jonah - Ninevah, capital of the Assyrian empire, turns to God under Jonah's reluctant preaching. Shows God's love and plan for the Gentiles.

Micah - Another prophecy against Israel's sins. Foretells the birthplace of Christ 700 years before His birth

Nahum - Foretells impending destruction of Ninevah, spared some 150 years earlier under Jonah's preaching.

Habakkuk - Reveals God's plan to punish a sinful nation by an even more sinful one.

Zephaniah - Judgment on Judah prefigures the "Day of the Lord" but restoration is also prophesied.

Haggai - First minor prophet after the exile. Jews urged to resume rebuilding of temple after 15 year delay.

Zechariah - Further urging to complete temple, nourish spiritual depth. Foretells Christ's 1st & 2nd comings.

Malachi - Exorts against spiritual shallowness. Foretells coming of John the Baptist, Christ. The Bible's 400 year silence that followed was broken when these two figures finally appeared on the world scene.

## The New Testament

Matthew - The promised Messiah's arrival and His ultimate rejection. Emphasizes Jesus Christ as King.

Mark - The most concise of the 4 gospels. Emphasizes Christ as the servant of Jehovah. Begins w/ ministry.

Luke - Most detailed of the gospels, reflecting a historian's skill. Presents Jesus as the perfect man, Savior of imperfect men.

John - Distinct from the other 3 gospels in coverage, yet harmonious. Stresses Christ as Son of God.

Acts - The early growth of Christianity from Christ's ascension to Paul's Roman imprisonment, about 33 yrs.

Romans - A systematic presentation of the gospel, stressing salvation by faith alone.

I Corinthians - Written to correct errors of Christian conduct in the local church - dissension, immorality, lawsuits, and general church disorder.

II Corinthians - Speaks of the true gospel ministry, stewardship, and Paul's apostolic authority.

Galatians - Counteracts the error of mixing law and faith. Theme of justification by faith.

Ephesians - Encourages believers everywhere who already share a heavenly position with Christ, as members of his invisible church.

Philippians - Stresses the joy of the Christian experience.

Colossians - Combats the error of Gnosticism which denied Christ's full deity and true humanity. Stresses Christ as the Head of the Church and of the whole universe.

I Thessalonians - Counsel in Christian loving and emphasis on the Lord's return.

II Thessalonians - Further clarification of the Lord's return and what it should mean in daily life.

I Timothy - First of the 3 "pastoral epistles". Stresses sound doctrine, orderly church government, and principles to guide the church in the centuries to come.

II Timothy - Describes the true servant of Jesus Christ. Warns of apostasy already set in. Stresses the Word of God as the remedy for all error.

Titus - Paul's letter to a young minister on the island of Crete. Stresses sound doctrine and a godly life.

Philemon - Paul's intercession for the runaway slave of a wealthy Colossian Christian. Illustrates Christ's intercession for us.

Hebrews - Presents the absolute pre-eminence of Jesus Christ and Christianity's superiority over Judaism. Christ is the Great High Priest, the one mediator between God and man.

James - First of general epistles. Teaches that true faith produces works. Does not contradict doctrine that salvation is by faith alone.

I Peter - A letter of comfort and encouragement to Christians, especially those suffering from attack from those without (non-Christians).

II Peter - A warning against the dangers from within - false teaching had already gained a toehold.

I John - Written to combat Gnosticism, which denied Christ's full deity and true humanity. Emphasizes fellowship and love in the family of God and assures true believers of eternal life.

II John - Warns against any compromise with doctrinal error, but emphasizes that truth be guarded in love.


III John - Warning against refusing fellowship with those who are true believers.

Jude - Another warning against apostasy and false doctrine.

Revelation - The revelation of Jesus Christ in the climatic events of world history.


## The Old Testament

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy




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Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
I Samuel  
II Samuel  
I Kings  
II Kings  
I Chronicles  
II Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther




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Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon




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Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel



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Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



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## The New Testament

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts




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Romans  
I Corinthians  
II Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
I Thessalonians  
II Thessalonians  
I Timothy  
II Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews



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James  
I Peter  
II Peter  
I John  
II John  
III John  
Jude



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Revelation



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