

Baptist Basics University
Truth Must Be Preserved For Future Generations

Bible Survey
Lecture Notes

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Lesson 1

An Overview of the Bible

Webster's 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* give one definition of the word "Bible" as:

"The Book by way of eminence, -- that is, the book which is made up of the writings accepted by Christians as of divine origin and authority, whether such writings be in the original language, or translated; the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments"

The word *Bible* has Latin roots from the word *biblia* and Greek roots from the word *biblos*. Both of these words means simply a book, paper, or scroll; and not the sacred collection of writings we know as the Bible.

The Bible contains sixty-six books arranged into the Old and New Testaments. It covers the entire history of mankind, from the Creation in Genesis to the "end of the world" in Revelation.

Inspiration

We believe that the ultimate author of the Bible is God Himself although human writers penned the words. The process that makes this possible is known as "inspiration". Simply, the Holy Ghost moved these men to write the words they wrote. I Peter 1:21 says, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Timothy 3:16 says that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God", and the *inspiration* can literally be translated "God-breathed".

There are many different schools of thought as to the process and extent of the inspiration of the Scriptures. It is this author's belief that inspiration is *verbal* and *plenary*. Verbal inspiration is that the very words of the Bible are inspired, not just the thoughts or ideas. Plenary inspiration means that the Bible is fully inspired in every detail or topic.

Preservation

The Bible is generally agreed to have around forty human authors and was written over a span of around 1600 years. The Old Testament books were originally written in Hebrew, while the New Testament was written in Greek.

These works were written on material such as papyrus or vellum. The originals would be copied and distributed. Much care was given to the process of copying the words to ensure the accuracy. These copies were highly treasured and revered. This process of copying passed the writings along through the centuries.

Archaeologists and researchers have uncovered thousands of manuscripts of Bible texts. Although some slight variations may exist in various copies, the overall text of the Bible we have today is vindicated by these.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament (testament means *covenant* or *dispensation*) is a collection of 39 books. The first of these books was written around 1500 and the last around 400 B.C. These were originally written in Hebrew. The Old Testament covers a span of about 3600 years if you follow closely to Ussher's Creation date of 4004 B.C. The books of the Old Testament are quite varied in subject and style. Books can be divided into historical, poetic, and prophetic sections. The focus of the Old Testament is primarily on the nation of Israel and God's dealings with them.

The New Testament

The New Testament is a collection of 27 books written in the first century A.D. It was written originally in *Koine* Greek and covers an historical span of about 100 years if you exclude Revelation. It contains five historical books, twenty-one *epistles*, and one prophetic book. The focus of the New Testament is the ministry of Christ and the early Church.

Some Stats

The Bible:

- has around 40 human authors
- is comprised of 66 books
- was written over a span of 1,600 years
- has 1,189 chapters*
- has 31,102 verses*
- has 773,692 words*
- has been printed an estimated 2.5 to 6 billion times
- has been translated at least partially into 1,200 languages
- has 170,000 copies distributed in the U.S. every day.

*Stats are for the King James Version, and there is some debate on the verse and word count. I used a source that claimed to be computer generated.

Lesson 2

Old Testament - The Pentateuch

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Pentateuch (meaning “five scrolls”) or the Torah (meaning “the Law”). These books are traditionally attributed to Moses. They are primarily historical, but also contain the basis for the Judaism. The time period covered is from Creation (4004 B.C. using Ussher’s chronology) to about 1400 B.C. and the beginning of the conquest of Canaan by Joshua. The primary theme of these books is the establishment of the nation of Israel.

Genesis

Author - Moses

Title - means “beginning”

Date - ~1451 B.C.

Time covered - Creation to death of Joseph around 1635 B.C.

Subject - Foundation of human history and establishment of Israel

Key Verses - 12:1-3

Outline -

- I. Creation and Foundation of Human World - Chapters 1-11
- II. Creation of Nation of Israel - Chapters 12-50

Events to Remember -

- Creation - Chapters 1-2
- Fall of Man - 2:8-3:24
- The Flood - 6:1-9:29
- Call of Abraham - 12:1-3

Exodus

Author - Moses

Title - means “departure”

Date - ~1451 B.C.

Time covered - 1635 B.C. to 1491 B.C.

Subject - Freeing Israel from Egypt, Foundation of Judaism

Key Verses - 3:8

Outline -

- I. Moses and the Exodus - Chapters 1-18
- II. At Mount Sinai - Chapters 19-40

Events to Remember -

- Moses and the Burning Bush - Chapter 3
- Crossing the Red Sea - Chapters 13-14
- The Ten Commandments - 20:3-17

Leviticus

Author - Moses

Title - means “from Levi”

Date - ~1451 B.C.

Time covered - 1491 B.C.

Subject - Worship and regulation of the Jewish people

Key Verses - 19:2

Outline -

- I. Regulation of Worship - Chapters 1-16
- II. Regulation of Life - Chapters 17-27

Events to Remember -

- Day of Atonement - Chapter 16

Numbers

Author - Moses

Title - from two censuses in the book (Chapters 1 and 26)

Date - 1451 B.C.

Time covered - 1491-1451 B.C.

Subject - The Wilderness Journey of Israel

Key Verses - 14:22-23

Outline -

- I. Wrapping up at Sinai - 1:1-10:10
- II. Wandering in the Wilderness - 10:11-21:35
- III. Preparing to enter the Promised Land - Chapters 22-36

Events to Remember-

- First Census - Chapters 1-2
- The Twelve Spies - Chapters 13-14
- Second Census - Chapter 26

Deuteronomy

Author - Moses

Title - means "second law", retelling of the Mosaic Law

Date - 1451 B.C.

Time covered - 1451 B.C.

Subject - Review of history of Israel's redemption and their Law

Key Verses - 6:4-7

Outline -

- I. Reviewing the Journey - Chapters 1-4
- II. Restating the Law - Chapters 5-26
- III. Message for the Future - Chapters 27-30
- IV. Moses' Last Days - Chapters 31-34

Events to Remember -

- Ten Commandments - Chapter 5
- Death of Moses - Chapter 34

Lesson 3

Old Testament - Historical Books

We've got a lot of ground to cover as we look at the historical books of the Old Testament. These twelve books cover over nine hundred years of history. Most of the remaining books of the Old Testament were written during the events covered in these books.

OUTLINE OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY COVERED IN THE HISTORICAL BOOKS		
Conquest and Settlement of Canaan under Joshua		1451 to 1410 B.C.
Rule by Judges		1410 to 1050 B.C.
Rule by Monarchy Begins		1050 B.C.
Temple Built By Solomon		960 B.C.
The Kingdom Splits		930 B.C.
JUDAH	ISRAEL	
	conquered by Assyria	723 B.C.
conquered by Babylon and the Temple is destroyed		586 B.C.
Temple is rebuilt		515 B.C.

Joshua

Author - Joshua

Date - ~1400 B.C

Time covered - 1451 B.C. - 1410 B.C.

Subject - The conquest of Canaan

Key Verses - 1:6-9

Outline -

V. Conquering the Land - Chapters 1-12

VI. Dividing the Land - Chapters 13-22

VII. Joshua's Final Days - Chapters 23-24

Events to Remember -

- Victory at Jericho - Chapter 6
- "Choose you this day whom ye shall serve" - 24:15

Judges

Author - unknown, maybe Samuel

Date - ~1050 B.C.

Time covered - 1410 to 1050 B.C.

Subject - History of Israel between Joshua to Samuel and of 12 judges

Key Verses - 21:25

Outline -

- I. Causes of Decline - Chapters 1-2
- II. Cycles of Oppression - Chapters 3-16
- III. Characteristic Sins - Chapters 17-21

Events to Remember -

- Gideon - Chapters 6-8
- Samson - Chapters 14-16

Ruth

Author - likely Samuel

Date - ~1050 B.C.

Time covered - 1322 to 1312 B.C.

Subject - How a Moabite girl came into the lineage of Christ

Key Verses - 1:16-17

Outline -

- I. In Moab - Chapter 1
- II. In the Fields of Boaz - Chapter 2
- III. At the Threshing-floor of Boaz - Chapter 3
- IV. Happily Ever After - Chapter 4

Events to Remember -

- Ruth gleaning in the field - Chapter 2

I Samuel

Author - unknown

Date - ~1000 B.C.

Time covered - 1171 to 1056 B.C.

Subject - Foundation of the monarchy through Saul, rise of David

Outline -

- I. Ministry of Samuel - Chapters 1-7
- II. Reign of Saul - Chapter 8-15
- III. Rise of David - Chapter 16-31

Events to Remember -

- David and Goliath - Chapter 17

II Samuel

Author - unknown

Date - 1000 B.C.

Time covered - 1056 to 1017 B.C.

Subject - The reign of David

Outline -

- I. David's Triumphs - Chapters 1-10
- II. David's Troubles - Chapters 11-21
- III. David's Achievements - Chapters 22-24

Events to Remember -

- Davidic Covenant - Chapter 7
- David and Bathsheba - Chapter 11

I Kings

Author - unknown

Date - ~550 B.C.

Time covered - 1015 to 897 B.C.

Subject - The history of the Kings of Israel, part one

Outline -

- I. Reign of Solomon - Chapters 1-11
- II. Decline and Split of Kingdom - Chapter 12-22

Events to Remember -

- Construction of the Temple - Chapter 5-8
- Elijah vs. the prophets of Baal - Chapter 18

II Kings

Author - unknown

Date - ~550 B.C.

Time covered - 896 to 588 B.C.

Subject - The history of the Kings of Israel, part two

Outline -

- I. Decline and Fall of Israel - Chapters 1-17
- II. Decline and Fall of Judah - Chapters 18-25

Events to Remember -

- Fall of Israel to Assyria - Chapter 17
- Fall of Judah to Babylon - Chapter 25

I Chronicles

Author - probably Ezra

Date - ~450 B.C.

Time covered - Creation (in genealogies) or 1056 (in history) to 1015 B.C.

Subject - The history of the Kings of Judah, part one

Outline -

- I. Genealogies - Chapters 1-10
- II. Reign of David - Chapters 11-29

II Chronicles

Author - probably Ezra

Date - ~450 B.C.

Time covered - 1015 to 610 B.C.

Subject - The history of the Kings of Judah, part two

Outline -

- I. Reign of Solomon - Chapters 1-9
- II. Reigns of Kings of Judah - Chapters 10-36

Ezra

Author - probably Ezra

Date - ~450 B.C.

Time covered - 536 to 457 B.C.

Subject - Rebuilding the Temple and Reestablishing the Jewish Faith

Outline -

- I. Return of the Jews - Chapters 1-2
- II. Rebuilding the Temple - Chapters 3-6
- III. Return of Ezra - Chapters 7-8
- IV. Revival of the People - Chapters 9-10

Events to Remember -

- The Temple is rebuilt - Chapter 6

Nehemiah

Author - Nehemiah, possibly with Ezra

Date - 430 B.C.

Time covered - 446 to 434 B.C.

Subject - Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem under Persian rule

Outline -

I. Return of Nehemiah - 1:1-2:11

II. Rebuilding the Walls - 2:12-7:4

III. Reforming the Nation - 7:5-13:31

Events to Remember -

- Walls are completed - Chapter 6

Esther

Author - unknown, Mordecai perhaps?

Date - ~460 B.C.

Time covered - 521 to 509 B.C.

Subject - God's protection of His people

Outline -

I. Esther becomes Queen - Chapters 1-2

II. Haman's plot is stopped - Chapters 3-8

III. Feast of Purim established - Chapters 9-10

Events to Remember -

- Plot against the Jews is foiled - Chapter 7

Lesson 4

Old Testament - Poetical Books

The next five books we encounter on our journey through the Bible introduce a new style of book. We transition away from historical narratives into poetry. These books tell stories, contain songs, are were used to teach.

Hebrew poetry is not like our modern poetry that is based on rhyme and rhythm. It is based on coupling thoughts in a stylistic device known as *parallelism*. There are a few different varieties used:

- Synonymous - the second line restated the thought of the first - Psalm 24:1
- Antithetic - the second line contrasts the thought of the first - Psalm 1:6
- Synthetic - the second line completes the thought of the first - Proverbs 26:4
- Climatic - the second line climaxes the thought of the first - Psalm 29:1
- Emblematic - the second line compares to the first - Proverbs 25:25

Job

Author - unknown

Date - unknown, perhaps around 1900 B.C.

Time covered - unknown, most events fall inside one year

Subject - God is sovereign and allows suffering

Outline -

- I. The Origin of Job's Suffering - Chapters 1-2
- II. Job vs. His "Friends" - Chapters 3-37
- III. God's message to Job - Chapter 38-42:6
- IV. Job's Outcome - 42:7-17

Psalms

Authors -

- David (73 attributed in Psalms, 2 by New Testament authors)
- Asaph (12)
- Moses (1)
- Heman (1)
- Ethan (1)
- Solomon (2)
- Anonymous (51)

Date - 1050 to 950 B.C.

Some Types of Psalms -

- Person Lament - Psalm 42
- Penitential - Psalm 51
- Thanksgiving - Psalm 30
- Praise - Psalm 147
- Messianic - Psalms 22 and 24

Proverbs

Author - Solomon

Date - 970-930 B.C. with some additions as late as 700 B.C. (Chapters 25-29)

Subject - The beauty and power of Godly wisdom in life

Key Verse - 1:7

Outline -

- I. Purpose of Book - 1:1-7

- II. Parental appeal - 1:8-9:18
- III. Collected sayings - Chapters 10-29
- IV. Agur and Lemuel - Chapters 30-31

Ecclesiastes

Author - Solomon

Date - ~960 B.C.

Subject - The vanity of life without God

Key Verses - 1:2 and 12:8

Outline -

- I. Vanity - 1:1-11
- II. All is Vanity - 1:12-6:9
- III. Living in a vain world - 6:10-12:14

Song of Solomon

Other titles - Canticles, Song of Songs

Author - Solomon

Date - ~1010 B.C.

Subject - Beauty of love, whether God's love or marital love

Outline -

- I. Love begins - 1:1-3:5
- II. Marriage of the lovers - 3:6-5:1
- III. Maturing love - 5:2-8:7
- IV. Meditation on love - 8:8-14

Lesson 5

Old Testament - Major Prophets

We divide the seventeen books written by or about Israel's prophets into two groups, Major and Minor Prophets. This is based solely on the length of the books and has nothing to do with their messages. In this lesson we will look at the five books that we call the Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Before we begin our journey through the prophets, let's look at where they fit in the chronology of history. Some prophets overlap these periods but this should give you a good idea of how the timeline should work.

Where the Prophets Fit in History		
Pre-Captivity	Babylonian Captivity	Post-Captivity
Obadiah	Ezekiel	Zechariah
Joel	Daniel	Haggai
Jonah		Malachi
Amos		
Hosea		
Isaiah		
Micah		
Nahum		
Zephaniah		
Habakkuk		
Jeremiah		

Isaiah

Author - Isaiah

Time Frame - 760-698 B.C.

Subject - Israel's judgment and salvation

Outline -

I. Judgment of God - Chapters 1-39

II. Salvation of Israel - Chapters 40-66

Memorable Passages -

- The Suffering Savior - Chapter 53

Jeremiah

Author - Jeremiah

Time Frame - 629-588 B.C.

Subject - The impending judgment of God upon Judah

Outline -

- I. The Call of Jeremiah - Chapter 1
- II. Prophecies Against Judah - Chapters 2-45
- III. Prophecies Against Other Nations - Chapters 46-51
- IV. Postscript - Chapter 52

Lamentations

Author - Jeremiah

Time Frame - 588 B.C.

Subject - Lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem

Outline -

- I. The Devastation of Jerusalem - Chapter 1
- II. The Destruction of Jerusalem - Chapter 2
- III. Jeremiah's Lament - Chapter 3
- IV. Judah's Loss - Chapter 4
- V. Judah's Prayer - Chapter 5

Ezekiel

Author - Ezekiel

Time Frame - 595-574 B.C.

Subject - The fulness of judgment against Judah and the promise of restoration

Outline -

- I. Prophecies of Judgment - Chapters 1-32
- II. Prophecies of Restoration - Chapters 33-48

Memorable Passages -

- The Dry Bones - Chapter 37

Daniel

Author - Daniel

Time Frame - 607-534 B.C.

Subject - God's sovereignty over the nations

Outline -

- I. Historical Events - Chapters 1-6
- II. Future Events - Chapters 7-12

Memorable Passages -

- The Fiery Furnace - Chapter 3
- Daniel and the Lion's Den - Chapter 6
- The Seventy Weeks - 9:24-27

Lesson 6

Old Testament - Minor Prophets

We continue our look at the prophetic books of the Old Testament with a look at the twelve books we call the Minor Prophets.

Hosea

Time Frame - 785-725 B.C.

Subject - God's love for his wayward people

Outline -

- I. The Unfaithful Spouse - Chapters 1-3
- II. The Unfaithful Nation - Chapters 4-14

Joel

Time Frame - 800 B.C.

Subject - Judgment on Judah

Outline -

- I. The Devastation of the Land - 1:1-2:17
- II. The Deliverance to Come - 2:18-3:21

Amos

Time Frame - 787 B.C.

Subject - Apostasy brings judgment

Outline -

- I. Judgment on Surrounding Nations - 1:1-2:3
- II. Judgment on Judah and Israel - 2:4-6:14
- III. Future visions - Chapters 7-9

Obadiah

Time Frame - 887 B.C.

Subject - Judgment on Edom

Outline -

- I. Judgment of Edom - vs. 1-14
- II. Restoration of Judah - vs. 15-21

Jonah

Time Frame - 862 B.C.

Subject - The unwilling prophet and the revival in Assyria

Outline -

- I. Jonah's Disobedience - Chapter 1
- II. Jonah's Repentance - Chapter 2
- III. Jonah's Message - Chapter 3
- IV. Jonah's Resentment of Nineveh's Repentance - Chapter 4

Micah

Time Frame - 750-710 B.C.

Subject - God's judgment and redemption

Outline -

- I. Future Judgment for Past Sins - Chapters 1-3
- II. Future Glory from Past Promises - Chapters 4-5

III. Repentance and Forgiveness - Chapter 6-7

Note -

- 5:2 - predicts place of Christ's birth

Nahum

Time Frame - 713 B.C.

Subject - Nineveh's Judgment

Outline -

- I. Judgment and Justice- 1:1-8
- II. Nineveh's Coming Destruction - 1:9-15
- III. Fall of Nineveh - Chapters 2-3

Habakkuk

Time Frame - 626 B.C.

Subject - Need for Holiness in Judgment

Outline -

- I. Will God Deal With Judah? - 1:1-11
- II. How Can God Use Babylon To Do So - 1:12-2:20
- III. The Prophet's Prayer - Chapter 3

Zephaniah

Time Frame - 630 B.C.

Subject - The Judgment of Judah and Jerusalem

Outline -

- I. Judgment at the Day of the Lord - 1:1-3:8
- II. Salvation at the Day of the Lord - 3:9-20

Haggai

Time Frame - 520 B.C.

Subject - Motivation to rebuild the Temple

Outline -

- I. The Call to Rebuild - Chapter 1
- II. The Future Glory - 2:1-9
- III. Blessings of Building - 2:10-23

Zechariah

Time Frame - 520-487 B.C.

Subject - The Salvation of Zion's Remnant

Outline -

- I. Apocalyptic Visions - Chapters 1-6
- II. Historic Interlude - Chapters 7-8
- III. Prophetic Burdens - Chapters 9-14

Malachi

Time Frame - 397 B.C.

Subject - Bring Back Righteousness

Outline -

- I. Love of God for the Nations - 1:1-5
- II. Sins of the Priests - 1:6-2:9
- III. Sins of the People - 2:10-3:17
- IV. The Day of the Lord - 4:1-6

Lesson 7

New Testament - Gospels and Acts

There are five books in the New Testament that are historical in nature. The four Gospels cover the earthly ministry of Christ while Acts covers the beginnings of the church. These books cover a period of about 60 years.

New Testament History	
Birth of Christ	4 B.C.
Ministry of Christ Begins	A.D. 27
Crucifixion of Christ	A.D. 30
Conversion of Paul	A.D. 33
Paul's First Missionary Journey	A.D. 44-46
Paul's Second Missionary Journey	A.D. 49-52
Paul's Third Missionary Journey	A.D. 53-58
Death of Paul	A.D. 68
Temple and Jerusalem Destroyed	A.D. 70
Death of John	A.D. 100
* I am not following Ussher's dates for this outline.	

Matthew

Author - Matthew, Levi

Date Written - 50 A.D.

Audience - Jews

Pictures Christ as - King

Nature of theme - Prophetic

Outline -

I. Preparation of the King - 1:1-4:11

II. Ministry in Galilee - 4:12-18:35

III. Ministry in Judea and Jerusalem - Chapters 19-25

IV. Passion of Christ - Chapters 26-28

Key Passages -

- Sermon on the Mount - Chapters 5-7
- Olivet Discourse - Chapters 24-25

Mark

Author - John Mark

Date Written - 55 A.D.

Audience - Romans

Pictures Christ as - Servant

Nature of theme - Practical

Outline -

- I. Christ's Baptism and Temptation - 1:1-13
- II. Ministry in Galilee - 1:14-9:50
- III. Ministry in Judea and Jerusalem - Chapters 10-13
- IV. Passion of Christ - Chapters 14-16

Luke

Author - Luke

Date Written - 60 A.D.

Audience - Greeks

Pictures Christ as - Son of Man

Nature of theme - Historical

Outline -

- I. Prologue - 1:1-4
- II. Christ's Birth and Childhood - 1:5-2:52
- III. Christ's Preparation - 3:1-4:13
- IV. Ministry in Galilee - 4:14-9:50
- V. Journey to Jerusalem - 9:51-19:27
- VI. Events in Jerusalem - 19:28-21:38
- VII. Passion of Christ - Chapters 22-24

Key Passages -

- Salvation Parables - Chapter 15

John

Author - John

Date Written - 90 A.D.

Audience - Church

Pictures Christ as - Word, Son of God

Nature of theme - Spiritual

Outline -

- I. Prologue - 1:1-1:8
- II. Christ's Ministry - 1:9-12:50
- III. The Last Supper - Chapters 13-17
- IV. Passion of Christ - Chapters 18-20
- V. Epilogue - Chapter 21

Acts

Author - Luke

Date Written - 63 A.D.

Time Covered - About 30 years

Purpose - Chronicle the spread of the Gospel

Subject - Early history of the Church

Outline -

- I. Preparation for Witness - Chapter 1
- II. Witness in Jerusalem - Chapter 2-7
- III. Witness in Judea and Samaria - Chapter 8-12

IV. Witness to the Roman World - Chapter 13-28

Key Passages -

- Pentecost - Chapter 2
- Paul's Conversion - Chapter 9

Lesson 8

New Testament - Paul's Epistles

The most important figure in the New Testament outside of Christ is the Apostle Paul. His missionary journeys took the Gospel throughout the Roman world. More importantly for us today are his letters that have been preserved. So much of what we believe today as Christians is based on these writings.

Romans

Date Written - A.D. 57

Place Written - Corinth

Paul's Connection - wanted to visit

Theme - Righteousness by Faith

Purpose - To prepare for a possible visit, instruction

Key Verse - 6:23

Outline -

I. Doctrinal

A. Justification of the Sinner - 1:1-5:11

B. Sanctification of the Saint - 5:12-8:39

II. Dispensational

A. God's Past Dealings with Israel - Chapter 9

B. God's Present Purpose with Israel - Chapter 10

C. God's Future Purpose with Israel - Chapter 11

III. Duty

A. Service of Christian - Chapters 12-13

B. Separation of Christian - Chapters 14-16

Key Passages -

- Romans Road - 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9

I Corinthians

Date Written - A.D. 56

Place Written - Ephesus

Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 18

Theme - A church without love

Purpose - Addressing problems and questions

Key Verse - 13:8

Outline -

I. Responses to Problems - Chapters 1-6

II. Answers to Questions - Chapters 7-16

Key Passages -

- Love Chapter - Chapter 13

II Corinthians

Date Written - A.D. 57

Place Written - Ephesus

Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 18

Theme - Character of Paul

Purpose - Vindication of Paul against his enemies

Key Verse - 5:20-21

Outline -

I. Paul's Defense - Chapters 1-7

II. Instruction on Giving - Chapters 8-9

III. Paul Defends his Apostleship - Chapters 10-13

Galatians

Date Written - A.D. 53
Place Written - unknown
Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 13-14
Theme - The Gospel of Christ
Purpose - Clarify doctrine of righteousness
Key Verse - 2:16
Outline -
I. Introduction - 1:1-10
II. Personal - 1:11-2:14
III. Doctrinal - 2:15-4:31
IV. Practical - 5:1-6:10
V. Conclusion - 6:11-18

Ephesians

Date Written - A.D. 62
Place Written - Rome
Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 18-20
Theme - Every Spiritual blessing
Purpose - Prevent problems
Key Verse - 1:3
Outline -
I. Blessings of Christians - Chapters 1-3
II. Behaviors of Christians - Chapters 4-6
Key Passages -
• Christian Armor - 6:10-18

Philippians

Date Written - A.D. 62
Place Written - Rome
Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 16
Theme - Plea for unity
Purpose - Protect church from schism
Key Verse - 4:4
Outline -
I. Paul's Report - Chapter 1
II. Appeal to the Example of Christ - Chapter 2
III. Warning Against False Teaching - Chapter 3
IV. Appeal for Peace - Chapter 4
Key Passages -
• Example and Supremacy of Christ - 2:5-11
• Best Known Verses - 4:13 and 4:19

Colossians

Date Written - A.D. 62
Place Written - Rome
Paul's Connection - had not visited
Theme - Exaltation of Christ
Purpose - Protect from false doctrine
Key Verse - 2:10

Outline -

- I. Thanks for the Colossians - 1:1-14
- II. Supremacy of Christ - 1:15-2:3
- III. Call to Remain Loyal to Christ - 2:4-23
- IV. Christian Way of Life - 3:1-4:6
- V. Final Greetings - 4:7-18

I Thessalonians

Date Written - A.D. 50

Place Written - unknown

Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 17

Theme - Second Coming of Christ

Purpose - Share hope that is to come

Key Verse - 4:16-17

Outline -

- I. Commendation - Chapter 1
- II. Personal Reflections - Chapter 2
- III. Exhortation to Excellence - 4:1-12
- IV. Hope of the Lord's Coming - 4:13-5:11
- V. Practical behavior of the Christian - 5:12-28

Key Passages -

- The Rapture - 4:13-18

II Thessalonians

Date Written - A.D. 51

Place Written - unknown

Paul's Connection - Visit in Acts 17

Theme - Tribulation

Purpose - Clear up confusion about end times

Key Verse - 1:7-10

Outline -

- I. Words of Encouragement - Chapter 1
- II. Correction of Misunderstanding of Prophecy - Chapter 2
- III. Exhortation on Christian Living - Chapter 3

Key Passages -

- The Antichrist - 2:1-12

I Timothy

Date Written - A.D. 63

Place Written - Rome

Paul's Connection - One of Paul's proteges

Theme - Teach pastoral conduct

Purpose - Help Timothy combat false teachers

Key Verse - 3:14-15

Outline -

- I. Faith of the Church - Chapter 1
- II. Order in the Church - Chapter 2
- III. Officers in the Church - Chapter 3
- IV. Apostasy in the Church - Chapter 4
- V. Duties in the Church - Chapter 5

Key Passages -

- Qualifications of Pastor and Deacons - Chapter 3

II Timothy

Date Written - A.D. 67

Place Written - Rome

Paul's Connection - One of Paul's proteges

Theme - Charge to Timothy to continue

Purpose - Motivate Timothy to stay faithful after Paul's death

Key Verse - 4:1-2

Outline -

- I. Afflictions of the Gospel - Chapter 1
- II. Active in Service - Chapter 2
- III. Apostasy and the Scriptures - Chapter 3
- IV. Allegiance to and of the Lord - Chapter 4

Titus

Date Written - A.D. 63

Place Written - Rome

Paul's Connection - One of Paul's proteges

Theme - Truth silences error

Purpose - How to deal with dissension and deception in church

Key Verse - 1:5

Outline -

- I. Church's Organization - Chapter 1
- II. Church's Teaching - Chapter 2
- III. Church's Good Works - Chapter 3

Key Passages -

- Qualifications of Pastor and Deacons - Chapter 1

Philemon

Date Written - A.D. 62

Place Written - Rome

Paul's Connection - Friends of Paul

Theme - Equality of Christian brothers

Purpose - Settle a disagreement

Key Verse - vs. 16

Outline -

- I. Thanksgiving for Philemon - vs. 1-7
- II. Appeal for Onesimus - vs. 8-25

Lesson 9

New Testament - General Epistles and Revelation

We wrap up the New Testament in this lesson with the remaining epistles, those not openly attributed to Paul, and its lone prophetic book. The epistles are often referred to as the *General Epistles* as their message was seen as universal to the church and not to specific audiences as those by Paul. The book of Revelation gives the fullest view of the end times.

Hebrews

Author - Unknown, probably Paul

Date Written - Late 60's A.D.

Theme - Heaven's Last Word

Purpose - Show superiority of Christ

Key Verse - 1:1-2

Outline -

- I. Christ is Superior to the Angels - Chapters 1-2
- II. Christ is Superior to Moses - 3:1-4:13
- III. Christ is Superior to Priesthood - 4:14-10:18
- IV. Christ is Worthy of Endurance - 10:19-13:25

Key Passages -

- The Faith Chapter - Chapter 11

James

Date Written - A.D. 50

Theme - Testing of Christians

Purpose - Ethical instruction for Christians

Key Verse - 1:22

Outline -

- I. Purpose of Testing - 1:1-18
- II. Test of Obedience to God's Word - 1:19-27
- III. Test of Partiality - 2:1-13
- IV. Test of One's Works - 2:14-26
- V. Test of the Tongue - 3:1-12
- VI. Test of Ambitions - 3:13-5:6
- VII. Test of Patience and Prayer - 5:7-20

I Peter

Date Written - A.D. 64

Theme - Persecution for Christ

Purpose - Encourage suffering Believers

Key Verse - 3:18

Outline -

- I. Suffering and Security - 1:1-9
- II. Suffering and the Scriptures - 1:10-25
- III. Suffering and Christ's Suffering - Chapters 2-4
- IV. Suffering and the Second Coming - Chapter 5

II Peter

Date Written - A.D. 65

Theme - Pretenders present dangers

Purpose - Warn of false teachers

Key Verse - 1:3-4

Outline -

- I. Developing as Christians - Chapter 1
- II. Denouncing False Teachers - Chapter 2
- III. Difficulties of the Last Days - Chapter 3

I John

Date Written - A.D. 90

Theme - Fellowship with God

Purpose - Dealing with Heresy

Key Verse - 1:9

Outline -

- I. God is Light - 1:1-2:2
- II. God is Love - 2:3-4:21
- III. God is Life - Chapter 5

II John

Date Written - A.D. 90

Theme - Judging false teachers

Purpose - Dealing with Heresy

Key Verse - vs. 7

Outline -

- I. Commendation of the Church - vs. 1-4
- II. Command to Love One Another - vs. 5-6
- III. Caution Concerning Deceivers - vs. 7-13

III John

Date Written - A.D. 90

Theme - Joy in Hospitality

Purpose - Personal letter to Gaius

Key Verse - vs. 2

Outline -

- I. Hospitality of Gaius Commended - vs. 1-8
- II. Inhospitability of Diotrephes Condemned - vs. 9-11
- III. Demetrius Introduced - vs. 12-14

Jude

Date Written - A.D. 67

Theme - Judgment on Apostates

Purpose - Warn Christians of false teachers

Key Verse - vs. 3

Outline -

- I. Occasion of the Epistle - vs. 1-3
- II. Occurrences of Apostasy - vs. 4-16
- III. Occupation of Believers in Days of Apostasy - vs. 17-25

Revelation

Author - John

Date Written - A.D. 95

Theme - Describe the return of Christ

Purpose - Assure of ultimate triumph of Christ

Key Verse - 1:7

Outline -

- I. Prologue - 1:1-8
- II. Vision of Christ and Majesty - 1:9-20
- III. The Seven Churches - Chapters 2-3
- IV. Tribulation and Millennial Kingdom - Chapters 4-20
- V. Kingdom of Heaven - 21:1-22:5
- VI. Epilogue - 22:6-21

Lesson 10

The Apocrypha

The word *apocrypha* means “hidden”. It is a term used to describe certain books that are not considered to be part of the canon of the Bible. Some denominations accept apocryphal books as Scripture. There are many books that can be considered apocryphal - one list showed almost five hundred titles.

Major Types of Apocryphal Books

- Deuterocanonical - not part of Hebrew Bible but accepted by some
- Antilegomena - authenticity or value is disputed
- Pseudepigrapha - ascribed to author who did not write it

Some Reasons to Reject Apocryphal Books

- They were not accepted as canon by Jews or early Church leaders
- They often do not claim inspiration
- They often contain false doctrine and heresy
- They are often of lesser style and beauty
- Some are pure fiction

Old Testament Apocrypha

- Historical - cover historical events
- Legendary - fanciful tall tales
- Apocalyptic - visions of end times
- Didactic - teachings or proverbs

New Testament Apocrypha

- Gnostic Texts - usually expound esoteric cosmology or Gnostic ethics
- Additional Gospels - supposedly additional stories or teachings of Christ
- Epistles - supposedly by Apostles or church leaders
- Apocalypses - visions of the end times

Apocryphal Books in the 1611 King James Version

- I Esdras - reworking of Ezra
- II Esdras - apocalyptic book supposedly by Ezra
- Tobit - story about Tobit and the angel Raphael
- Judith - story about Judith who kills an Assyrian general
- Rest of Esther - additional elements to Esther
- Wisdom - collection of maxims supposedly by Solomon
- Ecclesiasticus - collection of maxims by Sirach
- Baruch - supposedly by Jeremiah's scribe
- Epistle of Jeremy - part of Baruch, supposedly letter to Jews by Jeremiah
- Song of the Three Children - prayer and song supposedly by Abednego
- Story of Susanna - Daniel saves a falsely accused woman
- Bel and the Dragon - Daniel vs. idol and a dragon
- Prayer of Manasses - supposed penitential prayer of Manasseh
- 1 Maccabees - story of the Maccabean revolt
- 2 Maccabees - story of the Maccabean revolt

Other Common or Popular Apocryphal Books

- Book of Enoch - adventures of Enoch, quoted in Jude 14-15

- Shepherd of Hermas - supposed visions of a shepherd
- Gospel of Judas - Gnostic, got a National Geographic special
- Many works of the Early Church Fathers are sometimes included, but since they were almost all written after the close of the New Testament they are not considered to be apocryphal. They are simply part of the writings of the Apostolic Fathers.