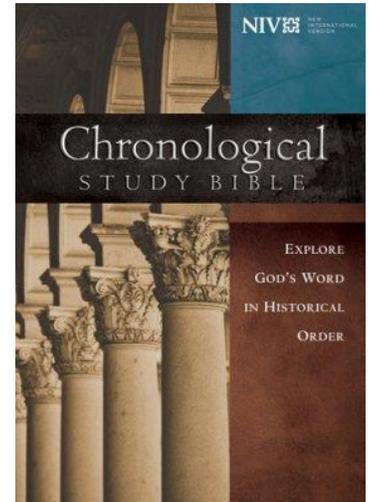


NOTES FOR FIRST MEETING

Chronological Study Bible (Thomas Nelson)

- Study does not REQUIRE use of this Bible, but it contains a lot of information about related history and culture we will be discussing. The assignments can be read from any Bible, however. This Study Bible contains:
 - Bible Text in Chronological Order
 - Transition Commentary (placement and chronology of related Bible passages and how they relate to each other and to the history of the ancient Near East and Greco-Roman world.
 - The book defines 9 Epochs (we will discuss below) and text is arranged into one of the Epochs.
 - Historical Overviews that provide descriptions of the times the readings are occurring.
 - Background Notes provide information on the events, customs, religions, literature, politics, places and persons that is occurring that the people the Bible text was initially written for would have understood.
 - Daily Life describes customs of the time, especially where they differ significantly from our own
 - Time Panels show events along a timeline
 - Time Capsules provide dates for important episodes and occasions, grouping events inside and outside the Bible within specific time periods
 - Time Charts provide visual overviews of important chronological topics in the Bible.
 - Maps provide knowledge of the geography of Biblical times.
 - Scripture References help locate the Bible passages appearing on a particular page
 - Cultural and Historical Topics define the lives of ancient people, daily customs, the places where they lived, writings they read, etc.
 - Glossary defines brief descriptions and explains subjects
 - Concordance and Index of Scripture Passages provides page numbers for all Bible passages
- This text uses the NIV translation. If you read other translations in the order we are reading you will get the same messages.
- When reading assignments, if you are using this version of the Bible read the side notes. We will discuss the Bible passages, topics in the side notes, and notes from other source during the weekly meeting.
- If you want to buy the Bible you can purchase it as Barnes and Noble Encinitas (it was there last time I looked) or you can order online at Amazon.



PRACTICES

Set aside time to read the Bible on a regular basis. Be realistic. For some people, this may be a few minutes once a day. For others, it may be a longer time a few times a week. Try to make it about the same time each day, whether in the morning, at lunchtime, or just before going to bed.

Find a quiet place so that you can be alone with your thoughts without being disrupted. If you find it helpful, you might want to have a notebook nearby to jot down questions and thoughts you have as you read and reflect on the biblical text.

Begin by praying. You may want to spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin reading. Ask for an open mind and for God's guidance.

Read the passage based on the daily plan

Reflect on your answers to these questions:

- What did I learn about God from this passage?
- What did I learn about human nature?
- What did I learn about my own relationship with God?
- How does this passage apply to me? Is there anything I need to change in my life based on my reading of this passage?
- How can I be stronger in my faith?
- What can I do to show God's love to people in my life?
- If there is one verse or part of a verse you would like to remember, you might want to write it down on an index card or scrap of paper and carry it with you throughout the day.

Our weekly meetings will review your reflections, discuss questions that arose from the passages, and discuss the study guide materials related to the time periods being studied.

READING A CHRONOLOGICAL TEXT

- A Chronological text of the Bible rearranges the Bible text in the order of the events it narrates.
- The book is not ordered in normal canonical structure, but all of the scripture is in the text.
- There are various ways to compile a Chronological Text....we will be following the order provided in the Thomas Nelson book
- The reordering is not perfect...some people organize in a slightly different fashion.
- Principles used in this arrangement
 - It provides a relative chronology, placing related events together without fixed dates. For example: The prophet Amos spoke in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of Jeroboam II, so the history of Jeroboam II is read alongside the words of Amos that refer to Jeroboam's time.
 - It provides an absolute chronology tied to historical information and fixed (or at least tentative dates). This helps place the chronology in the context of world history.
- The Chronological reordering is done by:
 - Whole book (in some instances (e.g., Genesis, Exodus) the whole book is moved into Chronological order
 - Portions of books are moved when events within the book occur at different times. This is most noticeable with Isaiah and Jeremiah.
 - Combining Portions of Books, particularly those that have been woven together. The four Gospels are combined into one presentation following the sequence of the Gospel of Mark. Certain of Paul's letters are inserted into the Book of Acts.
 - Prophetic books are generally inserted at the appropriate historical points in the "Prophetic Account". The sequence is based on the events which are narrated or prophesied, not according to the times when the books were written. For example, Jonah is thought to have been written during the Persian Era (559-331 BC) but events in the book are set in the lifetime of the prophet Jonah, who lived during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC). The book of Jonah appears in the context of Jeroboam's reign.
 - Because the exact timeframe of wisdom literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job) is widely debated, and the text speaks of universal, practical matters that apply to all people of all nations in all ages, the Wisdom Literature has been placed in Solomon's time. The Psalms also resist chronological placement. Where there are not specific events defined in a Psalm, so they are placed in David's time.
 - In the New Testament the Book of Acts is used as a bridge between the life of Jesus and the ministry of Paul.
 - Basic principle: let's not get too hung up on where the edition placed the books, but let's use the placement to help us understand the Bible in a new way.

THE EPOCHS

Epoch One: Before the Patriarchs

Old Stone Age (Paleolithic): before 10,000 BC

Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic): 10,000 – 8,000 BC

New Stone Age (Neolithic): 8,000 – 4,000 BC

Copper-Stone Age (Chalcolithic): 4,000 – 3,000 BC

Early Bronze Age (begin historical period): 3,000 – 2,000 BC

Epoch Two: The Patriarchs, Israel's Ancestors (2000-1500 BC)

Epoch Three: The Rise of a Unified People (1500 – 1200 BC)

Epoch Four: From Tribes to a Nation (1200-930 BC)

Epoch Five: The Fall of Two Nations (930 – 586 BC)

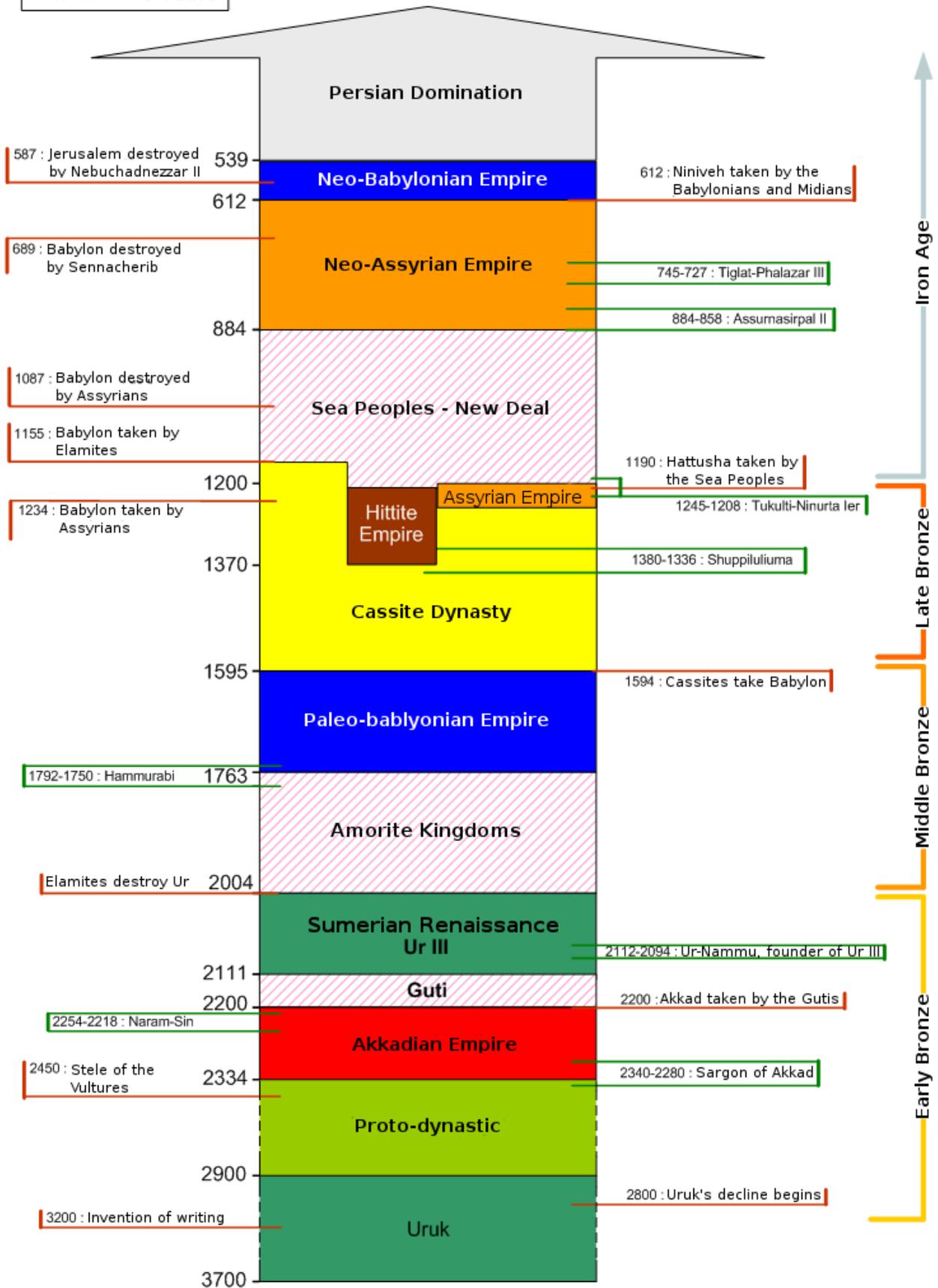
Epoch Six: Exile and Return (586-332 BC)

Epoch Seven: Between the Two Testaments (332-37 BC)

Epoch Eight: The Coming of the Messiah (37 BC – AD 30)

Epoch Nine: The Church Age (AD 30-100)

1mm = 10 Years



The Holy Land during Bible History

The Holy Land has always been choice real estate. The Holy Land had many streams and rivers and it was along the route that traders took when traveling between Africa and Europe and Asia. The dateable portions of the Bible history is about 2100 years.

- 1000 years from Abraham to David
- 1000 years from David to Jesus
- 100 years from Jesus to the death of the Apostle John

From Abraham to David (1000 years)

From the time of Abraham (2000 BC) to the time of King David (1000 BC) there were many miscellaneous kingdoms surrounding the Holy Land which routinely waged war with the Israelites to get their land and water. Each of these kingdoms had its own king and its own personality. Some were very warlike and nasty. The Phillistines were the biggest and baddest of them all. During these 1000 years the Israelites were always fighting with their neighbors, but they were not actually “dominated” until the empires started.

From David to Jesus (1000 years)

(The Israelites spend 1000 years being dominated by 5 different empires in rapid succession)

From about 1000 BC on, the trend changed dramatically. A series of empires (each bigger than the one before) took turns dominating the Holy Land. It all started when one kingdom took over so much land that they became an empire. That empire dominated the Holy Land until another kingdom grew big enough to establish itself as the new and even bigger empire. From 1000 BC to the time of Jesus, there were 5 different empires that dominated the Holy Land:

- Assyrian Empire
- Babylonian Empire
- Persian Empire
- Greek Empire
- Roman Empire

From Jesus to the death of John (100 years)

(The Roman Empire dominated the Holy Land during all of Jesus’ life)

The Roman Empire dominated the Holy Land long before Jesus was born and long after Jesus was crucified. The Jews hated being dominated by the Roman Empire. They weren’t allowed to have a king or an army. They had to pay huge taxes to the Roman government. The Jews desperately wanted a messiah that would overthrow Roman oppression and become their first king in over 1000 years!

Bible Genres

The Bible is a work of literature and contains different genres or categories. It is a collection of books that emerged out of the history of ancient Israel. Each genre is read and appreciated and understood differently. Some verses are meant figuratively. An inability to identify genre can lead to misinterpretation of Scripture.

Gotquestions.org defines primary genres:

Law: Express God's sovereign will concerning government, priestly duties, social responsibilities, etc. Knowledge of Hebrew manners and customs of the time, as well as general knowledge of the covenants, complement reading of this material. Examples include Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

History: Stories and epics from the Bible. Almost every book in the Bible has some history, but some books, particularly in the Old Testament are primarily history (e.g., Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Acts). Knowledge of secular history is important as you read the Biblical history.

Wisdom: teach the meaning of life and how to live. Some of the language in the wisdom literature is metaphorical and poetic. Examples include Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes.

Poetry: books of rhythmic prose, parallelism and metaphor. Poetry does not translate easily and we lose some of the musical flow in the translations. Examples include Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Solomon.

Narrative: biographical narratives about Biblical figures including Jesus, Ruth, Ester and Jonah.

Epistles: letters similar to modern letters with an opening, greeting, body and closing. The epistles include clarification of prior teaching, rebuke, explanation, correction of false teaching and a deeper dive into the teachings of Jesus. Understanding the historical situation, culture and social situations of the original recipients can improve understanding.

Prophecy/Apocalyptic: predictions of future events, warnings of coming judgment, and an overview of God's plan for Israel. Apocalyptic literature is a specific form of prophecy that involves symbols and imagery and predicts disaster and destruction. Examples found in Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Revelation.

Watch a video on different Literary Styles in the Bible on The Bible Project website:

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>

HEBREW POETRY

Three Types of Poetry

The five Old Testament poetry books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon) include three different types of poetry:

- **Didactic Poetry:** teaching about life from maxims (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes)
- **Lyric Poetry:** originally accompanied by a lyre (most of the Psalms)
- **Dramatic Poetry:** dialogue in poetic form (Job and Song of Solomon)

There is other poetry in the Old Testament besides what is in the five poetry books. The Book of Lamentations is one long poem, a dirge lamenting the fall and destruction of the city of Jerusalem. More Hebrew poetry is found in other books, such as Judges and Isaiah.

Hebrew poetry does not rhyme but uses parallelism (defining characteristic), meter, and figurative language.

Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry

Parallelism: Hebrew poetry is based on rhyming ideas, not words, which is called parallelism. With parallelism, the second line of a pair repeats, echoes or balances the thought of the first. This is a dominant feature of Hebrew poetry.

Synonymous: 2nd line restates the 1st in different words (Psalm 24:1-2)

Antithetic: 2nd line state the opposite of the 1st (Prov 10:1,4)

Synthetic (formal): 2nd line balances the form but not the idea.

Meter/Rhythm: a certain number of accented syllables per line (3+3, 2+2, 3+2). This does not translate well but is an important part of the oral tradition of the Old Testament.

Figurative Language and Vivid Figure of Speech. Many of the figures of speech used in Hebrew poetry are also used in other kinds of poetry we are more familiar with. The following seven figures of speech are found in the Hebrew poetry of the Bible:

Metaphor: a comparison in which one thing is said to be another (e.g., The Lord is my Shepherd [PS 23:1])

Simile: Two similar things that are compared to each other (e.g., God's care for his followers is compared to a shield "For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield [PS 5:12])

Hyperbole: An exaggeration to make a point (e.g., "I am worn out with groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears." [PS 6:6])

Rhetorical Question: A question used to confirm or deny a fact. [e.g., The Psalmist isn't actually questioning what God is like when he asks "Who is like you, O Lord?" [PS 35:10].

Rather he is using a rhetorical question to highlight how wonderful God is in rescuing the poor and needy. The implication is that on one is like God in doing this.)

Personification: Giving a lifeless object human characteristics. (e.g., a dramatic example of personification is shown in “The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed: the very depths were convulsed.” [PS 77:16])

Anthropomorphism: Assigning part of the human body to God in order to teach some truth about God. (e.g., when the psalmist refers to God’s ears, he is not suggesting the God actually has physical human ears. Rather he is anthropomorphizing God when he asks God to listen to him using the words, “Turn your ears to me.” [PS 31:2].

Zoomorphism: Assigning part of the body of an animal to God to teach some truth about God. (e.g., “He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge.” [PS 91:4] conjures up such a wonderful image of God caring for us.]

Water, M., The bible made plain and simple. 1999. Hendrickson Publishers. Peabody, MA.

Other Names For....

Complicating our efforts to get the big picture, there are different names that are used for Bible places and characters. Here is a partial list of other names for some well-known places and characters.

Individuals in Bible History

God	Adonai (Lord) Yahweh (I AM, LORD) Ancient of Days The Holy One of Israel El Shaddai (God Almighty)
Jesus	Christ The Messiah The Anointed One The Alpha and the Omega Emmanuel (Immanuel) Son of God Son of Man Son of David The Word King of Kings and Lord of
Lords	The Lamb of God The Good Shepard The Bread of Life The Savior The Holy One of God
Peter	Simon, Simon Peter, Cephas
Simon	Simon Zelotes, Cananaen
Nathaniel	Bartholomew
Matthew	Levi
Thomas	Didymus
Thaddeus	Lebbeus, Judas
Paul	Saul of Tarsus
Mark	John Mark
Jethro	Reuel, Hobab
Dorcas	Tabitha
Abraham	Abram
Sarah	Sarai
Jacob	Israel
Esther	Hadassah
King Xerxes	King Ahasuerus
Daniel	Belteshazzar

Groups of People in Bible History

The Jews	The 12 Tribes of Israel The Children of Israel The Nation of Israel The Israelites God's Chosen People The Hebrews The Kingdom of David The People of the Covenant The Descendants of
Abraham,	Isaac, and Jacob
The Disciples	The Apostles
The Babylonians	The Chaldeans
Persian Empire	The Medo-Persian Empire
Phoenicians	Sidonians
Edomites	Idumeans

Bodies of Water

Sea of Galilee	Sea of Gennesaret Sea of Chinnerreth Sea of Kinnereth Lake Tiberias
Dead Sea	Salt Sea Sea of the Plain Lake Asphaltitis

Mountains

Mount Sinai	Mount Horeb The Mountain of God The Mount The Mount of Moses
Mount Hermon	Mount Sarion Mount Sanir Mount Sion Mount Armenia

Books of Bible

Pentateuch	The Law The Book of the Law of Moses The Law of the Lord The Law of God The Book of the Law of the Lord The Law of Moses The Book of the Law The Book of Moses The Law of the Lord
Numbers	Book of Journeys Book of Murmurings

Places

The Holy Land	The Promised Land The Land of Milk and Honey Canaan Israel Palestine
Bethlehem	Ephrath
Jerusalem	Salem Zion Jebus Mount Moriah The City of David The City on the Hill

Temples

Zerubbabel's Temple	The Second Temple Ezekial's Temple
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SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
THE LAW (THE PENTATEUCH)			
Genesis	The origins of matter, living things, people, sin, the Israelites, and God's covenant relationship with the Israelites. Genesis includes the Fall, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Patriarchs, and the 300 years that the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt.	Moses	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Exodus	How God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and established them as a distinct nation in a special covenant relationship with Himself for the eventual purpose of blessing the whole world through them. Exodus includes the Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, the 10 Commandments given on Mt. Sinai, the building of the Tabernacle, and the establishment of the Israelite priesthood.	Moses	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Leviticus	God's instructions to the Israelites on how they were to worship properly in the Tabernacle and in their daily lives in order to have right standing before God despite their propensity to sin.	Moses	Prose Discourse, Law
Numbers	The 39 years that the Israelites spent wandering in the deserts of the Sinai Peninsula on their way to the Promised Land.	Moses	Narrative, Epic Narrative, Law
Deuteronomy	The farewell speech and last messages of Moses to the Israelites just as they were about to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land	Moses	Prose Discourse, Sermon, Law
HISTORY			
The Historical books trace the history of the Israelites from their entry into Canaan, the overthrow of the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and the Israelites' time of captivity in foreign lands until they eventually return home. They are divided into three groups: theocratic books (the time before kings), monarchical books (Israel's monarchy) and restoration books (return of a minority of Jews to their homeland after 70 years of captivity).			
Joshua (Theocratic)	How God helped General Joshua lead the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land and how the 12 tribes of Israel then divided up the Promised Land so that they could settle there.	Joshua	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Judges (Theocratic)	The period of time when the nation of Israel was ruled by judges who were appointed by God.	Unknown	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Ruth (Theocratic)	A true story of ordinary people (a gentile from Moab named Ruth and an Israelite named Naomi) who were faithful to God and how God brought a gentile into the blood line of Jesus.	Unknown	Narrative, Epic Narrative

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
HISTORY (CONTINUED)			
1 Samuel (Monarchical)	The events that occurred during the life of the prophet and judge Samuel. 1 Samuel includes the reign and death of King Saul	Unknown	Narrative, Epic Narrative
2 Samuel (Monarchical)	The events that occurred during the reign of King David. 2 Samuel includes David's affair with Bathsheba and the birth of their son Solomon.	Unknown	Narrative, Epic Narrative
1 Kings (Monarchical)	The events that occurred during the reign of King Solomon and how the nation of Israel divided into 2 separate kingdoms (Israel and Judah) after Solomon's death. 1 Kings includes the building of Solomon's Temple and the ministries of Elia and Elisha.	Unknown but possibly Jeremiah	Narrative, Epic Narrative
2 Kings (Monarchical)	The sad and sinful histories of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah and how each kingdom was eventually taken into exile by foreign powers.	Unknown but possibly Jeremiah	Narrative, Epic Narrative
1 Chronicles (Monarchical)	The life, reign and death of King David, including an extensive genealogy from Adam to David (the blood line of the coming Messiah).	The Chronicler unknown but possibly Ezra	Narrative
2 Chronicles (Monarchical)	The reign of King Solomon, then the reigns of all the kings in the southern kingdom of Judah, the exile of Judah to Babylon, and the decree (70 years later) by King Cyrus of Persia that the Jews were now free to return to their homeland.	Unknown but probably Ezra	Narrative
Ezra (Restoration)	The account of how Zerubbabel led the first group of exiled Jews back to the Promised Land to rebuild the Temple, and how Ezra led the second group of returnees back to the Promised Land to rekindle spiritual enthusiasm.	Ezra	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Nehemiah (Restoration)	The account of how Nehemiah led the third group of returnees back to the Promised Land to rebuild the Temple, and how Ezra led the second group of returnees back to the Promised Land to rekindle spiritual enthusiasm.	Ezra	Narrative, Epic Narrative
Esther (Restoration)	The events that occurred in Persia between the first and second set of Jews who left Persia to return to the Promised Land. The King of Persia unknowingly married a Jewess named Esther whose courage before the King save the Jews in Persia from annihilation (the Jewish holiday of Purim).	Unknown	Narrative, Epic Narrative

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
WISDOM LITERATURE (POETICAL BOOKS)			
Job	The story of a 1900BC man who loses everything but who acknowledges God's sovereignty nevertheless.	Unknown	Wisdom, Poetry
Psalms	The hymnbook of the Jewish people with poetic songs on many topics. Some of the authors include David, Solomon, Moses, Herman, Ethan, and Ezra.	See Descrip.	Wisdom, Poetry, Song
Proverbs	A collection of wise sayings that are God's detailed advise to us on the practical affairs of everyday life. These wise sayings are presented in the form of poetry, parables, questions, short stories and short sayings.	Solomon wrote most and compiled from other authors	Wisdom, Poetry
Ecclesiastes	A collection of various types of literature all making the same general point: "Despite the inexplicable mysteries of life which defy easy solutions, it is best to revere God and obey His commandments. Life apart from God is meaningless."	Unknown but possibly Solomon	Prose Discourse, Essay, Wisdom
Song of Solomon	A love song (poem) about King Solomon's wooing and wedding a shepherdess and the pleasures and heartaches of wedded love.	Probably Solomon	Poetry, Wisdom
Lamentations	Jeremiah's 5-poem funeral dirge lamenting the destruction of the city of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.	Jeremiah	Poetry, Song
PROPHETIC BOOKS			
The purpose of the prophets was to shed God's light on dark places. Biblical prophecy was speaking out the revealed Word of God, whether the message concerned the past, the present or the future. The history of God's people, as recorded in the Old Testament, ends with the return of the remnant (the rest of the Jews) from their captivity in Babylonia. There are prophetic books from before the captivity (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah), during the captivity (Ezekiel, Daniel) and after the captivity (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi).			
MAJOR PROPHETS			
Isaiah	The prophet Isaiah delivers God's message to the kingdom of Judah and to the nations surrounding Judah before they were conquered by the Babylonians: "Judgement will come upon you for your idol worship and immoral behavior, but in the future God will send a Messiah."	Isiah	Poetry, Prophetic

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
MAJOR PROPHETS (CONTINUED)			
Jeremiah	The prophet Jeremiah deliver's God's message to the kingdom of Judah before their exile: "Surrender to God's will or face 70 years of exile."	Jeremiah	Poetry, Prophetic
Ezekiel	The prophet Ezekial delivers God's message to the exiled Jews living in Babylon: "This present judgement on us will be followed by future glory."	Ezekiel	Poetry, Prophetic, Vision
Daniel	The prophet Daniel records some of the events that took place in Babylon during the 70 year exile of the Jews and delivers God's message to the Jews living in exile in Babylon: "These oppressors and future oppressors will come and go, but God will establish His kingdom through His redeemed people."	Daniel	Narrative, Vision
MINOR PROPHETS			
Hosea	The prophet Hosea delivers God's message to the kingdom of Israel before their exile to Assyria: "God loves you be He abhors idol worship and immorality and He will judge you for it."	Hosea	Poetry, Prophetic
Joel	The prophet Joel delivers God's message to the kingdom of Judah before their exile to Babylon: "Repent of your ways or face the approaching judgement (exile)."	Joel	Poetry, Prophetic
Amos	The prophet Amos delivers God's message to the kingdom of Israel before their exile to Assyria: "Your excessive self-indulgence and your oppression of the poor will result in judgement on the kingdom of Israel."	Amos	Poetry, Prophetic
Obadiah	The prophet Obadiah delivers God's message to the neighboring nation of Edom (the descendants of Esau): "Your persistent opposition to God's chosen people will result in your total destruction."	Obadiah	Poetry, Prophetic
Jonah	The prophet Jonah delivers God's message to the capital city of the enemy nation of Assyria: "God wants you to stop worshipping idols, to turn from your immoral behavior and worship the one true God." Jonah records his own reluctance to go to Ninevah and how God convinced him of His love for all peoples.	Jonah	Narrative, Epic Narrative, Parable
Micah	The prophet Micah delivers God's message to the city dwellers of the kingdom of Judah who were oppressing the peasants in the countryside: "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."	Micah	Poetry, Prophetic
Nahum	The prophet Nahum delivers God's message to the Assyrian city of Ninevah after they had forgotten their God-oriented revival which had been brought on by the preaching of the prophet Jonah: "Because you have returned to violence, idolatry, and arrogance, your city will be destroyed by the Babylonians."	Nahum	Poetry, Prophetic

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
MINOR PROPHETS (CONTINUED)			
Habbakuk	The prophet Habbakkuk deliver's God's message to the people of the kingdom of Judah just before Judah is conquered by the Babylonians: "Because of your stubborn refusal to mend your ways, God will allow the Babylonians to conquer Judah very soon."	Habbakkuk	Poetry, Prophetic
Zephaniah	The prophet Zephaniah delivers God's message to the kingdom of Judah and to the gentile nations surrounding Judah: "You will be chastened for your idol-worship and immorality, but after the chastening is complete, a blessing will come to the world in the person of the Messiah	Zephaniah	Poetry, Prophetic
Haggai	The prophet Haggai delivers God's message to the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple but who had lost enthusiasm for the project: "Reexamine your priorities and get back to work rebuilding the Temple as a central reminder of our covenant relationship with God."	Haggai	Poetry, Prophetic
Zechariah	The prophet Zechariah worked with Haggai to deliver God's message to the Jews who had returned from Persia to rebuild the Temple but who had not completed the job: "The Temple must be rebuilt, for someday the glory of the Messiah will inhabit it."	Zechariah	Poetry, Prophetic
Malachi	The prophet Malachi delivers God's message to the returned Jews living around Jerusalem before the city walls had been rebuilt: "Stop intermarrying with the pagans around you and clean up your worship and your behavior."	Malachi	Poetry, Prophetic

SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: NEW TESTAMENT

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
THE GOSPELS			
Matthew	The good news about Jesus from Matthew's perspective. Matthew, a Jew who formerly collected taxes for the Romans, stressed Jesus' relationship to the Old Testament. Matthew's account makes it clear that Jesus is the Messiah who had been promised throughout Jewish history.	Matthew	Narrative, Biography, Parable
Mark	The good news about Jesus from Mark's perspective. Mark, a companion of Paul, directed his account of Jesus to a Roman (gentile) audience. Mark's account of Jesus is a fast moving account of the actions of Jesus that stresses the Resurrection as the gauge by which Jesus' ministry may be measured.	Mark	Narrative, Biography, Parable
Luke	The good news about Jesus from Luke's perspective. Luke, a physician, was probably a gentile believer. Luke's account of Jesus stresses the universality of the Christian message – that Jesus is the savior of the whole world. Luke stresses Jesus' compassion and His humanity.	Luke	Narrative, Biography, Parable
John	The good news about Jesus from John's perspective. John, an inner circle disciple and an eye witness to the ministry of Jesus, wrote this account as a supplement to the 3 gospels that had already been written. John stresses the importance of belief in Christ and that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.	John	Narrative, Biography
HISTORY			
Acts	Acts is the story of the birth of the Christian church (50 days after the Resurrection) and the story of the men and women who then spread the good news about Jesus throughout the Roman Empire.	Luke	Narrative, Epic Narrative
PAUL'S LETTERS (EPISTLES) TO CHRISTIAN CHURCHES			
Romans	A letter from Paul to the Christian church in Rome. This letter is Paul's most theologically loaded letter and contains the most comprehensive and logical presentation of how people are saved through faith in Jesus Christ.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
1 Corinthians	A letter from Paul to the Christian church in Corinth. In this letter, Paul addresses the problematic lifestyle of the baby Christians in the pagan city and culture of Corinth.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
2 Corinthians	A letter from Paul to the Christian church in Corinth. In this letter, Paul expresses thanks to the believers who rejected the accusations made against Paul by the false teachers in Corinth.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
PAUL'S LETTERS (EPISTLES) TO CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (CONTINUED)			
Galatians	A letter from Paul to the Christian church in Galatia. In this letter, Paul makes it clear that we are saved by grace through faith alone and not by our own good works.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
Ephesians	A letter from an imprisoned Paul to the Christian church in Ephesus. In this letter, Paul stresses the spiritual resources that we have as Christians and encourages believers to draw upon them in their daily living.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
Philippians	A letter from an imprisoned Paul to the Christian church in Philippi. In this letter, Paul expresses appreciation to the believers in Philippi for their support of Paul and encourages them in their continued Christian growth. Paul also expresses his joyous confidence that God will provide.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
Colossians	A letter from an imprisoned Paul to the Christian church in Colosse. In this letter, Paul stresses that believers are complete in Christ alone.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
1 Thessalonians	A letter from an imprisoned Paul to the Christian church in Thessalonica. In this letter, Paul commends and encourages the believers in Thessalonica who are enduring persecution. Paul discusses the event that we now call the Rapture.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
2 Thessalonians	A letter from an imprisoned Paul to the Christian church in Thessalonica. In this letter, Paul encourages the believers in Thessalonica and highlights the need to be ready for Christ's return while remaining diligent in doing God's work on earth.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
PAUL'S LETTERS (EPISTLES) TO FRIENDS			
1 Timothy	A personal letter from Paul to his friend and coworker Timothy. In this letter, an aged Paul passes on encouragement and instruction regarding church life to a young pastor who may soon be facing heavy responsibilities.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
2 Timothy	A personal letter from Paul to his friend and coworker Timothy. In this letter, Paul, about to relinquish his responsibilities to Timothy, seeks to strengthen, encourage and challenge Timothy for his new level of responsibility.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
Titus	A personal letter from Paul to Titus, a Christian representative to the churches on the island of Crete. Paul writes to encourage and assist Titus in his task of organizing the churches and strengthening them against false teaching.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter

Book	Overview	Likely Author	Genre
PAUL'S LETTERS (EPISTLES) TO FRIENDS (CONTINUED)			
Philemon	A personal letter from Paul to Philemon, the owner of a runaway slave named Onesimus. Paul writes to tell Philemon that Onesimus has been transformed by God's grace and is now a "beloved brother" of Philemon.	Paul	Prose Discourse, Letter
GENERAL LETTERS (EPISTLES)			
Hebrews	A general letter that draws on the Old Testament to demonstrate the superiority of the New Covenant brought about by Jesus Christ.	Unknown	Prose Discourse, Letter
James	A general letter that stresses that genuine faith manifests itself in works of faith.	James	Sermon, Prose Discourse, Letter, Wisdom
1 Peter	A general letter to Christians in churches throughout Asia Minor who were facing persecution for their faith. Peter reminds them of their heavenly inheritance and encourages them to submit to God's will.	Peter	Prose Discourse, Letter
2 Peter	A general letter that encourages believers to oppose false teachers whose heresies might tempt believers to behave immorally. This letter points out that the best antidote for false teaching is mature understanding of the truth.	Peter	Prose Discourse, Letter
1 John	A letter that refutes erroneous doctrine and encourages believers to stand firm against the lure of worldliness. John emphasizes love and fellowship with God.	John	Prose Discourse, Letter
2 John	A letter that warns believers against the divisiveness within the church that can be caused by false teachers.	John	Prose Discourse, Letter
3 John	A letter that commends the Godliness of a man named Gaius and condemns the actions of a man named Diotrephes.	John	Prose Discourse, Letter
Jude	A letter that encourages believers to "contend earnestly for the faith". Jude is passionate in his denunciation of false teachers who had invaded the Christian church.	Jude, the half-brother of Jesus	Prose Discourse, Letter
PROPHETIC			
Revelation (Apocalyptic Writing)	A letter to believers that reveals the glorious future that awaits all believers. John was given a high symbolic vision of future events that he recorded to provide encouragement to Christians undergoing intense persecution for their faith.	John	Prose Discourse, Letter, Vision, Prophetic

WEEKLY SUMMARIES

Each week a summary will be handed out that details:

- Assignment for the next week (you can combine days or read at the pace you like throughout the week. The assignments are just a suggestion to divide the assignment over 7 days.) We are generally following the suggested reading plan in the Study Bible but making some modifications to fit our weekly format.
- High-level summary of the reading for the week
- An outline of the topics being read about
- Key characters, locations, terms and verses in the Reading
- A 140 character (or less) summary of each chapter being read written by Chris Juby. These summaries are from @biblesummary and used by the author to provide tweetable summaries. You can go to his website (www.biblesummary.info) or buy his book in paperback or electronic format on Amazon. We are following his licensing agreement in using these summaries.
- An graphical outline of key concepts for the books being read from the graphical QuickView Bible
- A graphical overview of each Bible book from www.thebibleproject.com
- A note page for the questions for each week

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Because we are reading a lot each week, we won't go into the details of the reading, or re-read the scripture in class.
- Each week we will discuss the following questions (you can take notes on your handout to prepare for the discussion):
 - What did I learn about God?
 - What did I learn about human nature?
 - How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?
 - Insights about the time and/or customs?
 - Other thoughts
 - If there are questions note them and we will discuss
- I will facilitate the meeting, but intent is to have a group discussion on what we read the previous week, along the lines of the questions. When I am unavailable will need someone else to facilitate the meeting.
- We want to form a cohort group that provides accountability (reason to stick with the readings), discussion (get different perspectives), fellowship (get to know one another), and learn. We want the meetings to be engaging and that only happens with participation!! Keep politics out of the discussion!
- If you need to miss a couple of meetings due to commitments or travel, don't stop coming. But try to make attendance a priority in the journey.

ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament – 39 Books

Law (5)

Genesis	GE
Exodus	EX
Leviticus	LEV
Numbers	NU
Deuteronomy	DT

History (12)

Joshua	JOS
Judges	JDG
Ruth	RU
1 Samuel	1 SA
2 Samuel	2 SA
1 Kings	1 KI
2 Kings	2 KI
1 Chronicles	1 CH
2 Chronicles	2 CH
Ezra	EZR
Nehemiah	NE
Esther	EST

Poetry (5)

Job	JOB
Psalms	PS
Proverbs	PR
Ecclesiastes	ECC
Song of Solomon	SS

Major Prophets (5)

Isaiah	ISA
Jeremiah	JER
Lamentations	LA
Ezekiel	EZE
Daniel	DA

Minor Prophets (12)

Hosea	HOS
Joel	JOEL
Amos	AM
Obadiah	OB
Jonah	JNH
Micah	MIC
Nahum	NA
Habakkuk	HAB
Zephaniah	ZEP
Haggai	HAG
Zechariah	ZEC
Malachi	MAL

ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

New Testament – 27 Books

Gospels (4)

Matthew	MT
Mark	MK
Luke	LK
John	JN

History (1)

Acts	AC
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Paul's Letters to Friends (4)

1 Timothy	1 TI
2 Timothy	2 TI
Titus	TITUS
Philemon	PHM

Paul's Letters to Churches (9)

Romans	RO
1 Corinthians	1CO
2 Corinthians	2CO
Galatians	GAL
Ephesians	EPH
Philippians	PHP
Colossians	COL
1 Thessalonians	1 TH
2 Thessalonians	2 TH

General Letters (9)

Hebrews	HEB
James	JAS
1 Peter	1 PE
2 Peter	2 PE
1 John	1JN
2 John	2JN
3 John	3JN
Jude	JUDE
Revelation	REV

